



**PUBLIC AGENDA
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENT, UTILITIES
AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall**

Committee Members:

**Councillor M. Loewen, Chair, Councillor H. Gough, Vice Chair, Councillor T. Davies,
Councillor S. Gersher, Councillor D. Hill, His Worship, Mayor C. Clark (Ex-Officio)**

Submissions providing comments and/or requesting to speak will be accepted for public meetings using the online form at saskatoon.ca/writetocouncil. If your submission includes a request to speak, you will be contacted by a representative from the City Clerk's Office with further information. **Submissions will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday the week of the meeting.**

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair will call the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirm roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Recommendation

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5 - 13

Recommendation

That the minutes of regular meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services held on April 2, 2024, be adopted.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. COMMUNICATIONS (requiring the direction of the Committee)

6.1 Requests to Speak (new matters)

6.2 Delegated Authority Matters

6.3 Matters Requiring Direction

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Decision Reports

7.1.1 Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options [EUCS2024-0403] 14 - 21

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division is provided.

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That Option 3, Implement Phases 1, 2, and 3 (Full Scope), be approved as the design and construction plan for Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation;
2. That a budget increase to Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation in the amount of \$4.07 million, funded by \$1.84 million from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve and \$2.23 million through borrowing, subject to a public hearing and intent to borrow report, be approved;
3. That a budget increase to Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation in the amount of \$2,566,550, funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, be approved; and
4. That Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation be exempted from the 10% downpayment provision required for capital projects funded through borrowing as stated in Council Policy No. C03-027 – Borrowing for Capital Projects.

7.2 Approval Reports

7.2.1 Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans [CC2023-0406] 22 - 88

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division is provided.

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities,

and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Natural Area Management Plans and Conceptual Master Plans for the Small Swale and RSBBA be approved in principle; and
2. That discussions with Meewasin on options and resources for site management at the Small Swale and RSBBA continue.

7.2.2 Flood Control Strategy Update – Cumberland Park [EUCS2024-0501] 89 - 96

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division is provided.

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the detailed design and construction of a dry storm pond in Cumberland Park proceed in 2025 to mitigate flooding near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street; and
2. That the 1st Avenue North - 46th Street East location be approved as Project 7 within the Flood Control Strategy.

7.2.3 Establish Capital Project – City-owned Organics Processing Facility [EUCS2024-0102] 97 - 99

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division is provided.

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That a capital project be established in the amount of \$22,110,000 to be funded through borrowing, subject to a public hearing and intent to borrow report; and
2. That this capital project be exempted from the 10% downpayment provision required for capital projects funded through borrowing as stated in Council Policy C03-027.

7.2.4 Regional Fire Training Facility – Contribution Agreement [EUCS2023-0905] 100 - 101

A report of the Saskatoon Fire Department is provided.

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the City of Saskatoon enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Cities of Warman and Martensville for the Regional Training Facility on the terms outlined in this report;
2. That Capital Project P.01971 Fire - Fire Training Facility be increased by \$419,300 to be funded by contributions of \$219,000 from the City of Warman and \$200,300 from the City of Martensville; and
3. That the City Solicitor be requested to have the appropriate agreement executed by His Worship the Mayor, and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

7.3 Information Reports

Recommendation

That the report contained in item 7.1.1 be received as information.

7.3.1 Overdose Outreach Team – Service Level Change [EUCS2024-0502] 102 - 130

A report of the Saskatoon Fire Department is provided.

- 8. MOTIONS (NOTICE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN)**
- 9. URGENT BUSINESS**
- 10. GIVING NOTICE**
- 11. IN CAMERA SESSION (if required)**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

PUBLIC MINUTES

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, UTILITIES AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall

PRESENT: Councillor M. Loewen, Chair
Councillor H. Gough, Vice Chair
Councillor T. Davies, via teleconference
Councillor D. Hill, via teleconference
His Worship, Mayor C. Clark (Ex-Officio)

ABSENT: Councillor S. Gersher

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor C. Block, via teleconference at 9:45 a.m.
Councillor B. Dubois, via teleconference
Councillor D. Kirton
General Manager, Utilities & Environment A. Gardiner
Deputy City Solicitor C. Bogad
Deputy City Clerk S. Bryant
Committee Assistant H. Janzen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirmed roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor Gough

1. That the letter submitting comments from Tyrell Harder, dated March 31, 2024, be added to Item 6.3.1;
2. That the following letters be added to Item 7.2.2;
 - Requesting to Speak
 - Linda Moskalyk, SOS Trees Coalition, dated April 1, 2024;

- Submitting Comments
 - Laelia Shiell, Porcupine Tree Care, dated April 1, 2024;
 - Tom Gode, SOS Trees Coalition, dated April 1, 2024;
 - Robin Adair, Arbour Crest Trees and Landscapes, dated April 1, 2024;
- 3. That the letter submitting comments from Sherry Tarasoff, dated April 1, 2024, be added to Item 7.3.1;
- 4. That the items with speakers be considered immediately following unfinished business;
 - 6.1.1
 - Christopher Muckalt
 - 7.2.2
 - Linda Moskalyk; and
- 5. That the agenda be confirmed as amended.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That the minutes of regular meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services held on March 5, 2024, be adopted.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. COMMUNICATIONS (requiring the direction of the Committee)

6.1 Requests to Speak (new matters)

6.1.1 Christopher Muckalt - Maple Bugs [EUCS2024-0402]

A letter requesting to speak from Christopher (Bob) Muckalt dated March 19, 2024, was provided.

Christopher (Bob) Muckalt spoke to the Committee and responded to questions.

Operations Manager Andre also responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That Administration report back on measures taken to date to address the issues for maple bugs for this location and any potential future measures that could be considered. Could the report include number of complaints we get yearly, measures to be taken to remove trees if required and jurisdictional scan of measures taken in other municipalities.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Kirton excused himself from the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Item 7.2.2 was considered next.

6.2 Delegated Authority Matters

6.3 Matters Requiring Direction

6.3.1 Brent Penner, DTN YXE - Request for Amendment to the Noise Bylaw [EUCS2024-0404]

A letter from Brent Penner, Executive Director, DTN YXE, dated February 28, 2024, was provided and he was available to answer questions.

A letter submitting comments from Tyrell Harder, dated March 31, 2024, was also provided.

Deputy City Solicitor Bogad responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That Administration report back on the history of enforcement related to amplified noise and options for improvements to the noise bylaw if necessary for noise amplification in commercial districts.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3.2 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee - 2024 Work Plan [ADV2024-0307]

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan was provided and introduced by General Manager, Utilities and Environment Gardiner.

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That the 2024 Work Plan for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee be forwarded to City Council for information.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Decision Reports

7.1.1 Long Term Organics Processing Options [EUCS2024-0102]

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided, and General Manager, Utilities and Environment Gardiner presented a PowerPoint presentation. Together with Environmental Projects and Protection Manager Gauthier they responded to questions of Committee.

Councillor Hill excused himself from the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That the Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services Committee recommend to City Council that the Administration pursue Option 3 – Build a City-owned Organics Processing Facility.

In Favour: (3): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, and Mayor C. Clark

Against: (1): Councillor Davies

Absent (2): Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Hill

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened at 11:47 a.m. with all members of Committee in attendance with the exception of Councillor Davies, Councillor Gersher and Councillor Hill.

7.2 Approval Reports

7.2.1 CN Industrial Drainage Improvements – Natural Infrastructure Fund – Budget Adjustment Request [EUCS2024-0401]

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided and presented by General Manager, Utilities and Environment Gardiner.

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That Capital Project P.00901 – Park Upgrades, Enhancement and Repairs be reduced by \$216,000, with a decrease in allocation of the NIF funding; and
2. That Capital Project P.01619.06 – Storm Sewer Trunk and Collection Capacity Program be increased by \$216,000, to be funded by an increase in allocation of the NIF funding, available through contingency NIF program funds.

In Favour: (3): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (3): Councillor Davies, Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Hill

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 7.2.3 was considered next.

7.2.2 Update on Elm Wood Disposal Initiative and Next Steps [EUCS2023-0202]

The following letters were provided:

- Requesting to Speak
 - Linda Moskalyk, SOS Trees Coalition, dated April 1, 2024.
- Submitting Comments
 - Laelia Shiell, Porcupine Tree Care, dated April 1, 2024;
 - Tom Gode, SOS Trees Coalition, dated April 1, 2024; and
 - Robin Adair, Arbour Crest Trees and Landscapes, dated April 1, 2024.

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided and presented by General Manager, Utilities and Environment Gardiner. Together with Education and Environmental Performance Manager Burns and Environmental Projects and Protection Manager Gauthier they responded to questions of Committee.

The Committee heard from Linda Moskalyk.

The Chair noted that Councillor Block had joined the meeting.

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council that the 2024 elm wood disposal plan be approved as outlined in the report of the Environment and Utilities Division dated April 2, 2024.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That the Administration investigate options to advance best practices and regulatory updating with respect to composting chipped elm in advance of the establishment of a long-term organics processing solution.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Mayor C. Clark

That as part of the 2024 DED Strategy Administration convene a stakeholder group to further discuss the elm disposal process, ensure clear and consistent understanding of current processes, and further discuss any additional initiatives to help support effective disposal of elm material.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hill, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 6.3.1 was considered next.

7.2.3 Scope Adjustment – Capital Project P.1955 - Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation [EUCS2024-0403]

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided and presented by General Manager, Utilities and Environment Gardiner. Together with Director Saskatoon Light and Power Bell they responded to questions of Committee.

Councillor Davies rejoined the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

The meeting recessed at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 12:14 p.m. with all members of Committee in attendance with the exception of Councillor Gersher and Councillor Hill.

IN DEFERRAL

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That Administration report back in May on options to pursue a second phase of the project at the original scope of power generation or full utilization of the site. That the report include full payback costing and explore reserve funding as well as internal loans.

In Favour: (4): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (2): Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Hill

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3 Information Reports

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That the report contained in item 7.3.1 be received as information.

In Favour: (4): Councillor Loewen, Councillor Gough, Councillor Davies, and Mayor C. Clark

Absent (2): Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Hill

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3.1 Saskatoon Fire Department – 2023 Year in Review [EUCS2024-0405]

A letter submitting comments from Sherry Tarasoff, dated April 1, 2024, was provided.

A report of the Saskatoon Fire Department was provided and presented by Director of Community Relationships Knock. A/Fire Chief Hogan responded to questions of Committee.

8. MOTIONS (NOTICE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN)

9. URGENT BUSINESS

10. GIVING NOTICE

11. IN CAMERA SESSION (if required)

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Councillor M. Loewen, Chair

Deputy City Clerk, S. Bryant

Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options

ISSUE

This report seeks City Council direction for the project scope and/or budget for the design and construction of the Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project (Solar Farm).

BACKGROUND

History

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting on May 25, 2020, resolved in part:

1. That the Administration be directed to submit the proposed projects listed in Table 1 of this report to the Green Infrastructure Stream for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Stream.

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting on May 31, 2021, considered the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Budget Adjustment report. At this time, Administration indicated they would bring back a future funding report for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) budget increase and identify the funding for the City of Saskatoon's (City) portion of costs.

The requested increase to Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation for the ICIP funding in the amount of \$2,566,550 remains outstanding; therefore, this report recommends an increase to the capital project funded through ICIP.

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on November 22, 2021, considered various options for implementation of the Solar Farm, and resolved in part:

1. That Option 2, Implement Project with Naturalized Landscaping, be approved under Capital Project P.01955 - Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation;

Option 2 was based on the results of a feasibility study and access to approximately \$2.57 million of Federal and Provincial Government funding, which resulted in the following outcomes:

- Installation of up to 2.2 megawatt (MW_{dc}) of solar power at an estimated cost of \$4.26 million, with a 30-year project life;
- Generation of over 2.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of renewable electricity, which is enough to power over 330 homes;
- Savings of up to \$0.3 million each year from bulk energy purchase offsets, resulting in a simple payback period of 7 years;
- Lifetime Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions of approximately 13,500 tonnes of CO_{2e} over 30 years; and
- Utilization of approximately 14 acres of land from Parcel M, Plan No. 102221525, and an adjacent vacant right-of-way land located immediately south of the parcel.

Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on April 26, 2023, considered receipt of \$0.12 million of Federal Government funding under the Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF) for the establishment of naturalized landscaping at the Solar Farm site, and resolved in part:

1. That the Capital projects outlined in this report be increased to include funding from the Natural Infrastructure Fund

This additional funding brought the total estimated project costs to \$4.39 million and provides sufficient funds for a landscape contractor needed to effectively naturalize the Solar Farm site landscape and attain desired aesthetic benefits, improve biodiversity, and green infrastructure, while reducing site related operation and maintenance costs by an estimated \$0.12 million over the 30-year life of the project.

The Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, at its meeting held on April 2, 2024, outlined the [current status](#) of the project and considered a scope adjustment of the Solar Farm to stay within budget constraints, and resolved:

That the Administration report back in May on options to pursue a second phase of the project at the original scope of power generation or full utilization of the site. That the report include full payback costing and explore reserve funding as well as internal loans.

OPTIONS

Three options have been evaluated for further consideration for construction of the Solar Farm:

- Option 1: Implement Phase 1
- Option 2: Implement Phases 1 and 2
- Option 3: Implement Phases 1, 2, and 3 (Full Scope)

Evaluation of the options included the following considerations:

- The desire to maximize solar development potential of sites, due to limited opportunities within city limits;
- The City has committed to carbon neutrality by 2050, and is determining the most effective ways to reduce GHG;
- The Solar Farm project achieves and exceeds the Low Emissions Community (LEC) Action No. 30, which calls for the implementation of 1 MW utility-scale solar system on municipal land, and informs LEC Plan Action No. 34, which calls for the implementation of 20 MW of utility-scale solar system on municipal land in Saskatoon and surrounding areas within the decade;
- This is the first utility-scale solar project in Saskatoon and will show environmental and financial stewardship; and
- Eligibility for \$2.56 million of Federal funding requires the completion of the project by the summer of 2025.

Option 1: Implement Phase 1

Under this option, the Solar Farm would be designed for its full scope and potential of 3.09 MW_{dc}, while limiting solar panel installation up to budget constraints of the previously approved project amount of \$4.39 million, inclusive of the ICIP and NIF funding (Phase 1). This option would allow for easy expansion of the project as part of a future phase should funds become available.

Phase 1 would result in a system designed for 3.09 MW_{dc}, while limiting the installed solar panel capacity to 1.06 MW_{dc} that generates approximately 1.3 million kWh's of annual renewable energy production over the 30-year project life (approximately 34% of Option 3).

This option provides estimated annual savings of \$0.15 million through bulk energy purchase offsets which would be used to replenish the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve, and results in a simple payback period of 13 years.

Advantages

- Maintains the maximum development potential of the project site;
- Future expansion may be eligible for government funding; thereby, reducing any incremental costs due to duplication or inefficiencies arising from phased construction activities; and
- Ensures the future opportunity for realizing maximum reductions in GHG emissions from Parcel M, resulting in estimated lifetime emission reductions ranging from 7,300 tonnes to 20,900 tonnes of CO_{2e} with the phased implementation of the project over 30 years.
- Does not require additional funds at this time.

Disadvantages

- As this option does not meet the requirements under the ICIP Contribution Agreement, there is a risk of losing a portion or all of ICIP funding due to the reduction in the installed system size (i.e. a reduction from 2.2 MW_{dc} to 1.06 MW_{dc}). Discussions and approval from ICIP would be required if this option is chosen;
- Results in highest overall cost of the project after completion of all phases, due to duplication and inefficiencies with construction activities, which is estimated at \$0.32 million; and
- Is subject to further cost increases from inflation and technology advancements applicable at the time of expansion.

Option 2: Implement Phases 1 and 2

This option is similar to Option 1 with design completed for the full site, except that the construction of solar panels would be extended to the entirety of the north section of the project site (i.e. Parcel M, Plan No. 102221525), and would result in the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the project. This option would result in total project costs of \$6.23 million, requiring additional funding of \$1.84 million, which would be sourced from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve.

Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options

This would increase the installed solar capacity to 2.23 MW_{dc} that generates approximately 2.7 million kWh's of annual renewable energy production over the 30-year project life (approximately 71% of Option 3).

This option provides estimated annual savings of \$0.32 million through bulk energy purchase offsets which would be used to replenish the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve, and results in a simple payback period of 13 years.

Advantages

- Ensures the minimum lifetime reductions in GHG emissions expected from the project are attained immediately, while allowing for future GHG reduction increases through a future expansion;
- Future expansion may be eligible for government funding; thereby, reducing any incremental costs due to duplication or inefficiencies with construction activities; and
- Strikes a good balance between environmental and financial stewardship.

Disadvantages

- Capital funding in the amount of \$1.84 million would be allocated to this project from Saskatoon Light & Power's (SL&P) capital reserves, reducing the funding available for asset management and maintenance of the electrical distribution system. Although this is a short-term disadvantage, the long-term financial gain from the project would benefit SL&P's finances;
- Results in overall incremental cost to expand later arising due to duplication and inefficiencies with construction activities, which is estimated at \$0.18 million; and
- Is subject to further cost increases from inflation and technology advancements applicable at the time of expansion.

Option 3: Implement Phases 1, 2, and 3 (Full Scope)

Under this option, the Solar Farm would be designed and constructed for its new full scope and potential of 3.09 MW_{dc}, resulting in total project costs of \$8.46 million, requiring additional funding of \$4.07 million, out of which \$1.84 million would be sourced from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve, and the remaining \$2.23 million would be funded through borrowing.

This option provides the maximum renewable energy production, resulting in a system size of 3.09 MW_{dc} that generates approximately 3.8 million kWh's of annual renewable energy production over the 30-year project life.

This option provides estimated annual savings of \$0.45 million through bulk energy purchase offsets that would be used to replenish the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve as well as service the additional borrowing required. With cost of debt (assuming 4.39% interest rate) included, the payback period is estimated to be 16 years.

Advantages

- Ensures the maximum development potential of the project site is attained;

Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options

- Results in highest estimated lifetime emission reductions of 20,900 tonnes of CO_{2e} over 30 years; and
- Results in maximum annual savings from bulk energy purchase offsets.

Disadvantages

- Capital funding in the amount of \$1.84 million would be allocated to this project from SL&P's capital reserves, reducing the funding available for asset management and maintenance of the electrical distribution system. Although this is a short-term disadvantage, the long-term financial gain from the project would benefit SL&P's finances;
- Borrowing in the amount of \$2.23 million would be needed, which would result in interest payments that reduce the financial benefits from the project; and
- Additional project scope is not eligible for government funding given the immediate need for spending.

Comparison of Options

The below table provides a summarized comparison of the proposed options.

Report Option	Plant Size (MW _{dc})	Energy Production* (Million kWh)	Equivalent Homes Energy*	Lifetime Emission Reductions* (Tonnes of CO _{2e})	Total Cost (Millions)	Funding Gap (Millions)	City Funds Payback Period (Years)*
1 – Phase 1	1.06	1.3	162	7,300	\$4.39	\$0	13
2 – Phases 1 & 2	2.23	2.7	337	15,000	\$6.23	\$1.84	13
3 – Phases 1, 2 & 3	3.09	3.8	475	20,900	\$8.46	\$4.07	16

* Denotes estimates

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That Option 3, Implement Phases 1, 2, and 3 (Full Scope), be approved as the design and construction plan for Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation;
2. That a budget increase to Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation in the amount of \$4.07 million, funded by \$1.84 million from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve and \$2.23 million through borrowing, subject to a public hearing and intent to borrow report, be approved;
3. That a budget increase to Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation in the amount of \$2,566,550, funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, be approved; and
4. That Capital Project P.01955 – Utility Solar Scale Energy Implementation be exempted from the 10% downpayment provision required for capital projects funded through borrowing as stated in Council Policy No. C03-027 – Borrowing for Capital Projects.

RATIONALE

Positive Impact on City Goals

The recommended Option 3 achieves and exceeds LEC Action No. 30, which calls for the implementation of a 1 MW_{dc} utility-scale solar system on municipally owned land within Saskatoon and would also inform LEC Plan Action No. 34 which requires the implementation of 20 MW_{dc} of utility-scale solar system on municipal land in Saskatoon and surrounding areas within the next decade.

Minimization of Construction Inefficiencies

Option 3 ensures the project is built together; thereby, minimizing the need for multiple construction activities, which eliminates corresponding inefficiencies and added costs.

Positive Long-Term Impact on the Utility

All options retain a long-term positive impact to the utility, with Phase 1 resulting in initial estimated annual savings of \$0.15 million through bulk energy purchase offsets, growing to \$0.32 million after completion of Phase 2, and \$0.45 million after completion of Phase 3. After completion of all phases, the project is estimated to generate an average of 3.8 million kWh's of clean electricity each year across its 30-year life. This is the equivalent energy needed to power 475 homes annually.

Optimal Utilization of Land

Option 3 ensures available land within the project site is developed to its maximum potential immediately. This is especially important as there are limited land availabilities within the city limits and especially within the Saskatoon Light & Power electrical franchise boundary.

ADDITIONAL IMPLICATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Triple Bottom Line Implications

A Triple Bottom Line review of this project was completed. A variety of environmental, social, and economic impacts and opportunities were identified. Key considerations include:

Environmental

- The solar farm is estimated to reduce GHG's ranging from 7,300 to 20,900 tonnes CO_{2e} over its lifetime; and
- The project supports sustainable land use by developing land that has a low potential for other developments, and through careful planning, maximizes the productivity of the space with minimal rework and ground disturbance.

Social

- The overall health and wellbeing of the citizens will be positively impacted through the project's direct mitigation of climate change; and
- While physical access will be restricted, virtual access to the site will be given through public websites, which will include project details, benefits to the community and environment, and near real-time energy production.

Dundonald Avenue Solar Farm Project Options

Economic

- Constructing the solar farm on budget or with additional funding ensures savings to be realized over its lifetime, and results in a payback period of up to 16 years.

Financial Implications

Additional funding is needed for Options 2 and 3.

With Option 2, an additional \$1.84 million would be required and sourced from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve, which would reduce the funding available for asset management and maintenance of the electrical distribution system.

With Option 3, an additional \$4.07 million would be required and sourced from the Electrical Distribution Extension Reserve and through borrowing which will be repaid via the estimated \$0.45 million bulk power purchase savings, subject to a public hearing and intent to borrow report.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The following communication activities are planned following direction from City Council:

- A communication plan will be developed that will alert the public to the updated project status and keep the community informed regarding construction timelines and other pertinent details; special attention will be paid to keeping directly affected neighbourhoods informed.
- Administration will pursue a public hearing and intent to borrow report.

