



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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Saskatoon SK S7K 3G5
meewasin.com

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 connections 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 protecting and enhancing existing features as much as possible. Given the significant visibility, usage and programming through this area, including the City's planned permanent festival site, 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 sections as follows:

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 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 (opened in 2023):

- Existing asphalt trail replaced / 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):

- Split trail with an upgraded 2.0m wide asphalt trail on the current alignment and 4.0m wide riverside promenade with wall and railing,
- Two new river lookouts providing views and seating opportunities,
- Removal of some non-native plant material.

Kiwanis Memorial Park Central (water fountain area – planned for 2026 construction):

- Existing asphalt trails replaced and, in some areas, widened - in the same location as the existing trails or on an adjusted alignment,
- Removal of existing stairs and lower picnic area (2 new picnic areas installed adjacent to the fountain),
- Removal of existing stairway between Spadina and the trail,
- Stair connection to the shoreline area and informal trails maintained.

Kiwanis Memorial Park North (planned for 2027 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,

At the Thompson Belvedere / 24th Street Connection:

- New 5.0m wide asphalt trail connections 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.

23 Street Connection and upper park (construction timing TBD):

- Removal of existing stairway between Spadina and the trail,
- New stairs and ramps/landings with handrails to provide a pedestrian connection between 23rd Street and the primary Meewasin Trail,
- Enhanced / feature lighting,
- Additional plaza paving around the existing sculpture (Tribute to Youth) area,
- Replacement of existing site amenities (streetscape and park),
- Plantings of low vegetation.

Trail connection north to Shakespeare site:

- Upgraded asphalt trail, widened where possible,
- Plantings of low vegetation,
- Enhancements to the short loop trail providing under the bridge access and connection along Spadina Crescent (west of the primary trail).

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,
- New plantings achieving more than a 3:1 replacement of removals,
- Retention of lower 'casual trails' adjacent to the river,
- Replacement of existing asphalt trail and widening.

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,
- Providing several new seating / view nodes and plaza spaces,
- Incorporate pavers and concrete surfaces at feature areas and lookouts.

How will existing vegetation on site be impacted?

Overall, the project will result in a net gain in vegetated areas and tree quantities with new plantings of over 3 times what is planned for removal. Removals are considered on a case-by-case basis based on design considerations and in consultation with City of Saskatoon Urban Forestry. Trail alignments and widening through the site has been developed to minimize the impact on mature trees (including root zones) and other 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, sympathetic to the park setting.

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 the Vimy Memorial, Gabriel Dumont statue, the Spirit of Youth sculpture, Thompson Belvedere building, Meewasin Rink, Bessborough Gardens, temporary public boat launch and the Memorial Fountain of Youth. In some cases, adjacent work will improve access to these amenities. The project has been planned with a goal to minimize impacts on existing mature trees. The temporary public boat launch will be decommissioned as part of the Permanent Festival Site development.

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, including the root zones. 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 re-opened in 2023. 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



50 0 50 100m
SCALE 1:2000

Proposed Phases:

 **Festival Site**
- Timing TBD

 **Kiwanis South**
- Completed

 **Kiwanis Promenade**
- Construction 2024

 **Kiwanis Central**

 **Kiwanis North**

 **Kinsmen Link**

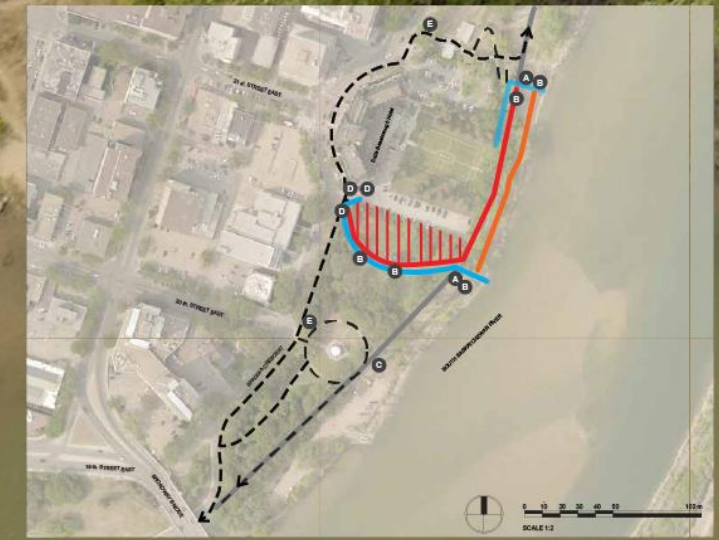
Construction phasing and schedule may change as the project progresses

June 2024

DELTA BESSBOROUGH



Proposed Pedestrian Detours



- Legend**
- Casual Trail CLOSED During Construction
 - Primary Trail CLOSED During Construction
 - Construction Fence
 - Primary Trail Open
 - - - Proposed Potential Pedestrian Detours
 - ||||| Contractor Staging Area
- Signage**
- A Project Sign
 - B Trail Closed
 - C Trail Closed Ahead
 - D Caution Trucks Turning
 - E Cyclists to Walk Bike
- Notes**
- Boat Launch Remains Open



