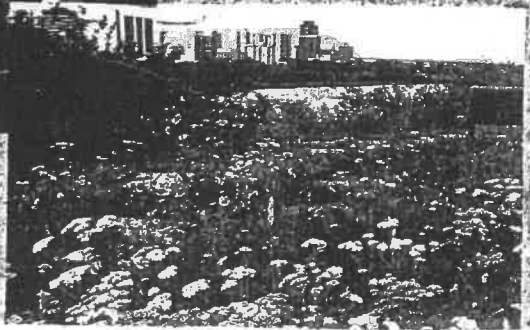


Meewasin Valley

Trails to the 21st Century
Five Year Plan
1998 Through 2002



Meewasin 

FIVE YEAR PLAN

Part I - Background

1. History of Riverbank Planning

For more than 6,000 years, people have recognized the area 110 km south of the point where the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers meet as a suitable place to live. In 1882, Sioux Chief Whitecap directed John Lake, land commissioner for the Temperance Colonization Society, to an area along the river that provided a good place to ford: this area is the present day location of Saskatoon.

The first plan for the City of Saskatoon was prepared by John Lake. The plan reflected the value early residents put on the quality of life in their community. It set aside the east bank river edge as public land and proposed development of the adjacent 300 hectares into residential and commercial areas which were notable for their wide streets, boulevards and large lots.

The arrival of the railroad in 1890 had a major impact on future development of the city. The rail station was built on the west bank, shifting focus to the west side of the river. The railroad and station also served to increase the importance of the settlement as a regional distribution center. In 1906 the east terrace community amalgamated with the west settlement to create the City of Saskatoon, which had a total population of 3,011. Construction of the 19th Street Bridge in 1907, the University Bridge in 1916 and the Broadway Bridge in 1932 served to further link the west and east banks.

The principle of protecting the west bank river edge from development endured as it had on the east bank, being largely designated as public reserve. The City expanded over the years through a series of booms and busts, and by the mid 1970's Saskatoon's population had reached about 127,000. With a steady growth rate of 2 per cent a year, the population rose to 154,261 by 1981.

The growth of Saskatoon after the war, particularly in the 1960's and early 1970's, generated concern for the future of the river valley's resources. For example, concerns were expressed about loss of water quality in the river and encroachment of residential development on water front resources as a public amenity.

Resolving these concerns proved difficult because of the number of jurisdictions involved in different aspects of river and valley resource management. The Federal Government was responsible for navigation on the river. The Provincial Government was responsible for water resources, the channel and shoreline, and the City and municipality of Corman Park were responsible for land use. The protection of heritage resources was shared among the three levels of government. In order to resolve river valley concerns, co-ordination of all these jurisdictions was required.

A report, *Towards A Riverbank Study In Saskatoon*, was commissioned by the City of Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee in 1974. The report identified a number of environmental concerns and recommended a comprehensive study of the river valley.

The Federal and Provincial governments then sponsored the *South Saskatchewan River Corridor Study: Towards a River Edge Authority-Saskatoon Corman Park*, which was completed in May

1976. It recommended the establishment of an autonomous agency to plan and develop the valley's natural and heritage resources along the river edges. The area was defined by the natural system and appropriate legal boundaries along the river's 80 kms course through the R.M. of Corman Park and the City of Saskatoon.

Two years later the Province and the City sponsored a 100 year concept plan for this section of river valley. The plan, prepared by architectural planner Raymond Moriyama of Moriyama and Teshima Architects and Planners of Toronto, Ontario, became known as *The Meewasin Valley Project: 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan*.

The City of Saskatoon, the R.M. of Corman Park, the University of Saskatchewan (due to its status as a major riverbank owner) and the Province of Saskatchewan came together to develop *The Meewasin Valley Project* based on the following five objectives:

- to expand educational and research opportunities
- to advance the cultural arts
- to improve recreation opportunities
- to conserve nature
- to further rural-urban relationships.

The *Meewasin Valley Project* addressed concerns about the river valley by offering exciting and innovative ideas for conservation of valley resources. The plan recommended establishment of an autonomous agency, and in 1979 the four participating partners created the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA). At the same time, the partners gave their approval to *The Meewasin Valley Authority Act*, a provincial statute setting out Meewasin's powers and responsibilities. The Meewasin Valley Authority held its first meeting on September 5, 1979.

The concepts and ideas contained in the 100 Year Conceptual Plan were reviewed and ranked in order of priority in the report, *Toward a First Development Plan*, released in March 1980. The report resulted in numerous activities that lead to the development of the first Five Year Plan, 1982 Through 1987.

In January 1981, as Meewasin emerged from its infancy and the people of the R.M. of Corman Park began to understand the implications of Meewasin's jurisdiction, fear of loss of control over use of private lands led the R.M. of Corman Park Council to vote to cease participation in Meewasin. *The Meewasin Valley Authority Act* was amended in May of that year to remove Corman Park as a participating party. However, the river and its shores, Provincial and City land adjacent to the river, and Meewasin land remained within the MVA's jurisdiction.

The need to conserve the resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley around Saskatoon has not been lessened by the tenuity of Meewasin's jurisdiction. As *Meewasin 2010: A Twenty Year Vision* suggests, Meewasin will undertake research on the natural system of the river valley as a