APPENDICES

1. Illustration of Solar Farm Implementation

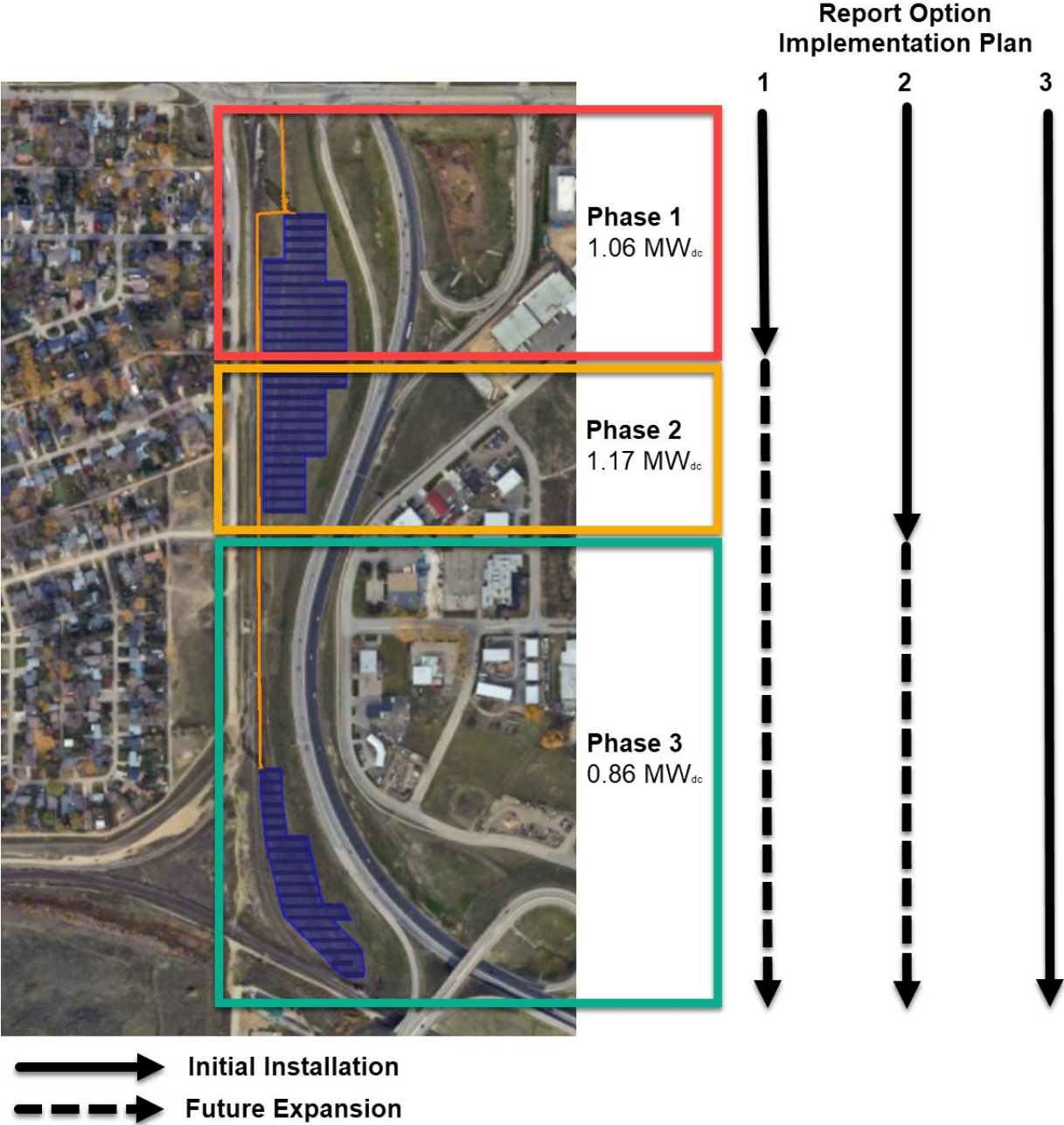
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Illustration of Solar Farm Implementation



Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans

ISSUE

Natural Area Management Plans and Conceptual Master Plans (“the Plans”) have been prepared for the Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (RSBBAA). The Plans define the vision, management objectives, activities, and enhancements needed to conserve the unique ecological and cultural resources at these sites. This report seeks approval in principle of the Plans.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Natural Area Management Plans and Conceptual Master Plans for the Small Swale and RSBBAA be approved in principle; and
2. That discussions with Meewasin on options and resources for site management at the Small Swale and RSBBAA continue.

BACKGROUND

At its regular business meeting on December 19, 2022, City Council received the [Natural Areas Management Pilots - Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area](#) report and approved that Administration proceed with the development of pilots at the Small Swale and RSBBAA. The pilots include the preparation of Natural Area Management Plans and Conceptual Master Plans for each site.

Capital funding for the Natural Area Management Plan – Templates and Pilots project was approved at the 2022-2023 Budget deliberations and is available through the Green Infrastructure Strategy (P.02390).

On January 10, 2024 the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services received for information the [Natural Areas Policy Framework](#) (PDCS2024-0103) report. In this, the following tools are identified as priorities to evaluate further, and if appropriate, to consider for implementation: Natural Area Policy; Natural Area Screening Improvements; Natural Areas Mapping and Prioritization Resource; Administrative Procedures; Heritage Property Designation; Design and Development Standards; Zoning Tools; and Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

At its regular business meeting on January 31, 2024, City Council approved design and construction of the [2024 RSBBAA site enhancement project](#).

Engagement Results

From May to October 2023, the City of Saskatoon (City) engaged the community on the preparation of the Plans. The engagement included environmental and conservation organizations including Meewasin, environmental advocacy groups, land developers, site user groups, local communities and adjacent landowners, and the City's Natural Areas Working Group. Engagement has informed the site selection, methodology, and content of Plans. Through meetings, information sessions, and workshops, stakeholders were asked:

- What features, ecosystems and/or species are important for us to protect and how can the City support their protection?
- How does the community use the sites and how can these uses be supported (e.g., improving trails, creating gathering areas, etc.)?
- How can we best balance conservation and public use at the sites?

Stakeholders are supportive of the Plans and provided comments emphasizing the importance of these sites to the community, and the need to protect and restore the sites. Feedback emphasized the ecological importance and need to protect the Small Swale, and the uniqueness and need to balance conservation and recreation at RSBBA. A complete engagement summary for each of the Plans can be found in Appendix 1.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Overview of the Plans

In 2023, WSP Canada Inc. was contracted to complete a Natural Area Management Plan and Conceptual Master Plan for each site. The intention of the Plans is to:

- Provide guidance for how the City can conserve the important ecological and cultural features of these sites.
- Present a vision, site management goals, and associated management activities needed to restore and manage both sites.
- Provide recommendations for site uses that are compatible with the overall goal to conserve the areas.
- Provide recommendations and a conceptual plan map for proposed enhancements at both sites, including circulation routes, destinations and gathering areas, site furnishings, and ecological restoration work.

The Plans represent one step needed to protect, restore, and manage these sites. Implementation of the Plans would be subject to secured funding and would involve establishing a level of service, detailed design, consideration of the surrounding development and servicing context, and in some cases, additional public engagement.

Administration's summaries of each Plan are included in Appendix 2 and 3. The entire Plans are available online at saskatoon.ca/NAMP.

Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans

Planning and Development Considerations

The Plans have been developed for the Small Swale and RSBBA as a pilot initiative to refine the City's approach to protecting, restoring, and managing significant natural areas. The Plans provide information that may not otherwise be collected early in the development planning process.

As they stand, the Plans are guidelines that do not dictate a final design or set mandatory requirements for site management. As such, the Plans' long-term vision and site management practices are presented to guide later initiatives with a best-practice approach to conserving, improving, and maintaining these natural areas.

These Plans have been prepared in parallel to the Natural Area Policy and Process (NAPP) project, which is intended to provide support and direction for the identification, prioritization, conservation and designation of natural areas and connections between those natural areas. The Natural Areas Policy Framework Report (PDCS2024-0103) summarizes the NAPP work scope, which may include formalizing site boundaries, establishing formal protections of natural areas, and coordinating with adjacent land uses, development, and servicing considerations.

Importantly, the NAPP project will also consider how Plans such as these may be formally incorporated into the planning and development regulatory framework.

Considerations for Future Site Management

The Small Swale and RSBBA were selected as pilot sites in part due to the lack of current management at these spaces. One goal of the Plan is to establish a formal level of service for both sites, which would require the identification of a site manager(s), and definition of roles and responsibilities.

The City's Naturalized Parks team and Meewasin have both historically been involved in maintenance activities at natural areas including the Northeast Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, Beaver Creek Conservation Area, Cranberry Flats Conservation Area, and Chief Whitecap Park. In some cases, such as at the Northeast Swale, maintenance agreements are in place that define the roles, responsibilities, and funding commitments between the City and Meewasin.

Discussions have begun between the City and Meewasin regarding interest in site management at one or both sites. Results of these discussions, and recommended roles and responsibilities for future site manager(s), will be brought forward in future reporting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

CPTED Considerations

The Plans have been reviewed by the City's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Committee, which recommended that:

- Detailed designs for any washroom facilities and parking lots be submitted to the CPTED Review Committee Chair;
- Lighting be installed on timers to align with site hours;
- Additional waste bins be considered;
- Trails have identifiable entry and/or exit points approximately 200 meters apart to avoid movement predictors; and
- Specific signage and natural traffic calming be applied to the roadway from the west gate to the skills park at RSBBA.

These recommendations will be incorporated into the detailed design for each site prior to the implementation of the Plans and submitted to the CPTED Committee as necessary.

NEXT STEPS

Implementation plans will be prepared that will outline options for the operations, maintenance and level of service, and associated resources required. Site management discussions will continue with Meewasin. Further reporting on site operations is planned for early 2025.

APPENDICES

1. Final Engagement Summary
2. Administrative Summary of Small Swale Plans
3. Administrative Summary of RSBBA Plans

Report Approval

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Approved by: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development
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NATURAL AREA MANAGEMENT AND CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLANS

Engagement Report

April 12, 2024



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ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

From October 2022 to October 2023, the City of Saskatoon (City) and our external consultant, WSP, engaged the community in the development of Natural Areas Management Plans and Conceptual Master Plans (Plans) for the two pilot natural areas: Richard St. Barbe Baker and the Small Swale.

We explored the following in developing the Plans:

- Important site features, species, and attributes
- How the sites are currently being used (ex. recreation)
- Future site management targets
- Threats and mitigations to the sites



Why Are We Doing This Work?

Natural areas make up approximately 14% of the City of Saskatoon’s (City) footprint and provide many benefits to our community, such as connecting to nature, providing wildlife habitat, storing carbon, and helping manage stormwater. Many of these important areas are not formally protected or managed; therefore, the City is developing the Plans to work towards protecting, managing, and restoring natural areas, such as RSBBA and the Small Swale, and assets in the [Green Network](#).

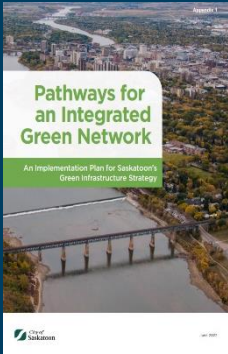
The development of the Plans was supported by the community feedback we received through our [Environmental Awareness Survey \(2022\)](#), the [Saskatoon’s Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) and [Pathways for an Integrated Green Network](#), as well as funding support from the [Natural Infrastructure Fund](#).

Using What We Learned

In 2023 the City explored the opportunities, benefits, and challenges of developing Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans for the two pilot sites. Based on what we heard from the community, in addition to best practice research and internal considerations, the City has developed the Plans, which will be presented to City Council in May 2024.

This condensed report outlines the feedback from all activities that informed the engagement goals for the project.

The City of Saskatoon’s Pathways for an Integrated Green Network



Pathways for an Integrated Green Network is the City’s implementation plan for the *Green Infrastructure Strategy* and provides the vision for an integrated green network that provides sustainable habitat for people and nature.

WHAT WE DID



1.1 Who We Engaged With:

- ⊕ Communities adjacent to sites
- ⊕ Educational institutions
- ⊕ Environmental organizations and groups
- ⊕ Indigenous organizations, knowledge keepers and Elders
- ⊕ Land developers and associations
- ⊕ Utility providers
- ⊕ Various recreational user groups

1.2 How We Gathered Input:

- ⊕ Meetings with subject matter experts and key user groups with intimate knowledge of the sites
- ⊕ Establishing the Natural Areas Working Group (NAWG) from representatives with experience in conservation and land management
- ⊕ Workshops for community and user groups
- ⊕ Follow-up information sessions for community and user groups
- ⊕ Indigenous gathering and knowledge sharing

Questions we asked participants:

- What **features, ecosystems and/or species are important for us to protect**
- How can the City **manage these site attributes** and support their protection?
- **How does the community use the sites** and how can these uses be supported?
- How can we best **balance conservation and public use** at the sites?



WHAT WE HEARD

Management Plan Template

We learned that:

- Members recommended creating a standard management plan template that can generally be applied to any natural area and incorporates adaptive management practises.
- Management plans will have to adapt by reassessing threats and site-specific considerations over time.
- Participants recommended using the [Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation](#) due to it being a clear, authenticated processes for evaluating sites, defining conservation targets, and identifying restoration goals.

Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation



Supported by our participants, the [Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation](#) are, “a widely adopted set of principles and practices that bring together common concepts, approaches, and terminology for conservation project design, management, and monitoring.”

Selecting Pilot Sites

Participants helped us to identify:

- The Small Swale was identified as being important, due to the valuable ecosystems services it provides, encroaching developmental pressures, and the availability of baseline biological information about the site.
- RSBBA was supported as the second pilot site due to the need for balancing the conservation of the site with the variety of user groups and the heightened need for management given the future development within the area
- Future management plans should be developed for Kernen Prairie, the Hudson Bay Swale and the South Saskatchewan River valley

Plans for RSBBAA

We heard that:

- Many participants view the site as a place for both active recreation and enjoying nature, which is celebrated by user groups and the community.
- RSBBAA serves Saskatoon's Southwest-side community as an important destination site, since not many natural areas exist in this area.
- RSBBAA encompasses habitats for many important species and provides many ecosystem services (ex. stormwater management, carbon sequestration, etc.)
- Important conservation targets for the site include forests, wetlands and human health and recreation activities.



Specific Considerations for RSBBAA

Participants provided the following themes for consideration by the project team:

Balance between conservation and site use: many participants stressed the need for balancing conservation with the human-uses for the site

History of the site: the origin and history of the site needs to be shared through education, since it is fundamental to what makes the site important

Off-trail access: it was identified that although most users stay on the trails when visiting the site, users who do not can greatly impact the ecology of the site

Trails: many participants feel that the current trails need to be improved to allow for less maintenance needs and better accessibility; suggestions included making trails that are wider, of a better composition (ex. crusher dust), and more actively maintained

Plans for the Small Swale

We heard that:

- Participants identified the site as having many biological features that are unique to Saskatoon and emphasized the importance of the ecological integrity and diversity of the Small Swale.
- The Small Swale consists primarily of both wetland and grassland habitats, but it also contains micro-habitats that support important species at risk.
- The site faces extreme pressures from current and future development
- Important conservation targets for the site include grasslands, wetlands, and human health.



Specific Considerations for the Small Swale

Participants provided the following themes for consideration by the project team:

Buffers: participants identified that having wide buffers between the site and future human development/activities

Connectivity: many participants stressed that connectivity (ex. wildlife movements, hydrology, etc.) is vitally important for the site; this includes the connectivity within the swale, between swales (i.e., Northeast Swale) and to the river valley for wildlife, pollinators and humans

Invasive species: participants stressed the need for onsite invasive species and noxious weed management

Site division: some participants stated that there are large enough ecological differences between the areas North and South of McOrmond Drive to support different management strategies

Other Considerations

From the various comments provided throughout the engagement activities, the following topics were emphasized by participants:

Connectivity: participants emphasized the connectivity of and between natural areas and other green spaces (ex. South Saskatchewan River valley) are vital in allowing for wildlife movements and for the health of the ecosystem

Conservation and development: participants suggested that land development and design are often prioritized over the protection of natural areas; there needs to be a better balance to ensure the protection and needs of the natural area are a priority for the City

Education: educational programming was supported by many participants; suggestions for educational programs included citizen science programs, outdoor classrooms and interpretive programs on the various site features

Information gaps: participants identified that information gaps still exist and need to be addressed when implementing the Plans; some of the information gaps included the local hydrology and water drainage, species composition and diversity, and future development plans

Traditional knowledge: members stressed the need for the Plans to include traditional knowledge and considerations for the site by building relationships with Indigenous advisors;

Support: many participants supported the City's efforts and thanked the City for continuing to engage on this project

NEXT STEPS

The Plans will be presented to City Council in May 2024. For more information about when the program will be presented to City Council, please visit our [Engage Page](#).

We thank all participants who provided their feedback for this and other City of Saskatoon projects.

1 BACKGROUND

Natural areas make up approximately 14% of the City of Saskatoon’s (City) footprint and provide many benefits to our community such as connecting to nature, providing wildlife habitat, storing carbon, and helping manage stormwater. Many of these important areas are not formally protected or managed; therefore, the City is developing a Natural Areas Program to work towards protecting, managing, and restoring natural areas and assets in the [Green Network](#).

One part of the Natural Areas Program is the development of Natural Areas Management and Conceptual Master Plans (Plans), which define the vision, management objectives, desired service level, and operating and maintenance needs for a natural area. This work was supported by community feedback received through [Saskatoon’s Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) and [Pathways for an Integrated Green Network](#), where 96% of participants supported the City in creating natural area management plans to further protect natural areas within Saskatoon.

From October 2022 to October 2023, the City and its consultant WSP Canada, Inc., engaged site-specific environmental, community and user groups in the development of Plans for two pilot sites: Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (RSBBAA), and the Small Swale. Through meetings, workshops, and information sessions we asked participants:

- What features, ecosystems and/or species are important for us to protect and how can the City support their protection?
- How does the community use the sites and how can these uses be supported?
- How can we best balance conservation and public use at the sites?

Based on the feedback received, in addition to best practice research and internal considerations, WSP and City Administration have developed the Plans for each pilot site, which will be presented to City Council in May 2024.

1.1 Strategic Goals

The Plans align with the [City of Saskatoon 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#); in particular, its goal of ensuring the Green Network is integrated, managed, and enhanced to protect land, air, and water resources. The key actions to achieve this outcome include:

- Implement actions in the [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) and [Implementation Plan](#) within proposed timeframes
- Develop proactive policies, strategies, and practices to ensure the environment is protected from damage and, where possible, ecosystems are enhanced.

1.2 Summary of Engagement Strategy

Participants were provided the opportunity to inform the following engagement goals:

- Identify options for a natural area management plan template, including best practises, impacts, and conservation considerations
- Develop pilot Plans by determining site-specific considerations, including what should be protected and how can the site uses be enhanced while balancing this protection
- Validate the proposed Plans enhance opportunities and limit barriers.

A summary of the participants, level of influence, engagement objectives, engagement goals and engagement activities completed are provided below.

Table 1: Summary of engagement goals

Phase	Participants	Level of Influence	Objective	Engagement Goal	Engagement Activities
1	Natural Areas Working Group (NAWG) Subject Matter Experts	Collaborate	Identify options for management plans and validate the template with conservation experts	Identifying Options	Correspondence Meetings Working Group
2	NAWG Subject Matter Experts User Groups	Collaborate	Develop pilot Plans by determining site-specific considerations	Refining and Piloting	Correspondence Meetings Working Group Workshops
3	NAWG Subject Matter Experts User Groups	Collaborate	Validate the pilot Plans to enhance opportunities and limit barriers	Validating	Correspondence Information Sessions Meetings Working Group

* Correspondence refers to emails, phone calls, and virtual meetings with participants

A summary of engagement activities, activity dates, intended participants, and number of participants is provided in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of engagement activities

Participants	Activity	Timeframe	Participants
Working Group	Meetings	October 2022 to October 2023	10
User Groups / Subject Matter Experts	Meetings	May to October 2023	47
User Groups / Subject Matter Experts	Workshops	June 2023	51
User Groups / Subject Matter Experts	Information Sessions	September 2023	57
Indigenous Elders and knowledge keepers	Gathering	October 2023	45
Total Participants:			210

1.3 Participants

The participants outlined below were identified due to their knowledge, interest in, or their potential to be impacted by the program. Participants are listed below.

1.3.1 User Groups

Those who actively use the sites and/or may be impacted or disproportionately impacted by the Plans, including:

- Activity groups:
 - Cedar Villa Bicycle Trails Inc.
 - Fatlanders Fat Tire Brigade
 - Saskatchewan Orienteering Association
 - Saskatoon Disc Golf
 - Saskatoon Geocaching Association
 - Trail Alliance
- Communities adjacent to the pilot sites
 - Residents of Cedar Villa Estates

- Land developers and associations
 - Saskatoon and Region Home Builders Association
 - Saskatoon Land
- Environmental groups
 - Ducks Unlimited Canada
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation Society
 - Saskatchewan Archeological Society
 - Saskatchewan Environmental Society
 - Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council
 - Saskatoon Heritage Society
 - Saskatoon Nature Society
 - Saskatoon Trail Alliance
 - Saskatoon Wildlife Federation
 - SaskOutdoors
 - SOS Trees
 - Water Security Agency
 - Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan
- Indigenous organizations, knowledge keepers, and Elders
- Utility providers

1.3.2 Subject Matter Experts

Representatives of organizations with experience or knowledge related to natural areas, green spaces and natural areas management plans, including:

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan Chapter
- Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.
- Indigenous Leadership Initiative
- Meewasin
- Ministry of the Environment
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Parks Canada
- Saskatoon Swalewatchers
- University of Saskatchewan
 - Agriculture and Bioresources
 - Researchers in natural areas and resource management
 - School of Environment and Sustainability
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park Heritage Park
- Wild About Saskatoon

2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Participants provided their feedback through meetings, workshops, information sessions, or by contacting the project team directly. All engagement activities are described in detail below.

2.1 Natural Areas Working Group Meetings

In October 2022 the City established the Natural Areas Working Group (NAWG) to provide feedback on the City's Natural Area Program and related initiatives. Consisting of representatives from organizations involved in conservation, environmental advocacy, Indigenous land management, and resource management, the goals of the NAWG are to:

- Review issues brought forward by the community, developers, and City Administration
- Research best practices for addressing issues that have been brought forward
- Propose new processes to address issues that have been brought forward
- Advise the City regarding new development or conservation initiatives that may impact or interface with natural areas.

Three NAWG meetings were held over the course of the engagement. Also, numerous individual meetings were held with specific members who had more intimate knowledge about the pilot sites.

2.1.1 Intended Audience

Participants included ten representatives from the following organizations:

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan Chapter
- Indigenous Leadership Initiative
- Meewasin
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- University of Saskatchewan
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- Wild About Saskatoon

2.1.2 Marketing Techniques

No marketing techniques were employed for these meetings. Representatives were invited to join the NAWG based on their experience in conservation, land management and natural areas around Saskatoon.

2.1.3 Analysis

Comments and results were analyzed using mixed methods. Qualitative methods included a thematic analysis and open coding of responses to identify key themes.

