



Meewasin Valley Authority
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NEWS RELEASE

for immediate release

Meewasin Trail sees 2.365m visits for 2024!!!

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The Meewasin Trail is the most popular recreation amenity in the Saskatoon region. There are over 108 kilometers of this trail through Saskatoon and into the surrounding area. 2024 is a record-breaking year for trail visits at 2.365 million. This is the fourth year that we have seen annual visits surpass the two million mark.

In order to monitor and better understand usage, Meewasin maintains a number of trail counters at fixed locations throughout the river valley. Two styles of counters are employed – a simple infrared counter that counts every time someone breaks the beam across the trail, and a more elaborate counter with both a beam and loop in the trail that tells us direction of travel, exact time of day, and pedestrian vs bike details. We collect data from our counters every month, giving us a good understanding of patterns over the year.

This data includes one new counter installed at the SW Trail, near the Gordie Howe Bridge.

The busiest five locations are as follows:

Rank	Site	User Count
1	River Landing (Buckwold Bridge)	670,510
2	Broadway Bridge / Kiwanis Memorial Park South	318,359
3	Weir, west side (Duke Street)	304,164
4	Kinsmen Riverfront near Queen Street	269,838
5	Weir, east side	206,201

The summer months, June, July and August were the busiest overall, each showing total visits over 300,000. July was the busiest month at nearly 400,000 visits.



Way to go Saskatoon! Usage numbers are used to inform decisions on trail enhancements and the data supports Meewasin's current priority projects in the downtown. Alan Otterbein, Design and Development Manager at Meewasin speaks about these numbers, "The quality of life that the Meewasin Valley plays in our region cannot be understated. Meewasin plays a significant role with many partners in attracting and retaining businesses and citizens to work, play and stay in our Province, all while being a vital and core partner within our tourism economy. A special thank you to our donors, sponsors and volunteers who all contribute to a vibrant and healthy river valley!"

For more information contact Meewasin at 306-665-6887 or 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 107km 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