



Meewasin Trail Enhancements

Downtown

Meewasin is located on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We humbly acknowledge the traditional caretakers of the land and honour the First Nations and Métis people of this place.

Meewasin Valley Authority
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Meewasin 

Frequently Asked Questions

The project involves trail and site enhancements from River Landing to the south end of the Shakespeare site. This is 1.5 km of existing primary Meewasin Trail and adjacent areas through Friendship Park, Kiwanis Memorial Park and the trail connection under the University Bridge.

Why are enhancements being undertaken here?

Through a Trail Study (infrastructure review) completed in 2014, the Meewasin Trail in this area was identified as a high priority for upgrades within the overall Meewasin Trail system. This area has some of the oldest sections of trail with some of the highest user volumes, is narrow in some areas, has blind corners and other safety concerns, and has sections that do not meet accessibility standards. The existing trail and amenities are also dated and in need of upgrades.

What is the goal of the project?

The goal is to enhance the trail network, including widening, to improve user experiences and access, accommodate user volumes, and mitigate safety risks, while enhancing natural features as much as possible. Given the significant visibility, usage and programming through this area, including the City's planned festival site improvements, many new feature nodes and amenities are incorporated to provide a high level of programming potential and unique user experiences.

How will the goal be accomplished?

Given the complexity and variety of proposed developments, this is broken down into unique sections as follows:

All Areas:

- Upgraded trail lighting,
- Upgraded site amenities including benches, chairs, wayfinding signage and trash units,
- Updated interpretive signage,
- Retention of existing vegetation where possible,
- Replacement of existing asphalt trail and widening as noted in each area.

Friendship Park Riverfront (timing TBD, in concert with the Festival Site):

- Alterations as part of the Permanent Festival Site Plan by the City of Saskatoon, including the realignment of Spadina Crescent (refer to their project for more details)
- New plaza space southeast of the intersection of Spadina and 3rd Ave,
- Lookouts on the river providing views and seating opportunities,
- Curved concrete seat walls along the face of the slope in lawn areas to provide informal seating,
- Plantings of vegetation including park shade trees and riparian areas,
- Vegetation removals and subsequent re-planting necessary to accommodate the new road and trail configuration.

Broadway Bridge (under):

- Programming / plaza space underneath the Broadway Bridge with public art potential, and enhanced / feature lighting,
- Trail connection to Kiwanis Memorial Park South and Friendship Park.

Kiwanis Memorial Park South (completed 2023):

- Existing asphalt trail widened to at least 5.0 meters wide,
- New drinking fountain (replacement of old unit),
- Two new lookouts for views and seating opportunities,
- Removal of non-native, overgrown vegetation at the Bessborough parking lot, and
- Additional decorative fencing at the Bessborough parking lot.

Kiwanis Memorial Park Promenade (behind the Bessborough gardens and north parking lot – planned for 2024 construction):

- Upgraded asphalt trail on current alignment,
- Two lookouts on the river providing views and seating opportunities,
- Promenade between the two lookouts with one central lookout. Existing trees prevent widening of the existing trail in this zone - the promenade addresses this while providing a unique amenity. Some shrubby vegetation will be removed (primarily non-native material),
- Enhanced / feature lighting along the promenade.

Kiwanis Memorial Park Central (water fountain area – planned for 2025 construction):

- Upgraded asphalt trail on current alignment,
- Existing trees prevent widening of the existing trail in this zone, so the trail splits here, adding a new 4.0m wide trail with retaining wall and railing,
- Planting of low vegetation,
- Removal of existing stairs and lower picnic area (2 new picnic areas adjacent to the fountain),
- New stair connection to the shoreline area and informal trails.

Kiwanis Memorial Park North (planned for 2026 construction):

- Upgraded asphalt trail on current alignment (widened as much as possible),
- Upgraded bench bays set back further into the existing stone wall and slope,
- New tree and shrub plantings,
- Updates around the Thompson Belvedere (see notes below).

23 Street Connection (construction timing TBD):

- Stairs and ramps with handrails to provide an improved pedestrian connection between 23rd Street and the primary Meewasin Trail,

- Enhanced / feature lighting,
- Additional plaza paving around the existing sculpture (Tribute to Youth) area,
- Plantings of low vegetation.

