



Spring Melt Brings Hazard to River Bank

March 22, 2022

Spring brings back favorable conditions for many to enjoy recreation in the outdoors. However, there are some concerns about exploring a little too closely to the river at this time.

The weather is warming up in Saskatoon, which means it is just the beginning of melting snow and ice flowing in the river. These melting conditions cause a higher flow of water that can cut into the ice and soil along the riverbank, causing shelves of unsteady snow and soil that may initially appear solid but is not.

“There are many areas of unstable ice shelves that are hard to distinguish from an elevated view. The ground below is so brittle that even children and pets can easily break through and fall into the river below,” said Mike Velonas, Manager of Planning and Conservation at Meewasin. He continued, “The temperature of the river is still extremely cold coming out of winter and with the higher and faster flow of the water, it is extremely dangerous even for experienced swimmers.”

Meewasin asks the community to stay away from the shores of the river, and reminds the public that the conditions of the lower Meewasin Trail with melting snow, ice shelves and muddy conditions prone to erosion bordering the South Saskatchewan River are not safe in the spring. “We want everyone to safely experience the river valley, and this can be done by keeping to the main paved Meewasin Trail away from the river’s edge in the spring months,” says Velonas.

If you witness an emergency incident near the river, please call 911.

Contact Andrea Lafond at Meewasin at (306) 665-6887 or alafond@meewasin.com for questions.

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