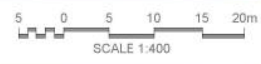
Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis Promenade

LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TREES ● SHRUBS ASPHALT PATHWAY PAVERS CONCRETE BRIDGE / BOARDWALK RAMP AND LANDINGS RIPRAP MATCH LINE ● LIGHTS CONCRETE SEAT WALL GRASS BLOCK PAVERS CRUSHER DUST ● BOLLARD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>EXISTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 = 120 m



Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis Central

LEGEND		NOTES
PROPOSED		EXISTING
TREES	BENCH	TREES
SHRUBS	CHAIR	SHRUBS
ASPHALT PATHWAY	PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN	PATHWAY TO BE REPLACED
PAVERS	SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN	BENCH
CONCRETE	TRAIL COUNTER	TRASH RECEPTACLES
BRIDGE / BOARDWALK	TRASH RECEPTACLES	INTERPRETIVE SIGN
RAMP AND LANDINGS	0 KM MARKER	PRIMARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
RIPRAP	1/2 KM MARKER	SECONDARY TRAILHEAD SIGN
MATCH LINE	1 KM MARKER	WASHROOM
LIGHTS	WATER FOUNTAIN	PICNIC TABLE
CONCRETE SEAT WALL	PICNIC TABLE	FIRE PIT
GRASS BLOCK PAVERS		
CRUSHER DUST		
BOLLARD		





Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis North

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 = 300 m

Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis Thompson Belvedere



Existing

- Narrow trail
- Steep slopes (10%)
- Blind corners
- Poor sightlines
- Inconsistent lighting
- Overgrown vegetation



Updated Concept

- Updated Plantings
- Widened trail without Bridge
- Slopes at 5% or less
- Addition of outdoor plaza
- Larger lookout
- Added amenities
- Better lighting
- Improved sightlines and flow
- Improved access to Belvedere

