



Meewasin Trail

ENHANCEMENTS

Northeast Trail Development

Meewasin Valley Authority

402 Third Avenue South

Saskatoon SK S7K 3G5

meewasin.com

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 is undertaking a process to better understand the northeast of the City. Meewasin is planning to develop a comprehensive primary trail network that will reach from the Circle Drive North Bridge to the Chief Mistawasis Bridge. This will include providing backshore trail connections to adjacent neighbourhoods and important features such as the Meewasin Northeast Swale and Small Swale in the future.

Why is a trail being built here?

Meewasin has completed several studies to determine where to expand and improve the Meewasin Trail. This includes a Trail Study in 2014 and public engagement for the National Urban Park project in 2025. These studies identified the Northeast as a high priority for new and upgraded trail.

The Meewasin Trail in this area is incomplete with gaps between Sutherland Beach and Crocus Prairie, and a missing connection to the Chief Mistawasis Bridge. Additionally, new backshore trail connections to adjacent neighbourhoods and public spaces will make it easier to use the trail for getting around and for recreation.

What is the goal of the project?

The goal is to expand the trail network, fill in the gaps in the trail, improve user experiences and access, and mitigate safety risks, while protecting and enhancing existing features as much as possible. The project will create or upgrade approximately 9.2 kilometres of trail. The goal of the new trail at Sutherland Beach is to create safer spaces for dogs, people, and trail users by creating a bypass route which separates trail users from dog park users. Given the significant natural features in the northeast area, including Peturrson's Ravine, the Riddell Paleontological Site, Peggy McKercher Conservation Area, and others, many new amenities and interpretation nodes will be incorporated in the design to help visitors and regular users experience and learn about the area.

How will these goals be accomplished?

Given the complexity, variety, and extent of the project, it will be broken down into sections and built in phases as follows:

Sutherland Beach

- New trail from the Stew Uzelman Pedway, under the Circle Drive North Bridge,
- Fencing to separate the trail from the dog park,
- Trail connections to the existing Crocus Prairie trail,
- Retention of native vegetation,
- Additional planting of vegetation
- New seating areas, and
- No changes to the existing parking lot.

Crocus Prairie & Peturrson's Ravine

- Upgraded trail to Peturrson's Ravine, widened where possible,
- New trail from Crocus Prairie to Agra Road,
- Lookouts on the river providing views and seating opportunities,
- Lookouts to the ravine providing views, interpretation, and seating opportunities,
- Potential expansion of the parking lot,
- Retention of native vegetation, and
- Additional planting of vegetation.

Riddell Site

- New trail from Agra Road to Peggy McKercher Conservation Area
- Retention of native vegetation,
- New interpretation amenities around the Riddell Paleontological Site, and
- Lookouts on the river providing views and seating opportunities.

Peggy McKercher & McOrmond Link

- Upgraded trail within Peggy McKercher Conservation Area,
- New trail from Peggy McKercher Conservation Area to McOrmond Drive,
- New amenities within the Conservation Area,
- Retention of native vegetation, and
- Lookouts on the river providing views and seating opportunities.

All Areas

- New trail lighting where appropriate,
- Upgraded site amenities including benches, chairs, picnic tables, wayfinding signage, and trash units,
- New interpretive signage, and
- Retention of existing vegetation where possible,
- New plantings achieving more than a 3:1 replacement of removals, and
- Retention of access points to singletrack mountain bike trails along the river.

What will the completed trail look like?

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

- Be built to current accessibility standards,
- Be built to City of Saskatoon construction standards,
- Be wide enough to accommodate user volumes,
- Incorporate updated amenities such as benches, chairs, picnic areas, signage, and trash receptacles, and
- Provide several new seating / view nodes and plaza spaces.

Will the trail have lighting?

The first section of trail adjacent to future neighbourhoods will be lit with standard trail lighting by Saskatoon Light and Power. Lighting is not planned for sensitive natural areas and trails that will be adjacent to lit streets.

How will existing vegetation on the sites be impacted?

Overall, the project will result in a net gain in vegetated areas. Removals are considered on a case-by-case basis based on design considerations. Trail alignments have been developed to minimize the impact on native vegetation and 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.

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.

What impacts will there be on the Sutherland Beach Dog Park?

The trail project will not impact the use of and access to Sutherland Beach Dog Park. Access will be retained from the parking lot on Beef Research Road and from the Stew Uzelman Pedway, under the Circle Drive North Bridge. The parking lot and existing trail in the Dog Park will not change as a result of this project.

In order to separate trail users from dog park users and reduce potential conflicts, we are proposing to separate these activities by creating a trail corridor on the south edge of the dog park. The new trail will be separated from the dog park by a fence and vegetation. The project will result in a slight reduction to the overall size of the dog park, where the new trail is planned. The proposed alignment was chosen to limit impact and maintain beach access for dog park users. This approach aims to safely separate these two distinct users – improving the experience for trail users, dog walkers and their pets.

What does the Sutherland Beach Long Term drawing illustrate?