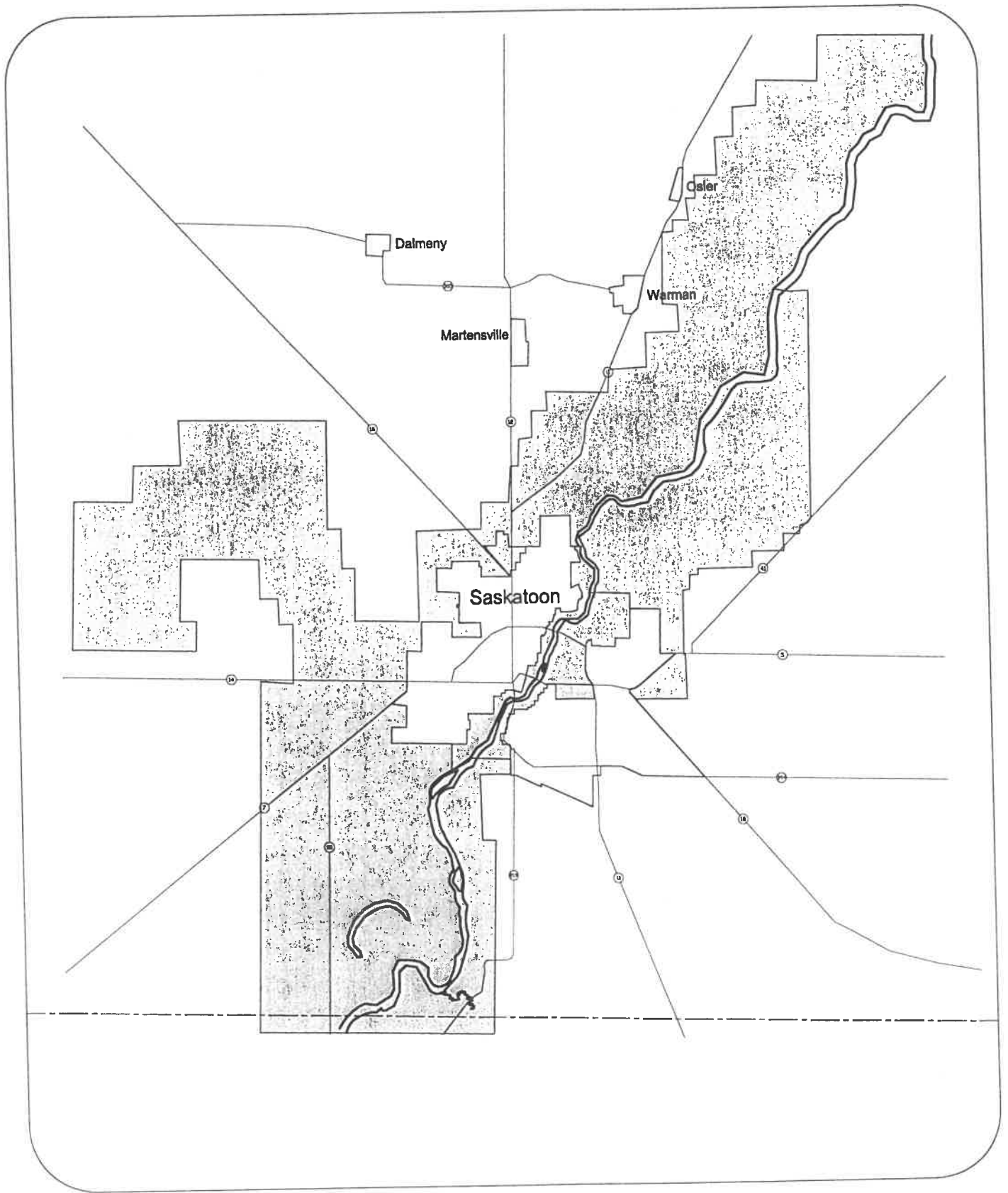


Figure 1: Meewasin Boundaries, 1979

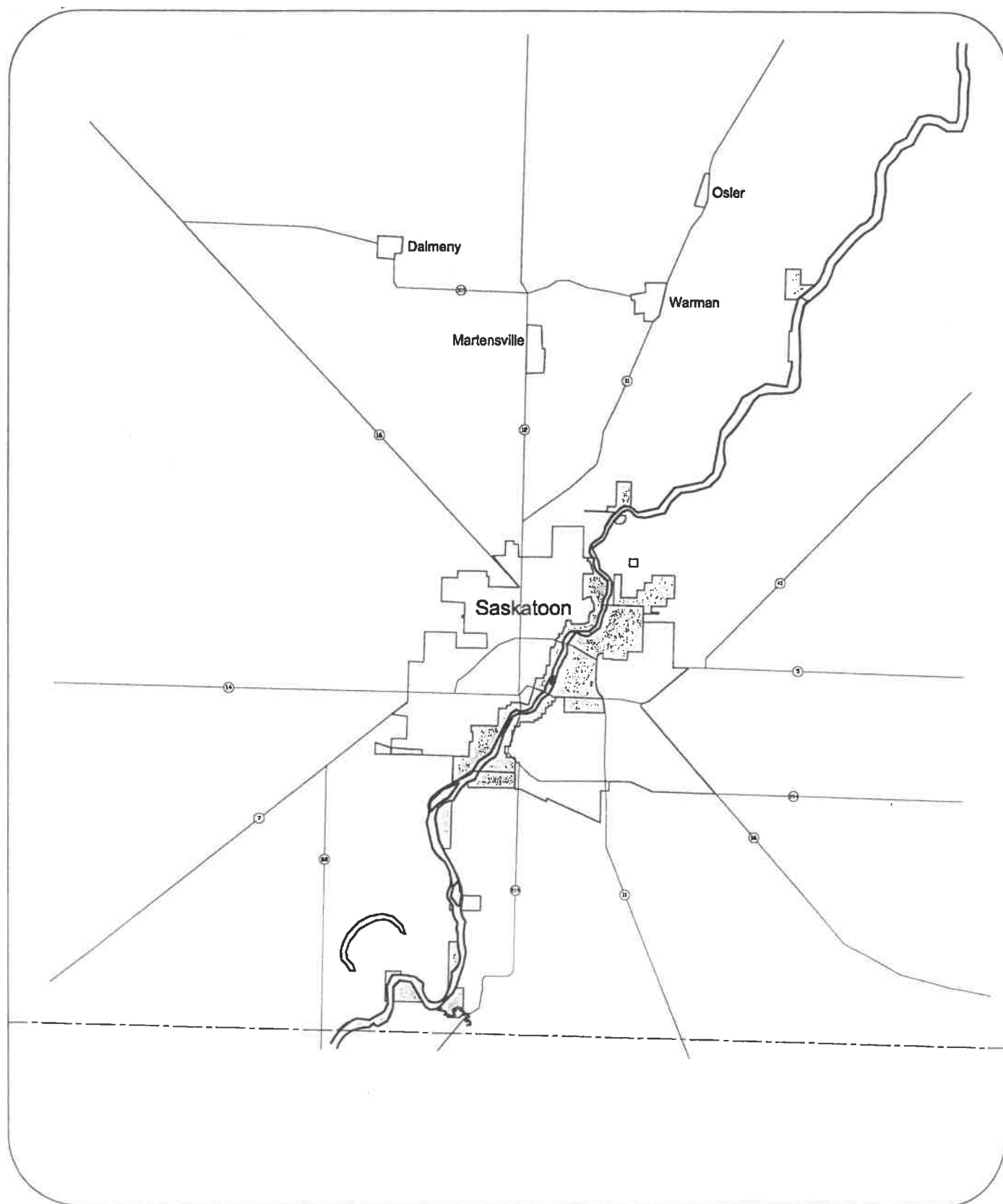


Figure 2: Meewasin Boundaries, 1997

whole. Through this research, and an exchange of information with other agencies, Meewasin will promote the conservation of the valley's resources.

2. Change In Emphasis

From 1979 through 1982, Meewasin's role, mandate and jurisdiction was defined. A program of demonstration projects was started to provide the public with examples of Meewasin's role in the valley. During the period of the first Five Year Plan, 1982 Through 1987, Meewasin undertook an extensive research program to define the value of the natural and heritage resources in the valley, commenced site development projects, and began a program of public education and resource interpretation.

In the most recent Five Year Plan, 1993 Through 1997, the emphasis was on ensuring that individual projects fit with the environment and reflected an optimal distribution of use and conservation of the natural and heritage resources. Planning, design and development were integrated on a unit by unit basis, rather than a basic level of development for the entire valley. A concentrated effort was made to inventory and map natural and heritage resources and public programs continued to make use of the valley as a living laboratory for interpretation and environmental education.

Administration emphasized securing additional funding for Meewasin and special projects, as well as efficient and effective management. Meewasin concentrated on maintaining a small staff with low administrative overhead, contracting out to private consultants whenever possible, and using partnerships.

In the Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002, the emphasis will shift to outside the city, with more attention given to conservation and resource management rather than high maintenance projects. Nevertheless, trail development within the city and across the river will remain a development priority, as will the South Downtown if and when development begins. Emphasis will also be placed on streamlining regulatory functions. Public programs will be more conscious of the changing demographic make-up of the city and adjust programs accordingly. Administration will focus on more accountability with procedures and performance measures. Entrepreneurial projects will be developed by Meewasin to diversify the revenue base. The intent over the next five years is to proceed in a way that minimizes maintenance stress on MVA partners, yet fulfills Meewasin's mandate to carry out the Development Plan as expeditiously as possible.

3. Structure of The Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002

The Five Year Plan is divided into four parts.

Part I - Background sets the stage for the Five Year Plan by outlining the historic context of riverbank planning. It describes conditions and circumstances, which led to the establishment of the Meewasin Valley Authority, and the current emphasis placed on resource conservation of the valley.

Part II - Development Strategy outlines the direction, focus, organization and general priorities of Meewasin activities for the five year period 1998 through 2002.

Part III - Implementation Strategy describes the means that Meewasin will use to implement the Development Strategy, namely: Resource Conservation Program, Planning and Development Review Program, Design and Development Program, Public Affairs Program, Administration and Operations Program, and the Plan/Design/Build scenario.

Part IV - Conclusion assesses, in general terms, what the Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002, can achieve for the valley, and suggests future direction for the next Five Year Plan 2003 Through 2007.

This Five Year Plan carries forward the concepts and principles of the *Meewasin Valley Project* as well as the three main goals described in previous five year plans (82-87, 87-92, 93-97). Some projects, such as resource and environmental data research, will continue long into the future, as will riverbank restoration and management of natural areas. Trail development and completion of Gabriel Dumont Park will continue as major priorities. The basic land area divisions identified in the 100 Year Concept have been adopted again, as have the four major planning divisions described in the Five Year Plan, 1993 Through 1997.

Major structural changes occurred following the adoption of the first Five Year Plan as a result of a 20 per cent cut in funding midway through implementation. In 1991/92, the last year of the second Five Year Plan, Meewasin again experienced a cut in funding and staff. Although there were staff adjustments, the basic five programs remained the focus of the Five Year Plan, 1993 Through 1997. Each successive Five Year Plan has been less ambitious than the last. This is a result of budget cuts, as well as the fact that Meewasin's statutory funding has been frozen for more than a decade.

4. The 100 Year Concept

This long-term vision was distinctive in the Canadian planning experience. It involved fundamental and far-reaching ideas about people's lives in the present and future, and how they shape or are shaped by their environment. By its nature, *The Meewasin Valley Project 100 Year Concept Master Plan* is a dynamic document, not intended for exact implementation. Instead it is intended to serve as a guide which will provide general principles to direct the preparation and implementation of successive short-term development plans.

The underlying principle of the *100 Year Concept Plan* is one of "balance and fit" among the original five objectives: education, conservation, cultural arts, recreational opportunities and urban/rural interface. The approach proposed to achieve these objectives is what the plan calls "links and nodes". The plan identifies six nodes, one major link and two potential nodes beyond the limits of the plan.

The plan focuses on preserving the beautiful and environmentally significant areas of the valley, improving the water quality of the South Saskatchewan River and protecting the valley's heritage resources. It also emphasizes the development of certain projects that would enhance valley resources and people's use and enjoyment of them.

The *100 Year Conceptual Plan* is used by Meewasin in two ways. First, a comprehensive review of the Plan will be conducted in the context of changing conditions and new information, during preparation of each successive Five Year Plan. Second, the direction and concepts presented in the

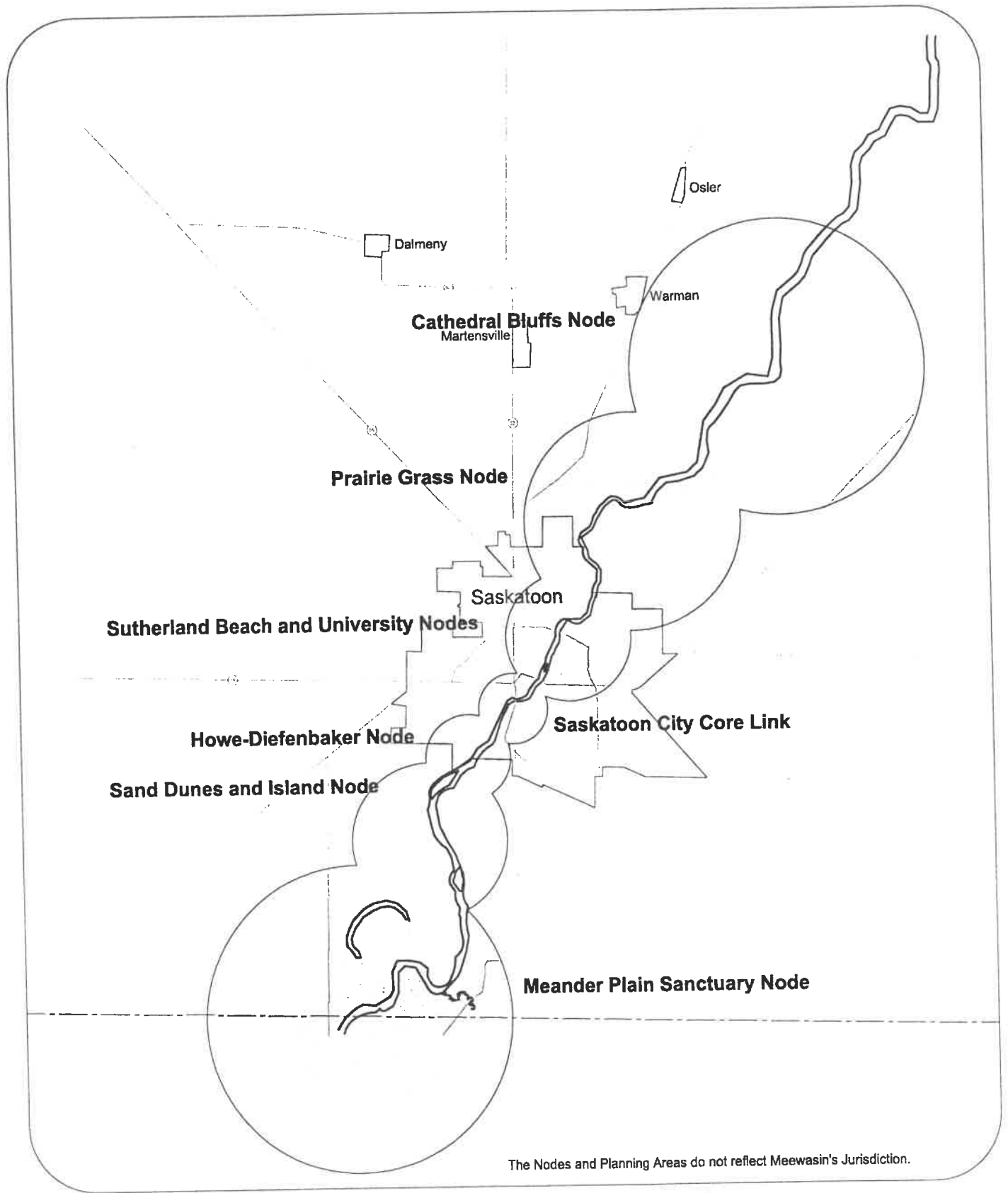


Figure 3: 100 Year Conceptual Plan Nodes

Plan will be used to guide decision-making whenever concerns are raised or projects proposed that are not specifically addressed in a five year plan. The *100 Year Concept Plan* will remain the basic principle underlying Meewasin's existence.