2.1.4 What We Heard

Many of the topics discussed by the NAWG included site-specific and technical information that informed the development of the Plans, as well as best practises for the development of natural areas management plans. General themes discussed during the NAWG meetings included the following topics.

Selection of the Pilot Sites

When presented with the potential pilot sites members identified the Small Swale as being important, due to the valuable ecosystems services it provides, the encroaching development of adjacent neighbourhoods, and the availability of baseline biological information about the site. RSBBA was supported as the second pilot site due to the need for balancing the conservation of the site with the variety of user groups and the heightened need for management given the future development within the area.

When asked what sites should be considered for future management plans, members suggested that the site selection criteria should include connections to the river, Meewasin lands and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Other sites proposed for future management plans included Kernen Prairie, the Hudson Bay Swale, and the South Saskatchewan River valley.

Natural Areas Management Plan Template

Members recommended creating a standard management plan template that can generally be applied to any natural area and incorporates adaptive management practises. Since the state of a natural area will change over time, it was identified that the management plans will have to adapt by reassessing threats and site-specific considerations over time. NAWG members suggested that currently available resources for developing management plans, such as the [Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation](#), have clear, authenticated processes of evaluating sites, defining conservation targets and identifying restoration goals with adaptative management built into them. Re-evaluating (i.e., every 5, 10 etc. years) not only allows for more current information about the site to be incorporated into the management plan, but also informs all interested parties of the current and evolving site-specific needs of the natural area.

Other suggestions provided by members included:

Data sources: external data sources, like [HABISASK](#) and [iNaturalist](#), can provide valuable information about the biological structure of the site that is vetted by experts

Define goals: set realistic and achievable goals at the onset of a management project; use a degradation scale to determine what is achievable through management, such as restoring a site to its original state or supporting its current ecosystem services

Indicator species: focus on conserving key species and habitat types that represent the site for conservation targets, such as the plains bison for grassland communities

Indigenous collaboration: include Indigenous groups and knowledge at the onset of management, not as an afterthought

Long-term: including long-term monitoring to account for the adaptive nature of the site over time

Partnerships: establish and work with local stewards and site champions throughout the process

Use existing tools and examples: all members supported using proven management plan development tools and resources, such as Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation, for designing the pilot management plans; look to other natural areas as examples, such as Wanuskewin

General Considerations

Other considerations provided by the NAWG throughout the meetings included the following themes:

Broader vision: many members called on the City to include a broader vision when designing a management plan for a site, so that the surrounding landscape and conditions can be incorporated; many ecosystem processes, such as hydrology and nutrient cycling, are impacted by lands outside the site boundaries; one member suggested starting with a management plan to then formulate a common vision for the site

Connectivity: members identified that the City needs to consider the connectivity of natural areas to other green spaces to allow for wildlife movements through habitat corridors; some members suggested the City should consider purchasing land adjacent to natural areas that could be restored and act as green corridors; the City needs to conduct and support further research in locating and protecting active wildlife corridors in Saskatoon

Conservation and development: many members suggested that land development and design are often prioritized over the protection of natural areas; there needs to be a better balance to ensure the protection and needs of the natural area are a priority for the City; a conservation-first lens is needed when planning and developing around natural areas

Define the purpose: some members emphasized that prior to developing a management plan, the City needs to determine why they are protecting a site and what state are they trying to restore it to

Ecological value: some members stressed that the structure and functions of natural areas provide many ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration and stormwater management, which are often overlooked and undervalued

Plan carefully: members emphasized that due to the nature of the development process, if mistakes are made the ecosystem may not have the ability to fully recover or be restored; all current and future development plans should be researched and weighed accordingly when determining how best to manage a natural area

Traditional knowledge: members stressed the need for the Plans to include traditional knowledge and considerations for the site by building relationships with Indigenous advisors; traditional knowledge can provide other ways of thinking for how to protect the land and its inhabitants

2.2 Meetings

Meetings included presentations and discussions about the sites, the Plans, and various site-specific considerations. The site-specific and technical information provided during the meetings informed the development of the Plans. Note that a summary of the meetings was not provided in this report due to the information already being captured in other engagement activities or being provided directly to WSP for their consideration.

2.2.1 Intended Audience

Participants included specific Impacted Groups and Subject Matter Experts, including the following:

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Cedar Villa Bicycle Trails Inc.
- Fatlanders Fat Tire Brigade

- Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.
- Meewasin
- Meewasin Conservation Advisory Committee
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Saskatoon Disc Golf
- Saskatoon Swalewatchers
- Saskatoon Nature Society
- SOS Trees
- University of Saskatchewan
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- Wild About Saskatoon

2.2.2 Marketing Techniques

No marketing techniques were employed for these activities. Participants were contacted through an e-invite or emailed directly to organize the meetings.

2.3 Richard St. Barbe Baker Workshop

Select Subject Matter Experts and User Groups with intimate knowledge of the site participated in a full-day workshop to provide their feedback on:

- What is important for the City to consider for the management plan?
- How is the site currently being used, and what are the future opportunities for the site?
- How could the site be enhanced to support people and the species that call it home?

The workshop format and methodology followed the [Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation](#) strategic process. Supported by other cities, the NAWG and our Subject Matter Experts, the Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation are, “a widely adopted set of principles and practices that bring together common concepts, approaches, and terminology for conservation project design, management, and monitoring.”

Throughout the workshop participants collaborated through table and group discussions to determine the vision for the site, what are the important features/species to protect, the threats to these features/species and how they can be better protected and monitored. Representatives from WSP and the City facilitated the discussions, recorded the feedback from participants and provided additional context when requested.

2.3.1 Intended Audience

A total of 26 representatives of select Subject Matter Experts and User Groups participated, including the following:

- City of Saskatoon
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fatlanders Fat Tire Brigade
- Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.
- Meewasin
- Saskatchewan Orienteering Association

- Saskatoon Disc Golf
- Saskatoon Nature Society
- SOS Trees
- Trail Alliance
- University of Saskatchewan

2.3.2 Marketing Techniques

Participants were contacted through an e-invite or emailed directly.

2.3.3 Analysis

The notes and table summaries collected during the workshop were provided to WSP and the City project team in consideration for the development of the Plans. All feedback was analyzed using mixed methods. Qualitative methods included a thematic analysis and open coding of responses to identify key themes.

2.3.4 What We Heard

Both WSP and the City were provided with a wealth of valuable information and feedback from participants during the workshop. Much of this information was technical or detailed in nature, such as the ecology, history and community uses for the site. Although all the information provided was considered and/or included in the development of the Plans, for the purposes of this report the sections below provide an overview of what we heard.

Current State of the Site

Many participants view the site as a place for both active recreation and enjoying nature, which is celebrated by user groups and the community. RSBBA is an important destination to residents of Saskatoon's southwest, especially since not many natural areas exist in this area. Participants identified that community members visit the site due to it being a short drive away, being easily walkable via the existing trails, and it offering a variety of recreational activities (ex. dog park, bike trails, etc.). The currently known uses for the site that were identified included:

- Citizen science
- Cycling, including fat tire, Skills (BMX), and informal biking
- Disc golfing (informal)
- Dog sledding
- Dog walking and use of the onsite dog park
- Educational programming, supporting place-based education and outdoor learning for all ages
- Geocaching
- Orienteering
- Passive recreation, such as walking/hiking
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing
- Training, such as search and rescue

Participants identified the ecological importance of RSBBA in encompassing habitats (ex. wetlands, forests, riparian areas, etc.) for many important species and in providing many ecosystem services (ex. stormwater management, carbon sequestration, etc.). Up to 36 species at risk have been found onsite and numerous community-led citizen science programs are providing more

information about the site every year. There is a gradient of habitat composition onsite, with the West side consisting of more micro-habitats and the East side being more uniform. The forests, being one of the main reasons to visit the site, separate into two distinct habitat types: 1) scotch pines to the West, and 2) poplar and blue spruce to the East. However, participants also identified that the site is changing, becoming more biologically diverse and naturalized as new trees are being established (ex. boreal forest trees).

Site Opportunities

Opportunities for the site that were identified by participants included:

Balance between conservation and site use: many of the participants stressed the need for balancing conservation with the human-uses for the site; over the last decade there is more support and collaboration between the onsite interested parties; this open communication has been beneficial for the site and needs to continue through strengthening relationships between users

Dark sky potential: due to being outside of the city, the site could be a valuable habitat for nocturnal wildlife and dark sky viewing

Disc golfing: representatives from Saskatoon Disc Golf identified the site as being a good location for a new beginner disc golf course; some participants expressed their concern for the potential impacts disc golfing could have on the surrounding trees and wildlife; however, representatives believed the impacts would be limited and that users would support onsite conservation practises while also deterring more illicit activities

Education: due to the rich history and story of the site, educational programming was supported by many participants; suggestions for educational programs included interpretive signs, citizen science (ex. bioblitzes), outdoor classrooms and using QR codes to tell the history of the site; having a greater presence onsite could also improve passive enforcement

Formal protection: participants encouraged the City to include RSBBA in their naturalized park programming or the Green Network; another participant called on Meewasin to include it within their conservation zone or future National Urban Park area

Harvesting: some participants identified that numerous native plants can be found onsite that could be harvested for food or traditional uses; incorporating food forests and pollinator gardens onsite could provide opportunities for education and address food security, while also supporting the history of the site

Improving access: participants suggested improvements to the site should be made to increase access to the site via active transportation; this could be done by developing trails out to the site

Parking: some participants identified the need for additional onsite parking, since most visitors need to drive to the site

Site Barriers and Improvements

Participants identified numerous barriers or improvements for the site, which were summarized into the following themes:

Information gaps: participants identified that although much is known about how the site is used, information gaps still exist and need to be addressed when implementing the Plans; some of the information gaps included the local hydrology and water drainage (i.e., from the West Swale to the

South Saskatchewan River), Indigenous traditional knowledge about the site, plant species composition, future development plans (ex. Riel Industrial Sector Plan) and the current state/health of the forest

Invasives species: participants stressed the need for onsite invasive species and noxious weed management; some species identified included European buckthorn, smooth brome and caragana

Maintenance and enforcement: some participants identified that garbage and illegal dumping are a consistent onsite issue; participants suggested that often illicit activities are not followed up on due to confusion surrounding who oversees onsite enforcement; additional resources are needed for garbage removal, maintaining fencing and regular site enforcement

Off-trail access: it was identified that although most users stay on the trails when visiting the site, users who do not can greatly impact the ecology of the site; some examples included onsite motor vehicles (i.e., cars, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.), BMX bicycles, and off-leash dogs

Trails: many participants feel that the current trails need to be improved to allow for less maintenance needs and better accessibility; suggestions included making trails that are wider, of a better composition (ex. crusher dust), and more actively maintained; some participants noted that cycling can greatly impact the trails, however cycling user groups have made significant improvements to the trails to support their continued use and limit degradation when possible

Utility corridors and railway lines: the SaskPower and SaskEnergy utility lines dissect the property, providing wildlife corridors that need restoration; the Northeast railway line limits access to the site, potentially introduces contaminants and presents the risk of wildfire; participants suggested collaborating with the utilities to inform them of the Plans and partner on solutions

Targets

Following the discussions above and the Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation strategic process, participants were tasked with identifying the targets (i.e., conservation or human well-being) that would build the framework for the site management plan. First participants were provided a list of potential targets that were developed by the project team. Then they were asked to identify any potential targets that were missing. Finally, participants prioritized the targets through discussions and voted on the three key targets to be discussed for the remainder of the workshop. The following table shows the outcome of this exercise:

Table 3: Ranking of RSBBA targets

Priority	Potential Targets
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests • Wetlands • Human health and recreation • Education • Grasslands (naturalized or restored)
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity, access and accessibility • Canopy preservation • Culture, heritage and history • Ecological diversity • Enforcement • Maintenance • Restoration/remediation • Species at risk (ex. bats, yellow lady slipper, northern leopard frog, etc.)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan for invasive and unwanted species (ex. wild boar) • Access and connections to other trails • Grasslands • Illicit activities (ex. hunting, vandalism, etc.) and enforcement • Learning from the land and placed-based learning • Safety • Wildlife management

Following the discussions, the participants collectively selected forests, wetlands and human health as the most important targets for the site. This combination of conservation and human well-being targets allowed participants to continue to discuss the balance between conservation and site uses.

Threats and Mitigations

Participants were asked to identify and prioritize the site-specific threats to each of the three targets (i.e., forests, wetlands, and human health) identified earlier. Following this, participants then provided suggestions for mitigation measures for each of the proposed threats. The identified threats and mitigation measures are summarized in the table below (Table 4).

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Table 4: RSBBA threats and mitigations

Target	Importance	Threats	Mitigations
Forests	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and drought • Fires (ex. wildfires, smoking, trains, etc.) • Improper trail use, such as going off trails • No funding • No management nor maintenance of site • Off-leash dogs outside of the dog park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include adaptative management strategies within the management plan • Use controlled burns when possible and educate about fire safety • Use bylaws, signage and stewards to explain/enforce staying on trails • Acquire consistent funding for the Plans and their future implementation • Create a management plan that incorporates ongoing maintenance • Use engaging signage the delivers messaging in plain language
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insects and disease • Invasive species • Limiting wildlife movements and connectivity • Overharvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring program that assess trees on a regular basis (i.e., annually) • Conduct a species distribution assessment to determine the locations and impacts of invasive species • Monitor and assess current wildlife movements to determine corridor enhancements • Test harvesting in experimental/pilot areas first to determine optimal harvesting practices
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light and noise pollution • Operations of utilities and railway • Snow management facility impacts • Unclear and uncontrolled site uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address with education, bylaws and enforcement • Enrich right-of-ways and utility corridors with native species and partner with adjacent landowners • More information is needed on the potential impacts • Create community stewards with user groups for passive enforcement
Wetlands	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to the hydrology and natural flow of water • Impacts of humans (ex. ATVs, bikes, off-leash dogs etc.) on riparian areas • Invasive species • Limiting wildlife movements and connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study local hydrology to understand the flow and maintain the Chappell Marsh culvert • Create buffers, enforce through bylaws, manage access to wetlands and educate through signage and passive enforcement • Monitor for early detection (ex. citizen science) and have an invasives species plan • Create buffers/fencing for corridors and study their locations (ex. UWIN)
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to water quality from railway, farmland and other sources • Climate change and drought • Ecological succession and impacts to species at risk • Impacts of stormwater management (ex. water levels in the West Swale) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test water quality regularly and determine impacts from sources • Determine the impacts of climate change to determine mitigations • Map the species distributions onsite to determine next steps • More information is needed

	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light and noise pollution • Overharvesting wild and native species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine baseline data on current light and noise pollution • Catalogue species and their distributions across the site to monitor
Human Health	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of human access/intrusions and disturbance (ex. vandalism, illicit activities) • Pollution (i.e., garbage, light, noise, dog feces, illegal dumping etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the community in being stewards for the site • Support passive enforcement through stewardship efforts
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species • Impacts of surrounding land development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active monitoring and management • More information is needed
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural system modification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified



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Other Considerations

When asked what about the site is important for the project team to consider when development the Plans, participants provided the following themes:

Connectivity: it was identified that the connectivity of the landscape is important to consider, especially from the West Swale to the South Saskatchewan River; this includes accounting and monitoring the connectivity of the local hydrology, seed transfer/pollination and wildlife movements

History of the site: the origin and history of the site needs to be shared through education, since it is fundamental to what makes the site important

Trails: the trails are vitally important to the site, allowing visitors to experience and access the numerous features; regular trail maintenance has greatly improved the area, although secondary dirt trails can still encourage off-trail use

Wildlife: the site is an important habitat for birds, native plants/trees and pollinators; few mammals are found onsite, most likely due to the more active use of the site (ex. dog walking, biking, etc.); numerous species at risk have been found onsite and regular further monitoring

2.4 Small Swale Workshop

Similar to the workshop for RSBBA, select Subject Matter Experts and User Groups with intimate knowledge of the Small Swale were invited for a full-day workshop to gain their feedback on:

- What is important for the City to consider for the management plan?
- How is the site currently being used, and what are the future opportunities for the site?
- How could the site be enhanced to support people and the species that call it home?

The workshop format and methodology followed the same [Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation](#) strategic process and format as described above. Representatives from WSP and the City facilitated the discussions, acted as notetakers and provided additional context when requested.

2.4.1 Intended Audience

A total of 25 representatives of select Subject Matter Experts and User Groups participated, including the following:

- City of Saskatoon
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Meewasin
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatoon Land
- Saskatoon Nature Society
- Saskatoon Swalewatchers
- Saskatoon Wildlife Federation
- University of Saskatchewan
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park

- Wild About Saskatoon

2.4.2 Marketing Techniques

Participants were contacted through an e-invite or emailed directly.

2.4.3 Analysis

The notes and table summaries collected during the workshop were provided to WSP and the City project team in consideration for the development of the Plans. All feedback was analyzed using mixed methods. Qualitative methods included a thematic analysis and open coding of responses to identify key themes.

2.4.4 What We Heard

WSP and the City were provided with a wealth of valuable information and feedback from participants during the workshop. Much of this information was more technical or detailed in nature, such as the ecology and past monitoring efforts at the site. Although all the information provided was considered and/or included in the development of the Plans, for the purposes of this report the sections below provide an overview of what we heard.

Current State of the Site

Participants emphasized the importance of the ecological integrity and diversity of the site, with one participant identifying that the natural asset valuation project noted the Small Swale as being of highest value to the community due to the many ecosystem services it provides, species at risk it includes, and biological diversity it encompasses. Consisting of primarily both wetland and grassland habitats, participants identified that the Small Swale contains many micro-habitats, such as fescue grasslands. There are areas of high-quality native grasslands that are adjacent to highly disturbed, non-native grassland areas; however, both types act as important habitat and provide valuable ecosystem services. Participants noted that areas identified as “unhealthy” could be managed, enhanced and/or restored with active management, time, and proper funding.

Participants identified the site as having biological features that are unique to Saskatoon. The diversity of native plants found onsite, such as sweet grass, hold cultural connections to the community and Indigenous people, as well as provide potential sources for traditional harvesting and knowledge. Rare plants, such as crowfoot violet and marsh felwort, are scattered throughout the site. The Small Swale is actively used by breeding birds (ex. sharp tailed grouse), amphibians (ex. tiger salamanders, northern leopard frogs, etc.), reptiles, and numerous mammals (ex. deer, moose, badger, etc.), with some identified as species at risk. The site also contains many valuable site features, such as bison rubbing stones and archeological sites.

Participants identified that access to the site by the community is currently limited, with most users being naturalists and walkers.

Site Opportunities

Opportunities for the site that were identified by participants included:

Buffers: participants identified that having wide buffers between the site and future human development/activities, such as using native plants in the greenways between the site and residential areas, allow for the site to be more resilient to environmental stressors (ex. invasive species, pollution, etc.); participants stressed the importance of using the pre-defined buffer sizes for species at risk; some participants suggested using wildlife-friendly fencing to limit human disturbance and illicit activities onsite

Connectivity: many participants stressed that connectivity (ex. wildlife movements, hydrology, etc.) is vitally important for the site; this includes the connectivity within the swale, between swales (i.e., Northeast Swale) and to the river valley for wildlife, pollinators and humans; participants emphasized that maintaining a connection to the river and the Northeast Swale (i.e., across McOrmond Road) is essential; it is also important for the project team to consider potential connections to existing trails and public access; some participants provided suggestions for future corridor locations on the maps provided during the workshop

Education: educational programming was supported by participants; suggestions for educational programs included citizen science programs, outdoor classrooms, and interpretive programs on the various site features (i.e., ecological, paleontological, heritage, etc.)

Formal protection: participants encouraged the City to include the Small Swale in their naturalized park inventory and Green Network; participants called on Meewasin to include the site within their conservation zone and future National Urban Park

History of the site: the origin and history of the site needs further research; traditional uses and knowledge of the site are an important piece in better understanding the Indigenous connections to the Small Swale; we also lack an understanding of the history of the site, such as the locations of heritage sites, (ex. the Moosewood trail and campsites), paleontological research and archeological research

Partnerships: some participants suggested that the City should partner with local conservation organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada and Meewasin, in conserving and managing the site; partnering with environmental and community-based organizations to collect data through citizen science was supported by participants

Recreational opportunities: participants identified that the site is currently not being used for recreational purposes, but low-impact passive recreation would be supported in disturbed/designated areas; participants stressed that recreational activities should not occur areas with high-quality habitat; participants emphasized that this site should not include opportunities or centres for active recreation (ex. sports fields)

Traditional harvesting: some participants identified that numerous native plants can be found onsite that could be harvested for traditional use; one participant suggested that site could be used for Indigenous ceremonies

Site Barriers and Improvements

Participants identified numerous barriers or improvements for the site, which were summarized into the following themes:

Development pressures: many participants stressed that the site is under extreme threat from the current and future development plans around the Small Swale; the Saskatoon Freeway project and University Heights 3 Neighbourhood Concept Plan were identified by many as major threats to the ecological integrity of the site; roadways that cut through the site greatly limits the connectivity for the wildlife; participants encouraged the City to apply the lessons learned from the Northeast Swale to the Small Swale

Information gaps: participants identified that numerous information gaps exist and need to be addressed when implementing the Plans; some of the information gaps identified by participants included the local hydrology (both surface and ground water), Indigenous traditional knowledge about the site, future development plans (i.e., University Heights 3 Neighbourhood, the Saskatoon Freeway project), the location of active wildlife corridors, and a full classification of the existing habitats onsite

Invasive species: participants stressed the need for onsite invasive species and noxious weed management; some species identified included European buckthorn and smooth brome

Light and noise pollution: participants identified that due to the site’s proximity to the city, both light and noise pollution are already negatively impacting the site (ex. impacting bird calls); future development and construction will only further these negative impacts

Maintenance and enforcement: some participants identified that garbage and illegal dumping are a consistent onsite issue

Parking: onsite parking is currently limited and not monitored, leading to safety concerns

Site division: some participants stated that there are large enough ecological differences between the areas North and South of McOrmond Drive to support different management strategies; both species diversity and habitat quality are much higher in areas North of McOrmond Drive, thus supporting the greater need for conservation in this area; some felt that recreational activities and greater human access should be focused in the South where disturbance is greater

Snow dump: some participants identified the City’s snow dump as a gateway for the introduction of contaminants and invasive species within the site; participants suggested there may be opportunities to remediate the snow dump as a more natural stormwater feature, however more research was needed; one participant suggested repurposing the snow dump for another use, such as an off-leash dog park

Targets

Following the discussions above and the Open Standards for the Practise of Conservation strategic process, participants were tasked with identifying the targets (i.e., conservation or human well-being) that would build the framework for the site management plan. First participants were provided a list of potential targets that were developed by the project team. Then they were asked to identify any potential targets that were missing from this list. Finally, participants prioritized the targets through discussions and voted for the three key targets to be discussed for the remainder of the workshop. The following table shows the outcome of this exercise:

Table 5: Ranking of Small Swale targets

Priority	Potential Targets
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasslands (both native and modified) • Wetlands • Human health • Connectivity • Ecological integrity • Education
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity • Culture, heritage and history • Ecological diversity and abundance • Ecosystem services • Northern leopard frog • Species at risk, rare species and culturally significant species
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and connections to other trails • Crowfoot violet • Illicit activities (ex. dumping) and enforcement • Marsh felwort • Passive recreation and use • Riparian forests • Rough fescue

Following the discussions, the participants collectively chose grasslands, wetlands and human health as the most important targets for the site.

