



Kinsmen Riverfront Trail and Site Enhancements

(Nutrien Wonderhub to Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan)

Project Overview

The site is adjacent to Kinsmen Park, east of Spadina Crescent in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The project includes enhancements to 300 metres of existing primary trail through the site (on a new alignment) and an upgraded riverfront connection (70 metres of new ramps and stairs). Associated work involves upgrades to the adjacent parking lots and sidewalk connections.



KINSMEN RIVERFRONT TRAIL & SITE ENHANCEMENTS: Concept Plan



LEGEND

PROPOSED

- TREES
- SHRUBS
- VEGETATION REMOVAL
- ASPHALT PATHWAY
- CONCRETE
- PARKING LOT
- SCOPE OF PROJECT
- CONSERVATORY PROJECT BOUNDARY
- LIGHTS
- BENCH
- TRASH RECEPTACLES
- PICNIC TABLE
- BIKE RACK

EXISTING

- BENCH
- WASHROOM
- TREES
- SHRUBS
- PATHWAY

NOTES

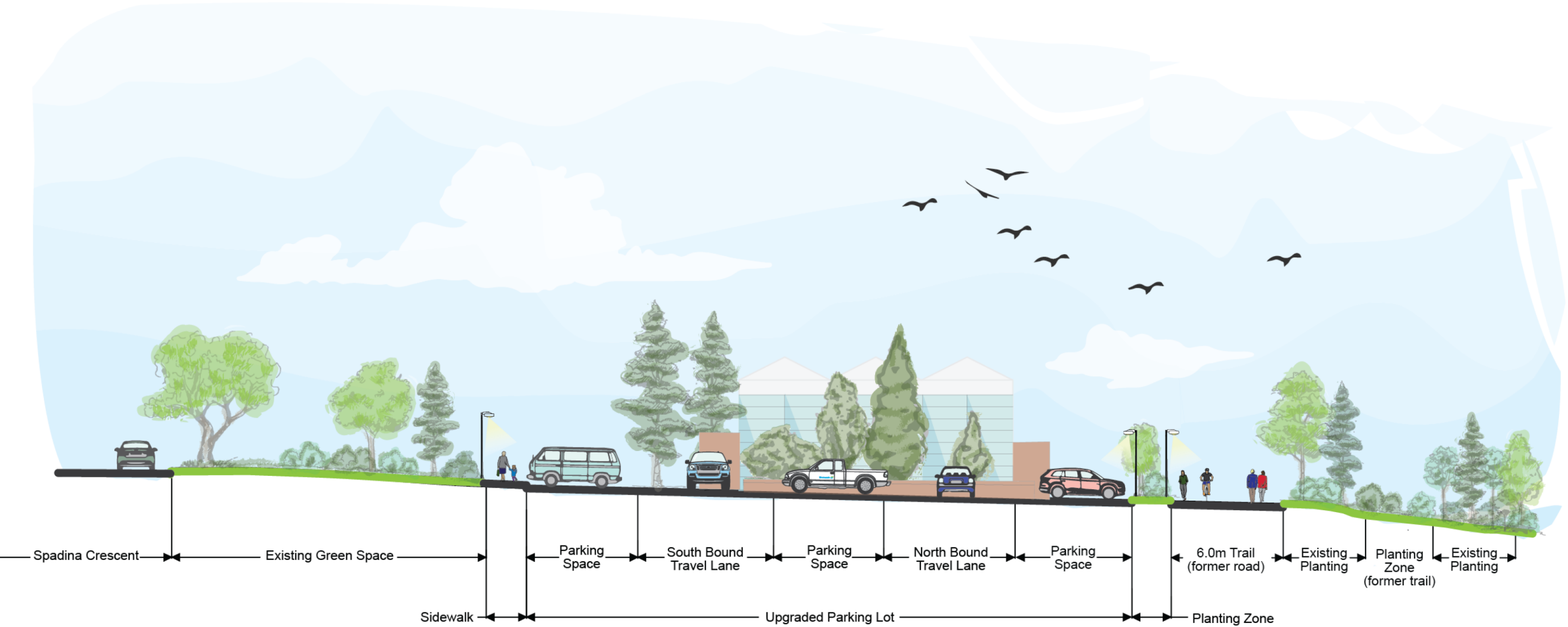
PARKING LOT STALLS
EXISTING STALLS = 84
PROPOSED STALLS = 100 (91 standard / 9 accessible)