5. The 20 Year Vision

In 1989, on Meewasin's 10th anniversary and midway through the Five Year Plan, 1987 Through 1992, Meewasin, with the assistance of Raymond Moriyama and his firm, community advisory committees and numerous focus groups, reviewed the first 10 years of Meewasin's existence and looked forward to the next 20 years. Through this process, Meewasin developed a report entitled *Meewasin 2010: A Twenty Year Vision*.

Don Kerr, editor of the 20 year vision, writes as follows:

1.1.1 The Vision

Twenty years from now, in the year 2010, what will the Meewasin Valley be like? Can it remain an elegant home for all the species, including humans, that live in this rich valley on the prairie? As more and more people live each year on the earth—a new Saskatonian every two hours—there is a kind of race between human need and earth need, between the concept of development and the concept of ecology, between construction of houses for people and learning to love our generic home - the earth, water and air that support us. From the beginning, Meewasin has balanced conservation and development, learning the skills crucial to our world as the 20th century comes to an end.

The pressures in Meewasin Valley are not so great as in many parts of the world. We have some space and some time to learn to live easily with the world. It's a marvelous challenge, a marvelous opportunity and one reason why living in Saskatoon and the Valley can be a delight in the next 20 years. Let's imagine what the Valley will be like.

*If the Valley is to be green and abundant in 2010, it will be because more and more people have changed their mind about what is important. In the past, thousands of people have used the river valley as a garbage dump and the river as a sewage lagoon. But ideas have been changing dramatically in recent years. When an agency like Meewasin is created in this place, when books like *Home Place*, *Essays on Ecology* by Stan Rowe, and *The Wheatgrass Mechanism* by Don Gayton can be written in this place in the last year, when 26,000 people a year visit Beaver Creek, when 27,000 school children and thousands of others help clean the valley each year, when volunteer groups like the Natural History Society remain strong, when citizens fight to save fescue prairie, then we have reason to be optimistic, for thousands of us are changing our minds in fundamental ways about how to live harmoniously in this place, both in the parts we have built and the matrix we have inherited.*

The conservation of the valley will be the first priority of people in the next 20 years. The water will be plentiful, clear and clean. Jurisdictional disputes will have been solved and the South Saskatchewan not diverted to other upstream uses. The city will have built its tertiary sewage treatment plant and emissions into the river from all sources will be closely

monitored. The river downstream from Saskatoon will become clean and usable at last. Canoeing will be a popular sport with canoe launches and camp sites from the elbow of the South Saskatchewan to the Forks, where it meets the North Saskatchewan. Fishing will be more popular and the goldeye once so common to the river re-introduced to it. There will be more beaches for sunbathing and wading. The river will be more healthy and opportunities to enjoy it greatly increased.

There will be a dozen natural areas protected, from the Flood Plain Habitat to Peturrson's Ravine and the Hudson's Bay Slough. Clean up and restoration of damaged areas will continue so that no sign of human abuse in the Valley will remain. Programs of tree planting and the creation of habitat corridors will help keep the Valley green and abundant.

At the same time, the Meewasin Valley Trail system will be much extended, from Beaver Creek to Wanuskewin, with backshore links - along Beaver Creek, into the Montgomery subdivision and drawing in the new northeast sector of the city. The trail will cross the river at the CNR Bridge and at Peturrson's Ravine. In the year 2010 the Valley will be more green and more accessible.

By the year 2010 Wanuskewin will have become a world famous archaeological site and draw thousands of tourists a year to Saskatoon. It will tell a 6000 year story of the nomadic peoples of the western plains, so that people can enter into, understand and live the human past in this region. The Plains Indians will understand their long history; others will recognize the coherence and importance of that history. Wanuskewin will help reduce racism in our society and teach us how one society lived in harmony with the land.

In Saskatoon, the South Downtown will have been developed in an exciting way, its architecture harmonious and with echoes of the city's past. It will feature facilities for the arts so this place on the earth can be celebrated in stories, pictures, music and festivals. There will be recreation facilities like a skating rink, and a major interpretive centre about the river and the city. This is the place where the settlement history of the last 100 years will be featured. The parks in the downtown area on both sides of the river will remain the home of festivals and celebrations. People will respect the built heritage of the downtown and the neighbourhoods as visible signs of our past in this city.

By the year 2010 those who have difficulty using the Valley will find it more accessible. Extended parts of the trail will be wheelchair accessible and facilities like benches and gentle grades will make it more accommodating for the elderly. On occasion Meewasin will provide day care and other assistance so the economically disadvantaged can use the trail and resource centers. Volunteers will remain Meewasin's greatest resource and the Authority will continue to canvass a wide spectrum of public opinion before undertaking new developments.

By the year 2010 people in the Valley will think of Meewasin as their agency. By the year 2010 there will be educational nodes the length and breadth of the Valley. Natural and human history will be told in such rich detail we will have a clear picture of our origins. A full inventory of natural, archaeological and heritage resources will have been completed to

assist in the telling of that story and to teach us what species we must work to preserve. The agricultural history of the Valley will be told, at the University and other sites. There will be an outdoor interpretive centre in the northeast sector of Saskatoon. The University will attract thousands of children and adults to its displays and programs. Education is the key to Meewasin's 100 year future as a healthy and vibrant valley, and in cooperation with schools and Meewasin's partners, educational opportunities will be greatly increased and the Valley will become a living laboratory.

By the year 2010 there will be greater harmony between rural and urban interests and between Meewasin and Corman Park. Matters of common concern will be examined openly and partnerships formed that are advantageous for both parties. In 20 years a volunteer land stewardship program will be active, bequests will have been made to Meewasin of sensitive habitat lands, and Meewasin, its partners and Corman Park will be cooperating on projects of mutual benefit. Meewasin will emphasize education on ways in which agriculture fits the Valley and will operate always according to a model of co-operation.

In 20 years Meewasin will have provided examples of conservation and recycling of resources, in its own buildings, in experiments in composting, and in beginning to create the Experimental Community envisaged by Raymond Moriyama. Here the great resources of the University of Saskatchewan can come into play in a development that can show how humans can live in this cold climate without devouring an inordinate share of the world's diminishing non-renewable resources. We are living beyond the world's means and can create here a model of how better to live in the world.

Indeed, it is as a model that Meewasin and the people of the Valley may make their greatest mark. People the world over must learn new ways to live on the planet, and here in relatively under-populated Saskatchewan there is the leisure, and the will, to experiment with that new way, in which the lilies of the field are as important as the people who look at them and we recognize our fundamental kinship with the earth. As the conscious part of creation, we can destroy or nurture our terrestrial home. The experiment of Meewasin, of a sustainable valley, of a balance between conservation and human use, lies before us. What challenge is more important or more marvelous? We can make Saskatoon and the Valley one of the great places to live, and be proud that it is one of the places that has done its share in the great job of saving and beautifying our common home. The year 2010 should be a very good year in the Meewasin Valley.

Part II - Development Strategy

1. Introduction

The Development Strategy consists of four parts: the goals, the principles used in planning, the Mission Statement, and the physical planning structure.

Priorities have been established by identifying projects to be completed in the current Five Year Plan, ongoing capital projects central to the goals and principles of Meewasin, and significant natural and heritage resources to be conserved, and balancing these needs with community needs for recreation and other development, in the context of Meewasin's financial and administrative capabilities.

Criteria used to rank projects include: priority given by Board of Directors and advisory groups; projects associated with 20th Anniversary celebrations; completion of projects currently underway; threat from development; and availability of resources.

The Development Strategy for the period 1998 through 2002 has evolved from the ideas and direction given Meewasin through workshops conducted with the public, Meewasin's participating partners, staff, community advisory committees, and the Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors. Documents from *Meewasin's Development Plan* (such as the *Meewasin Valley Project - 100 Year Conceptual Plan*, past five year plans', various park plans, management strategies and interpretive plans arising from the implementation of the Development Plan, as well as Meewasin 2010: A Twenty Year Vision, and The City of Saskatoon Capital Plan 1998-2001), form the basis of the 1998 through 2002 development plan.

2. Goals of Meewasin

Meewasin's activities over the next 100 years will be directed towards attaining three goals. These goals are:

- To protect the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley;
- To develop and encourage projects which enhance natural and cultural heritage resources and add to the quality of life in the Saskatoon area; and
- To increase understanding and awareness of the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

These goals will be common to the development strategy of each successive development plan. Each plan will contribute in a different way to fulfillment of these goals.

3. Planning Principles

Meewasin has and will continue to use the following five principles as fundamental to the planning of the valley.

1. The valley's resources and amenities should be accessible to everyone to use and enjoy year round insofar as financially possible and environmentally desirable.
2. The need for recreation and other development should be balanced with the need for natural and heritage resource conservation.
3. A diversity of activities should be provided in different settings to serve a variety of interests and needs.
4. Significant natural and heritage resources should be preserved.
5. Opportunities should be provided for individuals, groups and other parties to participate in the preparation of plans and decision making on matters which directly affect them.

These principles generally will be common to subsequent development strategies, and will guide the formation and implementation of all plans and resource management strategies, including each Five Year Plan.

4. Mission Statement

The purpose of Meewasin has been defined in the Mission Statement developed by the Meewasin Board of Directors. The Mission Statement, quoted below, outlines the purpose and guiding principles of Meewasin.

To ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- *providing leadership in the management of its resources;*
- *promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the valley; and*
- *undertaking programs and projects in river valley development and conservation,*

for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Mission Statement contains three components.

Statement 1: Provide leadership in the management of resources.

To fulfill this objective Meewasin will strive in the next five years to act as *a facilitator* whenever possible, coordinating the various agencies that have a role in the river valley. Meewasin shall expand its co-operative relationship with its participating partners to meet common needs, with

schools in and out of Saskatoon to increase opportunities for environmental education, with volunteers and the private sector to continue their involvement, with the R.M. of Corman Park through co-operative action at the political and individual level, with federal agencies dealing with water and the environment, and with river user groups to ensure wise use of river resources.

Meewasin shall also strive to be a *role model* for interjurisdictional resource management, environment protection, and a workable rural/urban relationship. Meewasin can provide a model of a responsible steward of the environment through examples of conservation projects.