Threats and Mitigations

Participants were asked to identify and prioritize the site-specific threats to each of the three targets (i.e., grasslands, wetlands and human health) identified earlier. Following this, participants then provided suggestions for mitigation measures for each of the proposed threats. The identified threats and mitigation measures are summarized in the table below (Table 5).

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Table 6: Small Swale threats and mitigations

Target	Importance	Threats	Mitigations
Grasslands	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human intrusions and disturbance (ex. unwanted activities, off trail access, etc.) • Natural systems modification (ex. lack of grazing and controlled burns) • Invasive and problematic species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper funding for management and education for adjacent landowners • Use appropriately-sized buffers and design neighbourhoods that support active management • Implement and enforce bylaws for planting invasive species
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution (ex. stormwater runoff, snow dump, pesticides, etc.) • Residential development • Transportation and service corridors (ex. Saskatoon freeway, Central Avenue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research is needed to determine potential impacts to the site • Educate owners/developers and build in conservation easements and restrictions (ex. dark sky lighting) for adjacent property owners • Change the alignment of the freeway, decommission unneeded roadways and enforce speed limits that support wildlife movements
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research is needed
Wetlands	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the snow dump on water quality and contaminants • Runoff from developments • Invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contain the contaminants, monitor water quality and find a new site • Update the stormwater plan, create minimum water quality standards and educate property owners • Monitor and actively remove invasive species
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overuse and disturbance • Impacts to local hydrology • Habitat degradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus human activities and access to south of McOrmond Dr. and expand north • More research is needed on the water quality and local hydrology • Mimic natural disturbances, such as controlled burns and grazing
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of utility corridors • Impacts of roadways to air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified • None identified
Human Wellbeing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of development and roadways (ex. UH3, Saskatoon freeway) • Pollution (ex. light and noise pollution, contaminants, etc.) • Limiting cultural practises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the community in stewardship for the site and support visitors • Bylaw enforcement and monitor contaminants • Establishing partnerships and working closely with the community

	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of information on potential impacts to human health • Invasive species • Limited access and accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research is needed • Educating adjacent property owners about what they should not plant • Focus human activities in defined areas and follow accessibility standards
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irresponsible and unwanted recreational activities • Safety (ex. animal and human interactions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate appropriate buffers • Educating users through signage on how to respect the site and what to report



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2.5 Richard St. Barbe Baker Information Session

A virtual information session was held on September 19, 2023 for Subject Matter Experts and User Groups. During the information session representatives from WSP and the City's project team presented the draft Plans and answer questions from the participants in attendance. The information session was held virtually via Microsoft Teams and consisted of a 30-minute presentation, followed by a 60-minute question and answer period via Pigeonhole Live.

2.5.1 Intended Audience

All applicable Subject Matter Experts and User Groups were invited to the information session. A total of 35 participants attended the event.

2.5.2 Marketing Techniques

The following marketing techniques were used for the event:

1. City Website
 - a. Updates to the Engage Page were made to encourage participation
2. E-invites
 - a. Personalized emails were sent to participants asking them to share the e-invite with their members and other interested parties
 - b. The adjacent community associations were provided the e-invite to be sent to their memberships
3. Printable Poster
 - a. An 8.5" x 11" printable poster was sent to the community associations to be posted on the community boards.

2.5.3 Analysis

The results were analyzed using qualitative methods, including the thematic analysis and open coding of responses.

2.5.4 What We Heard

Considerations provided by participants during the event included the following themes:

Connectivity: one participant called on the project team to develop corridors to enhance wildlife movements onsite

Disc Golf: representatives from the disc golf community emphasized that, although not currently included, the addition of a disc golf course could further encourage the use of the site while also promoting active recreation in Saskatoon. Participants identified that they have been looking for a site for many years and felt that RSBBA would be an ideal location for a disc golf course, since one of the goals of the sport was to work with the land. Other feedback received indicated there was a concern that disc golf would damage trees, and that a formal disc golf course could not be supported by current parking availability.

Fire: a participant from the surrounding community expressed their concern for wildfire within the site and stressed the need for signage and greater enforcement for public fires; another participant expressed their interest in using the site for ceremonies and emphasized the need to educate the surrounding community about ceremonial fires

Forest management: some participants called for better management of the forested areas, especially areas with greater scotch pine, caragana and blue spruce; participants would prefer to see more native species planted onsite

Impacts of dogs onsite: one participant felt that the presence of deer and other wildlife has decreased since the introduction of the off-leash dog park to the area; another participant expressed their concern for the lack of signage around the current dog park, since users should be made aware of the expectations for dogs and their owners; other participants identified that off-leash dogs have been a consistent issue for the site

Mountain biking: one participant suggested that the site has great potential for mountain biking and encouraged the project team to consider some minor modifications to make the site more accessible to these users

Support: many participants stated that they support the Plans and the efforts taken by the City to enhance and better protect the site

“I agree, thanks to the city and to WSP, amazing work.”

Trails: the Plans needs to account for how we can discourage users going off the existing trails to limit damage to new seedlings and vegetation; one participant asked how can we better protect sensitive species in high traffic areas/trails

Wetlands: participants thanked the project team for changing the location of the docks to the east side of the wetlands to better support shorebirds in the area; one participant asked if the trails that are close to the wetlands can be moved further away to allow for a large buffer for the riparian area

2.6 Small Swale Information Session

A virtual information session was held on September 21, 2023 for applicable Subject Matter Experts and User Groups. The format and logistics for the information session were the same as the RSBBA Information Session described above.

2.6.1 Intended Audience

All applicable Subject Matter Experts and User Groups were invited to the information session. A total of 22 participants attended the event.

2.6.2 Marketing Techniques

The following marketing techniques were used for the event:

1. City Website
 - a. Updates to the Engage Page were made to encourage participation
2. E-invites
 - a. Personalized emails were sent to participants asking them to share the e-invite with their members and other interested parties

2.6.3 Analysis

The results were analyzed using qualitative methods, including the thematic analysis and open coding of responses.

2.6.4 What We Heard

Considerations provided by participants during the event included the following themes:

City limits: one participant called on the City to purchase and plan for incorporating the lands north of the Small Swale into the Plans to allow for future expansion of the site

Connectivity: participants stressed the importance of connectivity between the Small and Northeast Swales; one participant asked whether connectivity could be restored at the portion of McOrmond Drive that intersects the Swales, as well as along Central Avenue; another participant suggested removing the parking lot between the Small Swale and Peggy McKercher Conservation Area to improve the connectivity to the river valley

“The small swale management area seem truncated at both ends. The swale is a complete system system that starts on the west end at river and continues well north if you limits. Why?”

Illicit uses: one participant asked how the Plan will deter illicit uses of the site, such as illegal dumping; another participant suggested that having washrooms available in more isolated areas may encourage unwanted behaviours and the need for increased maintenance, therefore having either temporary washrooms or placing them near the gathering space was preferred

Lighting: participants supported implementing dark sky standards into the Plans, asking whether adjacent property owners could adhere to dark sky standards for outdoor lighting; another participant asked whether artificial lighting was needed onsite, suggesting that the site could be accessed from dawn to dusk like other natural areas (ex. Cranberry Flats) and be dark-sky compliant

Restoration: participants called on the City to prioritize restoring the damaged grasslands at the snow dump, which would require soil testing and treatment measures; another participant suggested that stormwater ponds often require excavation and replanting, so the Plan should account for future restoration in these areas

Support: participants thanked the City for continuing to engage on this project and for the work being done

Trail substrate: many participants stated that they would prefer switching from using hard-surfaced trails to more natural, mowed trails; participants felt that although they preferred the use of crusher dust to asphalt, mowed trails have been proven to work at the Northeast Swale and establish better connections to the land for visitors

“The plan calls for hard-surfaced trails. Walking on the Earth helps us feel our connection with the land and the rest of life. Couldn't we please have natural trails?”

2.7 Elders and Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Land, Culture, and Wellness

In 2023, the City worked with multiple partners including Meewasin to engage with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers on topics related to caring for the land and cultural revitalization. On October 11 and 12, 2023, a gathering of Elders and Knowledge Keepers took place at the Saskatoon Wildlife Foundation. The event was hosted by Meewasin and supported by the City and other community partners.

The gathering included a fire ceremony and discussions on four main themes:

- Urban Cultural Spaces
- Traditional Knowledge and Stories
- Traditional Plants and Uses
- Natural Areas and Green Spaces

This engagement was part of a larger initiative that multiple organizations are undertaking to build relationships with Indigenous organizations and rightsholders, Elders and knowledge keepers, and communities. The gathering was a starting place for further dialogue, but additional work is needed to build relationships, engage with communities in a meaningful and authentic way, and thoughtfully incorporate what is heard into applicable projects.

2.7.1 Intended Audience

Over 45 Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and katayak participated in the event, as well as 25 helpers from the Let's Lead Nikanetan program at Westmount Elementary School and numerous staff from Meewasin and the City.

2.7.2 Marketing Techniques

Marketing for the event was led by Meewasin and Medicine Rope Strategies.

2.7.3 Analysis

The results were analyzed by Medicine Rope Strategies and validated by the participants using qualitative methods, including the thematic analysis and open coding of responses.

2.7.4 What We Heard

The final engagement summary for the event is being finalized with Medicine Rope Strategies and Elders who were present at the event. If appropriate, the summary may be shared with a wider audience.

EVALUATION OF ENGAGEMENT

Evaluation is discussed in terms of feedback received during engagement activities and through informal comments, data limitations and opportunities for improvement.

2.8 Informal Feedback

Informal feedback was received through meetings and the workshop, where participants indicated that they appreciated being engaged in the project. Some participants expressed their support for the City collaborating with community and user groups in the decision-making process and for engaging with a diversity of community members on this project.

“... I am very encouraged by this draft. You are listening carefully in a way that clarifies and simplifies your proposal. Thank you!”

2.9 Data Limitations

We recognize that some community members may not have been able to fully participate in the engagement activities conducted; however, the results are considered to provide the best available indication of how the community perceives the Plans and considerations at this time.

2.10 Opportunities for Improvement

Based on participant feedback, the following opportunities for improvement will be considered for future engagement activities:

- Any written or verbal information uses plain language and easy-to-understand terms
- Considerations for engaging with Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders with intimate knowledge of the sites needs to be incorporated into future engagement opportunities.

3 NEXT STEPS

The Plans will be presented to Committee and City Council in May 2024. We thank all participants who provided their feedback for this and other City of Saskatoon projects.



Administrative Summary of the Small Swale Natural Area Management Plan and Conceptual Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

The City of Saskatoon's Green Infrastructure Strategy includes a goal to protect, restore, and manage significant natural areas in Saskatoon, including the Small Swale. However, there are significant challenges to conserving this site including incompatible current land uses, a lack of a dedicated funding source and service level, and impacts from current and future nearby developments.

In 2023, WSP Canada, Inc., was contracted by the City of Saskatoon (the City) to complete a [Natural Area Management Plan and Conceptual Master Plan](#) (the Plans) for the Small Swale. The Plans outline the steps needed to conserve the ecological and cultural elements of the Small Swale and provide a connection to nature for current and future generations. The Plans are intended to guide the conservation of the Small Swale but are not a directive. They are to be viewed as living documents and should be updated as new information becomes available, at least once every ten years.

The Plans are informed by, and build upon, previous guidance prepared for the Northeast Swale, including the [Northeast Swale Development Guidelines](#) (2012), the [Northeast Swale Resource Management Plan](#) (2013), and the [Meewasin Northeast Swale Master Plan](#) (2015). The Small Swale has a similar ecological and development context to the Northeast Swale, so this existing guidance related to resource management, design considerations, and buffers is highly applicable. The Plans were informed by additional guiding documents and data sources including the [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) (2020), the [Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan](#) (2017), and the [University Heights 3 Natural Area Screening Report](#) (2021).

The creation of the Plans is one step of many needed to protect, restore, and manage the Small Swale. Additional work is needed to establish a service level for the site, implement ecological restoration and site enhancements, and complete ongoing resource management. Site risks to be addressed include the Central Avenue Snow Storage Facility, remediation of areas south of McOrmond Drive, and consideration of the role of the Small Swale in supporting storm water management for the future University Heights No. 3 Neighbourhood. Completion of this work will be subject to funding, including capital funding to implement site enhancements and restoration, and operating funding to maintain a dedicated service level.

About the Small Swale

The Small Swale is a major ecosystem complex composed of mainly wetland and grassland habitats. It is similar ecologically to the Northeast Swale and contains several wetlands with a diversity of species and wetland permanency classes. While the ecological extent of the Small Swale extends outside City limits, the scope covered by the Small Swale Plans considers only the area currently within City limits.

Vision Statement for the Small Swale

A vibrant mosaic of native grasslands and wetlands.

A home and corridor for wildlife, where nature and history are celebrated.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Small Swale is subject to the policies and regulations of the City of Saskatoon (City). The highest-order planning documents for the City include the [Official Community Plan No. 9700](#) (OCP; City of Saskatoon 2020a), and the accompanying [Zoning Bylaw No. 8770](#) (City of Saskatoon, 2023a). The site is a major wetland complex and as such is protected by the [Wetland Policy \(C09-041\)](#).

A portion of the Small Swale is within the Meewasin Conservation Zone. Approval is required from the Authority on any improvement valued over \$25,000 in accordance with the [Meewasin Valley Authority Act](#) (Government of Saskatchewan, 1979).

Meewasin's Northeast Policy, which was endorsed by City Council in 2015, contains a recommendation to include the portion of the Small Swale within City limits as public land part of the Meewasin Valley.

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Land cover

The Small Swale is a post-glacial channel scar and part of the prairie pothole region. It contains 6.6 hectares (ha) of Native Dominated Grasslands, 21.8 ha of Native Dominated Tame Grasslands, 6.4 ha of Tame Grassland, and 25.1 ha of wetlands. The wetlands have various classifications and are in varying degrees of health. The largest, a Class V wetland, is bisected by McOrmond Drive.

Flora

The site includes pockets of native grassland species and introduced species such as smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Rangeland health assessments completed in 2019 indicate that "unhealthy" grassland areas still contained an abundance of native forbs such as blue lettuce, many-flowered aster, and prairie sage.

Six flora SOMC are confirmed or highly likely to be on site ranging from S1 to S3 in sensitivity ratings. These were: Crawe's sedge, crowfoot violet, few-flowered aster,

plains rough fescue, three-lobed beggarticks, and Western red lily. Crowfoot violet and plains rough fescue are also species of restoration interest.

There are many citizen science records of additional flora in the area that require confirmation.

Fauna

Seven fauna SOMC are confirmed on site with northern leopard frog also identified as a species of conservation interest. Five culturally significant species have also been recorded.

Culturally significant species

Species that may be of interest to Indigenous communities were considered, but it was determined that additional engagement is needed prior to preparing detailed content or recommendations. Any content prepared in future must be respectful of any sensitivities with respect to the role and location of important species.

Noxious or nuisance weeds

At least eleven noxious and nuisance weed species have been documented on site including leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, scentless chamomile, and common tansy.

Wildlife movement

Wildlife passage through the site is mostly unrestricted based on the habitat present and lack of development. However, major barriers such as McOrmond Drive and South Grid Road likely inhibit wildlife movement across the Small Swale. Additionally, upcoming planned developments in the area will likely reduce wildlife movement in future.

HUMAN CONTEXT

History

Métis, First Nations, and early settlers to the area later named Saskatoon used the Moose Woods-Batoche Trail, which extends into the Small Swale, as a route of travel from Moose Jaw, SK.

Historically, the greater swale network has shown evidence of attempted limestone quarrying from boulders that were deposited through glacial movement (MVA, 2013). In more recent years, past uses of the site are mostly related to agricultural uses, such as grazing and cultivated cropland. An inactive gravel pit is in the northern sections of the Project Study Area outside the site, which has caused historical disturbance to natural habitat.

Heritage and Cultural Significance

The Small Swale is known to be historically significant, with a strong possibility of holding cultural significance. The entire area studied has a high Heritage Sensitivity.

The Riddell Paleontological Site is an archaeological site in the southern portion of the Small Swale. It is recommended to be preserved and considered as a future candidate for designation as Provincial Heritage Property. A paleontological Heritage Resources Impact Assessment (pHRIA) completed in 2021 recommends that the site be protected from future development, which include forming a buffer and preparation of a paleontological impact mitigation plan where development is unavoidable.

Ownership and Easements

The site and much of the surrounding lands are owned by the City of Saskatoon. A portion of the site falls under the jurisdiction of Meewasin Valley Authority.

The closest privately owned lands are located directly across from South Grid Road (north of Peggy McKercher Conservation Area), the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation to the east (across from Central Avenue), and a private property between Agra Road and Central Avenue. The entirety of the site falls within the City of Saskatoon limits.

Two easement holders are present and include the following:

- SaskTel holds a Right-Of-Way (ROW) oriented north-to-south to accommodate a buried 36-meter-wide cable.
- SaskPower holds an overhead power line south of McOrmond Drive that travels north-to-south. While there is currently no registered agreement, SaskPower has recommended a 5-meter-wide ROW be used for planning purposes.

Current Uses

The area north of McOrmond Drive is largely undisturbed and is not currently programmed or actively being used for recreational or other purposes.

Apart from the Riddell Paleontological Site, a large portion of the area south of McOrmond Drive is disturbed or actively being used for agricultural purposes.

Current land uses include agriculture, materials handling, transportation corridor, Central Avenue Snow Storage Facility, storm water management, informal recreational use, hunting, and illegal dumping.

User Groups

There are currently no formal user groups utilizing the area. The site is currently unprogrammed; however, residents informally visit the site for activities like birdwatching, cycling, hiking, biking, and dog walking.

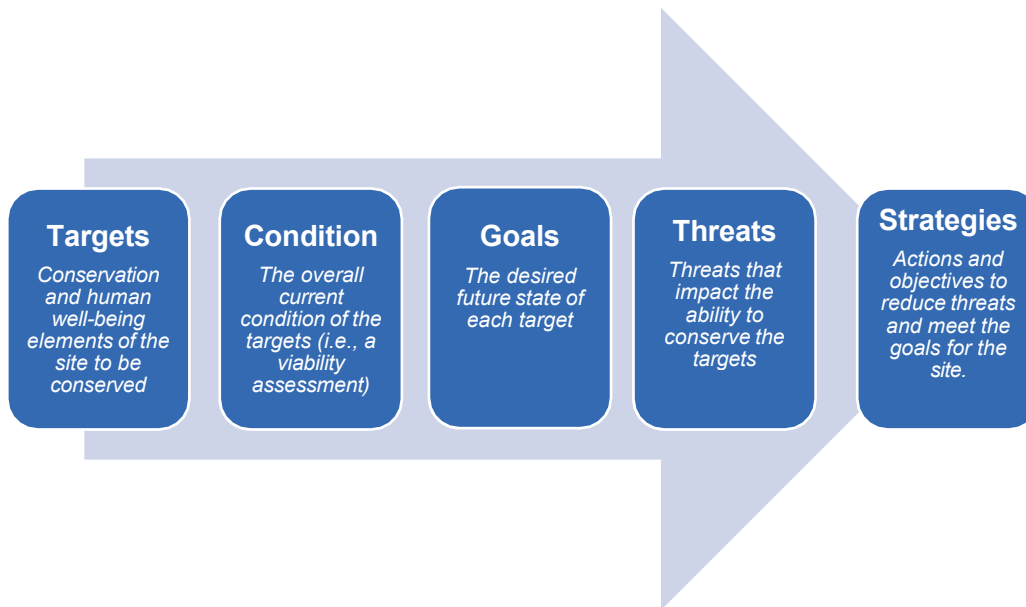
Unsanctioned Uses

Unsanctioned uses of the site have been reported, including illegal hunting, illegal fires, illegal dumping, illegal vehicular use, and unsanctioned trail formation.

CONSERVATION PLAN

Methodology

The [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation \(2020\)](#) (Conservation Standards) was used to prepare the Small Swale Plans. Using this approach, the Small Swale Plans identify the targets, condition, goals, threats, and strategies for the site, as shown below.



Targets, Condition, and Goals

Targets are the elements of the Small Swale that are intended to be conserved. The final list of targets, their current condition, and goals for each target are included in the table below.

Target	Description	Current Condition	Goals
Prairie	The prairie ecosystems at the Small Swale hold considerable importance by providing ecosystem services. As one of the world's most endangered ecosystems, the native grasslands are a crucial part of the conservation of the site. Prairie sub-targets were identified and include fescue prairie, mixedgrass prairie, modified grasslands, and SOMC.	Fair <i>(Rating based on the spatial extent of the prairie, the extent of area managed to replicate natural disturbance regimes, and condition of vegetation including SOMC)</i>	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> total hectares of native dominant grassland, native dominant tame grassland, and tame grassland have increased from a recorded baseline; prairie areas undergo regular 'natural' disturbance regimes; overall site vegetation community, structure, diversity, and cover is considered healthy; undesirable species (e.g., weeds) are managed; SOMC and Culturally Significant Species are abundant and diverse; and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> native flora and fauna species are abundant and diverse.
Wetlands	Wetlands play a significant role in biodiversity, water filtration, and flood control. Wetlands at the Small Swale are home to many species including northern leopard frog.	<p>Good</p> <p><i>(Rating based on the extent of wetlands, water quality, function of catchment areas, and native fauna abundance and diversity.)</i></p>	<p>By 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the spatial extent of wetlands is maintained from a recorded baseline and chosen pre-development status; hydrological inputs are maintained, and wetlands are considered 'functioning' (when the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) is applied); water quality is appropriate for restoration/maintenance/enhancement end target or parallels reference community used; SOMC and Culturally Significant Species are abundant and diverse; and native flora and fauna species are abundant and diverse.
Ecological Connectivity	Connectivity is the level of ease with which species can travel between habitat patches. Connectivity includes both intra-connectivity (connections within the Small Swale) and inter-connectivity (connections between the Small Swale and other natural areas).	<p>Poor</p> <p><i>(Rating based on the existence of strategies that are implemented to mitigate connectivity barriers).</i></p>	<p>By 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connectivity is maintained/enhanced, and wildlife move freely throughout the site; and connectivity corridors with other retained natural areas located in the Meewasin Valley that are in relative proximity to the site have been considered, established, and are functioning.
Historical and Cultural Connection		Not assessed	<p>By 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> historically and culturally significant features are identified and protected; and historical and cultural programs are developed and implemented.
Education and Connection to Nature	Education and connection to nature help to create a relationship to the land and encourage users to take care of the site. This can be achieved through activities like guided tours, interpretive signage, citizen science, and	Not assessed	<p>By 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational programs are identified and implemented; and infrastructure and programs allow for a connection to the landscape.

	partnerships with local groups.		
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Threats

Various threats were identified that may impact the ability to conserve the targets. The threats, and the degree to which they may be impacting each target, is shown in the table below.

