

NEWS RELEASE

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Meewasin Valley Authority Urges Caution on Exposed Sandbars

SASKATOON – The Meewasin Valley Authority is advising the public to take caution on and near the South Saskatchewan River due to lower-than-normal water levels exposing numerous sandbars.

While exposed sandbars may appear inviting, they pose significant safety risks. Mike Velonas, Meewasin's interim CEO, said, "Lower water levels may lead to an increase in visible sandbars in and around the city. Sandbar edges can be unstable and can drop off sharply into deeper water. Currents, submerged debris, and changing conditions present real hazards. Low water levels create unique conditions, and we urge everyone to make safety their top priority when near the river."

Meewasin offers the following safety recommendations:

- **Be Aware:** Always be conscious of your surroundings and look out for potential hazards.
- **Check Conditions:** Review current river conditions and weather forecasts.
- **Never Go Alone:** Avoid recreating on the river or near its banks alone.
- **Life Jackets Save Lives:** Wear a life jacket when on or near the water.
- **Supervise Children:** Keep children and pets under close supervision near the water's edge.

Meewasin's priority is ensuring everyone is able to enjoy the beauty of the Valley safely. If you witness an emergency incident on or near the river, please call 911.



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 108km of established trail, which has seen up to 2.365 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

Meewasin Valley Authority

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