Meewasin shall be an *advocate* and lobbyist for an environmentally healthy and vibrant valley, particularly in regard to water supply and quality, since so many jurisdictions are involved and the issue is so crucial for the health of the Valley and the City.

Statement 2: Promote understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the valley.

This objective includes the traditional Meewasin Valley Authority values of education and research. Meewasin will play a leading role developing *conservation education* for all parts of the community, in cooperation with local and regional school systems and other community organizations. Meewasin can also help develop public *awareness of environmental issues* through programs like the annual Clean-Up Campaign, and interpretive programs that explain the natural heritage of the valley.

Awareness of cultural heritage shall be promoted through publications like walking tour brochures and projects like the Meewasin Valley Centre. The importance of *agriculture* to the valley will be interpreted through co-operation with landowners and the University.

Research will continue on conservation and beneficial use of the valley. In the next five years, Meewasin shall be involved in and encourage research into (a) natural, archaeological and heritage resources throughout the valley; (b) water quality, in regard to landfill sites, industrial sites, domestic and storm sewers; and (c) sustaining ecological resources.

Education workshops, seminars and teacher in-service training will be provided.

Statement 3: Undertake programs and projects in the river valley, balancing conservation and development.

Meewasin's primary concern is the health of the valley and the protection of the ecosystem that maintains it. Meewasin will continue to act as a *conservation agency* in the valley, endeavoring to identify and protect natural areas to the highest degree possible. Meewasin is committed to *restoring* parts of the damaged environment, and will conserve *areas for natural habitat*. Meewasin shall go on creating a continuous corridor of natural and landscaped green space, a ribbon of green for conservation and for human use, with an optimum number of access points to the river. Meewasin will enter into ventures with the public and private sector in the goal of *afforestation*.

In *recreation development* Meewasin will continue to expand the Meewasin Trail as an important priority and will combine greening the valley with trail expansion. South Downtown, Saskatoon's major urban river front project, will be promoted by Meewasin as a major cultural and recreational centre within the City achieving sustainable development (meeting the needs of people without compromising conservation values) has always been the central challenge of Meewasin and will remain crucial in the next five years. Meewasin must continue to work for a balance between urbanization and natural areas, between manicured and natural landscapes, and it will be Meewasin's goal to keep the valley as natural as possible and not overdevelop new sites.

5. Physical Planning Structure

5.1 Introduction

The *Meewasin Valley Project* outlined a series of links and nodes to provide a framework for a century of growth and development in balance and fit with conservation of the resources of the Meewasin Valley. The Five Year Plan, 1987 Through 1992, developed a framework within that vision. It divided the Meewasin Valley into four major planning divisions:

1. Meander Plain area (Meewasin Valley south of Saskatoon)
2. Saskatoon area
3. University area
4. Prairie Grass Terrace area (Meewasin Valley north of Saskatoon)

Taking direction from the *Meewasin Valley Project*, a distinct physical, functional and interpretive focus and a particular development and resource conservation emphasis was defined for each area. A physical and thematic focus was also identified. The intent was to provide a planning framework that directs Meewasin toward achieving the principles of the *Meewasin Valley Project*, while recognizing the jurisdictional, fiscal and functional changes that have occurred since Meewasin's creation in 1979. The Meewasin Valley Project and other components of Meewasin's Development Plan may be consulted for more information.

Although there are differences in focus and emphasis for each area, Meewasin's activities in each will always be considered in light of the nature of the whole river valley corridor that is Meewasin. Important valleywide projects include:

- greening the valley through restoration, tree planting and maintaining or creating habitat corridors;
- interpreting the natural and cultural heritage resources of the valley through signage and interpretive nodes;
- developing the trail system according to the Trail Systems plan;
- mapping and evaluating the natural, archaeological and historic resources of the valley.

5.2 Meander Plain Area

The Meander Plain area has nine units: Flood Plain Habitat, Rifle Range, Beaver Creek, Poplar Bluffs, Paradise Beach, Yorath Island, Cranberry Flats, River Islands and Flood Plain Banks. The Meander Plain area emphasizes the conservation of the natural heritage of the Valley. The focus is the Beaver Creek Conservation Area and Interpretive Centre. Interpretive subthemes include "Valley Formation" and "The Living Environment".

The area contains two of the nodes identified in the *Meewasin Valley Project*: the Meander Plain Sanctuary and the Sand Dune and Island Park. Physically, the area consists of environmentally sensitive sand dunes, broad meander plain features and associated uplands. It is particularly rich in resources for interpretation and enjoyment of the natural riverine environment.

Meewasin 2010: A Twenty Year Vision outlines a general and long-range development strategy for the area in terms of future uses, functions and relationships. The strategy will be implemented in future development plans.

5.3 Saskatoon Area

The Saskatoon area has 22 units. These are:

East Bank South: Diefenbaker Park, Pioneer Cemetery, Dumont Park

East Bank: Rotary Park, Cosmopolitan Park, Sutherland Beach, Peturrson's Ravine, Forestry Farm Link, Forestry Farm

West Bank South: Gordon Howe Park, Holiday Park, Victoria Park

West Bank: Kiwanis/Friendship Park, Mendel Riverbank Park, Kinsmen Park, Spadina Natural Area, Weir, North Spadina Riverbank Area, Archibald Park, Meewasin Park, Meewasin Park North

South Downtown:

The interpretive sub-theme of the Saskatoon area is "Settlement", including past, present and future development of the community on the banks of the river. The focus will be the South Downtown in general, Kiwanis Memorial and Friendship Parks and Rotary Park in particular. The objective is to develop the waterfront and adjacent lands in fit and balance with conservation of the resources in the area for public use, enjoyment and understanding. The development principle is linkage. Linkage within the valley, between north and south, across the river, from the river to the urban settlement, and between city and country.

The area contains all of one and part of another of the nodal areas and a major link area identified in the Meewasin Valley Project: the Howe/Diefenbaker node, the northern part of the Sutherland Beach/University node and the Saskatoon link. Physically nearly all of the Meewasin Valley lands and the river itself have undergone major modification in the settlement process from the founding

