



Meewasin Announces Its New Volunteer Group, Friends of the Valley

January 26, 2022

Friends of the Valley is a group of dedicated individuals providing their time resources to important work in the Meewasin Valley.

Over the last 43 years Meewasin has been recognized locally and internationally for what the Saskatoon region has done to conserve the South Saskatchewan River Valley for tourists and citizens today and for future generations. We are stewards of an extraordinary resource in the largest urban conservation zone in the country, and we could not have achieved this without the support of numerous staff, board members, donors and volunteers over the last four decades.

Our volunteers are an integral part of this organization, and their involvement is the key to building the strong and connected community we celebrate today.

Volunteer involvement at Meewasin is personal. It shapes relationships in both the community and the natural environment we live in. We are all connected, and in that vein, we are all *friends*, working towards a common goal of learning, developing and conserving.



And so, in 2022, we are proud to officially call our Meewasin Volunteers Friends of the Meewasin Valley. This program has been generously supported by the Grandey Family Foundation and the coordination of this work could not take place without this funding. We want to thank the Grandey Family for their support of this program and all of their great work in the community.

Jerry Grandey of the Grandey Family Foundation is excited to support Meewasin in this new endeavor, "Among cities in North America, Meewasin is a jewel providing a ribbon of access and limitless enjoyment for all of Saskatoon and the surrounding areas. We nurture, preserve, and enhance this treasure largely through the efforts of volunteers. It is with gratitude that our family elected to support the efforts of Meewasin's dedicated and appreciated volunteers."

You'll notice that the [monthly volunteer newsletter](#) will be showing off this new logo, which will also be displayed proudly on our socials, as well as in our volunteer programs and appreciation events.

"I am overjoyed by Meewasin's continued commitment to supporting and guiding our volunteers, many of whom we already call our friends" Sam Cowan, Meewasin's Experience & Volunteer Co-ordinator said, "What we have is a special thing, and now we have a beautiful name and powerful symbol to stand behind. I am so proud of our volunteer community. It's an honor and a privilege to call you all friends".

Having those that utilize the vibrant river valley involved in Meewasin's conservation promotes the understanding required to keep the development within the strategic plan proceeding forward. Meewasin hosts at least two public volunteer events a month, among many other volunteer activities and appreciation events throughout the year. To learn more about the work we do, or to get involved, go to: meewasin.com/get-involved

Andrea Lafond, CEO of Meewasin discussed this announcement, "Meewasin has a crew of dedicated volunteers who all play key roles in maintaining the Meewasin Valley. And we couldn't do it without them. The Friends of the Valley gives a name and focus to this all-important program, one that fully represents Meewasin's mission.

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

-30-

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 105km of established trail, which has seen up to 2.24 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.