

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - National Urban Park Exploration - CK 4205-1
Attachments: national_urban_park_120922.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 9:04 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - National Urban Park Exploration - CK 4205-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, September 11, 2022 - 21:03

Submitted by user [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, September 11, 2022
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Candace
Last Name Savage
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org
Address [REDACTED] Albert Avenue
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Wild about Saskatoon, Swale Watchers, CPAWS
Saskatchewan
Subject National Urban Park Exploration
Meeting (if known) SPC Planning, Development and Community Services
Comments
Re 6.3.1: please circulate the attached letter to members of the committee. Thank you.
Attachments
[national_urban_park_120922.pdf](#)
Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

September 11, 2022

To: SPC Planning, Development and Community Services, City of Saskatoon

From: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society—Saskatchewan Chapter
Swale Watchers
Wild about Saskatoon

CPAWS Saskatchewan is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of healthy forest and grassland ecosystems in Saskatchewan. CPAWS believes that ensuring the health of our natural ecosystems is critical to securing a sustainable future for all Canadians.

Swale Watchers is a coalition of concerned Saskatoon citizens focused on ensuring the long-term protection and health of the Small and Northeast Swales.

Wild about Saskatoon is a grassroots organization dedicated to advocating for Nature as an essential aspect of our urban experience and urban landscape. In 2021, Wild about Saskatoon was honoured by the Canadian Museum of Nature as a finalist for a national NatureInspiration Awards.

As conservation organizations, we are thrilled by the prospect of a National Urban Park in and around Saskatoon and are eager to contribute to the ongoing discussions in any way we can. We are grateful to Parks Canada for this exciting initiative and to the team at Meewasin for all the careful work they are doing to advance this project.

The creation of a National Urban Park will support the City of Saskatoon in meeting many of its stated but hard-to-achieve objectives. As Parks Canada explains on its website, “a National urban park[] will contribute to protecting biodiversity, supporting climate resilience, connecting people to nature, improving mental health and wellness, and increasing social inclusion.” That checks a lot of boxes for the City as a corporation and as a community.

As members of the local community, we envision a park with an ambitious vision that includes:

- protecting and reconnecting our increasingly fragmented river valley
- prioritizing the protection of our heritage river channels, by establishing generous boundaries for the West, Northeast and Small Swales
- restoring the Hudson Bay Swale and its connections to Wanuskewin’s Opimahaw Creek

- encouraging citizens to extend the benefits of the Park by restoring locally native vegetation on public and private properties.
- expanding on the Green Network laid out in the P4G regional plan.
- drawing on expertise in the local and national conservation community to shape the vision and boundaries of the park. (This outreach has been lacking in the process to date.)
- designing governance structures that provide the Park with the resources and autonomy it needs to fulfill its challenging mandate.

The mixed-grass prairies ecoregion is one of the most endangered natural systems on earth. It is also a cultural landscape, filled with beings and stories. Creation of a National Urban Park will give new priority to respecting, enhancing and promoting these assets.

The next phase of the discussions is critical. As a member of the steering committee, City Council has an enviable opportunity to advance Wild Ideas and a Big-Sky Vision for our unique National Urban Park. We urge you to give this project your complete and enthusiastic support and to set an ambitious agenda for its success.

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

Meghan Mickelson
Swale Watchers
www.swalewatchers.org

Stewart Coles
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society—Saskatchewan Chapter
www.cpaws-sask.org