



Meewasin Valley Authority

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NEWS RELEASE

for immediate release

Meewasin Trail Opening/Funding Milestone Event

June 3, 2022

Over the last 43 years, Meewasin has been the steward of the South Saskatchewan River valley in the Saskatoon region. This includes the development of the Meewasin Trail, which is more than 105 km of multi-use pathways through the heart of the region. Meewasin is excited to announce that numerous trail-enhancing projects have been completed and others are underway as Meewasin received a generous contribution from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). We are so grateful for the support from the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan.

This event marks the completion of the River Heights/Meewasin Park and Southwest sections of the Meewasin Trail, celebrates the commencement of construction of the primary Meewasin Trail at the Kinsmen Riverfront, and provides important updates on downtown Meewasin Trail upgrades coming soon.

“Local trails and pathways enhance the quality of life of Canadians by offering them a safe and inviting place to get active and enjoy the outdoors,” said the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. “The Meewasin Trail has seen nearly double the usage in some areas since the pandemic, which demonstrates just how much residents of Saskatoon value the access to nature the trail provides. The enhancements we invested in have made the trail safer and more accessible, supporting the growth in usership. Projects like this help foster active and vibrant communities.”

“The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to support the Meewasin Trail enhancements by providing more than \$1.8 million in provincial funding. These wonderful improvements to recreation opportunities in Meewasin represent a positive step forward for visitors and residents of Saskatoon, its surrounding area, and anybody that makes use of the facilities.

Congratulations to Meewasin Valley Authority on achieving this milestone and thank you for your ongoing commitment to make this part of Saskatchewan an even better place to be,” says the Honourable Laura Ross, Saskatchewan’s Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, on behalf of the Honourable Don McMorris, the province’s Minister of Government Relations.

The goal of Meewasin is to enhance the Meewasin Trail to improve user experience and access, accommodate user volumes, and mitigate safety risks while enhancing natural features as much as possible. Andrea Lafond, CEO of Meewasin says, “Meewasin continues to plan for improvements to the Meewasin Trail and we are excited to showcase the upcoming projects. Meewasin would not be able to implement these enhancements without the ongoing support and

donations from the community and organizations in the Saskatoon region. These contributions from the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan is greatly appreciated to support the trail enhancements for the community.”

**For more information, contact
Andrea Lafond, Chief Executive Officer at alafond@meewasin.com or (306) 665-6887**



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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 more than 105km of established Meewasin 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 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