Thompson Belvedere (planned for 2026 construction as part of Kiwanis Memorial Park North project):

- New 5.0m wide asphalt trail connections that are at a maximum 5% slope,
- New trail connections and plaza at the Thompson Belvedere,
- New lookout north of the Belvedere to replace the existing lookout,
- New direct connection to the Kinsmen Link section of trail,
- Removal of the existing pedestrian bridge,
- Enhanced / feature lighting,
- Removal and pruning of some plant material to accommodate new trail configuration and adjusted grades,
- New plantings to infill disturbed areas,
- New drinking fountain,
- Removal of some rock walls to accommodate new trail configuration and adjusted grades.

For more information about the Thompson Belvedere, visit the link below:
<https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FAQ-Belvedere-Design-Updates-January-2024.pdf>

Trail connection north to Shakespeare site:

- Upgraded asphalt trail, widened where possible,
- Plantings of low vegetation,
- Enhancements under the University Bridge with potential public art and enhanced / feature lighting.

What will the completed trail look like?

Similar to upgrades completed in previous years, the proposed trail will be:

- Built to current accessibility standards,
- Built to City of Saskatoon construction standards,
- Wider to accommodate user volumes and improve safety,
- Fully lit,
- Incorporate updated amenities such as benches, chairs, picnic areas, signage, drinking fountains and trash receptacles,
- Provide several new seating / view nodes and plaza spaces,
- Some sections will incorporate pavers and concrete surfaces.

How will existing vegetation on site be impacted?

Overall, the project will result in a net gain in vegetated areas of over 3 times what is planned for removal. Removals are primarily in Friendship Park, adjacent to the Bessborough Gardens and around the Thompson Belvedere. Trail alignments and widening through the remainder of the site has been developed to minimize the impact on mature trees and existing landscape elements.

What plans are in place for new plantings?

New planting areas will provide an overall increase in vegetated areas. New planting areas will provide the opportunity to:

Increase biodiversity. Plantings will be a mixture of native shrub and tree species and ornamental species where appropriate.

Plant edible berries and native plants with local cultural significance.

Improve the habitat and integrity of the existing vegetated zone between the trail and the river by planting open areas, while maintaining river views. This includes the removal of non-native / invasive species where possible.

Provide additional shade for trail users. Where opportunities exist, new shade trees will be planted adjacent to the trail.

What impacts will there be on other park amenities?

Adjacent amenities will not be impacted. This includes features including the Vimy Memorial, Gabriel Dumont statue, Thompson Belvedere building, Meewasin Rink, Bessborough Gardens, public boat launch and the water fountain. The project has been planned with a goal to minimize impacts on existing mature trees. Note the public boat launch will be decommissioned when the Permanent Festival Site is developed.

What impacts will there be on the rest of the park?

- Existing irrigation systems will be adjusted if needed,
- Construction access routes will cross the park as needed and disturbed areas will be repaired once construction is complete,
- Most existing stone walls will be retained except as needed to complete the project,
- Existing trees will be protected. Any dead existing trees will be removed.

What impacts do other projects have on the Downtown Trail Enhancements?

The Trail Enhancements run through the City of Saskatoon's planned Permanent Festival Site in Friendship Park and Kiwanis Memorial Park South. More information about the Festival Site can be found here: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/permanent-outdoor-festival-site>

The Kinsmen Park Parking Strategy and Transportation Study (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city_of_saskatoon_-_kinsmen_park_parking_strategy.pdf), completed in 2019, includes some long term proposed

changes to the road and active transportation network north of the University Bridge. The proposed changes resulting from this plan will have little to no impact on the planned trail enhancements.

Storm sewer upgrades are planned for the 24th Street area. Scheduling of the trail project aligns with this planned work by the City of Saskatoon.

Will the existing interpretive signs be removed?

These will be removed during construction. New signs for this area will be planned as part of the project.

When will this work be done?

This project will be undertaken in phases, starting with Kiwanis Memorial Park South, between the Broadway Bridge and the Bessborough Gardens. This first phase was substantially complete in 2023 and is now open to the public. Subsequent phases will proceed as funding becomes available, generally progressing from the south to the north.

Will the trail or any part of the site be closed?