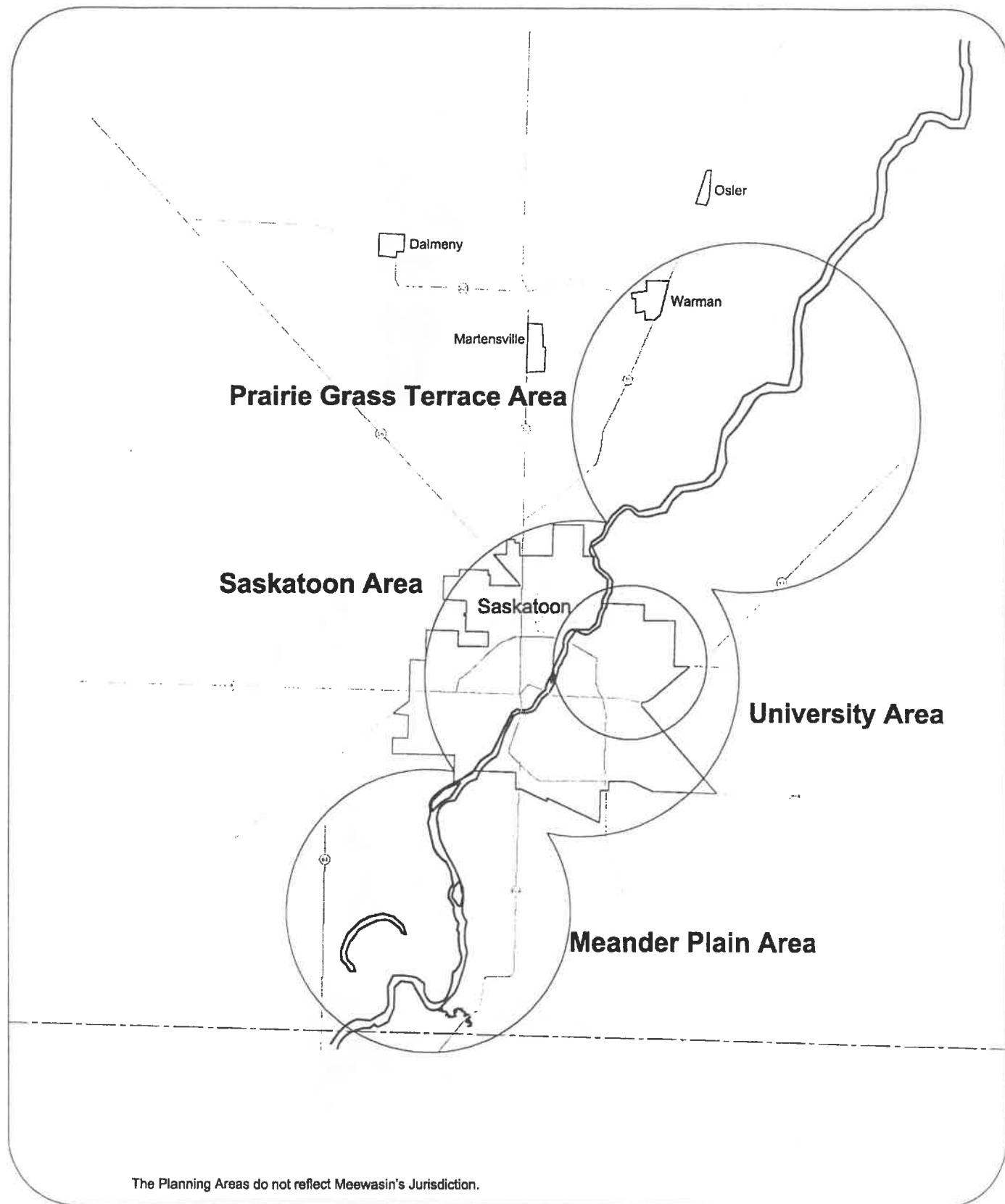


Figure 4: Planning Areas

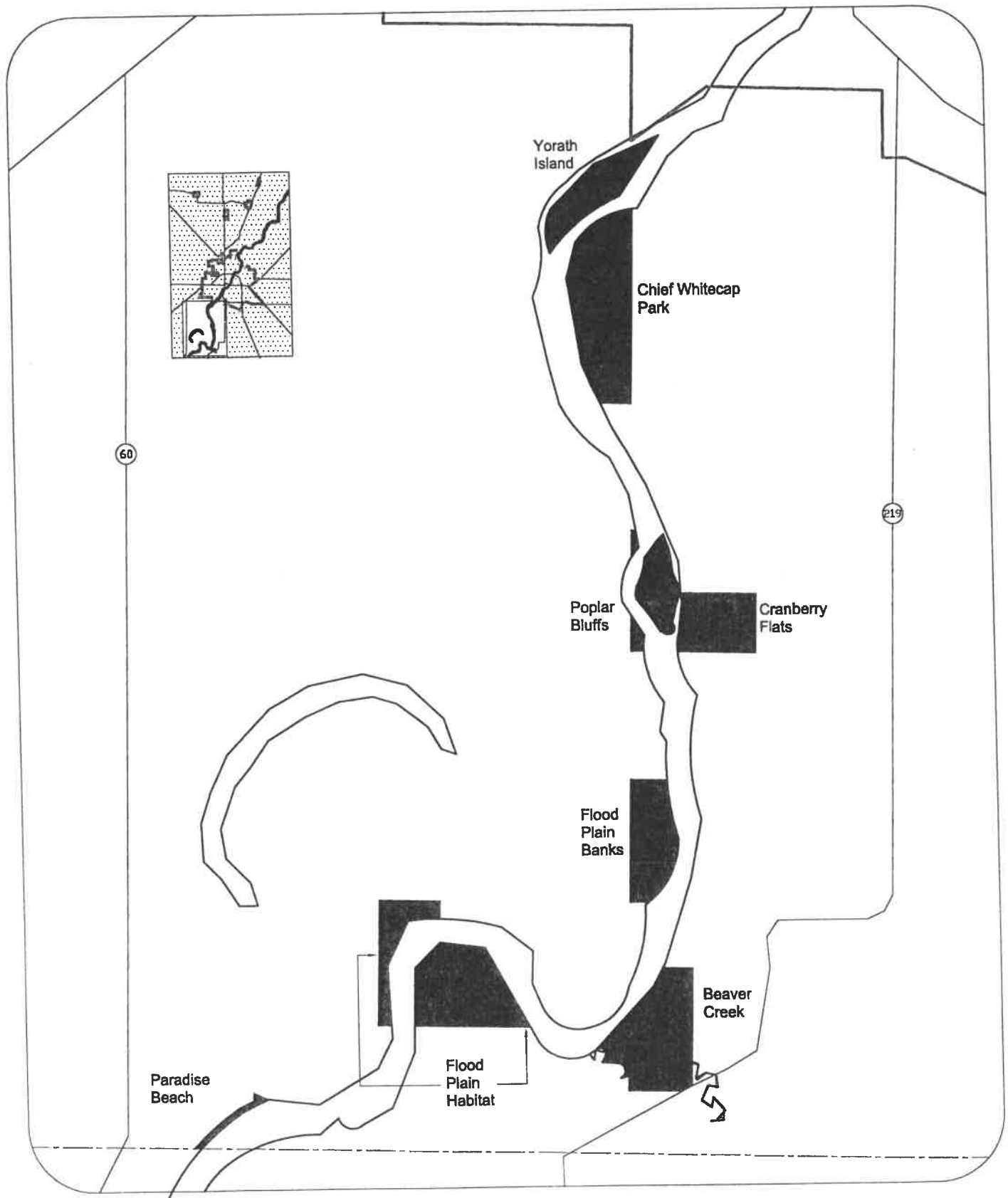


Figure 5: Meader Plain Area

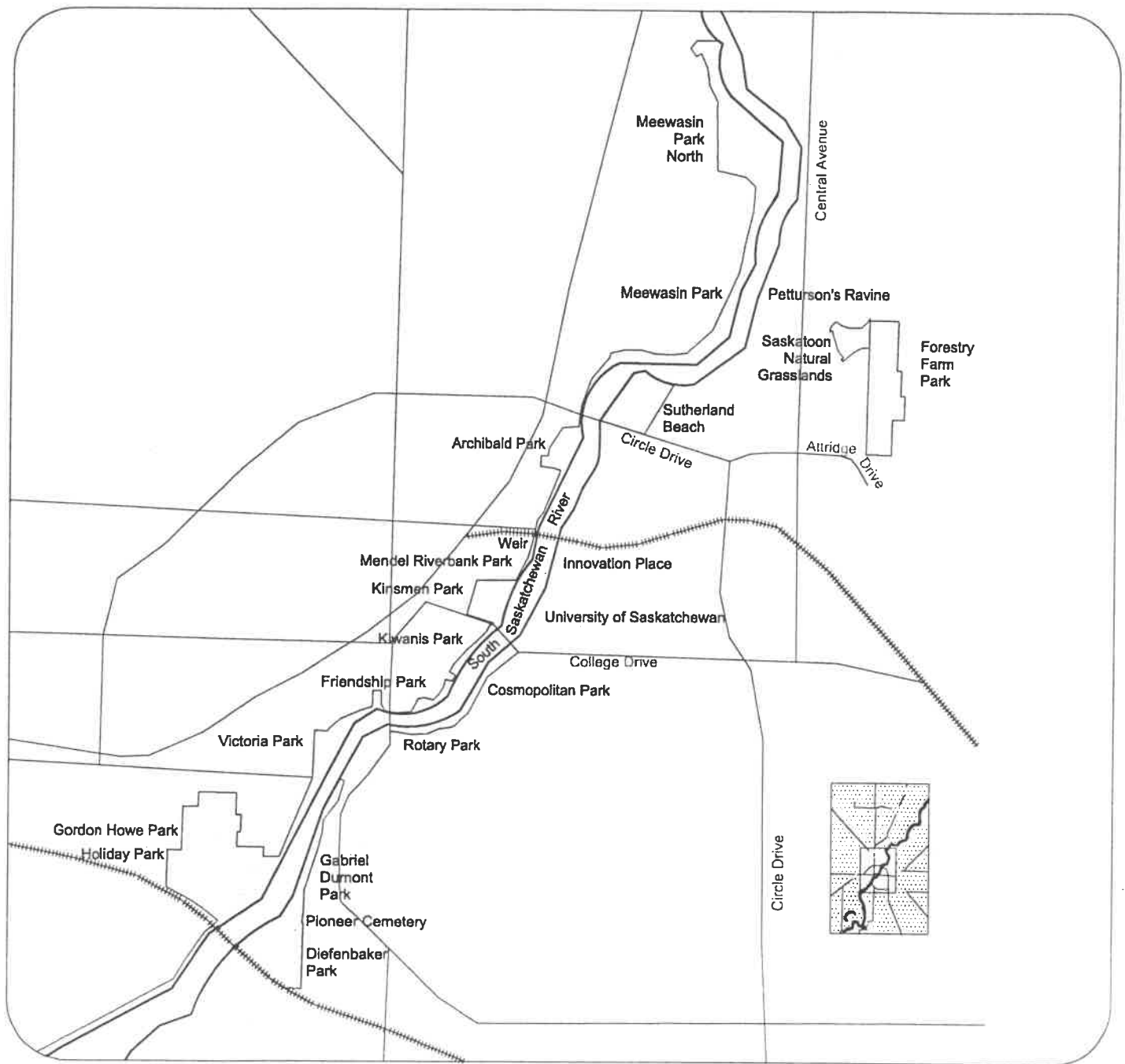


Figure 6: Saskatoon Area

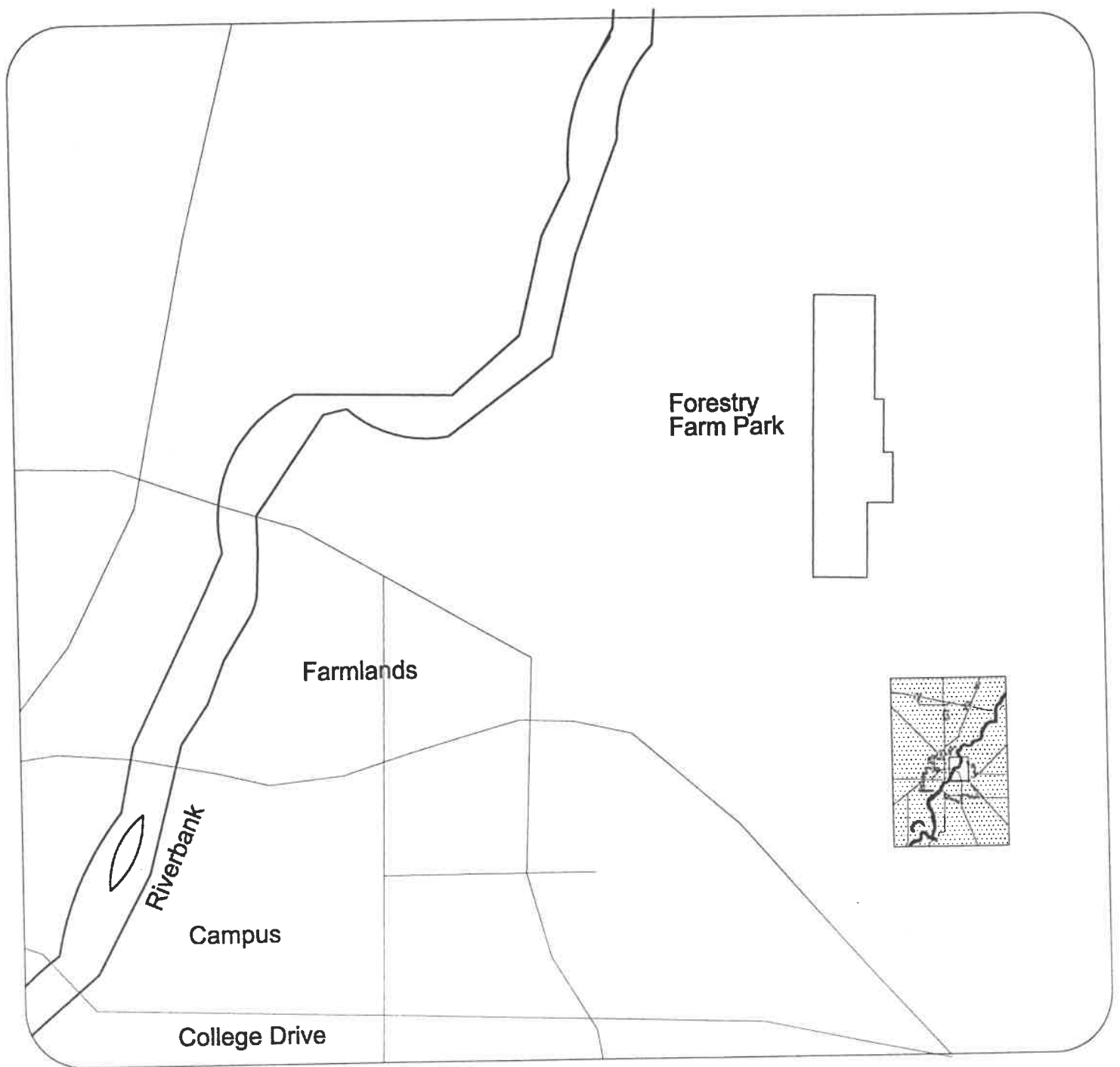


Figure 7: University Area

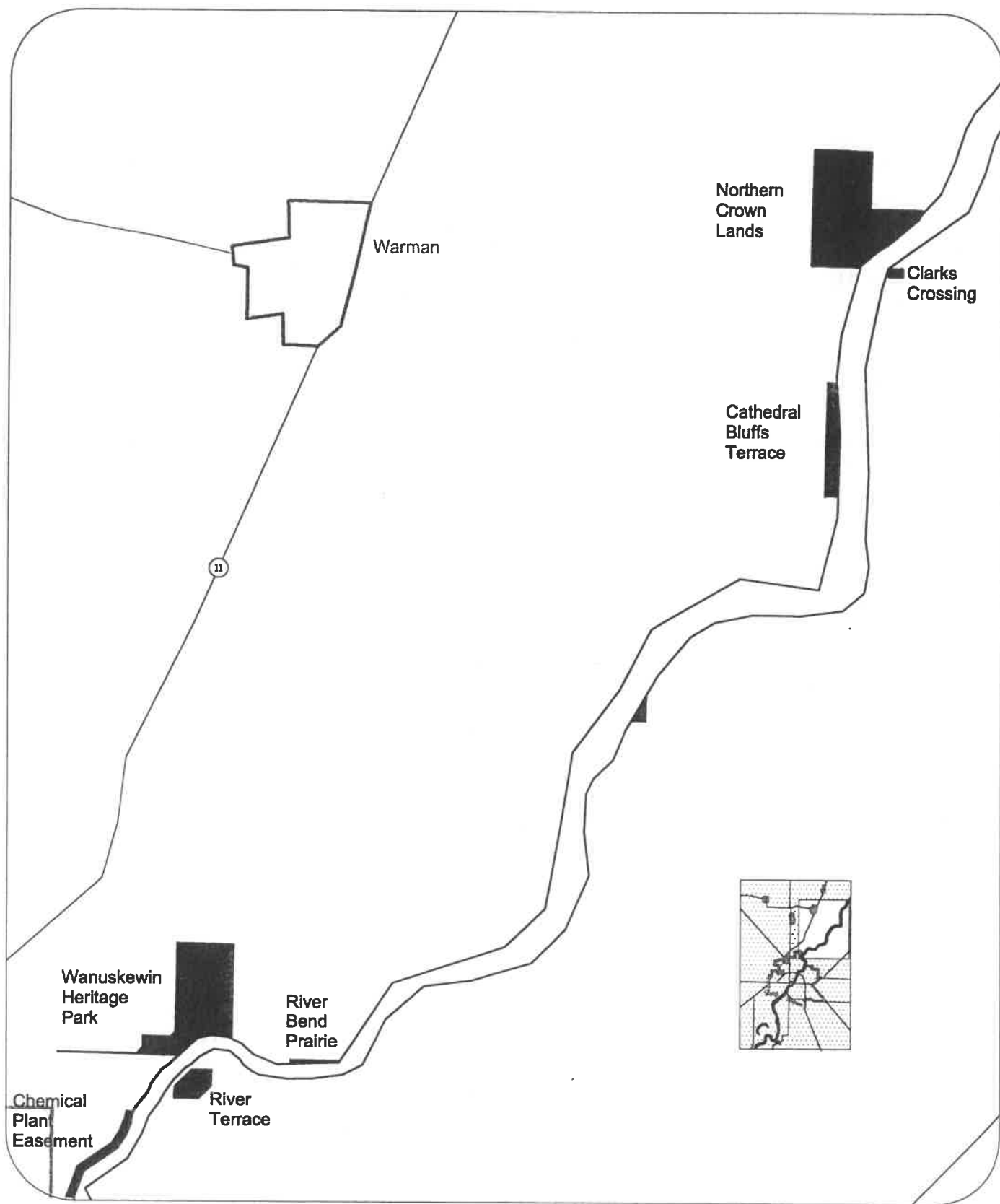


Figure 8: Prairie Grass Terrace Area

of a village to the present day city. The current landscape is the result of a complex relationship between human and natural forces.

The *Meewasin Valley Project* conceived an interpretive structure located within the Circle Drive Bridge adjacent to Sutherland Beach, as the physical and interpretive centre of the entire Meewasin Valley. This concept was not implemented under the bridge structure for financial reasons. There was a clear need, however, to implement the spirit of the concept. Therefore, a decision was made in 1985 to locate this central identity function of Meewasin to an area adjacent to the South Downtown unit. The location of the Meewasin Valley Centre, the perceived heart of Meewasin, in proximity to the functional urban centre of the city and the urban development focus of the South Downtown Project, has not only improved physical accessibility for visitor and resident alike, but has also provided a central focus for the Saskatoon area and enhanced the spiritual link between settlement and river.

5.4 University Area

The University area has five units: College Drive, University Riverbank, University Campus, Experimental Area/Community, and University Farmlands. This area forms a significant part of the nodal area identified in the Meewasin Valley Project as Sutherland Beach/University.

The experimental area/community unit is at a crossroads. The only remaining area suggested in the Meewasin Valley Project for an experimental community will be considered for subdivision in the next five years. In addition, the University no longer supports the experimental community concept mainly due to lack of academic support or a college to champion the concept. There is, however, still an opportunity to develop an integrated plan for the area that explores blending the public open space needs of Sutherland Beach with a “sustainable” community concept. Meewasin will play a lead role in developing this concept.

The interpretive sub-theme for the campus area is “settlement”. Diversity of research and educational activities relates directly to historic settlement and urban/industrial development in Saskatoon. The nodal focus for this area will generally be the University campus, specifically the interpretive features developed by the University. The interpretive theme will relate to the functioning past, present, and future of the University region. The operative development concept will be one of linkage: linkage of the University with the City and Region, linkage of cultural and natural ecologies of the valley, and discovery and understanding of these linkages through time.

The central University campus has the most intense public development in the city. Physically it is characterized by structural and landscape excellence. The University riverbank is similar in character to the banks north and south. The area for a potential “sustainable” community is similar in physical character to other lands proposed for urban neighbourhoods in the city’s northeast sector. Most of the University farmlands are high quality and important to the long term integrity of the University’s renowned agricultural research and extension roles.

5.5 Prairie Grass Terrace Area

The Prairie Grass Terrace area has four units: Chemical Plant Easement, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, River Terrace, and Northern Crown Lands (including Clark's Crossing and Cathedral Bluffs Terrace).

The sub-themes of the Prairie Grass Terrace area include "The Living Environment" and "Settlement", which emphasizes the conservation and interpretation of prehistoric heritage resources of the valley. The focus is Wanuskewin Heritage Park, formerly Tipperary Creek. This focus will complement other interpretive foci to provide an interpretive program for Meewasin that spans the valley's natural and cultural heritage, from formation to the present and into the future.

