

Sackmann, Debby

From: Web NoReply
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 8:22 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

--- Replies to this email will go to hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org ---

Submitted on Friday, February 26, 2021 - 20:22

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, February 26, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Candace

Last Name Savage

Phone Number

Email hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Address [REDACTED]

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Wild about Saskatoon

Subject Inquiry on Swale Education

Meeting (if known) SPC on Environment

Comments

Re 7.1.1

As most of you know, Wild about Saskatoon is a group of nature lovers who volunteer our time to promote wildlife and wild places as valued aspects of our urban experience. We are pleased to see our contributions acknowledged in this report.

Our signature project, the NatureCity Festival, is on hiatus because of the pandemic, but we have adapted by shifting our work online. From mid-April to mid-May, we will be featuring a call to explore the Swales on our website, as a NatureCity Adventure. In addition, we hope to host an online conversation about the City's Green Infrastructure Strategy in the coming weeks.

We have also made a video about the Northeast Swale (produced by MaxTV and Bamboo Shoots) which we think you will enjoy. You can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QbBrTe0XR8>

Yet despite our best efforts and those of the agencies listed in this report, public appreciation of the Swales remains low. As a community, we don't seem to grasp how spectacular and rare these areas are—how much life they support, how they help us remember the history of this land and its peoples. There is a tendency, even within this chamber, to see the Swales as wasted space and an obstacle to development. It is chastening to remember that reduced speed limits, one of the few practical measures put in place to protect the Swales, were posted and then removed by this council.

We are anxiously awaiting the next steps promised under Phases I and II of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. These assessments and guidelines can't come quickly enough. Long before they are in place, you will likely be asked to approve

plans for UH3, the residential and commercial development that will surround the Swales. Judging from past proposals, the design will call for the expansion of Lowe Road as a connector route through the ecological core of the Northeast Swale. Adjacent areas of natural grassland will be slated for destruction, perhaps with only minimal protection for the sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground. Do not allow this to happen.

The City of Saskatoon has a staff of talented and dedicated employees. This is the moment to inspire your Transportation division to devise solutions that meet your goal of living in harmony with nature. This is the moment to empower your Sustainability experts to map all the valuable habitats in the northeast sector and place them under meaningful protection.

Spring is coming. If any of you have not yet had the pleasure of visiting the Swales, drop us a line and we'll take you for a tour. We'd love to show you what makes these places so important and so deserving of our collective care and protection.

Joanne Blythe
Candace Savage
for Wild about Saskatoon
www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org
Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