Closures and detours will be necessary to allow construction to proceed while maintaining public and contractor safety. Trail users will be directed to detour around the work zone, utilizing adjacent trails and sidewalks. Trail users are asked to respect the construction activity and use designated detours outside of the work zone.

How is this project funded?

Meewasin relies on a number of funding sources including its own capital fund and reserves, project funding from the City of Saskatoon, grants (public and private sector), corporate donors and individuals. As most of these streams are not consistent in timing or value, projects proceed in phases as funding allows.

About the 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, the 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 with Meewasin or learn more visit www.meewasin.com

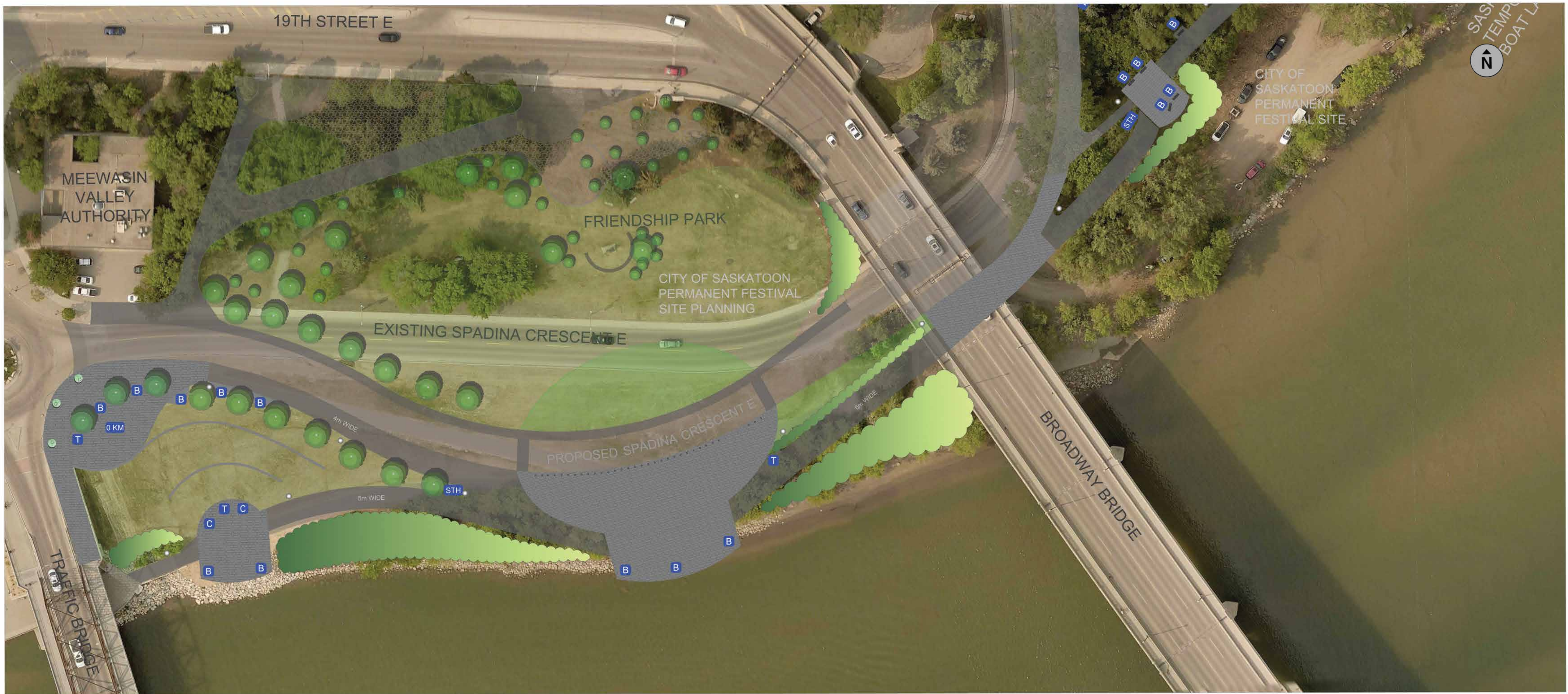
Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements Potential Construction Phasing