The area was identified in the *Meewasin Valley Project* as a nodal area comprising two main parts: Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the River Terrace on the opposite bank. Wanuskewin contains a creek valley incised into the prairie upland, a pleasant microcosm of the river itself. The terrace opposite is a gently sloping bolder pavement surfaced area. It is the prehistoric archaeological resources that give Wanuskewin Heritage Park its great potential and significance. This location, identified as a national historic site, brings together examples of most of the principal types of prehistoric Plains Indian archaeological records, all within a very limited distance. The site attracts an average of 80,000 visitors per year. Management of the site requires protection of the sensitive and fragile resource, the accommodation of high visitation rates, and the need for First Nations "ownership" of the interpretation programs. The Park was developed by Meewasin, which then turned over the land and management of the Park to the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Corporation.

Part III - Implementation

1. Overview

Meewasin will implement its Development Strategy through Programs, Policies, Bylaws, Boundary Alteration, Advisory Committees, and Plan Review.

1.1 Programs

In the Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002, the activities of Meewasin are organized according to five programs: Resource Conservation, Planning and Development Review, Design and Development, Public Affairs and Administration and Operations.

Meewasin's organizational structure reflects these functional units. In the following pages, the five programs are discussed in terms of goals, objectives and projects. The projects and their time frames are meant as guidelines only, to aid in implementation planning and future decisions.

1.2 Policies

Meewasin will establish policies outlining its position on issues related to its responsibilities. The policies will set criteria or guidelines to be used by Meewasin, its committees and staff in decision-making. The policies will help ensure that day-to-day decisions are contributing to, and respectful of, Meewasin's goals. A primary focus will be to resolve the issue of a cultural policy.

1.3 Bylaws

The *Meewasin Valley Authority Act* gives Meewasin certain bylaw-making powers. The Authority will enact appropriate bylaws where current procedures are insufficient to attain its goals, or when other jurisdictions are unable to use their powers to protect the valley's resources to the standard required by Meewasin.

1.4 Boundary Alteration

Meewasin may acquire land through donation, conservation easement, or when necessary, purchase to implement its Development Strategy. Acquisition will be subject to the availability of land and funds.

1.5 Advisory Committees

Formal and informal public involvement in Meewasin's activities will be used to enrich the quality of projects Meewasin undertakes. Public involvement, whether individuals, groups or participating parties, will ensure that Meewasin's projects reflect community values and needs. Meewasin will ensure formal public involvement through technical committees, community advisory committees, project co-ordination committees and public surveys.

1.6 Plan Review

The Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002, in regard to changing needs, circumstances and conditions, will be regularly reviewed. Three types of review are planned: continuous review to allow for opportunities that emerge as priorities; annual review at the end of each fiscal year; and comprehensive review during the period 2000 to 2001 prior to the preparation of the next development plan (2003 through 2007).

2. RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The next five years will see more emphasis on conservation through enhancement of the resource management field program and an increase in the amount of protected land. Protection of natural and human heritage through public and landowner stewardship, both within the Meewasin Valley and beyond, is very important. Meewasin will be exploring ways to increase the amount of protected wildlife habitat lands and provide natural areas for future environmental education.

In regard to stewardship of the valley, the Authority will strive to retain trees along the entire river edge through riverbank controls, and will advocate on behalf of better water quality. Specific plans are outlined in the following goals, objectives and projects.

2.1 Goal

To gather and analyze information on all aspects of the natural and cultural heritage resources of the valley for use in Meewasin's planning, design and interpretation projects.

2.1.1 Objective and Projects

Maintain the bio diversity of Meewasin Valley, identify all remaining natural areas and evaluate long term viability.

- ☐ Identify all natural areas of Meewasin Valley and ecological land base
- ☐ Identify six tracking variables and analyze valley
- ☐ Prepare "state of valley" sustainability report

To inventory and map, subject to the approval of the landowner, ecological and otherwise suitable areas for afforestation/restoration.