This drawing shows the existing Meewasin Trail inside the Sutherland Beach Dog Park, a proposed trail alignment south of the dog park and a future/long term proposed trail alignment which locates the Meewasin Trail closer to the river. The long term route could be incorporated as part of future development of this area as defined in the City of Saskatoon's and the University of Saskatchewan's University Sector Plan. That plan has proposed "Potential Medium Density Residential" and "Potential Corridor Mixed Use" neighbourhood development in the Sutherland Beach area.

More information about the University Sector Plan can be found on the City of Saskatoon's website at <https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/university-sector-plan>.

What impacts will there be on significant natural features, like Peturrson's Ravine, the Riddell Paleontological Site, Peggy McKercher Conservation Area, or the Meewasin Northeast Swale?

The planned trail route considers and responds to natural features. In most cases the trail route is in previously disturbed areas. Conservation monitoring and assessments are ongoing in the area, and this data has informed the conceptual trail alignment. As the trail is built, environmental monitoring will ensure native species are protected. Where the trail is close to significant natural features, such as Peturrson's Ravine, the trail will be set back. In areas with high-quality native vegetation, such as Crocus Prairie, the trail will be limited to already disturbed areas. The project has been planned to minimize impacts on existing mature trees and native grassland.

How will this project impact the singletrack mountain bike trails adjacent to the river?

This project will not impact access to the singletrack mountain bike trails. These 'casual' trails are maintained by the Saskatoon Trail Alliance, in agreement with the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin. New and upgraded trails will generally follow existing disturbed areas, and access to the singletrack trails will be maintained.

What impacts do other projects have on the Northeast Trail?

Saskatoon Land is developing a concept plan for the Sunrise (University Heights 3) neighbourhood. The Meewasin Trail will eventually include backshore links to this neighbourhood. As plans are developed for the neighbourhood, Meewasin will work with Saskatoon Land to ensure safe and accessible connections to the future neighbourhood. Meewasin will also update the Northeast Swale Master Plan from 2015, to understand what has been completed and what next steps are needed.

The Northeast Trail includes backshore links to the Meewasin Northeast Swale, some of which are already in place along Somers Road and Fedoruk Road, and along the kīwētin Greenway adjacent to Aspen Ridge. Once Saskatoon Land develops a concept plan for the Sunrise (University Heights 3) neighbourhood, additional backshore links will be developed in accordance with the updated Northeast Swale Master Plan.

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. 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.



Meewasin 

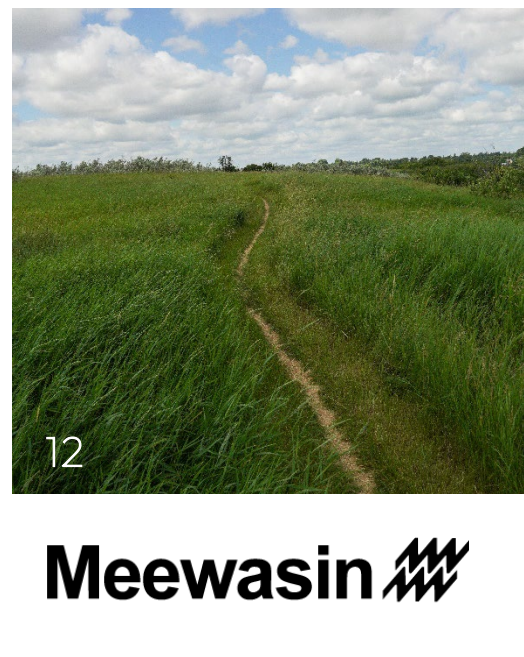
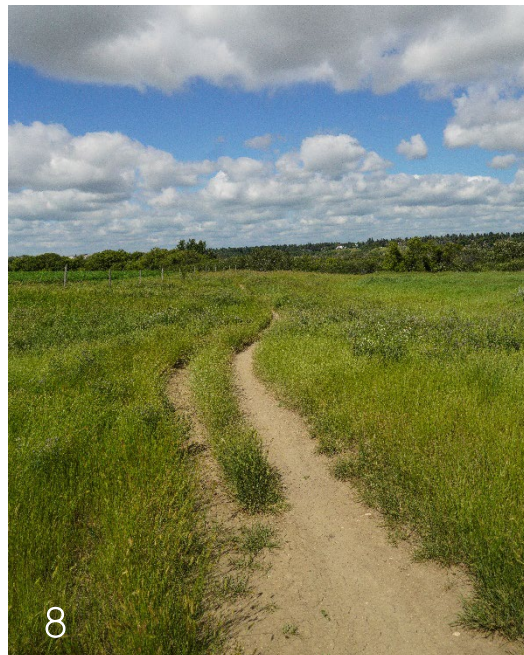


Photo Descriptions:

1. Connection To Stew Uzelman Pedway
2. Future Lookout At Crocus Prairie
3. Looking North At Fedoruk Road
4. Looking North From Sutherland Beach
5. Looking North From Peggy McKercher Conservation Area Trail
6. Looking South From Peggy McKercher Conservation Area Trail
7. Looking West Over Peturrson's Ravine
8. Looking West From Crocus Prairie Trail
9. View Of The Meewasin Trail Towards Circle Drive North Bridge
10. North End Of Dog Park
11. Looking West Adjacent To Circle Drive North
12. Looking West Adjacent To Peturrson's Ravine