

Meewasin
ENHANCEMENTS
Fred Heal Parking Lot Expansion

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Meewasin

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Meewasin, in partnership with the RM of Corman Park, is exploring options to expand the existing parking lot at Fred Heal Canoe Launch. This site is an 8.4-hectare public use / canoe launch within the RM of Corman Park, located 17km south of Saskatoon along the eastern shore of the South Saskatchewan River.

Why is the parking lot being expanded?

Public parking lot usage often exceeds the current capacity of 9 stalls. This has caused safety concerns due to vehicles parking along the access road edges and in some cases along the adjacent public road, impacting access for emergency vehicles and landowners.

What is the goal of the project?

The goal of this project is to increase the parking lot capacity to accommodate usage during the peak summer months. This project will help to mitigate safety concerns and improve access for emergency vehicles and adjacent landowners.

How will these goals be accomplished?

Meewasin and the RM of Corman Park are working with an engineering consultant to design and develop a parking lot expansion that accommodates users, building off the existing parking lot.

Why are two options being proposed?

As parking lot usage has never been tracked, it is difficult to determine an appropriate size for the expansion. The consultants are proposing two options – a partial or full buildout. These two options would provide 35 or 64 stalls, plus trailer pull in parking. The decision to proceed with either option will be determined in part based on available funding. If the partial buildout proceeds, full buildout could be done at a later date, if warranted. The partial buildout would also allow for more time

to monitor usage, before committing to the full project. A staged approach also minimizes site impacts and reduces the potential of over-building on this natural site.

How will you know if the expanded parking lot is accommodating usage?

A traffic counter has been installed to monitor and track site usage going forward. Regular site visits will also provide supplementary information that can be correlated with traffic count data.

What will the completed parking lot look like?

The parking lot will be a granular (gravel) parking lot with parking curbs and bollards to indicate parking stalls, including pull through trailer parking stalls.

How will existing vegetation on the site be impacted?

The proposed parking lot will be an expansion of the existing parking lot to minimize disturbance. With the expansion, some vegetation will be impacted as the parking lot footprint will expand. Meewasin's Conservation team has conducted a site assessment and monitoring is ongoing to document existing species in the area of the proposed development.

What plans are in place for new plantings?

Meewasin aims for a biomass replacement ratio of 3:1 (new plantings equivalent to three times the area that was removed). As the site is already heavily vegetated, Meewasin would fulfill the biomass replacement at other restoration sites in the valley, with the goals of increasing biodiversity, planting native plants, and improving habitat. Willow stakes may be harvested from the proposed work area to be used at available live staking sites in the valley. Restoration plantings are undertaken by Meewasin every year, averaging over 5,000 plants annually.

When will this work be done?

Construction is dependent on regulatory and landowner approvals, and appropriate funding. It could proceed as early as 2027.

How is the project funded?

The RM of Corman Park and Meewasin are partnering to proceed with the project. Initial funding has been provided by the RM.

What are the next steps in the process?

After public and stakeholder engagement, the project will be submitted for approval with the RM of Corman Park and Meewasin. Once approvals are in place, the consultant will proceed with project tendering in the spring of 2027. If adequate funding is available, the project may proceed to construction after that. Construction scheduling would be determined once a contractor is in place.

Will the project affect public access and future operations?

The site may need to be closed for the duration of the work. Once completed, the parking lot will continue to be open seasonally.

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