Meewasin Downtown Trail Enhancements - Kiwanis Thompson Belvedere

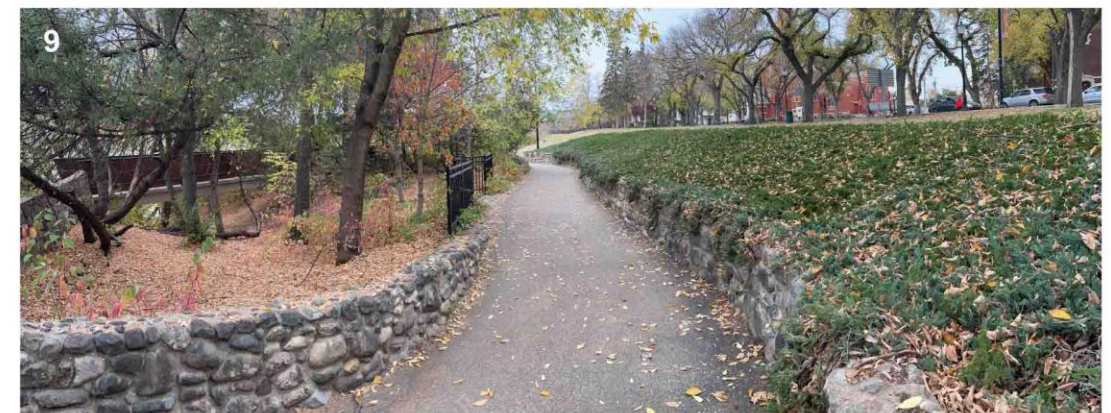
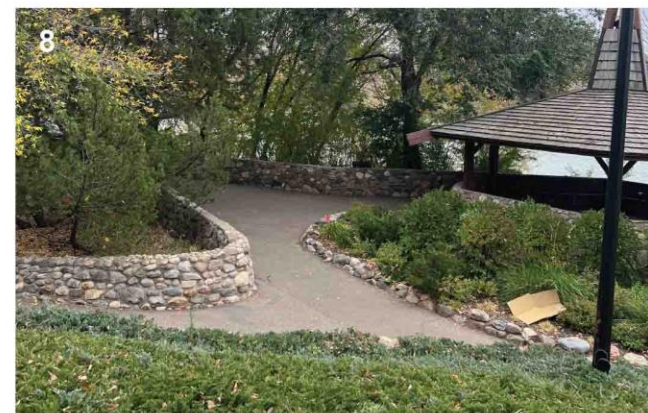
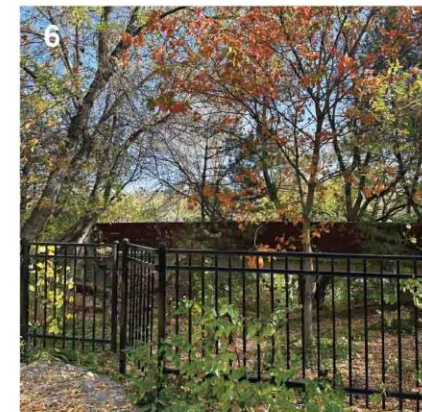
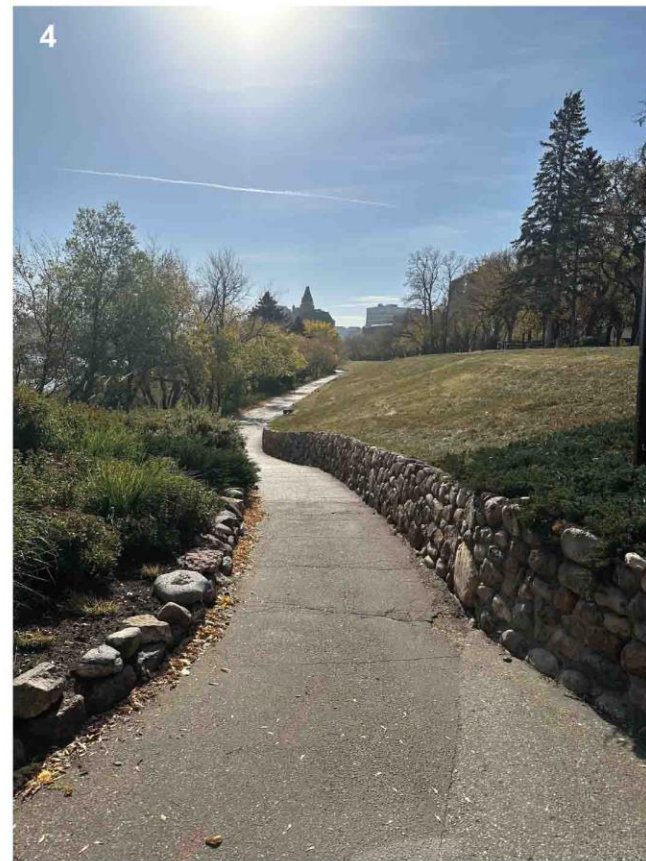
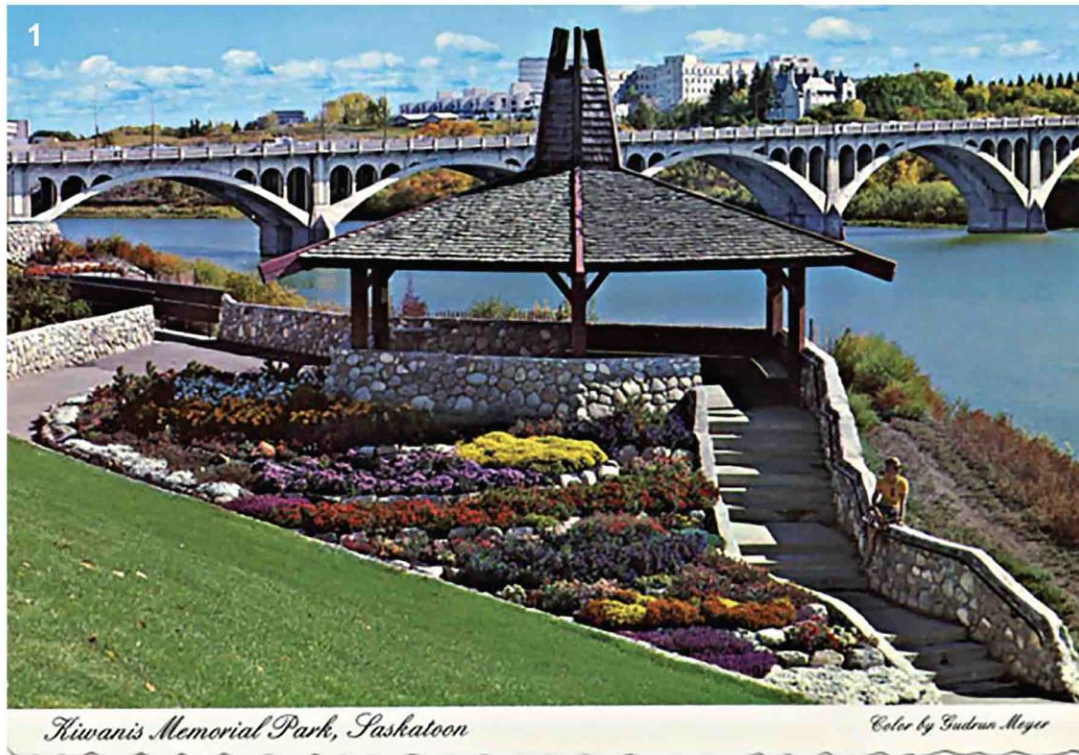




Photo Descriptions: 1. Image of Thompson Belvedere on postcard 2. Panoramic view of Thomson Belvedere and surrounding area 3. Looking North towards the Thompson Belvedere 4. Looking South from the Thompson Belvedere 5. View of pedestrian bridge North of the Thompson Belvedere 6. Black fencing adjacent to the Thompson Belvedere 7. View of inside the Thompson Belvedere 8. View of the Meewasin Trail on the North side of the Thompson Belvedere 9. View of the Meewasin Trail adjacent to the Thompson Belvedere looking South

Meewasin Trail Enhancements: Planned and Recently Completed



-  Completed Projects
-  Planned Projects