Threat	Example of Threat	Risk to Conservation Target			Threat Summary
		Forest	Wetlands	Ecological Connectivity	
Introduction of Invasive & Undesirable Species	Introduction of noxious weeds, pests and diseases, or invasive wildlife	Very high	Very high	n/a	Very high
Incompatible external land use	Existing and future transportation routes, future land use changes	High	High	High	High
Incompatible human use	Existing snow storage and materials storage facility, illegal uses such as dumping and hunting, irresponsible recreational uses	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high
Suppression of natural disturbance regimes	Suppression of fire, grazing, and flooding	High	High	Very high	High
Fragmentation and barriers	Fences, walls, high-risk wildlife movement barriers, future development, loss of connectivity between site and other natural areas	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Water management	Negative alterations to water bodies and hydrological systems	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high
Frequency and severity of storms	Flooding, wildfires, snowstorms, and hail	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high
Increasing average temperatures and drought	Heat stress to people, plants, and wildlife	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high

Changes to precipitation	Drought stress to people, plants, and wildlife	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high
Summary Target Ratings		Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high

Conservation Strategies

To reduce the threats and achieve the goals for each target, the following management strategies are recommended:

1. **Baseline data collection and data management:** Ongoing biophysical data collection and analysis (e.g., targeted baseline and monitoring) in an appropriate timeframe to support and confirm the successful execution of the conservation tools developed to restore/reclaim/enhance aspects of the site. Development of a data management system to collect, store and share data.
2. **Policy, enforcement, and urban planning:** Establish protection of the site through existing planning tools acquisition of additional lands; existing and future policy; ongoing governance and enforcement.
3. **Buffering of adjacent lands:** Reduce threats of invasive species and improve degraded lands through enhancement and improvement initiatives.
4. **Enhancements and improvements:** Reduce threats of invasive species and improve degraded lands through enhancement and improvement initiatives.
5. **Invasive and undesirable species management:** Control of invasive and undesirable species pursuant to applicable provincial legislation, regulations, policies, guidelines and bylaws.
6. **Natural disturbance regime management:** Develop and implement natural disturbance regime management to promote healthy vegetation communities which normally would be subject to natural disturbances.
7. **SOMC management:** Protection of identified habitat and sensitive locations for known (current and future) SOMC within the site based on baseline/monitoring analysis, and present and future standards.
8. **Historically and culturally significant species and features management:** Historically and culturally significant species and features identified, protected, enhanced and celebrated.
9. **Water management:** Management of all hydrological features within the site.
10. **Ecological connectivity management:** Management of intra and inter-connectivity.
11. **Human use programming:** Planning for responsible human use of the site.

Detailed recommendations regarding the implementation of these strategies are included in the Plans, and should be referenced prior to conservation work occurring.

HUMAN USE PLAN

The Human Use Plan provides recommendations for appropriate programming of the Small Swale while considering environmental sensitivities. Considerations include restrictions on use, the infrastructure required to support the recommended uses, and opportunities for community stewardship. These recommendations are intended to guide future site improvements.

Programming and Management Zones

Three management zones are proposed for the site, which will inform programming, management, and placement of appropriate site uses. The table below provides a summary of each zone.

Management Zone	Spatial Extent	Proposed Programming	Design considerations
Ecological Core	Existing vegetation communities and waterbodies of high ecological or historical value; and known habitats of SOMC.	Limited low-impact passive recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and buffer this zone from other land uses. • Utilize barriers such as fences, gates, and barricades to limit access. • Enhance zone through planting or restoration activities. • Limit additional infrastructure and locate it at appropriate offsets from sensitive species. • Support educational opportunities to highlight importance of the natural assets.
Passive Programmable Zone	Existing communities of fair or degraded landscapes.	Low-impact passive recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance zone through planting or restoration activities. • Limit infrastructure located at appropriate offsets from sensitive species. • Locate higher-impact infrastructure within existing degraded areas. • Support educational opportunities to highlight importance of the natural assets.

Stormwater Management Zone	Existing and proposed areas of stormwater management.	Stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater to be managed to not cause harm to the site or adjacent lands. • Future and existing stormwater systems should be designed to actively restore and improve the surrounding area. • Naturalization and biodiversity to be considered in all designs.
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A map showing the proposed spatial extent of each management zone is provided below.

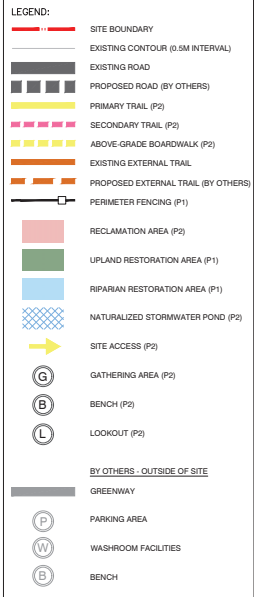
Permitted Uses and Restrictions

To support the Human Well-Being Targets, the following uses are recommended to be permitted and encouraged. Note that active recreation is not recommended at the Small Swale, due to environmental sensitivities. Certain restrictions on these activities are also proposed to reduce or remove impacts to ecological communities.

Permitted Use	Description	Restrictions on Activity
Passive Recreation	Low impact activities such as walking/hiking, birdwatching, geocaching and photography.	Visitors must remain on trails. Use of site is recommended to be from dawn to dusk to avoid unwanted uses of the site.
Education	Group tours (e.g., school groups) or self-guided.	Same restrictions as “Passive recreation.”
Harvesting	Harvesting of culturally significant plants by designated professionals or individuals.	Parameters to be developed through further engagement. Considerations may include specific areas or plants which can be harvested, and seasonal periods of harvesting.
Citizen Science	Public assists in collecting data to accelerate scientific research.	Same restrictions as “Passive recreation.”

Proposed Site Enhancements

Improvements to the Small Swale are proposed that align with the conservation targets and management zones. Detailed recommendations to implement each improvement are included in the Conceptual Master Plan. A visual representation of the improvements is included below.



NOTES:

- PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL ONLY AND NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION.
- P1 REFERS TO PHASE 1 OF PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION.
- P2 REFERS TO PHASE 2 OF PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION.



CONSULTANT:

CLIENT:

PROJECT TITLE:
SMALL SWALE
 SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

DRAWING TITLE:
CONCEPTUAL PLAN

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 City of Saskatoon WSP Proj 3146830 - 2023-12-22 1:50:08 AM R. L. Littlejohn, Nicole, Proj 3146830 - 2023-12-22

A summary of the proposed improvements outlined in the visual is provided below.

Improvement	Description	Description and Examples
Buffering	Provide a buffer between the site and incompatible land uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement a Greenway similar to the Northeast Swale Greenway • Where lighting is needed, use dark-sky compliant lighting • Consider seating nodes, naturalized planting pockets, waste bins, and accessible pathways to direct foot traffic
Human Use	Support the passive recreational uses of the site while conserving the natural assets.	<p>While considering ecological sensitivities, enhancements could be designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled site access • Circulation route and seating notes • Destinations and gathering areas • Communications programming • Site furniture and materials
Historical and cultural improvements	Connect users to the historical and cultural significance of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence the Riddell Paleontological site with wildlife-friendly fencing. • Incorporate educational signage • Consider culturally significant plants in restoration improvements, subject to engagement with Indigenous communities.
Restoration and reclamation improvements	Work to return the land to a state of ecological function and native biodiversity through reclamation and restoration improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plans define a continuum of restoration activities and ecological restoration principles that should be considered, criteria to prioritize high priority locations, and best practices for restoration. • It is noted that reclamation and restoration will be particularly important at the current snow storage area, pending relocation of the current land use.
Ecological Connectivity Improvements	To enhance connectivity for wildlife and ecosystem processes within the site, and between the Small Swale and other natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data collection needed prior to implementing actions.
SOMC Improvements	Support habitat for species of management concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat supports such as songbird houses, waterfowl nest boxes, and bat houses could be considered.

Storm water management	Establish targets to ensure that future development will not compromise wetland function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of the Snow Storage Facility is a top priority of the Small Swale Plan. As the core of the site is a large wetland complex, stormwater management planning needs to be well thought out. Any changes to wetland catchments can alter the wetland hydroperiod and cause irreversible damage. Therefore, proactive planning is a key to ensure that wetland function is preserved post development.
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Site Enhancement Implementation

Before implementing the Plans, detailed design and cost estimates for the proposed enhancements will be required. During this stage, the design may be subject to further review by the City, including the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) committee. Review by other approving bodies or jurisdictions including Meewasin’s Conservation Advisory Committee, utility companies, and nearby jurisdictions (e.g., the Rural Municipality of Corman Park) may also be required. In some cases, additional engagement, particularly with existing site user groups, is recommended to validate the desired placement and design of enhancements.

The Conceptual Master Plan outlines the recommended approach to implement site enhancements, including applicable standards, recommendations and risk mitigation measures during construction, establishment and maintenance, integrated pest management, and monitoring. The Plan should be referenced for specific recommendations during the detailed design stage.

Administrative Summary of the Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area Natural Area Management Plan and Conceptual Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

The City of Saskatoon's Green Infrastructure Strategy includes a goal to protect, restore, and manage significant natural areas in Saskatoon, including Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (RSBBAA). However, there are significant challenges to conserving RSBBAA including a lack of dedicated funding source and service level.

In 2023, WSP Canada, Inc., was contracted by the City to complete a [Natural Area Management Plan and Conceptual Master Plan](#) (the Plans) for RSBBAA. The Plans outline the steps needed to conserve the ecological and cultural elements of RSBBAA and provide a connection to nature for current and future generations. The Plans are intended to guide the conservation of RSBBAA but are not a directive. The Plans are best viewed as living documents and should be updated as new information becomes available, at least once every ten years.

Community members have shown great interest in RSBBAA. For example, three volunteer organizations have signed formal user agreements with the City to utilize the site, including taking on a lead role in site stewardship. A key consideration in the Plans is the need to balance the conservation of the site with the needs of active recreation groups that already utilize and steward the area.

The creation of the Plans is one step of many needed to protect, restore, and manage RSBBAA. Additional work is needed to establish a service level for the site, implement ecological restoration and site enhancements, and complete ongoing resource management. Further work is also needed to engage site users on the proposed enhancements, to ensure compatibility with existing site uses. Completion of the recommendations in the Plans will be subject to funding, including capital funding to implement site enhancements and restoration, and operating funding to maintain a dedicated service level.

About Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

RSBBAA is an afforested area in the southwest of Saskatoon. The dominant ecosystem is a mix of native and modified forests. The site contains a well-used trail system, a skills bike park, and the City's Southwest Off-Leash Recreation Area (SWOLRA).

Vision Statement for RSBBAA

Rustling leaves and sparkling wetlands, a refuge for wildlife and visitors.

An enduring place for those who speak for the trees.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The RSBBA is subject to the policies and regulations of the City of Saskatoon (City). The highest-order planning documents for the City include the [Official Community Plan No. 9700](#) (OCP; City of Saskatoon 2020a), and the accompanying [Zoning Bylaw No. 8770](#) (City of Saskatoon, 2023a).

The Plans are informed by additional guiding documents and data sources including the [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) (2020), the [Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan](#) (2017), the [Blairmore Natural Areas Screening Final Report](#) (2022), and [Montgomery Place Local Area Plan](#) (2018).

A portion of RSBBA is within the Meewasin Conservation Zone. Approval is required from the Authority on any improvement valued over \$25,000 in accordance with the [Meewasin Valley Authority Act](#) (Government of Saskatchewan, 1979).

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Land cover

RSBBA contains 86 hectares (ha) of Open Canopy Mixed Woodland, 33.5 ha of Tame Grassland, 9.9 ha of Wetland, and 3.3 ha of disturbed/developed areas and roads.

Flora

The dominant ecosystem at RSBBA is woodland, which includes species like Manitoba maple, green ash, balsam poplar, common caragana, Siberian elm, and scotch pine.

In addition to other vegetation, three species of management concern (SOMC) are confirmed or have been historically observed on site: blue wild rye, red elderberry, and small yellow lady's slipper. Two SOMC have a high likelihood of being on site but are unconfirmed: bristle-leaved sedge and mucronate blue-eyed-grass.

There are also many citizen science records of flora in the area that are likely but not officially confirmed.

Fauna

Wildlife found on site include 27 confirmed species of migratory birds and 11 confirmed mammals such as white-tailed deer, elk, moose, and coyote.

Five fauna SOMC are confirmed on site: bank swallow, barn swallow, common nighthawk, horned grebe, and lesser yellowlegs. Two SOMC have a high likelihood of being on site but are unconfirmed: northern leopard frog and western tiger salamander.

There are many citizen science records of additional flora in the area that require confirmation.

Culturally significant species

Species that may be of interest to Indigenous communities were considered, but it was determined that additional engagement is needed prior to preparing detailed content or recommendations. Any content prepared in future must be respectful of any sensitivities about the role and location of important species.

Noxious or nuisance weeds

Sixteen provincially designated weeds were documented including absinthe, European buckthorn, and nodding thistle. And, although not listed under the *Weed Control Act*, common caragana is abundant on site. Caragana is an introduced species with aggressive tendencies.

Wildlife movement

Previous studies have not detected any obvious trends of wildlife movement. Wildlife have been observed to cross Township Road 362A and move between the Class V wetland and the Chappell Marsh Conservation Area.

HUMAN CONTEXT

History

The RSBBA was established in 1960 with the intention of creating a greenbelt around Saskatoon. The area was named after Richard St. Barbe Baker, an internationally recognized forestry advisor and conservationist, who advocated for tree planting and reforestation efforts around the world.

Heritage and Cultural Significance

In its heritage screening for Blairmore Sector, EDI (2022) confirmed there were no archeological sites of heritage concern within the RSBBA. However, Chappell Marsh is comprised of terrain that may have the potential to host archeologically sensitive sites. The Bone Trail, a Municipal Heritage Property featuring wheel ruts of a former historic trail, is located nearby in the Rural Municipality of Corman Park. Three quarter sections adjacent to the southeast of the RSBBA were reported to have moderate to high potential to discover intact archaeological sites (NE/NW/SE-13-26-6-W5M) that are archeologically significant (EDI, 2022).

Further information about the heritage and cultural significance of RSBBA is outlined in the [Business Case for Heritage Designation - Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area](#) report, received by City Council on September 28, 2020. The report also outlines opportunities, challenges, and implications of formally designating RSBBA as a Municipal Heritage Property. Official heritage designation could be explored as an outcome of the RSBBA Plans in future.

Ownership and Easements

The City of Saskatoon owns most of the site, with the eastern portion of the site falling under the jurisdiction of the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Three easement holders are present and include the following:

- CN Rail holds a Right-of-Way/easement along the exterior of the northern and western boundaries of the site.
- SaskPower holds a 33-meter-wide easement for three transmission lines, and a 15-meter-wide easement for a buried fibre line.
- TransGas/SaskEnergy owns the parking lot in the northeast corner of the RSBBA and holds easements for several high-pressure gas lines throughout the site, including one 12-inch and two 16-inch-high pressure gas lines. The parking lot in the northeast corner of the RSBBA also contains TransGas infrastructure.

Current Uses

The RSBBA is currently host to both ecological and recreational uses including:

- Passive Recreation Uses: walking/hiking, birdwatching, and photography.
- Active Recreation Uses: all-season and fat tire biking, skills biking, cross country skiing
- Off-leash Dog Exercise: The SWOLRA is in the eastern portion of the site and has been in operation since 2013.
- Educational uses: including tours and interpretive signage.

User Groups

To enable short-term land uses at RSBBA, the City has entered into temporary user agreements with volunteers groups including the Saskatoon Friends of the Afforestation Areas, Cedar Villa Bicycle Trails, and Flatlanders Fat Tire Bridgade.

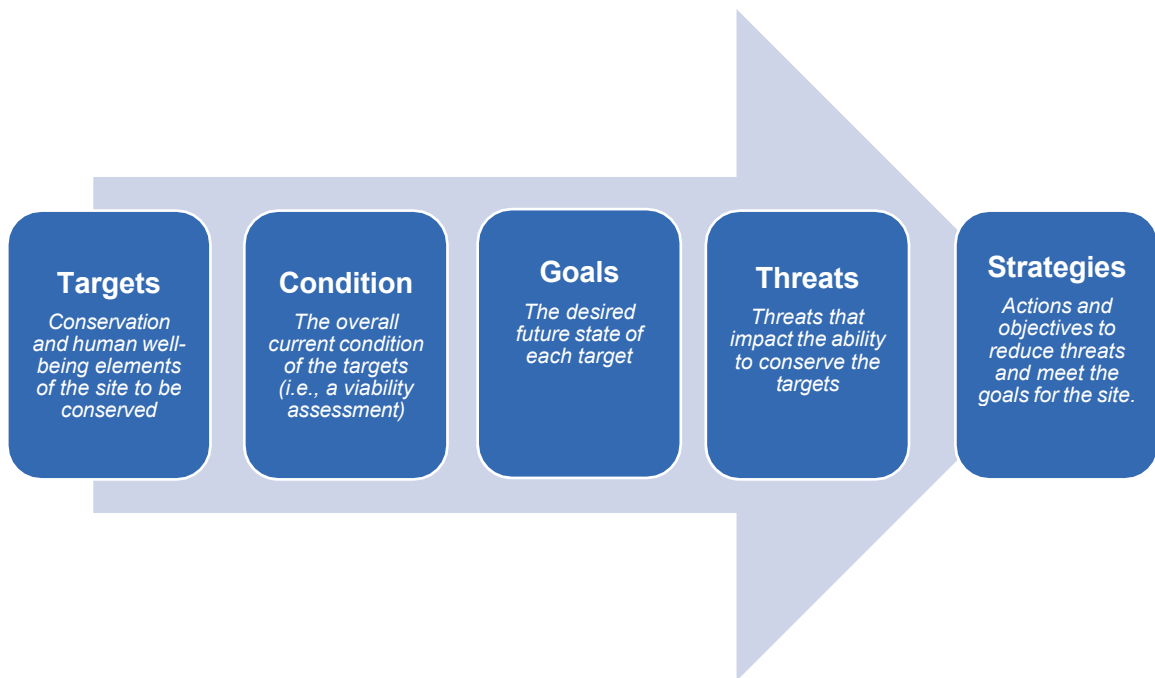
Unsanctioned Uses

While beloved by the community, the site is used for undesirable and unsanctioned uses. The legitimate user groups have notably attempted to discourage these uses. Unsanctioned uses include illegal hunting, illegal fires, illegal dumping, illegal vehicular use, and off-leash dogs outside the designated area.

CONSERVATION PLAN

Methodology

The [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation \(2020\)](#) (Conservation Standards) was used to prepare the RSBBA Plans. Using this approach, the Plans identify the targets, condition, goals, threats, and strategies for the site, as shown below.



Targets, Condition, and Goals

Targets identify the elements of RSBBA that the Plans intend to conserve. The final list of targets is included in the table below.

Target	Description of Target	Current Condition	Goals
Forest	Forests at RSBBA include both native communities like aspen stands, and the modified/afforested areas that include species like scotch pine, blue spruce, common caragana, green ash, and Siberian elm. The forest provides many ecosystem services and is important culturally to various user groups.	Fair	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is no reduction in forested habitat; and the native flora species abundance and diversity is in a stable population with a Shannon-wiener Diversity Index of 3.0-3.49.
Wetlands	Wetlands can be found in two locations, making up approx. 7.4% of the site. Conserving wetlands has significant benefits to both natural ecosystems and to humans through ecosystem service provision.	Fair	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is no more than 10% reduction in the total extent of wetlands; water quality meets the CCME WQI Value 80-90; and catchment areas are functional.
Species of Management Concern (SOMC)	SOMC and their habitats identified to date include bank swallow, barn swallow, common nighthawk, horned grebe, lesser yellowlegs,	Good	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is an increase in detection of SOMC through habitat

	northern leopard frog, small yellow-lady's slipper, western tiger salamander, and a garter snake hibernacula. Preserving threatened habitats will help to conserve these species and their function in the ecosystem.		restoration initiatives and ongoing monitoring.
Historical and Cultural Connection	RSBBAA has a long history of use, and a positive connection to its namesake, Richard St. Barbe Baker. This target aims to highlight the historical and cultural importance of the site.	Not assessed	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> historically and culturally significant features are identified and protected; and historical and cultural programs are developed and implemented.
Education and Connection to Nature	Education and connection to nature help to create a relationship to the land and encourage users to take care of the site. This can be achieved through activities like guided tours, interpretive signage, citizen science, and partnerships with local groups.	Not assessed	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational programs are identified and implemented; and infrastructure and programs allow for a connection to the landscape.
Recreation	RSBBAA provides the community with a unique natural setting for both active and passive recreational uses. Activities like walking, hiking, biking, off-leash dog exercise, and bird watching offer both mental and physical stimulation which can improve fitness, alleviate stress, and boost overall health.	Not assessed	By 2035: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational uses are supported through infrastructure; and a comprehensive recreational plan is developed and implemented.

Threats

Various threats were identified that may impact the ability to conserve the targets. The threats, and the degree to which they may be impacting each target, is shown in the table below.

Threat	Example of Threat	Risk to Conservation Target			Threat Summary
		Forest	Wetlands	SOMC	
Introduction of Invasive & Undesirable Species	Introduction of noxious weeds, pests and diseases, or invasive wildlife	High	High	High	High

Incompatible external land use	Transportation routes, CN Rail Line, Snow Storage area	Very high	Very high	High	Very high
Incompatible human use	Illegal land uses such as dumping; irresponsible or competing recreational uses	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Suppression of natural disturbance regimes	Suppression of fire, grazing, and flooding	High	High	Very high	High
Fragmentation and barriers	Fences, walls, transportation routes, and broken connections between natural assets	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Water management	Negative alterations to water bodies and hydrological systems	Low	Medium	High	Medium
Frequency and severity of storms	Flooding, wildfires, snowstorms, and hail	High	High	High	High
Increasing average temperatures and drought	Heat stress to people, plants, and wildlife	High	Very high	High	High
Changes to precipitation	Drought stress to people, plants, and wildlife	High	High	High	High
Summary Target Ratings		Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high

Conservation Strategies

To reduce the threats and achieve the goals for each target, the following management strategies are recommended:

1. **Baseline data collection and data management:** Ongoing biophysical data collection and analysis (e.g., targeted baseline and monitoring) in an appropriate timeframe to support and confirm the successful execution of the conservation tools developed to restore/reclaim/enhance aspects of the site. Development of a data management system to collect, store and share data.
2. **Policy, enforcement, and urban planning:** Establish protection of the site through existing planning tools acquisition of additional lands; existing and future policy; ongoing governance and enforcement.
3. **Buffering of adjacent lands:** Reduce threats of invasive species and improve degraded lands through enhancement and improvement initiatives.
4. **Enhancements and improvements:** Reduce threats of invasive species and improve degraded lands through enhancement and improvement initiatives.

