



Meewasin Valley Authority
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NEWS RELEASE

for immediate release

Meewasin's Pelican Watch Contest Returns!

Contest is open from March 1 – March 31, 2021

The feel-good contest of the year is back again to get you excited for spring! Guess the arrival time of the first pelican's return to the Weir for your chance to win some great prizes, including a prize pack worth over \$500 for the overall winner!

Saskatoon residents have special visitors every spring and summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir. These birds, once on the endangered species list, have been a beautiful sight on the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon since the late 1970's. For Saskatoon residents, their arrival is a harbinger of spring. Follow along on our social media for fun facts about pelicans through March!

*In the past 24 years, the earliest and latest arrival dates of the pelicans have been:
April 2 at 6:25 p.m. and April 20 at 4:36 p.m.*

"The arrival of the American White Pelicans in Saskatchewan is an important spectacle", says Meewasin's Resource Management Officer, Renny Grilz, "Not only do these large birds represent the beginning of spring in our area, but pelicans are also a conservation success story; being the first species to be 'delisted' from the threatened species list in 1987. This is an important reminder that public engagement and education paired with effective conservation efforts, species that are in decline can thrive again."

Enter online at www.meewasin.com from March 1 until March 31. Entry is FREE and limited to one guess per person. Contest closes March 31, 2021, or earlier, dependent upon arrival of the first pelican, as observed by the Saskatoon Nature Society. Multiple prizes are available, including awesome gear to help winners explore the outdoors!

For more information, contact Andrea Lafond at 306-665-6887 or email alafond@meewasin.com.

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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 1.87 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

