



Meewasin Valley Authority  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

## **Meewasin Reminds Public to be Cautious Around Wildlife**

April 25, 2023

**Spring is a busy time for wildlife and they do not like to be bothered.**

As many of us head to the outdoors at this time of year to get some fresh air, Meewasin wants to remind everyone to be aware of wildlife when enjoying the beauty of nature. Spring is an active time for many animals that make their home in the Meewasin Valley and other natural areas around Saskatoon. The river and swales are a wildlife corridor and are important parts of the unique prairie ecosystem that is their habitat. Many animals are defensive as they protect their young, so it is even more important to keep in mind the following guidelines for coexistence:

- Follow all signage posted in an area, including recommendations on alternate routes. Giving animals space reduces the chance of conflict.
- Never feed any wildlife including birds, coyotes, deer or other species.
- Remove features from your yard that can attract the animals; contain waste and compost, pick up fallen fruit, and feed pets indoors.
- Supervise all pets when outdoors, keeping them inside when possible and on-leash when outdoors.
- Stay as far away from animals - especially coyotes - as possible. If you find yourself being approached by one, act big and make loud noises to deter them. Many animals will settle down if you look at them in the eyes and slowly walk away with your shoulders square to it, while giving them a clear path to leave the area.

Meewasin's Resource Management Officer, Renny Grilz, reminds everyone of this especially sensitive time of year, "Safety needs to be top of mind as people go to natural areas, since the chances of encountering wildlife are increasing. Spring is when coyotes are emerging from dens with their young pups and deer are having their fawns. The mothers can sometimes be aggressive when they perceive a threat to their young. If we hope to have humans and wildlife coexist in our river valley and natural areas around Saskatoon, we need to find ways to give each other space. We should always practice physical distancing from wildlife to reduce conflicts. Be wildlife aware when enjoying the outdoors."

If you need more information or would like to report activity, please call (306) 975-3300 and leave the area immediately. For emergencies please call 9-11.

For more information, contact [awall@meewasin.com](mailto:awall@meewasin.com) or [rgrilz@meewasin.com](mailto:rgrilz@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 +105km of established trail, which has seen up to 2.32 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](http://www.meewasin.com)*