VEGETATION
REMOVAL ESTIMATION = 780 SQ.M
NEW PLANTING AREA = 1160 SQ.M

KEY

- A. SHAKESPEARE ON THE SASKATCHEWAN
- B. NEW WASHROOM UNDER DEVELOPMENT BY CITY OF SASKATOON
- C. CURRENT TRAIL LOCATION TO BE PLANTED
- D. CURRENT ACCESS ROAD - CONVERT TO TRAIL
- E. CURRENT PARKING LOTS - RECONFIGURATION
- F. PICNIC TABLE AREA (EXISTING SURFACING AND STAIRS)
- G. PROPOSED STAIRS AND RAMPS TO REPLACE EXISTING STAIRS
- H. CURRENT TRAIL TO BE REMOVED AND PLANTED
- I. PRAIRIE LILY DOCK TO REMAIN
- J. SECONDARY TRAIL UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- K. CIVIC CONSERVATORY - EXPANSION PROJECT PLANNING UNDERWAY BY CITY OF SASKATOON
- L. NUTRIEN WONDERHUB
- M. DROP OFF ZONE
- N. PRAIRIE LILY AND SHAKESPEARE - GARBAGE/RECYCLING BINS
- O. RIPARIAN PLANTING
- P. SHAKESPEARE SECONDARY TRAIL
- Q. SECONDARY TRAIL AND BOARDWALK
- R. STAFF PARKING
- S. RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- T. POTENTIAL CEREMONIAL SITE

KINSMEN RIVERFRONT TRAIL & SITE ENHANCEMENTS: Cross Section A-A



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are enhancements being undertaken here? Meewasin conducted a Trail Study in 2014 of the entire network, and the Meewasin Trail in this area was identified as a high priority for enhancements. This area has some of the oldest sections of trail in the city, with some of the highest user volumes. The existing trail is narrow with safety and accessibility issues like blind corners, unlit areas, steep grades and cross slopes, with poor connections to adjacent areas.

What is the goal of the project? The goal is to upgrade the trail network to improve user experiences and access, accommodate user volumes, and mitigate safety risks. Trail widening is a key component of the project.

How will the goal be accomplished? The plan involves the following key items:

- Reconfigure and enhance the parking lots (into one combined lot) to **eliminate the need for the existing service/parking lot access road**. This will require vegetation removals.
- **Convert the existing service/parking lot access road to primary trail**. As the current access road is approx. 6.0 m wide, the new trail will be that width as well.
- Replace the existing trail connection heading north (to the Wonderhub back parking lot) with a 6.0m wide trail.
- Widen in place the existing trail heading south of the existing parking lots.
- **De-commission the existing trail adjacent to the parking lots and plant this area** with native vegetation.
- Replace the existing stairs and ramps down to the Prairie Lily dock with an improved stair and ramp configuration.
- Plant adjacent areas, where possible, with native vegetation.

Why not widen the trail where it is currently? Both sides of the existing trail are heavily vegetated, with steep slopes in some areas. In order to widen the trail in place, significant grading and vegetation removals would be required. This alternative was therefore not viable.

What will the completed trail look like? Similar to upgrades completed in previous years, the proposed asphalt trail will be:

- Built to current accessibility standards,
- Built to City of Saskatoon construction standards,
- Wider to accommodate user volumes and improve safety,
- Fully lit, and
- Incorporate updated amenities such as lighting, benches, picnic areas, bike racks, signage and trash receptacles.

What will be the impacts on parking? Parking will be reconfigured to go from two smaller lots, to one combined lot, with a change in traffic flow. ***Overall you will see an increased availability of parking with an estimated 14-16 new stalls, plus a new drop off zone in proximity to the Shakespeare and Prairie Lily sites.*** Lighting upgrades will also be undertaken to improve visibility and nighttime safety. Pedestrian routes around and through the parking area will also be upgraded.