- ☐ Poplar Bluffs & Flood Plain Banks
- ☐ Corman Park Gravel Pit
- ☐ Chief Whitecap Park
- ☐ Saskatoon Landfill
- ☐ Flood Plain Habitat East
- ☐ University Riverbank/Preston Avenue

Maintain a geographical information system in tune with other agencies for planning and design, resource management, and monitoring changes in valley resources.

- Air Photo Inventory – Five Year Update 1998
- Air Photo Inventory – Five Year Update 2002
- Continue mapping program north of Wanuskewin

Biophysical Inventory

- Chemical Landfill Buffer 1998
- Cranberry Flats 1998
- Beaver Creek 1999
- Poplar Bluffs 1999
- Yorath Island/Maple Grove 1999
- Northeast Swale 1999
- Clark's Crossing/Guenther Prairie 2000
- Cosmo Forest 2000
- Chappel Marsh 2001

Expand data base to assist in preserving cultural heritage. Develop a cultural/heritage resource strategy.

- Archaeological Inventory – Silverwood Factoria – Interpretive Program/Digs
- Oral histories for San Site and South Downtown
- Seek protected site status for Factoria if in Conservation Zone
- Update and computerize the Heritage Resources Manual.

Continue conservation monitoring and vegetation inventory/ monitoring for remediation and control of exotic species to conserve bio diversity in natural areas.

- Cranberry Flats ongoing
- Beaver Creek ongoing
- Peturrson's Ravine 1998
- Regional Psychiatric Centre Prairie 1999
- Saskatoon Natural Grasslands-remeasure 1999
- University Chemical Remediation Site Buffer 2000
- Sanatorium Site 2001

Carry out research to acquire data necessary to assist in resolving environmental issues.

- Kentucky Blue Grass, Buck thorn, Brome grass, and Leafy Spurge control
- Water quality – storm sewer, snow dumps, landfill, chemical sites, alum pollution, thermal pollution
- Provincial legislation – updating ecological protection
- Use of disturbances to enhance biodiversity (fire)

2.2 Goal

To ensure conservation of the natural and cultural heritage resources of the valley through leadership in management of resources and undertaking programs and projects on river valley conservation.

2.2.2 Objectives and Projects

Ensure the existing natural areas are managed in such a manner as to secure their survival for the benefit of future generations by preparing Resource Management Plans.

- | | | |
|--|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Psychiatric Centre Riverbank | 1998 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University Landfill Buffer | 1998 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yorath Island/Maple Grove | | 1999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Swale | 2000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarks Crossing /Guenther Prairie | 2001 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmo Forest | 2001 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Barbe Baker/Chappel Marsh | 2002 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New conservation easements | | |
| --Hudson Bay Slough | | |
| --Northeast Swale | | |

Implement existing and future Resource Management Plans as they come on stream.

- ☐ Saskatoon Natural Grasslands
- ☐ Peturrson's Ravine
- ☐ East Bank South
- ☐ Sanatorium Site

Develop and implement a land access strategy based on the natural areas inventory to secure land, to protect natural areas, create wildlife habitat and linkages, provide public access to the river, and provide passive recreation.

- ☐ Inventory land base and rank in order of priority
- ☐ Initiate a volunteer land stewardship program
- ☐ Promote existing conservation easement legislation by establishing at least 3 easements by 2002
- ☐ Promote continual contribution to land access fund by Meewasin Partners and Meewasin Foundation
- ☐ Purchase land when available based on strategy and availability of funds

Continue supporting a dialogue with river user groups.

- ☐ Annual River Flows Outlook Conference
- ☐ Sask. River Operations Advisory Committee – through Partners FOR The Saskatchewan River Basin
- ☐ Meewasin's River Issues Committee

- ❑ Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Program

Restore damaged areas of the valley especially along the riverbank.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| ❑ Ravine/Whiteswan | 1998 |
| ❑ Gabriel Dumont Park | 1998 |
| ❑ Chief Whitecap Park Upland | 1999+ |
| ❑ Rotary Park | 2000 |
| ❑ Diefenbaker Park Ravine | 2001 |
| ❑ Sask. Chemicals Riverbank | 2002 |

Prepare Policies/Bylaws to protect the natural and cultural heritage.

- ❑ Riverbank Protection Study Policy Development
- ❑ Natural Areas Protection Policy
- ❑ Tree Protection Bylaw – entire riverbank zone
- ❑ Weir Island Designation Bylaw
- ❑ Apply Public Park #1 Bylaw to Chief Whitecap Park & Paradise Beach (similar to Beaver Creek)
- ❑ Investigate feasibility of a Heritage Streetscape Bylaw

3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROGRAM

During the 1993 through 1997 period, the principle of the Development Review Program was proactive, in terms of providing leadership in the management of the valley's resources, rather than reactive or regulatory. In the 1998 through 2002 period, this principle will continue. Meewasin will endeavor to reduce duplication with the City and streamline development review processes. In general there will be fewer planning studies than in past Five Year Plans; however, key areas where Meewasin has not established development goals and objectives will be focused on. The Planning and Development Review Program will be addressing the following goals, objectives and projects.

3.1 Goal

To ensure orderly and professional implementation of the 100 Year Conceptual Plan through preparation of strategic and site development plans.

3.1.1 Objectives and Projects

Review and prepare multi-year strategic development plans.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| ❑ Review Northeast Policy | 1998 |
| ❑ Complete reformatting the Development Plan | 1998 |
| ❑ Ferry Feasibility Study | 1999 |
| ❑ Review the Five Year Plan 1998 through 2002 | yearly |
| ❑ Major review of Five Year Plan | 2000 |
| ❑ Prepare a Five Year Plan 2003 Through 2007 | 2002 |

Provide co-ordination and direction for Meewasin's activities through preparation of development programs and conceptual development plans.

<input type="checkbox"/> Weir Development	1998
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Dock Feasibility Study	1998
<input type="checkbox"/> Silverwood Factoria Site Concept Plan	1998
<input type="checkbox"/> Maple Grove Site Concept Plan	1999
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Linkages Concept Study/Trans Canada Trail	1999
<input type="checkbox"/> South Downtown-riverfront and trail development	
<input type="checkbox"/> A.L. Cole Interim Development Plan	1999
<input type="checkbox"/> Diefenbaker Park Concept Development Plan	2000
<input type="checkbox"/> Sutherland Beach/Sustainable Community	2001

3.2 Goal

To provide rigorous control of all development in Meewasin Valley as defined in The Meewasin Valley Authority Act. To maintain consistency with the Meewasin Development Plan.

3.2.2 Objectives and Projects

Ensure that development proposed for the valley is consistent with the 100 year concept and other plans contained in the Meewasin Development Plan, and is compatible with the environmental and heritage features of the valley and conservation of valley resources.

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streamline the Development Review process | 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a clearer understanding of the City's Five Year Plan and vice versa | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to monitor the valley for compliance of development approval conditions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update Meewasin jurisdictional map-1999 upon resolution of jurisdictional conflicts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to manage the Development Review process | |

Ensure that *The Meewasin Valley Authority Act* and Development Plan are updated as changes occur.

- ☐ Investigate demolition aspect of development.
- ☐ Ensure new properties are included in Schedule A.
- ☐ Review legislation to determine if any changes are required.

4. DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Trail development and extension is one of Meewasin's highest priorities over the next five years. The need for a south crossing is very apparent, and resolution of this challenge will be accomplished by 2002. Better trail connections to and in the main campus, including a trail connection to Innovation Place are planned. A lot of interest has been expressed in a trail north to Wanuskewin and south towards Beaver Creek; however, due to land access problems limited development can be

expected in these areas in the next five years. Meewasin will work with the City to improve backshore linkages largely through involvement in the City's comprehensive bicycle study, thus enhancing cycling opportunities where possible. More specifically, the Design and Development Program will be addressing the following goals, objectives and projects.

4.1 Goal

Implement the projects identified in Meewasin's Development Plan so as to maintain a high standard of landscape and architectural design that is synchronized with public need and sympathetic to the natural environment and heritage resources.

4.1.1 Objectives and Projects

Prepare design plans and detailed working drawings for specific projects.

Trails to the 21 st Century	
□ Meewasin Park North	1998
□ Sanatorium Site	1999
□ Saskatoon Natural Grasslands	1998
□ Northeast Trail System	1998-2002
□ Innovation Place to U of S Campus	2000
□ Backshore Linkages	1999-2001
□ Existing Trail Rebuilds	2000
□ BCCA Trail Study	2001
□ Chief Whitecap Park	2002

Select Projects	
□ Fred Heal Canoe Launch	1998
□ Weir Area Development	2002

Implement physical development while maximizing value of dollars spent through efficient project management.

Select Projects	
□ Rotary Park Peace Pole	1998
□ MVC Entry Sign	1998
□ Trail Signage Retrofit	1998
□ Paradise Beach Improvements	1998
□ Saskatoon Natural Grassland Buffers	1998-1999
□ Fred Heal Canoe Launch	1998-1999

Trail Projects	
□ Gabriel Dumont Park Landform and Trail	1999-2000
□ Meewasin Park North Grading and Trail	1999-2000
□ Commuter Link	1999
□ Forestry Farm Entry and Trail Link	2000

<input type="checkbox"/> Sanatorium Site Trail	2000
<input type="checkbox"/> Saskatoon Natural Grasslands Trail	2000
<input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Sector Trails	2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation Place to U of S Campus Trail	2001
<input type="checkbox"/> Backshore Linkages	1999-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing Trail Rebuilds	2000-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> BCCA Trail Improvements	2002

Projects of High Priority With Unsure Funding Strategy

- ☐ South Downtown
- ☐ CN Bridge Crossing
- ☐ New Meewasin River Centre (regional facility)
- ☐ Kiwanis Skate Shelter

Provide post development monitoring for Meewasin projects and make any necessary improvements or changes.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preventative Maintenance of Trails | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Existing Systems Improvements | 1998+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of Design Standards (signage, furniture) | 1998 |

Ensure Meewasin's Physical Plant is operational

- ☐ MVC Center
- ☐ MVC Administration
- ☐ Other facilities

Implement projects funded by the Meewasin Foundation approved by the Authority

5. Public Programs

Public Programs will be striving to achieve an aggressive, action-oriented public environmental education program to increase environmental literacy and stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage of the valley. The concepts and principles of Sustainable Development will form an important emphasis of new educational programs and products developed by the Public Programs Unit.

More attention will be focussed on specific target groups, including young people, the elderly, and culturally diverse sectors of the city.