5. ***Invasive and undesirable species management:*** Control of invasive and undesirable species pursuant to applicable provincial legislation, regulations, policies, guidelines and bylaws.
6. ***Natural disturbance regime management:*** Develop and implement natural disturbance regime management to promote healthy vegetation communities which normally would be subject to natural disturbances.
7. ***SOMC management:*** Protection of identified habitat and sensitive locations for known (current and future) SOMC within the site based on baseline/monitoring analysis, and present and future standards.
8. ***Historically and culturally significant species and features management:*** Historically and culturally significant species and features identified, protected, enhanced, and celebrated.
9. ***Water management:*** Management of all hydrological features within the site.
10. ***Ecological connectivity management:*** Management of intra and inter-connectivity.
11. ***Human use programming:*** Planning for active and passive recreation of the site in balance with the ecological sensitivities of the site.

Detailed recommendations regarding the implementation of these strategies are included in the Plans and should be referenced prior to conservation work occurring.

HUMAN USE PLAN

The Human Use Plan provides recommendations for appropriate programming of RSBBA while considering environmental sensitivities. Considerations include restrictions on use, the infrastructure required to support the recommended uses, and opportunities for community stewardship. These recommendations are intended to guide future site improvements.

Programming and Management Zones

Three management zones are proposed for the site, which will inform programming, management, and placement of appropriate site uses. The table below provides a summary of each zone.

Management Zone	Spatial Extent	Proposed Programming	Design considerations
Ecological Core	Existing wetlands and known locations of SOMC	Limited low-impact passive recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and buffer from other land uses.

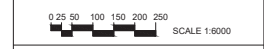
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize barriers such as fences, gates, and barricades to limit access. • Enhance zone through planting or restoration activities. • Limit additional infrastructure and locate it at appropriate offsets from sensitive species. • Support educational opportunities to highlight importance of the natural assets.
Programmable Zone	Existing fair to degraded landscapes	Passive and active recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the existing user groups and recreational uses. • Enhance zone through planting or restoration activities. • Infrastructure located at appropriate offsets from sensitive species. • Locate higher-impact infrastructure within existing degraded areas. • Support educational opportunities to highlight importance of the natural assets.
Utility Corridor	Existing utility rights-of-way	Passive recreation Utilities management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider enhancements to biodiversity and human access while complying with utility easement requirements.

A map showing the proposed location of each zone is included below.



LEGEND:

- SITE BOUNDARY
- EXISTING CONTOUR (0.5M INTERVAL)
- MANAGEMENT ZONE 1: ECOLOGICAL CORE ZONE
- MANAGEMENT ZONE 2: PROGRAMMABLE ZONE
- ⋯ MANAGEMENT ZONE 3: UTILITY CORRIDOR ZONE



CONSULTANT:

CLIENT:

PROJECT TITLE:

RICHARD ST. BARBE BAKER AFFORESTATION AREA
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

DRAWING TITLE:

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Last Date: 2024-12-23 11:32:30 AM, R. L. Lumbroso, Nicole, Proj. 2024, WSP, CA, 2024, 08
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Permitted Uses and Restrictions

To support the Human Well-Being Targets, the following uses are recommended to be permitted and encouraged. Certain restrictions on these activities are also proposed to reduce or remove impacts to ecological communities.

Permitted Use	Description	Restrictions on Activity
Passive Recreation	Low impact activities such as walking/hiking, birdwatching, photography, and snow shoeing.	Visitors must remain on trails. Use of site is recommended to be from dawn to dusk to avoid unwanted uses of the site.
Active Recreation	All season biking, including fat tire biking, Adaptive Mountain Biking, and Skills biking. Off-leash dog exercise. Winter activities such as cross-country skiing and snow shoeing can be considered and encouraged on designated trails if compatible with other uses.	Visitors must remain on trails or in designated areas. Use of site is recommended to be from dawn to dusk to avoid unwanted uses of the site.
Education	Group tours (e.g., school groups) or self-guided.	Same restrictions as “Passive recreation.”
Harvesting	Harvesting of culturally significant plants by designated professionals or individuals.	Parameters to be developed through further engagement. Considerations may include specific areas or plants which can be harvested, and seasonal periods of harvesting.
Citizen Science	Public assists in collecting data to accelerate scientific research.	Same restrictions as “Passive recreation.”

Proposed Site Enhancements

Enhancements to RSBBA are proposed that align with the conservation targets and management zones. Detailed recommendations to implement each improvement are included in the Conceptual Master Plan. A visual representation of the improvements is shown on the map below.



Let Date: 2023-12-22 12:10 AM, Rev: 2 (464) - 2023-12-22
 C:\Users\CA2379\OneDrive\Documents\Projects\105 - Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area - Project 1\Drawings\105 - Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area - Concept\Drawings\105 - Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area - Concept\105 - Concept Plan.dwg

A summary of the proposed improvements is provided below.

Improvement	Function	Description and Examples
Buffering	Provide a buffer between the site and incompatible land uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in exposed areas.
Human Use	Support the recreational uses of the site while conserving the natural assets.	<p>Through engagement with current site users, enhancements could be designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled site access • Circulation route and seating notes • Off-leash dog park • Skills park • Fat tire and adaptive mountain biking course • Gathering area • Wetland outlook • Communications programming • Site furniture and materials
Historical and cultural improvements	Connects users to the historical and cultural significance of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational signage • Inclusion of culturally significant species in restoration improvements
Restoration and reclamation improvements	Intentionally returning degraded ecosystems to a more natural state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and wetland restoration work including tree planting.
Ecological Connectivity Improvements	To enhance connectivity for wildlife and ecosystem processes within the site, and between RSBBA and other natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data collection is needed first.
SOMC Improvements	Support habitat for species of management concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songbird house • Waterfowl box • Bat house
Storm water management	Establish targets to ensure that future development will not compromise wetland function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined.

Planting plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in exposed area • Pollinator gardens under utility corridors
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Implementation of the Plans

Before implementing the Plans, detailed design and cost estimates for the proposed enhancements will be required. During this stage, the design may be subject to further review by the City, including the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) committee. Review by other approving bodies or jurisdictions including Meewasin’s Conservation Advisory Committee, utility companies, and nearby jurisdictions (e.g., the Rural Municipality of Corman Park) may also be required. In some cases, additional engagement, particularly with existing site user groups, is recommended to validate the desired placement and design of enhancements.

The Conceptual Master Plan outlines the recommended approach to implement site enhancements, including applicable standards, construction approach and risk mitigation measures, establishment and maintenance, integrated pest management, and monitoring. The Plan should be referenced for specific recommendations during the detailed design stage.

Flood Control Strategy Update – Cumberland Park

ISSUE

In December 2018, City Council approved the implementation of the nine-year \$54 million Flood Control Strategy (FCS) to mitigate flooding in 10 priority areas that have historically experienced frequent flooding. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the strategy, including the results of the Feasibility Assessment for the project to mitigate flooding near Cumberland Park, and to request approval to proceed with the project. This report also provides an update on the future projects planned within the FCS.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the detailed design and construction of a dry storm pond in Cumberland Park proceed in 2025 to mitigate flooding near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street; and
2. That the 1st Avenue North - 46th Street East location be approved as Project 7 within the Flood Control Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The FCS is based on the principles of reducing flood impacts for the maximum number of properties within the available budget while maintaining the existing quality and service levels for both passive and active recreation opportunities in parks where the projects are constructed. The FCS framework that was approved in 2018 includes the following four phases:

- Phase One: High-level assessment and location approval (completed in 2018).
- Phase Two: Feasibility assessment of each project. City Council to approve projects prior to proceeding to Phase Three.
- Phase Three: Detailed design and public engagement.
- Phase Four: Construction.

The status of the first four FCS projects is provided in the table below:

Project	Status	Details
W.W. Ashley Park Dry Pond	Complete	Open to the public
Churchill Park Dry Pond	Complete	Open to the public
Weaver Park Dry Pond	Substantially Complete	Landscape establishment in progress and will open to the public in the Fall 2024
Brevoort Park South Underground Storm Water Storage	Construction	Construction will occur in 2024 with the park reopening to the public in the Fall 2025

Photos of the dry pond at Weaver Park at the substantial completion milestone (November 2023) are shown in Appendix 1.

The Feasibility Assessment completed for the fifth FCS project at Cumberland Park to mitigate flooding at the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street, shows the project is technically feasible and will reduce the flood risk for at least 35 properties during a 1-in-10-year design rain event. The details of the Feasibility Assessment are provided in Appendix 2.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The proposed fifth FCS project is the construction of a dry storm pond at Cumberland Park that will reduce the flood risk in an area with a history of frequent flooding and expected future flooding due to climate change. In 2018, the Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street intersection and surrounding area was rated fifth highest among the top 30 known high-risk flood locations within Saskatoon, based on the probability of flooding and the number of properties expected to flood during intense rain events.

In 2018, City Council approved the following projects to be included in the FCS, known as projects 6 through 9.

6. Cumberland Avenue South and 14th Street East (joint University of Saskatchewan Dry Pond Project)
7. miyo-wâhkôhtowin Road and McCully Crescent (Kensington Wet Pond)
8. Avenue W South and 21st Street West (Cahill Park)
9. 3rd Avenue North and 24th Street East (storm sewer to the river)

In the May 2023 [Flood Control Strategy Update – Brevoort Park South](#) report, the Administration provided an update on future projects to be included in the FCS. This was done in response to the June 2022 rain event where locations in the top 30 known high-flood risk locations, but not included in the FCS, reported flood conditions. The update included a modelling and cost-benefit exercise that confirmed projects 6, 8, and 9 remain as priorities to be included in the FCS. Based on updated modelling data, the Administration recommended the consideration to change Project 7 location from miyo-wâhkôhtowin Road-McCully Crescent location to the East Place-Louise Street location. This recommendation was to be confirmed in the 2024 FCS Update.

Since the May 2023 FCS update report, the Administration has completed a secondary study regarding future flood mitigation projects to include in the second Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) application for five more projects to be constructed between 2028 and 2032. Through this study, which included further modelling and cost-benefit calculations, it was determined that the highest priority flood location outside of the eight confirmed FCS projects is the 1st Avenue North - 46th Street East location (as opposed to miyo-wâhkôhtowin Road and McCully Crescent (Kensington Wet Pond)). The 1st Avenue North – 46th Street East project would include installation of a new storm sewer pipe connecting the intersection to the nearby wet storm pond at RCAF Memorial Park. The Administration is recommending this location be identified and completed as Project 7 of the FCS. The East Place - Louise Street flood mitigation project would then be scheduled to be constructed in 2028, pending approval of the second DMAF funding application to continue the FCS. The revised FCS project schedule and future flood mitigation project priority ranking is proposed in Appendix 3.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2019, the Government of Canada approved 40% cost sharing of the \$54.1 million estimated FCS eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$21.6 million through the DMAF. City Council approved Storm Water Utility funding of \$32.5 million (60%) through previously approved increases to the Storm Water Utility management charge.

Through construction of Projects 1, 2, and 3, the City of Saskatoon (City) is approximately \$8.8 million under budget compared to the 2018 DMAF/City agreement cost estimates. Project 4 estimated costs have increased by \$4.6 million due to utilizing underground storage infrastructure compared to a traditional dry pond to maintain recreation service levels, post construction.

The Feasibility Assessment cost estimate for the Cumberland Park dry pond project is \$3.4 million, of which, \$2.0 million (60%) will be funded through the Storm Water Utility, while \$1.4 million (40%) will be funded through the DMAF. The table below shows the 2018 FCS agreement estimates compared to the current actual and estimated costs. Based on the updated costs, it is estimated the FCS will be \$2.1 million over budget by the end of 2027 due to recent increased construction costs and inflation since the agreement was approved in 2018. The total cost includes 10% (\$3.1 million) contingency for the remaining (2024-2027) project construction. Funding for the City's portion of the FCS is available through Capital Project P.01619.07 Storm Sewer Trunk and Collection Flood Control Strategy. The strategy overages would be addressed through capital reserve allocations within the Storm Water Utility if required.

Project Information			2018 DMAF Agreement			2024 Cost Actuals & Estimates		
No.	Location	Const. Year	Total Eligible Costs	GOC Eligible Costs	COS Eligible Costs	Total Eligible Costs	GOC Eligible Costs	COS Eligible Costs
1	W.W. Ashley Park	2021	\$5.7M	\$2.3M	\$3.4M	\$3.5M	\$1.4M	\$2.1M
2	Churchill Park	2022	\$10.4M	\$4.2M	\$6.2M	\$5.6M	\$2.2M	\$3.4M
3	Weaver Park	2023	\$7.7M	\$3.1M	\$4.6M	\$5.9M	\$2.4M	\$3.5M
4	Brevoort Park South	2024	\$7.8M	\$3.1M	\$4.7M	\$12.4M	\$4.9M	\$7.5M
5	Cumberland Park	2025	\$3.2M	\$1.3M	\$1.9M	\$3.4M	\$1.4M	\$2.0M
6	USask	2025	\$3.2M	\$1.3M	\$1.9M	\$6.0M	\$2.4M	\$3.6M
7	46 th Street	2027	\$4.4M	\$1.7M	\$2.7M	\$5.9M	\$2.3M	\$3.6M
8	Cahill Park	2026	\$3.3M	\$1.3M	\$2.0M	\$6.9M	\$2.8M	\$4.1M
9	24 th Street	2026	\$8.4M	\$3.3M	\$5.1M	\$6.6M	\$2.6M	\$4.0M
Totals:			\$54.1M	\$21.6M	\$32.5M	\$56.2M	\$22.5M	\$33.7M

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Parks Department and Recreation and Community Development Department have emphasized the high community value of quality recreation and green infrastructure at Cumberland Park. The dry pond Feasibility Assessment design plan layout, shown in Appendix 2, is the preferred layout to maintain recreation while maximizing the protection of the existing tree canopy at Cumberland Park. The required multi-purpose

sport field dimensions will be included in the dry pond for pre-existing recreation service levels to be maintained after construction with the dry pond designed to drain within 24 hours after a rain event. Existing neighbourhood use of the park will need to be relocated during construction in 2025 and likely 2026, depending on the health of the new sod for the dry pond and park. The dry pond will be designed to maximize tree protection of the existing trees in the park, and if tree removal is required, Bylaw No. 9957, The Tree Protection Bylaw, 2024 will be followed.

A Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluation will be completed during the detailed design of the dry pond to identify opportunities for the park design to minimize crime while being accessible and inviting for the desired neighbourhood usage.

Residents near Cumberland Park and other stakeholders were notified of the proposed project through a letter in February 2024, including details of a project information presentation that was provided to the Varsity View/Grosvenor Park and Holliston Community Associations in March and April 2024. These stakeholders were also notified of this report with instructions how to write to or speak to Council in April 2024.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps include the following:

- Public engagement with nearby residents and park users, including sports groups, SOS Trees, and neighbourhood community associations. Engagement activities will be promoted through the Engage webpage, flyers, surveys, an online video, and an event (June 2024 to January 2025).
- Detailed design, costing, and construction planning for the Cumberland Park project (June 2024 to January 2025).
- Construction tender and award (January 2025 to February 2025).
- Construction (February 2025 to November 2025).
- Complete the required DMAF agreement amendments for Location 7 with the Government of Canada.

APPENDICES

1. Weaver Park Dry Pond Substantial Completion Photos
2. Cumberland Park Dry Pond Feasibility Assessment
3. FCS Project Schedule and 2024 Modelling Analysis Summary

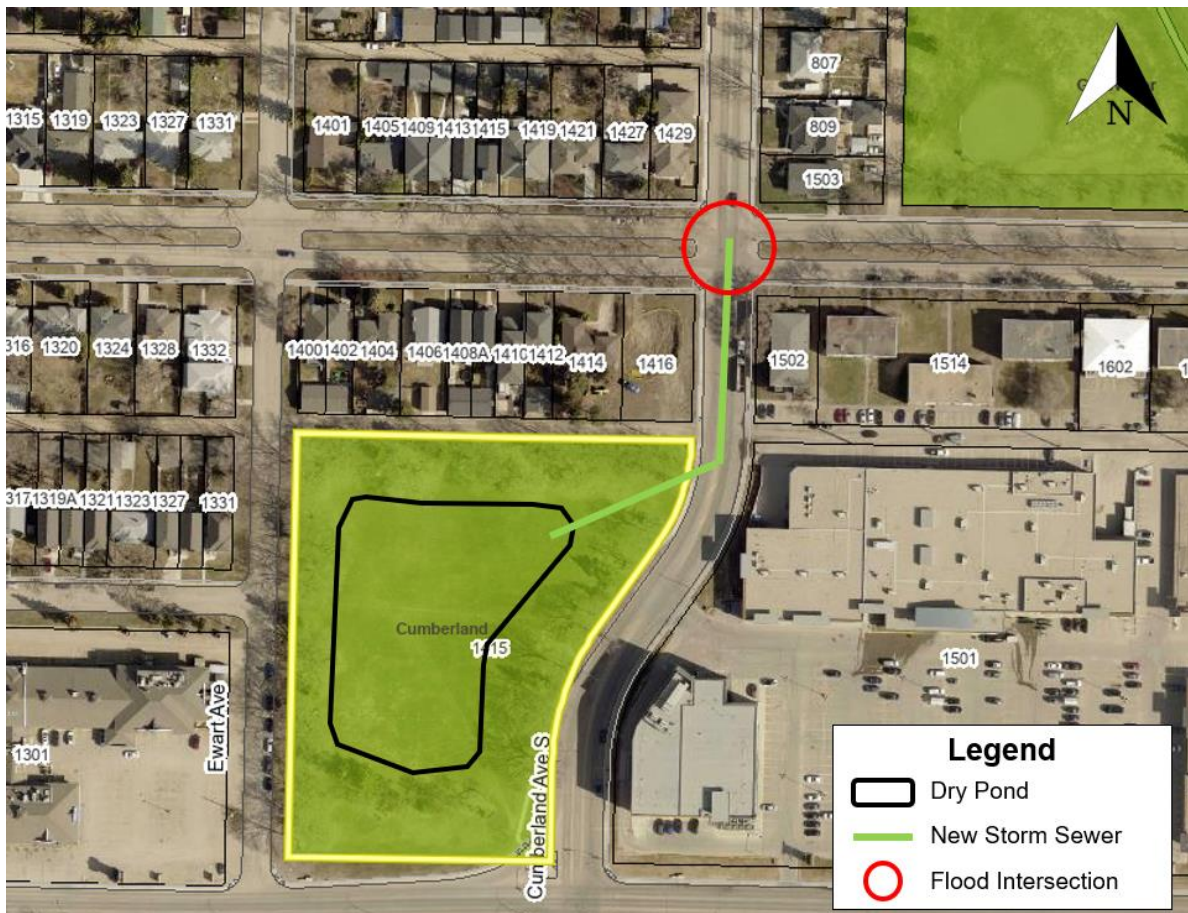
Report Approval

Written by: Mitch McMann, Storm Water Utility Manager
Reviewed by: Russ Munro, Director of Saskatoon Water
Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation & Community Development
Darren Crilly, Director of Parks
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services
Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment

Weaver Park Dry Pond Substantial Completion Photos



Cumberland Park Dry Pond Feasibility Assessment

Design Plan**Technical Feasibility**

- A new 1200 mm storm sewer will be constructed from the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street to the dry pond in Cumberland Park.
- Approximately 12,000 m³ of storm water storage will be provided in the dry pond at Cumberland Park to mitigate flood conditions at the intersection.
- The dry pond will drain in less than 24 hours. The dry pond will fill and drain through a common inlet-outlet pipe.
- Approximately 2 trees will be removed for construction of the storm sewer pipe connecting Cumberland Avenue South to the dry pond. No existing park perimeter trees are planned to be removed for dry pond excavation. Replacement trees will be planted as part of the project.
- Current groundwater levels are being monitored and considered as part of the Feasibility Assessment and will be utilized in the detailed design phase. An additional geotechnical investigation is planned to support the detailed design of the new infrastructure.
- Design parameters may change through detailed design.

Cost Estimate

Description	Estimated Costs
Dry pond excavation	\$753,703.00
Storm sewer and supporting infrastructure	\$1,382,614.00
Landscape construction	\$751,375.00
Contingency	\$288,769.00
Associated taxes including rebates	\$190,588.00
Total Eligible Construction Costs:	\$3,367,048.00
Internal ineligible costs (design, management, engagement, and others)	\$500,000
Total Ineligible Costs:	\$500,000
Total Project Costs:	\$3,867,048.00

FCS Project Schedule & 2024 Modelling Analysis Summary

FCS Project No.	Planned Construction Year	Intersection	Storage Location	Benefit-Cost Ratio
5	2025	Cumberland Ave S Main St	Cumberland Park	14.57
6	2025	Cumberland Ave S 14 th St E	USask Land	5.23
7	2027	1 st Ave N 46 th St E	RCAF Park Wet Pond	5.28
8	2026	Ave W S 21 st St E	Cahill Park	5.01
9	2026	3 rd Ave N 24 th St E	South Saskatchewan River	5.64
-	TBD ¹	East Pl Louise St	James Anderson Park	4.05
-	TBD ¹	Junor Ave Makaroff Rd	Existing Wet Pond	4.01
-	TBD ¹	Meighen Cres	Parc Canada	3.52
-	TBD ¹	Cairns Ave 7 th St E	Wiggins Park	2.89
-	TBD ¹	Centennial Dr Dickey Cres	Pacific Park	2.74
-	TBD	Eastview	Kistikan Park	2.10
-	TBD	miyo-wâhkôhtowin Rd McCully Cres	Existing Wet Pond	2.08
-	TBD	5 th Ave N King St	South Saskatchewan River	1.52
-	TBD	Byers Cres Selkirk Cres	Dr. Seager Wheeler Park	1.38
-	TBD	Kingsmere Blvd Brightsand Cres	Crocus Park	1.35
-	TBD	Grosvenor Cres Taylor St	Canon Smith Park	1.22
-	TBD	Louise Ave Taylor St	Canon Smith Park	0.90

¹ Included in the July 2023 DMAF funding application for additional flood mitigation projects (2028-2032).

Establish Capital Project – City-owned Organics Processing Facility

ISSUE

This report seeks approval for the establishment of a capital project for the construction of a City-owned organics processing facility to process organic materials collected from the curbside organics and compost depot programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

- 1) That a capital project be established in the amount of \$22,110,000 to be funded through borrowing, subject to a public hearing and intent to borrow report; and
- 2) That this capital project be exempted from the 10% downpayment provision required for capital projects funded through borrowing as stated in Council Policy C03-027.

BACKGROUND

At its April 24, 2024 meeting, City Council resolved:

That Administration pursue Option 3 – Build a City-owned Organics Processing Facility.

