



Meewasin Valley Authority  
402 Third Avenue South  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K3G5  
Phone (306) 665-6887 Fax (306) 665-6117

**NEWS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

## **Meewasin Begins Master Planning Process at Southern Natural Area**

**July 14, 2022**

In 1997 Meewasin purchased a property south of Saskatoon which included a 25 year lease to the Leisureland Co-op, ending December 31, 2022. The area consists of a 22.66 Ha parcel, plus a portion of adjacent Yorath Island, both of which are within the RM of Corman Park. The site has been used primarily for recreation since as early as 1915, with camping on the site but it was never designed for permanent residency. Meewasin expects to return the site back to a natural space. The main site is characterized by significant stands of predominantly native trees and shrubs, with some grassland areas that were opened up in the past for recreational use. A small network of trails weave through the west end of the site as well. The majority of the site sits below the 1:500 flood level.

Meewasin has initiated a master planning process that will provide a basis for future decision making, including plans for development and operations. It is anticipated that the site will remain predominantly in a natural state, with potential opportunities for low impact passive recreation. With future Meewasin Trail development expected, this location could extend the southern trail terminus on the west side of the river.

Meewasin is moving through its process for master planning at the site. This process is comprehensive and takes time to complete. There will be opportunities for public engagement on what the future site use will be and we are excited to hear from the community on what they would like to see. A baseline inventory has already been completed with significant ecological assets being identified including habitat for many flora and fauna including some species at risk.

CEO Andrea Lafond spoke to the end of the lease, "This area is so beautiful and we can understand why it is disappointing for residents whose time is coming to an end. When selling the area to Meewasin, the previous owner had a vision that the space could serve the broader public and be returned to a more natural space".

There are significant safety concerns with the site currently including including no potable water, risk of flooding and fire, trespassers and illegal dumping.

**For more information, contact Andrea Lafond at (306) 665-6887 or [meewasin@meewasin.com](mailto:meewasin@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 more than 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](http://www.meewasin.com)*