Meewasin will share expertise on interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage with other organizations, notably the University of Saskatchewan, and work harder to facilitate the work of other organizations and individuals whose mandate and missions compliment Meewasin's. Public programs will address the following goals, objectives, and projects:

5.1 Goals

Achieve a higher level of public understanding concerning the natural and cultural heritage of the Meewasin Valley and the function, requirements, and value of conservation of this heritage.

5.1.1 Objectives and Projects

Conduct a major evaluation of all current Public Program activities to measure effectiveness and efficiency. May involve a combination of external and internal processes.

- 1998

Develop and begin implementation of the University Interpretive Unit.

- 1998+

Conduct a feasibility assessment for new Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre with expanded programming and a larger role in the community. If supportive, begin design and development of the new centre. Consideration will be given to providing integrated office spaces to numerous conservation organizations, increased and flexible exhibit spaces, increased valley tour functions, a conservation and community resource centre, retail and food services space, a “valley exploration” rental facility and diversified school programming.

Support the development of a “Meewasin River Festival” to a provincial-level festival.

- | | |
|--|------|
| □ Creative arts | 1999 |
| □ Conservation projects | 1999 |
| □ Interpretation and Recreational Programs | 1999 |

Develop and demonstrate at least one new innovative interpretive technology such as CD-audio tours, Digital Walking Tours (GPS/GIS based) or soundscapes.

5.2 Goal

To provide public information on Meewasin and its projects, and obtain appropriate public input and support.

5.2.1 Objectives and Projects

Conduct public opinion surveys.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| □ Survey | 1999 |
| □ Survey | 2002 |

Conduct a comprehensive trail assessment to determine the role and value of the Meewasin Trail in the community.

Conduct Public Open Houses by sector.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast | 1999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest | 2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest | 2001 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast | 2002 |

20th Anniversary Celebration.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> September | 1999 |
|------------------------------------|------|

Conversion of valley interpretation signage to new construction standard. Design and layout to remain as is.

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1998+ |
|--------------------------------|

Preparation of new valley-wide interpretation signage.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Blocks | 1998+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotary Lookout | 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fred Heal Canoe Launch | 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise Beach | 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saskatoon Natural Grasslands | 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silverwood Factoria | 1999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weir | 2001 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Whitecap Park | 2002 |

Support staff participation on boards and committees of related organizations such as: interpretation and museum associations, local and provincial nature environmental heritage and educational associations, and landscape and planning organizations.

5.3 Goal

To help develop awareness of environmental issues through programs and projects that explain the natural and cultural heritage of the valley.

5.3.1 Objectives and Projects

Create new program opportunities at Beaver Creek Conservation Area.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation and environmental education training | 1998-2002 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of overnight programming | 1998 |

- ❑ Increased use of contract staff

1998

Continue programming at Beaver Creek Conservation Area

- ❑ Interpretive Centre Display
- ❑ Group programming for a fee
- ❑ Grade Five Program Structure
- ❑ Social-needs based programming
- ❑ Overnight Camps
- ❑ Self-guided interpretive programs - enhanced
- ❑ Day Camp
- ❑ Night hikes

Programming at Meewasin Valley Centre

- ❑ Monthly Art Shows
- ❑ Group programs on request for a fee
- ❑ Gift shop
- ❑ Grade three program structure
- ❑ Walking tours
- ❑ Gallery change

Continue the following Community Environmental Programs (unless program evaluation suggests otherwise):

- ❑ Meewasin Clean-up Campaign
- ❑ River Stewardship Program
- ❑ River Tours Program
- ❑ Tree distribution
- ❑ Trail Safety/Trail Ambassador
- ❑ St. Joseph High School Partnerships in Education Program
- ❑ Seniors' Day
- ❑ Seniors' Writing Contest
- ❑ Marr Harvest Fair
- ❑ River Cinema
- ❑ Saskatoon Natural Grasslands Interpretation Plan Implementation
- ❑ Cranberry Flats Environmental School Program

Continue programming on the Saskatchewan River system.

- ❑ EcoCanoe Tour
- ❑ Partners FOR The Saskatchewan River Basin – managing partner role
- ❑ Interpretive Canoe Hikes
- ❑ Yellow Fish Road (storm water quality awareness)

Develop winter event programming such as a winter exploration club or winter workshops with environmental and cultural heritage themes.

□ 1998

6. Administration and Operations Program

By the turn of the century, Meewasin Valley Authority wishes to formalize its relationship with the Rural Municipality of Corman Park and build on its relationship with the existing three partners to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley through a concerted effort. Other partnerships will be sought outside the Meewasin Valley were appropriate to enhance our ability to fulfill the mandate and lever financial resources. This will include working closely with the Meewasin Foundation to identify 'green projects' and innovative ways to fund projects. The implementation of the entrepreneurial strategy will increase Meewasin's self-sustainability.

The Administration and Operations Program will carry out the following goals, objectives and projects.

6.1 Goal

To ensure the long-term viability of the Meewasin organization.

6.1.1 Objectives and Projects

Strengthen the partnership structure, based on the concept that the partners will accomplish more working together through Meewasin than they could working individually. Take a long-term consolidated approach to planning, regulation and resource management.

- Strengthen formal lines of communication and coördination with the Rural Municipality of Corman Park 1999
- Encourage each partner to re-affirm their commitment to the Meewasin partnership through a review of the Development Plan - "Do the ends policies of Meewasin meet the needs of the owners (partners)?"
The Development Plan includes the Five Year Plan 1999
- Ask the three partners to evaluate Meewasin's financial ability to serve its mandate
- Maintain a strong Board of Directors in compliance with the Board Policy Manual 1999

Support the success and growth of the Meewasin Foundation. It's strength and financial success are indicators of Meewasin's value to the community.

- Maintain strong links between Foundation operations and Meewasin operations
- Prepare an annual report for the Foundation Board that outlines priority projects for fund-raising

Implement the Entrepreneurial Strategy to diversify the revenue base, partially replace lost purchasing power, and increase predictable earned income to at least 10% of statutory revenue (\$200,000 annually) by the end of the five years. Explore fee-for-service opportunities.

- ☐ Sale of Services
- ☐ Product Development
- ☐ Joint Ventures

6.2 Goal

To ensure the greatest possible benefits from the use of resources through effective financial management, human resource management, and facility operation.

6.2.1 Objectives and Projects

Prepare an Annual Effectiveness Report for the Meewasin Board, participating parties, stakeholders, and management and staff.

- ☐ The first and most important step towards an Effectiveness Report is the development of a “state of the valley” report, as addressed in the Resource Conservation Program section
- ☐ Bring selected performance indicators into a comprehensive report that gives a meaningful picture of what and how well Meewasin is doing
- ☐ Become more organized in the operation of Meewasin facilities and programs

Ensure that the annual allocations to special funds are established at a level which will accomplish the objective for each fund.

- ☐ Land Access Fund
- ☐ Fixed Asset Replacement Fund
- ☐ Construction Projects Fund

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CONCLUSION

The Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002 outlines the strategy that Meewasin will follow in continuing to carry out the 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan. After 18 years, a good portion of the original plan has been completed. While some projects will never happen, such as slinging the Meewasin Valley Centre beneath the 42nd Street Bridge, there are many exciting projects still to come, a continuous riverbank trail system being one of them.

The Five Year Plan is a document adopted as an amendment to the Development Plan. The latter forms the legal basis for decision making at Meewasin and contains a number of policy statements and plans, including the Meewasin Valley Project – 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan.

The Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors has stated in its Mission Statement that we must “***Ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation***”. The Five Year Plan shall fulfill this mission by actively gathering biophysical data on valley resources, using that data to prepare resource management plans, implementing those plans, and continuously monitoring them to evaluate their effectiveness as well as the state of the valley over time. Restoration of damaged areas of the valley will continue. Cultural heritage resources will be inventoried and a strategy developed. Most importantly, land access for conservation of wildlife habitat, interpretation and/or recreation will be stressed through various means, particularly conservation easements.

The Planning and Development Review Program will focus on more site-specific concept plans such as the Weir, Silverwood Factoria North, and Diefenbaker Park. The Five Year Plan will undergo yearly reviews and a new five year plan will be prepared in 2002. Development Review will continue, with emphasis on streamlining the process with other regulatory agencies.

The Design and Development Program will continue designing projects identified in previously prepared and approved conceptual plans, followed by implementation of the detailed designs. A strong focus will be a major trail development initiative called Trails for the 21st Century which will involve building a significant number of kilometres of trails as a 20 year Meewasin Valley Authority anniversary project. Other emphasis will be on completing long term ongoing projects such as Gabriel Dumont Park and Rotary Park. Construction of Paradise Beach Parking Area and the Fred Heal Canoe Launch will increase public access to the river.

Public Programs will continue its many environmental education programs, such as the Clean-Up Campaign, River Stewardship Program, Trail Safety, Seniors Day, etc. Interpretive Canoe Tours will take people on the river. Beaver Creek will continue the Grade Five Program and explore overnight camps and day camps. Meewasin Valley Centre will provide Grade Three programming and run the Gift Shop and Interpretive Gallery. By the end of the next five years, the future of the current Meewasin Valley Centre will be more clearly defined and plans for a new Centre begun. More emphasis will be placed on interpreting the University area in this Five Year Plan, in concert with the University.

Meewasin will also continue its role in Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin. A number of public open houses and surveys will be conducted to receive public input and evaluate progress. On Meewasin's 20th Anniversary there will be something to celebrate

The Administration and Operations Program, in addition to sound fiscal planning, will be focusing on performance measures at all levels of the organization and working to enhance the level of comfort each partner has towards Meewasin. In five years time, Meewasin will be less dependent on government funding thanks to the Meewasin Foundation and entrepreneurial projects, and will be more accountable as a result of enhanced effectiveness reporting.

The next five years will be exciting, if the plan unfolds as predicted, but many challenges lie ahead. While the trend of reduced funding is expected to continue, the list of projects that will require funding is expected to grow. Meewasin will be investigating ways and means through which the Meewasin Foundation and other agencies and help get more accomplished.

The Five Year Plan, 2003 Through 2007 will see a greater demand on resources in order to carry out resource management plans on Meewasin Valley lands and conservation easements. Conceptual Development Plans will be required for lands in the Prairie Grass Terrace Area and south along the west bank of the river. The Design and Development Program will focus on infill projects to complement trail development and Public Programs will be pursuing a new City Interpretive Centre as well as new office space for administration.

The ability to carry out the Five Year Plan, 1998 Through 2002 is largely dependent upon the availability of funds and co-operation of Meewasin's partners, although many other factors will influence progress, such as changes in priority. For example if the South Downtown Development begins and it is determined that Meewasin will play a role, resources will be re-allocated, resulting in the delay of other projects. The Five Year Plan is a tool that allows everyone to pull together to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley with a balance between human use and conservation for present and future generations.