At its November 1, 2023 meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services received an information report from Administration titled “[Curbside Organics Processing Contract Update](#)” where City Council was notified that Green Prairie Environmental (GPE) was unable to fulfill their obligations of the curbside organics processing contract.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The City-owned organics facility will be constructed and operational in 2026, at which point operations of the existing West Compost Depot will wind down. The proposed location for the new facility is south of the landfill on City-owned land that has the proper zoning designations. The facility will be built to a 40,000-tonne capacity to accommodate current needs as well as estimated future capacity required.

In addition to processing materials collected through the curbside green cart program, the organics facility will offer residential services including drop off for yard waste, bulk sales of compost and mulch, and “Dig Your Own” compost, which will continue to be subsidized from the tax base for non-commercial customers. Commercial haulers will be able to drop off materials at the new facility and will be charged a weight-based rate.

Establish Capital Project – City-owned Organics Processing Facility

To build this facility, Administration estimates required capital funding will be \$22,110,000. The capital estimate was developed through analysis of existing depot operations, and consultations with other municipalities and industry experts. The capital estimate includes:

- A receiving hall with negative ventilation and air treatment;
- Concrete bunkers for static aerated pile/windrow processing;
- Mobile and stationary equipment for processing;
- A graded and environmentally protected site;
- A storm water management pond; and
- A scale and office (repurposed from the landfill).

Design work and engineering for this project will commence in 2024, and construction will begin in 2025. Debt repayments for the loan would be incorporated into the waste utility operating budget for the facility. The new facility will charge the curbside organics utility an assigned rate, based on the utility's estimated share of tonnage processes at the facility. The assigned rate will include both operating costs of the facility as well as principal and interest repayments. As the rate is based on proportionate tonnage, the utility will only be charged for its portion of costs. Remaining costs for processing residential and commercial tonnages will be funded through a combination of user fees (bulk sales of compost and mulch, and commercial hauler fees), existing property tax support, and potentially Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) funding.

Per City Council Policy C03-027 *Borrowing for Capital Projects* (Policy), a 10% downpayment is typically required for all unfunded capital projects requiring borrowing. The 10% downpayment is to be financed from the operating budget in the year that borrowing takes effect. As borrowing for this project is being requested outside the Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget process, the 2024 operating budgets are not sufficient to fund this downpayment; however, this project must be initiated in 2024 if operations are to begin in 2026. As such, Administration is requesting an exemption from this provision of the Policy. Exemptions have been provided in the past for projects with green loans or unique projects proceeding outside of the Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget process.

In addition, per Policy, City Council must be advised of capital projects where the loan amortization period is greater than 10 years. For this capital project, Administration is forecasting a loan amortization period of 20 years. The planned organics utility rate in 2025 averages to \$7.78 per cart per month. If a 20-year term is used, the projected 2026 average rate per cart per month increases by 7% to \$8.32. If a 10-year term is used, the projected 2026 average rate per cart per month increases by 17% to \$9.10. The longer term is recommended to minimize rate increases to the organics utility. Once the loan is paid off, the utility rate would be re-evaluated, and consideration given for a reduction if appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the recommendation is approved, a new capital project will be established with a budget of \$22,110,000 to be funded through borrowing.

Based on current interest rate estimates for a 20-year loan term, repayments of principal and interest are estimated to be \$1,761,500 per year. The actual interest rate and repayment amounts will be determined at the time of borrowing.

Of this amount, \$525,600 (30%) will be funded through non-utility funding which may include user fees, MMSW funding or existing property tax support. The remaining \$1,235,900 (70%) will be paid by the curbside organics utility as part of the processing fee. The debt repayment portion of processing is estimated to have an impact of \$1.34 per cart per month in 2026, which will be confirmed once the actual repayment amounts are known.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There is no privacy, legal, or social implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

If the recommendations are approved, an intent to borrow report will be taken to the May 29, 2024 City Council Public Hearing Meeting for approval.

Report Approval

Written by: Gabriella James, Accounting Coordinator II
Reviewed by: Dan Gauthier, Environmental Protection and Projects Manager
Brendan Lemke, Director of Water and Waste Operations
Brian Casey, Senior Financial Business Partner
Spencer Janzen, Investment Manager
Jeremy Meinema, Senior Financial Business Partner
Kari Smith, Director of Finance
Clae Hack, Chief Financial Officer
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment

Regional Fire Training Facility – Contribution Agreement

ISSUE

This report seeks Committee and Council approval of a Contribution Agreement between the Cities of Saskatoon, Warman, and Martensville (the Parties) for the Regional Training Facility (Facility).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the City of Saskatoon enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Cities of Warman and Martensville for the Regional Training Facility on the terms outlined in this report;
2. That Capital Project P.01971 Fire - Fire Training Facility be increased by \$419,300 to be funded by contributions of \$219,000 from the City of Warman and \$200,300 from the City of Martensville; and
3. That the City Solicitor be requested to have the appropriate agreement executed by His Worship the Mayor, and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, it was recognized that there could be regional interest and benefit if land for the Facility could be located to best serve the needs of the Parties. SFD began formal negotiations on the benefits of the Facility with the Fire Chiefs of Warman Fire Rescue and Martensville Fire Department. The Parties have continued to work together to finalize the level of financial contributions and shared usage of the Facility.

In April 2023, the Parties signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to work together in consultation recognizing the shared benefit of collaborating in the development of the Facility for fire and other emergency services training. A formal commitment for the purpose of arriving at mutually agreeable terms with an anticipated Contribution Agreement.

The Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services, at its meeting held on [September 5, 2023](#), received an update on the Facility that included the current stage of site development and regional partnership agreements.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Parties have agreed to establish funding commitments and other operational details with respect to the Facility. Key terms of the agreement are as follows:

- Saskatoon shall be the major funding partner of the Facility for both capital construction costs and operating costs; at 92.04%;

Regional Fire Training Facility – Contribution Agreement

- Contribution rates are calculated based on per capita calculations of populations, using provincial health data sources;
- Capital buy-in is based on the Phase 1 budget of the project (minimum \$200,000);
- Proportionate annual operating contributions will be made for the maintenance of the Facility; and
- Proportionate access time will be available for each Party regarding use of the Facility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

P.01971 Fire - Fire Training Facility capital budget will be increased by \$419,300 to account for the \$219,000 capital contribution from the City of Warman and \$200,300 from the City of Martensville, bringing to total capital budget to \$5,269,300. The contributions will be a combination of in-kind and cash. The in-kind contributions will become assets of the City and will be recorded in the project at the fair market value of the assets received.

The Contribution Agreement provides for operating expense contributions based on the percentage of capital contributions, specifically the City of Warman will contribute 4.16% and the City of Martensville 3.80% of the Facility operating expenses. Future operating budgets will be adjusted to reflect the expenditure and revenues of Facility operations.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The Parties will:

- Begin planning for the movement of assets to the Facility;
- Continue engagement regarding planning of future proposed phases; and
- Agree upon, through a subsequent agreement, capital construction contributions and operating expenses.

Report Approval

Written by: Anthony Tataryn, Assistant Fire Chief
Reviewed by: Teresa Quon, Senior Financial Business Partner
Doug Wegren, Acting Fire Chief
Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

Admin Report - Regional Fire Training Facility – Contribution Agreement.docx

Overdose Outreach Team – Service Level Change

ISSUE

The Overdose Outreach Team (OOT) pilot program between the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has been extended to March 31, 2025, thanks to an extension of funding from the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

BACKGROUND

In December 2022, SFD partnered with the SHA and the Ministry to launch the OOT comprised of one Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor from SHA and a Primary Care Paramedic from SFD to deliver outreach and support to people and their families who have experienced an overdose and connect individuals with services. OOT was also launched simultaneously with Regina Fire & Protective Services.

CURRENT STATUS

The program has seen success, aligning with multiple strategic goals connected to services improving the health and well-being of Saskatchewan people, including the Province of Saskatchewan's goal of Enhancing Mental Health and Addiction Services, the City of Saskatoon's goal of Community Safety and Well-being, and SFD's goal of Advancing Community Resiliency through Risk Reduction Partnerships.

To date, funding for OOT has been provided in three- and six-month increments. SFD staff have been seconded from other SFD business lines to align with this funding. Funding was set to expire on March 31, 2024; however, recognizing the value of the program, the Ministry confirmed a funding extension for one year, through to March 31, 2025, in Saskatoon and Regina.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Short-term secondments to OOT have provided opportunities for SFD staff to work with some of Saskatoon's vulnerable populations in a proactive and non-traditional manner.

Thanks to the year-long funding extension, SFD has created a new 1.0 FTE temporary position, dedicated to the OOT. SFD worked closely with the International Association of Fire Fighters' Local No. 80 to develop the job description and Memorandum of Agreement as it relates to classification and compensation. The Primary Care Paramedic position was advertised internally on the City of Saskatoon's website, as well as external sites. The position does not require Firefighter qualifications typical of SFD operational staff. This position will be filled for the duration of the funding extension and will be evaluated as necessary based on continued SHA funding.

The pilot project and extended funding aligns with key actions in [The Ministry of Health's 2024-2025 Business Plan](#), the [City of Saskatoon's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and [SFD's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) for the advancement of community resiliency as it relates to mental health and substance use.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for SFD’s OOT position is being provided by the Ministry, through the SHA. As outlined in Appendix 1 – Services Agreement Overdose Outreach Team 2022 and Appendix 2 – Second Amending Agreement Overdose Outreach Team 2023, SFD will regularly invoice the SHA for 1.0 FTE salary, as well as the use of an SFD vehicle and the related fuel surcharge. SFD is providing in-kind supports such as office space, use of two-way radios, dispatch (staff movement), and incident and data tracking.

Confirmation was received from SHA for the continuation of funding, however, as of April 29, 2024, the most recent Amending Agreement has not been received for review or execution. It is expected that the Amending Agreement will remain the same, and that funding and operation costs have not decreased. Should any unexpected changes occur, discussions with SHA and relevant stakeholders (i.e., Local No. 80 and corporate strategic partners) will be initiated. The position will not be filled until such time as amendments can be agreed upon and signed.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

SFD’s OOT aims to reduce the societal impact of drug overdoses by providing education and outreach to Saskatoon’s vulnerable populations. The Ministry’s year-long funding extension is a recognition of the value of the program, and that dedicated resources can help develop networks that contribute to its long-term success.

The extension will:

- provide stability and consistency to the program;
- allow for the cultivation of long-term strategies and relationships;
- increase the program’s capacity and reach;
- bolster the program’s efficacy and impact; and
- create new inroads to supporting individuals that align with the Province of Saskatchewan’s transition to a recovery-oriented system of care.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The development of the OOT agreement with SHA has been a catalyst to updating SFD’s other partnerships and agreements relating to SFD’s emergency response services in Saskatoon. This partnership has also created opportunities for SFD to begin exploring other proactive community and pre-hospital partnerships, using the OOT’s model as a template.

APPENDICES

1. Services Agreement Overdose Outreach Team 2022
2. Second Amending Agreement Overdose Outreach Team 2023

Report Approval

Overdose Outreach Team – Service Level Change

Written by: Rielly Knock, Director of Community Relationships
Reviewed by: Anthony Tataryn, Acting Fire Chief
Rob Hogan, Deputy Fire Chief
Teresa Quon, Senior Financial Business Partner
Mila Boyko, Human Resources Business Partner
Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

Admin Report - Overdose Outreach Team – Service Level Change.docx

SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS SERVICES AGREEMENT (the “**Agreement**”) is made as of the 15th Day of November, 2022 (the “**Effective Date**”),

BETWEEN

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

a not-for-profit body corporate continued pursuant to
The Provincial Health Authority Act (Saskatchewan)
having its head office at
Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen Street
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0M7
(hereinafter, “**SHA**”)

AND

THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON

a city continued pursuant to
The Cities Act (Saskatchewan)
having an office at
222 - 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5,
(hereinafter, the “**Saskatoon Fire Department**”)

WHEREAS SHA is mandated under *The Provincial Health Authority Act* (Saskatchewan) to promote health wellness services, including the provision of harm reduction services to the residents of the Province of Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS SHA and the Saskatoon Fire Department share a common goal of improving the health for residents of the Province of Saskatchewan. Through the collaboration on a pilot project, SHA and the Saskatoon Fire Department intend to partner employees of each organization as part of an Overdose Outreach Team (the “**Overdose Outreach Team**”) to provide overdose outreach, follow-up care, and harm reduction services (the “**Services**”) to individuals in the City of Saskatoon;

AND WHEREAS the Saskatoon Fire Department has agreed to provide the Services to SHA in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, agree upon the following terms and conditions:

1. SCHEDULES

The following Schedules are attached to, and are incorporated into as an integral part of, this Agreement

- (a) Schedule "A" – Services
- (b) Schedule "B" – Charges and Payments
- (c) Schedule "C" – Confidentiality Agreement for External Partners

2. DEFINITIONS

Wherever used in this Agreement, unless otherwise specified herein, the following words and terms shall have the respective meanings ascribed to them as follows:

- 2.1 **"Confidential Information"** means, subject to section 9.5 hereof, any information or data that are of a confidential nature relating to the business and affairs of SHA, or of its respective employees, agents and clients, whether identified as confidential or not, and whether recorded or not, and however fixed, stored, expressed or embodied, and shall include all SHA software, personal information and personal health information, and all copies and summaries made of, or excerpts, extracts or new information created by any party and derived from, such Confidential Information.
- 2.2 **"HIPA"** means *The Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan), and the regulations such as such legislation might be amended, supplanted or replaced from time to time.
- 2.3 **"LAFOIP"** means *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan) and the regulations thereto, as such legislation or regulations might be amended, supplanted, or replaced from time to time.
- 2.4 **"Party"** means either SHA or the Saskatoon Fire Department, and **"Parties"** means both of them collectively.
- 2.5 **"personal health information"** or **"PHI"** means health-related information about an identifiable individual and includes the meaning given to that term in *The Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan), and the regulations thereto, as such legislation or regulations might be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.

- 2.6 **“personal information”** or **“PI”** means any information about an identifiable individual and includes the meaning given to that term in *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan), and the regulations thereto, as such legislation or regulations might be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time.
- 2.7 **“Project Lead”** means the Director of Mental Health and Addictions Services of SHA, or delegate, assigned by SHA to act as a liaison on day-to-day administrative matters between SHA and the Saskatoon Fire Department.
- 2.8 **“Requirement of Law”** means any applicable requirements, laws, statutes, codes, acts, ordinances, orders, decrees, injunctions, by-laws, rules, regulations, official plans, permits, licences, authorisations, directions, and agreements with all authorities that now or at any time hereafter may be applicable to either the Agreement or the Services, or any part of them.
- 2.9 **“Saskatoon Fire Department Employee”** means any employee of the City of the Saskatoon Fire Department, acting as a member of the Overdose Outreach Team, and providing the Services to SHA Clients as defined or described in accordance with Schedule “A”.
- 2.10 **“SHA Client”** means an individual who is receiving health care services, including from SHA pursuant to this Agreement.
- 2.11 **“SHA Employee”** means any employee of SHA, acting as a member of the Overdose Outreach Team, providing the Shared Services to SHA Clients as defined or described in accordance with Schedule “A”.
- 2.12 **“SHA Facility”** or **“SHA Facilities”** means the health care facilities operated by the SHA, or any one of them, as context requires.
- 2.13 **“SHA Obligations”** means the actions, activities and obligations to be performed, undertaken or complied with by SHA as set forth in section 7.3 and Schedule “A”, and includes any services, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this Agreement but which might be required for SHA’s performance, undertaking or compliance of any actions, activities and obligations.
- 2.14 **“Services”** means the services and activities to be performed by the Saskatoon Fire Department as are set forth in Schedule “A” and includes any services, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this Agreement but which might be required for the proper performance and provision of the Services by the Saskatoon Fire Department.

3. SERVICES

- 3.1 **Retention:** SHA agrees to retain the Saskatoon Fire Department and to have them perform the Services, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. The Saskatoon Fire Department agrees not to provide or perform any work for SHA pursuant to this Agreement other than the Services without the prior written consent of SHA.
- 3.2 **SHA Facility Access:** SHA agrees to provide Saskatoon Fire Department Employees with appropriate access to the common and appropriately designated SHA Facility spaces which may be required for the purposes of delivering the Services by the Overdose Outreach Team.

4. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 4.1 **Term:** The term of this Agreement (the “**Term**”) shall commence on the Effective Date and shall end on **May 15, 2023** unless sooner terminated as provided for herein, or as might be extended with no fewer than thirty (30) days’ written notice by either Party, or the mutual written agreement of the Parties. The terms of this Agreement shall continue to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, during any period of extension unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.
- 4.2 **Termination With Notice:** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time, with cause, by giving no fewer than thirty (30) days’ written notice to the other Party.

Additionally, SHA may at any time, in its sole discretion, terminate this Agreement by written notice to the Saskatoon Fire Department in the event that SHA is of the opinion that the performance of the Services, or the performance of the Saskatoon Fire Department Employee is unsatisfactory, inadequate or improper.

- 4.3 **Services Past Term:** The Parties recognize that Services may continue to be provided and Payments for such Services made, in keeping with the terms of this Agreement, beyond the Term, pending negotiation of a new agreement. In such event, the Parties agree that in the absence of a notice of termination, the Parties will continue to operate in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*, subject always to the Term and termination provisions of this Agreement, which survive the Term of this Agreement.
- 4.4 **Early Termination:** In the case of early termination for any reason, SHA shall fully reimburse the Saskatoon Fire Department for all Services satisfactorily performed up to and including the effective date of such termination. Such payment will fully and completely relieve and discharge SHA from any further liability to the Saskatoon Fire Department pursuant to this Agreement.

4.5 **Survival:** This Article 4 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

5. PAYMENTS

5.1 **Payment for Services:** In consideration of the performance of the Services by Saskatoon Fire Department, including any other obligations pursuant to this Agreement or as described in Schedule “A”, SHA shall pay Saskatoon Fire Department the payments (the “Payments”) as specified in Schedule “B”, attached hereto.

5.2 **Conditions of Payment:** All payments to the Saskatoon Fire Department pursuant to this Agreement including the Payments are subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the amounts are payable according to the terms of this Agreement;
- (b) that, if requested by SHA, the Saskatoon Fire Department submits a suitably detailed invoice for the Services as described in Schedule “A” attached hereto, allowing SHA to determine:
 - (i) the Services provided by the City for which Payments are being requested to be paid, and
 - (ii) pre-authorized expenses, if any, for which reimbursement is being requested are submitted in accordance with SHA Expense Reimbursement Policy; and
- (c) that the Services are performed to the satisfaction of SHA.

5.3 **No Other Payments:** Other than the Payments, SHA shall not be responsible for the payment or reimbursement of any other monies, charges, fees or expenses to, for or on behalf of Saskatoon Fire Department with respect to the Services including, but not limited to, liability insurance and benefit plans (including income taxes, pension, disability insurance, life insurance or dental or extended health care plans), workers’ compensation or any such similar employment-related expenses and Saskatoon Fire Department expressly indemnifies and saves SHA harmless for all such costs.

5.4 **Approval of Invoice:** If the Saskatoon Fire Department provides an invoice pursuant to sub-section 5.3(b), SHA shall approve or reject each such invoice within fifteen (15) Business Days of receipt. If SHA rejects any such invoice, SHA shall so advise the Saskatoon Fire Department promptly in writing and the Saskatoon Fire Department shall provide such additional substantiation or other documentation as might be required by SHA. Each such invoice that is approved by SHA shall be paid within thirty (30) days of approval.

6. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

6.1 **Independent Saskatoon Fire Department:** The relationship of the Parties in this Agreement is that of independent entities. The Parties have not entered into any partnership, joint venture, agency or employment agreement and nothing in this Agreement will be construed so as to establish a partnership, joint venture, agency or employment relationship between them. Neither Party has, nor will either Party hold itself out as having, any power, right or authority, whether express or implied, to bind the other Party except only insofar as is provided for in this Agreement.

7. COVENANTS OF THE PARTIES

7.1 **Consents and Approvals:** Both SHA and the Saskatoon Fire Department represent and warrant that they have obtained all authorisations, consents, permits and approvals required from any governmental authority or regulatory body in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement

7.2 **Saskatoon Fire Department Obligations:** The Saskatoon Fire Department covenants as follows:

- (a) it will fully comply with the Services, and operational responsibilities of The Saskatoon Fire Department as defined in Schedule "A";
- (b) it will ensure the compliance by all Saskatoon Fire Department Employees involved in the provision of the Services with following:
 - (i) if required, maintain good standing and appropriate licensure, or membership with their professional regulatory body, or regulatory college, if required to perform duties or responsibilities as part of their employment in the Province of Saskatchewan. SHA is not responsible for any professional dues, costs, or other expenses associated with the registration, licensing or certification of personnel employed by the Saskatoon Fire Department;
 - (ii) has had a criminal record check, satisfactory to the Saskatoon Fire Department and vulnerable persons check no older than six (6) months before their date of employment with the Saskatoon Fire Department;
 - (iii) all Saskatoon Fire Department Employees providing the Services will complete any necessary Occupational Health and Safety training, or specific workplace training mandated in *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* (Saskatchewan), SHA is not responsible for any

costs associated with the occupational health and safety training or certification of The Saskatoon Fire Department Employees; and

- (iv) in carrying out the Services, the Saskatoon Fire Department shall ensure that all of the Saskatoon Fire Department Employees comply with all SHA policies, procedures, protocols, rules, regulations and work standards, including those which are outlined in Schedule “A”, and those which are announced or updated from time to time during the term of the Agreement;
- (c) comply with all applicable laws, regulations, bylaws, or codes which may apply to the provision of the Services including, but not limited to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* (Saskatchewan), *The Workers’ Compensation Act, 2013* (Saskatchewan), and *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* under *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*; and
- (d) ensure that all Saskatoon Fire Department Employees are covered for workers’ compensation under *The Workers’ Compensation Act, 2013* (Saskatchewan).

7.3 SHA Obligations: SHA covenants as follows:

- (a) it will fully comply with and provide the operational responsibilities of SHA as defined in Schedule “A”;
- (b) it has exclusive responsibility over and authority for the care, treatment and safety of all SHA Patients in the Province of Saskatchewan in the SHA Facilities and that SHA Patient care responsibilities supersede all others;
- (c) it will provide the Saskatoon Fire Department with all necessary information on SHA policies, procedures, regulations and guidelines as might be relevant to the Saskatoon Fire Department’s obligations, or the performance of the Services as described in Schedule “A”;
- (d) provide Saskatoon Fire Department Employees with necessary orientation specifically to SHA’s rules, regulations, policies and procedures as necessary; and
- (e) it will conduct inspections, audits and evaluations from time to time to assess the quality of work performed by Saskatoon Fire Department Employees, as a Overdose Outreach Team and provide the results of all such inspections, audits and evaluations to the Saskatoon Fire Department in a timely manner.

