

Meewasin and the City Remind Residents to Take Care When Enjoying our Natural Areas

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“In a year when people are feeling particularly cooped up and restless, getting outdoors and experiencing nature is a great way to relieve stress, get exercise, and lift spirits,” says Katie Burns, Sustainability Manager at the City of Saskatoon. “And while we certainly encourage outdoor activities, we, in partnership with Meewasin, have a few tips for ensuring that we are protecting our natural areas as well as our wildlife and their sensitive habitats.”

1. Stay on designated trails and paths when hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, or biking (snow is habitat for many creatures).
2. [Stay away from naturalized ponds that are not designated for skating.](#)
3. ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles are not allowed in natural areas. If witnessed, please report to police communications at 306-975-8300.
4. Leave areas the way you find them. Don't litter, dump, leave materials behind or remove any private property.

“Many regions of the Meewasin Valley contain significant ecosystems and habitat,” says Mike Velonas, Manager of Planning and Conservation at Meewasin. “Whether it's prairie, forest, wetland, or river, many animals depend upon spaces like the Meewasin Northeast Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, and Beaver Creek Conservation Area to survive. While we encourage folks to explore and connect with nature, we ask you to remember these tips to help Meewasin conserve important habitat and protect biodiversity.”

For more information on how to safely enjoy outdoor activities please see the following resources:

- City of Saskatoon's [list of ponds designated for recreational use](#)
- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan's [guidelines on ice thickness](#)
- City of Saskatoon's [winter events & activities webpage](#)

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About 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 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