How will existing vegetation on site be impacted? Vegetation removals are a component of the parking lot enhancements and will help to address safety issues. The City Park Local Area Plan included a Safety Audit of the site (2010), due to safety concerns raised by the community. To quote the Audit *“The number and density of the trees, shrubs and bushes that are on the periphery of and in between each parking lot makes it difficult to maintain clear sightlines and limits natural surveillance.”* If possible vegetation may be removed and re-planted, or harvested and re-purposed.

What plans are in place for new plantings? New planting areas will provide an overall increase in vegetated area on site of approximately 50% more than currently exist. New planting areas will provide the opportunity to:

- ***Increase biodiversity.*** The planned parking lot tree removals consist of three primary tree types: Scots Pine (23%), Manitoba Maple (14%) and Poplar species (63%). Replanting will focus on native shrub and tree species with a minimum of 12 different species planted.
- ***Plant edible berries and native plants*** with indigenous cultural significance.
- ***Improve the habitat*** and integrity of the existing vegetated zone between the trail and the river by planting open areas and the former trail zone.

How will the project impact the amount of hard surfacing on site? There will be an increase in paved surfaces on the overall site of 5% as a result of this project (increasing to 20% overall). Of the total paved areas proposed, 46% of it will comprise of re-used (existing) surfacing.

When will this work be done? We are currently planning to proceed with the work starting as early as the fall of 2020 and continuing in subsequent years as budgets allow. The first phase of work will be the parking lot enhancements, followed by the Primary Trail and dock stairs and ramps.

Will the trail or any part of the site be closed? Closures and detours will be necessary to allow construction to proceed while maintaining public and contractor safety. Trail users will be directed to detour around the work zone, utilizing adjacent trails. Trail users are asked to respect the construction activity and use designated detours outside of the work zone.

What other work is underway or planned for this area? Meewasin is partnering with Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan (SOTS) as they undertake their site and facility redevelopment. Most of their work will be completed in 2020. The City of Saskatoon is also planning to replace the existing washroom, with design work underway now and construction pending. The City is also planning for an expansion of the Civic conservatory which is attached to the Nutrien Wonderhub. The City has recently completed a parking and traffic study that has made numerous recommendations regarding future changes to transportation and parking for the area.

Are there future plans for trail enhancements? There are a number of projects currently being planned, including trail enhancements south from this site, through the downtown area to River Landing. Other projects involve development of gaps in the network such as in the Holiday Park area (with the closure of Spadina Crescent), and in the River Heights neighbourhood. New trail is also being planned for the northeast sector, from the Circle Drive North Bridge to the Chief Mistawasis Bridge.

How does this project relate to other active projects on site? Meewasin continues to partner with both Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon with this project. It integrates directly with Shakespeare's upgrades currently underway, and the City's planned washroom facility replacement, by providing the required emergency vehicle access to their facilities. The planned drop off zone will also significantly improve access for guests of the Shakespeare and Prairie Lily venues.

How is this project being funded? Meewasin has fall 2020 construction funding included in its current construction budget, with additional funding provided by the City of Saskatoon for parking design and infrastructure. Further phases of the plan are currently unfunded and require support from donations. From May 15th to June 30th, any donations to Meewasin for trails will be matched by endowment funds from the Meewasin Naturally Fund to support the project, up to \$10,000. Visit [Meewasin.com/donate](https://www.meewasin.com/donate) for details.

About the Meewasin Valley Authority

The Meewasin Valley Authority exists 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.*

There are 67 square kilometers of land and over 90km of established trail, which has seen up to 1.65 million trail visits per year, in the Meewasin Valley. The area also features sites that help people to connect to nature through experiences such as Beaver Creek Conservation Area, the Meewasin Northeast Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, the River Landing Spray Area, and the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza. Meewasin is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and volunteers for sustainability. To get involved or learn more visit www.meewasin.com