7.4 **Validly Existing:** The Parties each represent and warrant to each other that as of the Effective Date of this Agreement, and at all times during the Term of this Agreement, each is, and will continue to be, duly constituted, in good standing, and validly existing under the laws of the Province of Saskatchewan.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

8.1 **Trademarks, Trade Names and Copyrights:** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as granting either Party any right or licence to use or publish any trademark or trade name owned by the other Party, or any material which is subject to copyright owned by such other Party.

8.2 **Consent Required:** Neither Party shall refer to any trademark or trade name of the other Party in any materials (including any media releases) which might be prepared, distributed, published or used for the purposes of promotion, advertisement or prospecting for new clients, except with the express prior written consent of such other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8.3 **Publicity and Publication:** Notwithstanding section 8.2, the Saskatoon Fire Department shall not make use of its association with SHA without the prior written consent of SHA. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Saskatoon Fire Department shall not, among other things, at any time communicate with the media, either directly or indirectly, on any matter in relation to this Agreement unless it has first obtained the express written consent of SHA to do so.

8.4 **Survival:** This Article 8 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

9. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

9.1 **Confidential Information:** In order to perform the Services, each Party might, from time to time, have access to Confidential Information of the other Party. Each Party agrees that it shall:

- (a) receive and maintain Confidential Information in confidence and shall use the same standard of care to protect the Confidential Information that it uses to secure its own confidential information of a similar nature but, in any event, no less than a reasonable standard of care;
- (b) use Confidential Information solely for the purpose of delivering the Services;
- (c) use personal health information only in accordance with *The Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan), and personal information only in accordance with *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan);

- (d) not disclose any Confidential Information to any third party;
 - (e) keep such Confidential Information separate and apart from other information and not combine such Confidential Information with any other information; and
 - (f) promptly return to the other Party all such Confidential Information of the other Party once it is no longer required for the purpose of delivering the Services and in any event no more than thirty (30) days after the termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- 9.2 **Ownership:** Each Party acknowledges that the disclosing Party shall at all times be and remain the owner of all Confidential Information disclosed by such Party, and that the Party to which such Confidential Information is disclosed may use such Confidential Information only in furtherance of the purposes of, or to meet its obligations pursuant to, this Agreement.
- 9.3 **Protections:** Each Party shall establish and maintain, and warrants that it has so established, all facilities, policies and procedures as might be necessary in order to ensure the safekeeping of all Confidential Information in its possession and to ensure the Confidential Information is protected from any unauthorised access, disclosure, use, alteration, loss or destruction. Such arrangements shall include, without limitation, reasonable technical, physical and administrative safeguards.
- 9.4 **Safeguarding:** Each Party shall accept accountability for all activities relating to the use and safeguarding of passwords, user IDs, clearance badges, access cards and all other codes and devices of any kind whatsoever assigned to it that allow access to Confidential Information.
- 9.5 **Exclusions:** Confidential Information shall not include:
- (a) information which is or becomes generally available to the public without fault or breach on the part of either Party of any duty of confidentiality owed by either Party or any third party;
 - (b) information which can be demonstrated to have been rightfully obtained by such Party without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party having the right to transfer or disclose free of any obligation of confidentiality;
 - (c) information which can be demonstrated to have been rightfully known to, or in the possession of, such Party at the time of disclosure, without any obligation of confidentiality; and

- (d) with the exception of personal information and personal health information, information which has been independently developed by either Party prior to the Effective Date as demonstrated by written evidence.
- 9.6 **Unauthorised Disclosure or Use:** In the event either Party makes an unauthorised disclosure or use of Confidential Information, or otherwise deals with Confidential Information in a manner which violates this Agreement, or either Party suspects that Confidential Information might have been compromised, such Party shall immediately notify the other Party of the disclosure or dealing and shall take all reasonable steps, at its own expense, as might be necessary to minimize the adverse impact on the other Party and on any third party, and to prevent any further disclosure or dealing of Confidential Information. For greater certainty, notwithstanding any such unauthorised disclosure or dealing, the Parties and any employees or other personnel shall continue to treat all such information as confidential in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 9.7 **Required Disclosure:** If either Party receives or becomes aware of any requirement that it, or someone acting on its behalf, might or will be required to disclose any Confidential Information, it shall promptly notify the other Party of the requirement so that the Parties may seek, at their option, a protective order or take any such other action as they might deem appropriate. The Parties shall disclose only that portion of the Confidential Information as might be legally required of them to be disclosed.
- 9.8 **Overriding Legislation:** Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement, the Parties acknowledge that this Agreement is subject, *inter alia*, to the provisions of *The Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan), *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan), *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan), and *The Provincial Health Authority Act* (Saskatchewan).
- 9.9 **Personal Health Information:** The Parties hereby acknowledge that SHA is a trustee and a custodian of all personal health information. SHA will have custody and control of all personal health information collected for the purposes of the Services. SHA will be trustee of the personal health information for the purposes of the *Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan). The Parties further agree to collect, use or disclose personal health information only for as allowed under *The Health Information Protection Act* (Saskatchewan).
- 9.10 **Survival:** This Article 9 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

10. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

10.1 **Indemnity:** Each of the Parties agree to indemnify and save the other Party harmless from all claims, actions, losses, costs, expenses, judgments and damages of any kind, including those on account of injury to persons, including death, or damage to property, in any way caused by the acts or omissions of the indemnifying Party, its servants, agents, employees or any other person for whom it is at law responsible related to or arising out of the operations, activities, programs or other matters to which this Agreement pertains, together with all legal expenses and costs incurred by the indemnified Party in defending any legal action pertaining to the above. The indemnifying Party agrees that it shall cooperate with the indemnified Party in the defence of any such action, including providing the indemnified Party with prompt notice of any such action and the provision of all material documentation. The indemnifying Party further agrees that the indemnified Party has the right to retain its own counsel to conduct a full defence of any such action.

10.2 **Insurance:** During the Term of this Agreement, each Party shall maintain in full force and effect the following insurance coverages:

- (a) commercial general liability insurance for a minimum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for any one occurrence. Such insurance shall add the other Party as an Additional Insured, but only with respect to this Agreement and shall include the following:
 - (i) products and completed operations;
 - (ii) personal injury, including death;
 - (iii) cross liability; and
 - (iv) no fewer than thirty (30) days' prior written notice of material change to, cancellation, or non-renewal of the policy;
- (b) professional liability and errors & omissions insurance in the minimum limit of liability of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for any one occurrence. Such insurance shall include no fewer than thirty (30) days' prior written notice of material change to, cancellation, or non-renewal of the policy.
- (c) any other professional insurance required by law or which either Party considers necessary to cover any risks it may assume as a result of entering into this Agreement.

Each Party shall provide the other Party with proof of all such insurance satisfactory to the other Party upon request. The foregoing insurance shall be primary, shall be placed with insurers licensed to do business in Saskatchewan, and shall not require the sharing of any loss by any insurer of the other Party.

Each Party shall provide the other Party with proof of all such insurance satisfactory to the other Party upon request. The foregoing insurance shall be primary, shall be placed with insurers licensed to do business in Saskatchewan, and shall not require the sharing of any loss by any insurer of the other Party.

10.3 **Survival:** This Article 10 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

11.1 **Conflict of Interest:** Neither Party shall undertake any contractual arrangements with another third Party which may actually or potentially create a conflict of interest with the provision of Services to the other Party without having first disclosed to the other Party the actual or potential conflict of interest.

11.2 **Duty to Prevent Conflict:** Notwithstanding section 11.1, both Parties agree to avoid any conflict of interest in the performance of their contractual obligations under this Agreement. Each Party shall immediately notify the other should any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest arise or come to either Party's attention. Each Party shall promptly provide the other with details of such conflict of interest, and shall endeavour to resolve such real, potential or perceived conflict of interest to the full satisfaction of the other Party.

11.3 **Disputes:** The Parties agree to make best efforts between them to resolve any disputes that relate to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. If a dispute arises, the Parties agree that, unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, they shall continue to perform their respective obligations under this Agreement until such time as the dispute has been resolved or such obligation has expired by reason of the termination or expiry of this Agreement.

11.4 **Survival:** This Article 11 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 **Interpretation of Headings:** The Article and section headings used in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and in no manner modify or interpret, or shall be used to construe, this Agreement. Words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular if the context so requires. References to any one gender shall include references to both genders and the neuter gender if the context so requires.

12.2 **Amendment:** This Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument clearly identified as an amending agreement and duly executed in writing by the Parties hereto. No revisions to this Agreement shall be binding or shall be carried out in the absence of such an amending written instrument.

12.3 **Notices:** Any notice or other communication required or contemplated by this Agreement shall be in writing and will be effective if delivered by hand to an authorised representative of the other Party, or if sent by registered mail, or if sent by e-mail transmission to the other Party at the address of such other Party as set out below:

(a) If to SHA:

Saskatchewan Health Authority
Royal University Hospital
103 Hospital Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W8

Attention: Nicole Schumacher
Director, Mental Health & Addiction Services
Email: nicole.schumacher@saskhealthauthority.ca

with a copy to:

Saskatchewan Health Authority
Attention: Director, Contract Management, CPSM
E-mail: contract.management@saskhealthauthority.ca

(b) If to the City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Fire Department:

City of Saskatoon
Saskatoon Fire Department
125 Idylwyld Drive South
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1L4

Attention: Morgan Hackl, Fire Chief
Email: morgan.hackl@saskatoon.ca

12.4 **Address Changes:** The address of either Party may be changed by notice in the manner as set out in section 12.3. Any notice, request, direction or other communication shall be deemed to have been given:

- (a) if by hand delivery, on the date of delivery;
- (b) if by registered mail, two (2) calendar business days after the sending thereof; or
- (c) if by e-mail, the next calendar business day following the date of transmission.

- 12.5 **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement, including the Schedules hereto, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties in respect of the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, prior draft versions of this Agreement, and all negotiations or proposals, written or verbal, relating to the Services. There are no undertakings, representations or promises, express or implied, other than those expressly contained in this Agreement. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Schedules attached hereto and the rest of this Agreement, the provisions of the rest of this Agreement shall prevail.
- 12.6 **Assignment:** Neither this Agreement, nor any rights or obligations hereunder, may be assigned in any manner by either Party without the express prior written consent of the other Party.
- 12.7 **Waiver:** No waiver of any rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and duly executed by the Party waiving its rights and no waiver shall be deemed a waiver of any prior or subsequent default hereunder unless specifically stated so in such written waiver.
- 12.8 **Severability:** If any provision, term, condition, sentence or part of a sentence of this Agreement, or the application thereof to the Parties or to any person or circumstance, is or becomes illegal, invalid or unenforceable, it shall be considered separate and severable from this Agreement and the remaining provisions, terms, conditions, sentences and parts of sentences shall remain in force and be binding upon the Parties as though such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, term or condition had not been included.
- 12.9 **Force Majeure:** Neither Party shall be liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement if and to the extent that such failure or delay is caused, directly or indirectly, by fire, flood, earthquake, elements of nature or acts of God, riots, civil disorders, acts of terrorism, rebellion or revolution, pandemic, epidemic, quarantine, embargo or other government action, or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of such Party, providing that the non-performing Party is without fault in causing such failure or delay, and such failure or delay could not have been prevented by reasonable precautions and cannot reasonably be circumvented by the non-performing Party through the use of alternate sources, work-around plans, or other means.

The Parties agree that an event shall not be considered beyond one's reasonable control if a reasonable business person applying due diligence in the same or similar circumstances under the same or similar obligations as those contained in this Agreement would have put in place contingency plans either to materially mitigate or to negate the effects of such event.

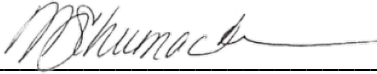
- 12.10 **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Saskatchewan, and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein, without regard to conflict of laws principles. The Parties agree to attorn to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Saskatchewan, and to any court having appeal jurisdiction therefrom, in respect of any dispute or matter arising out of, or relating to, this Agreement.
- 12.11 **Time of Essence:** Time shall be of the essence of this Agreement.
- 12.12 **Currency:** Unless otherwise expressly stated, all monetary amounts described or referred to in this Agreement are in the lawful currency of Canada and all payments shall be made in Canadian dollars.
- 12.13 **Enurement:** This Agreement shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of both Parties and their respective legal successors, executors, administrators and assigns, as permitted by this Agreement.
- 12.14 **Further Assurances:** The Parties agree to do, execute and deliver, or cause to be done, executed and delivered, all such further assignments, documents, instruments, transfers, acts, deeds, matters, assurances and other things as, from time to time, might be reasonably necessary or desirable to give effect to this Agreement and the obligations of the Parties hereunder. Whenever the agreement or consent of a Party is required to achieve the substance of this Agreement, such agreement or consent shall not be unreasonably or arbitrarily withheld. Whenever a Party is entitled to act in its discretion under this Agreement, such Party shall not act unreasonably or arbitrarily in its exercise of such discretion. This Agreement shall be construed neutrally and with no presumption favouring or disfavouring either party by virtue of its authorship.
- 12.15 **Full Power:** Each Party warrants and represents that it has full power, right and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. Each Party further warrants that its representatives have the full right and power to enter into this Agreement.
- 12.16 **Survival:** All such terms and conditions herein which, by their nature or intent, should survive termination or expiration of this Agreement shall so survive.
- 12.17 **Supersedence:** Unless otherwise provided for herein, any conflict between a provision in any schedule or other attachment of whatsoever kind attached hereto and that part of this Agreement that lies before the signatures to this Agreement shall be resolved in favour of that part of this Agreement that lies before the signatures.
- 12.18 **Counterpart Execution:** This Agreement may be executed by counterpart, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which, taken together, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument. This Agreement will be considered to be fully executed

when each Party has executed an identical counterpart, notwithstanding that all signatures might not appear on the same counterpart. Delivery of executed counterparts by the Parties, including by electronic means, shall be deemed to be proper execution of this Agreement.

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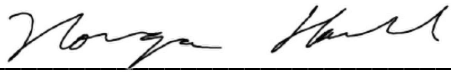
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties, by their properly authorised representatives, have duly executed this Services Agreement as of the Effective Date.

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

Per: 
Nicole Schumacher
Director, Mental Health & Addictions Services (Saskatoon)

Date: December 19, 2022

**CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON**

Per: 
Morgan Hackl
Fire Chief

Date: December 13, 2022

SCHEDULE "A"
to the Services Agreement between
SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
and
THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON
Dated as of November 15, 2022

SERVICES

I. OVERDOSE OUTREACH TEAM - PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Overdose Outreach Team is to provide substance use disorder and overdose support services to individuals ("SHA Clients") who have recently experienced an opioid induced overdose. The Overdose Outreach Team will provide support services including connection to follow-up care and services, harm reduction education and supplies. The overall objective of the Overdose Outreach Team is to connect with individuals who have experienced a recent overdose. The Overdose Outreach Team will engage with the individual to support them in achieving self identified goals related to their substance use as a means of reducing risks for harm.

As part the Overdose Outreach Team, Services, both the SHA Employee and the Saskatoon Fire Department Employee shall provide the following services:

- Attempt to connect with the SHA Client referred to the Overdose Outreach Team (in person, or by way of phone call or text (as applicable));
- Provide information and connections to mental health and addiction services including treatment for opioid addictions;
- Assist the SHA Client with accessing harm reduction supplies, and if suitable, with connecting to supervised consumption services which are available within the community;
- Assist the SHA Client with connecting to income assistance/disability/social services;
- Assist the SHA Client with connecting to community resources (i.e. housing) and accessing other health care services;

II. SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT – OBLIGATIONS & EXPECTATIONS

Pursuant to section 7.2 the Saskatoon Fire Department shall provide the following staffing services to work in collaboration with SHA as part of the Overdose Outreach Team, in support of the delivery of the Services as contemplated in accordance with this Agreement:

- 1.0 FTE Primary Care Paramedic

Will work in partnership with SHA Addictions Counselor (Degree, Senior)

III. SHA – OBLIGATIONS & EXPECTATIONS

Pursuant to section 7.3 SHA shall provide the following staffing services to work in collaboration with the Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic, as part of the Overdose Outreach Team, in support of the delivery of the Services as contemplated in accordance with this Agreement:

- 1.0 FTE Addictions Counselor(Degree, Senior)

Will work in partnership with Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic

IV. Reporting

The Parties acknowledge they may be required to provide statistical reporting to the other, or to the Ministry of Health respecting the Services. Any statistical reports provided to either Party, or the Ministry of Health shall utilize anonymous data or de-identified data only.

- Gender, age, location, ethnicity
- Number of referrals received by Overdose Outreach Team and their origin (Saskatoon Police Services, Medavie, Saskatoon Fire Department, SHA Emergency Department, other organizations)
- Door knocks/phone calls completed
- Number of actual SHA Client contacts made – in person, phone calls – how many contacts/client
- Nature of outcome – if, or where SHA Client was referred to support organizations or services
- Take home naloxone kit training and distribution
- Time from overdose to referral and time from referral received by Overdose Outreach Team to first attempt to contact
- Housed/unhoused – helps frame picture of SHA Clients served and housing challenges

V. General Provisions/Further Obligations of the Saskatoon Fire Department:

The Saskatoon Fire Department shall ensure all Saskatoon Fire Department Employees who assist in the provision of the Services abide by the following:

- Act honestly, and in good faith, with a view to the best interests of SHA and to the individuals seeking Services under this Agreement (i.e. SHA Clients);
- Maintain effective working relationships with all SHA staff and employees;
- Sign SHA’s Confidentiality Agreement for External Parties SHA-07-003-F2;
- Comply with all SHA policies, procedures, protocols, work standards, rules and regulations, as they are announced during the Term of this Agreement
- Completion of online training “Trauma Informed Practice: Growing Awareness” –Levels 1 and 2, or as additional levels are added from time to time);

SCHEDULE "B"
to the Services Agreement between
SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
and
THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON
Dated as of November 15, 2022

CHARGES/PAYMENTS

COST CENTRE	PAYMENT
Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic (1.0 FTE)	\$85,000.00
Use of Saskatoon Fire Department Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Surcharge only 	\$3,000.00

****The Parties acknowledge that the City of Saskatoon Fire Department is providing approximately \$56,000.00 of in-kind donations (being equipment or personnel) for use towards the Overdose Response Team Services****

INVOICES

The Saskatoon fire Department will submit two (2) itemized invoices for payment for the Services provided by the Saskatoon Fire Department Employees during the Term of the Agreement.

Invoices shall be submitted:

- on or before December 31, 2022, and
- within sixty (60) days of the Term of the Agreement, being on or before July 14, 2023.

Each invoice should itemize the day(s) worked by Saskatoon Fire Department Employees, the hours of work provided on a given date, the approximate cost per hour for the Saskatoon Fire Department Employee, and applicable fuel charges for the billing period,

SCHEDULE "C"
to the Services Agreement between
SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
and
THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON
Dated as of November 15, 2022

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR EXTERNAL PARTIES
SHA 07-003-F2

[TO BE INSERTED AT EXECUTION]

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SECOND AMENDING AGREEMENT

THIS SECOND AMENDING AGREEMENT (the “**Second Amending Agreement**”) is made effective the 16th day of November, 2023 (the “**Effective Date**”)

BETWEEN

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

a not-for-profit body corporate continued pursuant to
The Provincial Health Authority Act (Saskatchewan),
having its head office at
Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen Street
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0M7
(hereinafter, “**SHA**”)

AND

**THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON**

a city continued pursuant to
The Cities Act (Saskatchewan)
having an office at
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5,
(hereinafter, the “**Saskatoon Fire Department**”)

WHEREAS the Parties previously entered into a Shared Services Agreement respecting the Overdose Outreach Team pilot project having an Effective Date of November 15, 2022 which was subsequently amended by Amending Agreement with an Effective Date of May 16, 2023 (collectively the “**Agreement**”);

AND WHEREAS the Parties now desire to implement certain changes to the provisions of the Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein and other good and valuable consideration (the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged), the Parties, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1. Capitalised terms used in this Second Amending Agreement, if not defined herein, assume their definitions as provided for in the Agreement.


2. Section 4.1 of the Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety, and replaced in its entirety with the following text:

*4.1 **Term:** The term of this Agreement (the “**Term**”) shall commence on the Effective Date and shall end on **March 31, 2024** unless sooner terminated as provided for herein, or as might be extended by mutual written agreement of the Parties. The terms of this Agreement shall continue to apply, mutatis mutandis, during any period of extension unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.*

3. Schedule “B” to the Agreement is hereby deleted and replaced in its entirety. A replacement Schedule “B” is attached hereto as an addendum to the Agreement.
4. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement, including in respect of all schedules, appendices and all other attachments of whatsoever kind attached thereto, remain in full force and effect without change. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the Parties hereto do not intend to, and the execution of this Second Amending Agreement shall not in any manner, impair the Agreement. The purpose of this Second Amending Agreement is solely to amend the Agreement, as set out herein.


WHEREFORE AND IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, the Parties to the Agreement, by their properly authorized representatives, have executed this Second Amending Agreement as of the dates indicated below.

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

Per: 
Nicole Schumacher
Director, Mental Health & Addictions Services (Saskatoon)

Date: January 8, 2024

**CITY OF SAKSATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON**

Per: 
Morgan Hackl
Fire Chief

Date: January 5, 2024

SCHEDULE "B"
to the Services Agreement between
SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
and
THE CITY OF SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATING AS A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SASKATOON
With an Effective Date of November 16, 2023

CHARGES/PAYMENTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 – MAY 15, 2023

COST CENTRE	PAYMENT
Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic (1.0 FTE) (November 15, 2022 – May 15, 2023)	\$85,000.00
Use of Saskatoon Fire Department Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Surcharge only (November 15, 2022 – May 15, 2023) 	\$3,000.00

MAY 16, 2023 – NOVEMBER 15, 2023

COST CENTRE	PAYMENT
Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic (1.0 FTE) (May 16 – November 15, 2023)	\$85,000.00
Use of Saskatoon Fire Department Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Surcharge only (May 16 – November 15, 2023) 	\$3,000.00

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2024:

COST CENTRE	PAYMENT
Saskatoon Fire Department Paramedic (1.0 FTE) (November 16 – March 31, 2024)	\$63,750.00
Use of Saskatoon Fire Department Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Surcharge only (November 16, 2023 – March 31, 2024) 	\$1,000.00

****The Parties acknowledge that the City of Saskatoon Fire Department is providing approximately \$56,000.00 of in-kind donations (being equipment or personnel) for use towards the Overdose Response Team Services****

INVOICES

The Saskatoon fire Department will submit three (3) itemized invoices for payment for the Services provided by the Saskatoon Fire Department Employees during the Term of the Agreement.

- First two invoices covering the period November 15, 2022 – November 15, 2023 shall be submitted on or before December 31, 2023.
- A final third invoice covering the extension of the term through to March 31, 2024 shall be submitted on or before June 15, 2024

Each invoice should itemize the day(s) worked by Saskatoon Fire Department Employees, the hours of work provided on a given date, the approximate cost per hour for the Saskatoon Fire Department Employee, and applicable fuel charges for the billing period.