- Proposed Phases:
-  Festival Site - Timing TBD
 -  Kiwanis South - Completed
 -  Kiwanis Promenade
 -  Kiwanis Central
 -  Kiwanis North
 -  Kinsmen Link

Construction phasing and schedule may change as the project progresses
January 2024





Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Festival Site

LEGEND

PROPOSED		EXISTING	
	TREES		TREES
	SHRUBS		SHRUBS
	ASPHALT PATHWAY		PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED
	PAVERS		BENCH
	CONCRETE		TRASH RECEPTACLES
	BRIDGE / BOARDWALK		INTERPRETIVE SIGN
	RAMP AND LANDINGS		PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
	RIPRAP		SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
	MATCH LINE		WASHROOM
	LIGHTS		PICNIC TABLE
	CONCRETE SEAT WALL		FIRE PIT
	GRASS BLOCK PAVERS		
	CRUSHER DUST		
	BOLLARD		

NOTES

TRAIL DISTANCE
Trail Distance = 285 m



Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis South

LEGEND

PROPOSED

TREES

SHRUBS

ASPHALT PATHWAY

PAVERS

CONCRETE

BRIDGE / BOARDWALK

RAMP AND LANDINGS

RIPRAP

MATCH LINE

LIGHTS

CONCRETE SEAT WALL

GRASS BLOCK PAVERS

CRUSHER DUST

BOLLARD

BENCH

CHAIR

PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

TRAIL COUNTER

TRASH RECEPTACLES

0 KM MARKER

1/2 KM MARKER

1 KM MARKER

WATER FOUNTAIN

PICNIC TABLE

INTERPRETIVE SIGN

EXISTING

TREES

SHRUBS

PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED

BENCH

TRASH RECEPTACLES

INTERPRETIVE SIGN

PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

WASHROOM

PICNIC TABLE

FIRE PIT

NOTES

TRAIL DISTANCE

Trail Distance = 288 m



Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis Central

LEGEND

PROPOSED		EXISTING	
	TREES		TREES
	SHRUBS		SHRUBS
	ASPHALT PATHWAY		PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED
	PAVERS		BENCH
	CONCRETE		TRASH RECEPTACLES
	BRIDGE / BOARDWALK		INTERPRETIVE SIGN
	RAMP AND LANDINGS		PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
	RIPRAP		SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
	MATCH LINE		WASHROOM
	LIGHTS		PICNIC TABLE
	CONCRETE SEAT WALL		FIRE PIT
	GRASS BLOCK PAVERS		
	CRUSHER DUST		
	BOLLARD		

NOTES

TRAIL DISTANCE
Trail Distance = 220 m



Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis North

LEGEND

PROPOSED	EXISTING
TREES	TREES
SHRUBS	SHRUBS
ASPHALT PATHWAY	PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED
PAVERS	BENCH
CONCRETE	TRASH RECEPTACLES
BRIDGE / BOARDWALK	INTERPRETIVE SIGN
RAMP AND LANDINGS	PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
RIPRAP	SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
MATCH LINE	WASHROOM
LIGHTS	PICNIC TABLE
CONCRETE SEAT WALL	FIRE PIT
GRASS BLOCK PAVERS	
CRUSHER DUST	
BOLLARD	

NOTES

TRAIL DISTANCE
Trail Distance = 300 m



5 0 5 10 15 20m
SCALE 1:400

Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kinsmen Link

LEGEND

PROPOSED

TREES

SHRUBS

ASPHALT PATHWAY

PAVERS

CONCRETE

BRIDGE / BOARDWALK

RAMP AND LANDINGS

RIPRAP

MATCH LINE

LIGHTS

CONCRETE SEAT WALL

GRASS BLOCK PAVERS

CRUSHER DUST

BOLLARD

BENCH

CHAIR

PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

TRAIL COUNTER

TRASH RECEPTACLES

0 KM MARKER

1/2 KM MARKER

1 KM MARKER

WATER FOUNTAIN

PICNIC TABLE

EXISTING

TREES

SHRUBS

PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED

BENCH

TRASH RECEPTACLES

INTERPRETIVE SIGN

PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN

WASHROOM

PICNIC TABLE

FIRE PIT

NOTES

TRAIL DISTANCE

Trail Distance = 400 m