

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Based on community interest in the Northeast Swale, significant stakeholder engagement has occurred regarding the Northeast Swale and how development should occur, what should be conserved and the best approach to conservation.

Prior to any recent work, there has been a long history of City-led initiatives which have provided opportunities for stakeholder engagement regarding the Northeast and Small Swales. Highlights among these include the development and approval of the [University Heights Sector Plan](#) and its various amendments in 1993, 2007 and 2013, as well as the development of the [Northeast Swale Development Guidelines](#) in 2012.

More recently, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, at its meeting on March 13, 2017, directed Administration to bring together the stakeholders, who later became the Northeast Swale Working Group (NSWG). This group provided opportunities for stakeholder engagement on development and review of a Natural Area Screening for the University Heights Neighbourhood #3 (UH3) area and the boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swale. Eleven NSWG meetings in total were held with four issue-specific meetings with a focus on swale boundaries. In addition to this, Saskatoon Land hosted a public information meeting to review the UH3 Natural Area Screening (UH3 NAS), and written comments were received by Administration on the UH3 NAS document.

The following is a summary of the recent stakeholder engagement, related to swale boundary options presented for endorsement:

May 15, 2018 – NSWG meeting #3 - Swale Boundaries and Legal Protections

Meeting Attendance:

Meewasin, the Swale Watchers, University of Saskatchewan, Planning and Development, Environmental and Corporate Initiatives (now Sustainability), Saskatoon Water, Parks, and Councillor Gersher

Meeting Goals:

- To provide a forum to discuss the Swale boundary;
- To provide a forum to discuss available legal protections for the Swale; and
- To gain input on specific issues and steps which can be taken to determine the Swale boundaries.

Meeting Summary:

This meeting provided opportunity for Administration to provide an overview of the development process and existing information that would inform development or conservation initiatives around the swales. This was followed by a discussion of what new information and/or gaps in information there may be.

Information collected at this meeting provided direction for next steps in determining swale boundaries, including the completion of a Natural Area Screening.

Meeting Outcome:

The City made use of collected information when the scope of the Natural Area Screening for UH3 was developed.

June 12, 2018 – NSWG meeting #3 - Swale Boundaries and Legal Protections

Meeting Attendance:

Meewasin, the Swale Watchers, Saskatoon Land, Planning and Development, Environmental and Corporate Initiatives (now Sustainability), and Councillor Gersher.

Meeting Goals:

- To provide an update to Saskatoon Land on new information regarding the swales; and
- To provide an opportunity for discussion between community stakeholders and Saskatoon Land regarding status and process for developing the UH3 Concept Plan.

Meeting Summary:

The meeting provided opportunity for Meewasin and the Swale Watchers to each present updates on new available information for the swales, and other natural areas, in proximity to the future UH3 neighbourhood. Meewasin provided updates regarding documentation of various flora and fauna found in the area, while the Swale Watchers provided a map with ideas for new swale boundaries as well as background on what informed the development of that map.

Saskatoon Land provided an update on their timeline and process for developing the UH3 Concept Plan, as well as information on what has, and will, inform it. This included identifying the Northeast Swale Development Guidelines, a new UH3 Natural Area Screening, [Council Policy C09-041, Wetland Policy](#), as well as the City's then in-development Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Meeting Outcome:

A commitment that when Saskatoon Land is ready to proceed with the required additional studies, the below process will be followed:

- Saskatoon Land will provide their draft Request for Proposals to the City for review. Both the Environment & Corporate Initiatives (Sustainability) and Planning & Development Departments will review the Request for Proposals and coordinate with relevant parties to ensure the consultant's report will contain any needed new information.
- Prior to the completion of the study, Environmental & Corporate Initiatives (Sustainability) will review the draft report to ensure it contains needed information and recommendations to allow development to proceed.

February 23, 2021 – NSWG meeting #10- UH3 NAS Review

Meeting Attendance:

Meewasin, the Swale Watchers, Saskatoon Land, Planning and Development, Sustainability and Councillor Gersher.

Meeting Goals:

To provide an update on results of the Natural Area Screening developed for the UH3 and to discuss stakeholder opportunities for considering recommendations of the Natural Area Screening.

Meeting Summary:

The meeting provided opportunity for Saskatoon Land to provide a result summary of the UH3 NAS and outline the next steps related to it. Discussion occurred on specific elements of the UH3 NAS, including how proposed ecological boundaries of the swales was determined, how the results of the UH3 NAS will be incorporated into the concept plan and what further opportunities there will be for stakeholder engagement.

Meeting Outcome:

- Saskatoon Land has agreed to share the executive summary of the UH3 NAS with this group.
- Saskatoon Land has agreed to be available to provide the same presentation to a larger group of stakeholders, if desired.

June 21, 2021 – UH3 NAS – Public Information Meeting

On June 21, 2021, a public information meeting was hosted by Saskatoon Land, where an overview of the UH3 NAS was provided and the full document was publicly released. Details on the meeting can be found [here](#) and an Engagement Report can be found [here](#).

This public information session was presented virtually via Microsoft Teams, and followed by a question-and-answer period with representatives from Saskatoon Land and Environmental Dynamics Inc. The feedback collected during this event will be considered, alongside the numerous technical studies and developmental considerations by Saskatoon Land, when developing the draft Neighbourhood Concept Plan. City Administration will also consider this feedback during their review of the draft Neighbourhood Concept Plan.

November 2021 – UH3 NAS – Stakeholder Comments Received

Following release of the full UH3 NAS at the June 21, 2021 public information meeting, stakeholders were invited to review the report and provide comments. This resulted in comments being provided by Meewasin, the Swale Watchers, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Wild About Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Nature Society. The comments received by Administration were considered as part of the review of swale boundaries and informed Administration recommendations of Option 2 (see Appendix 5) for Council's endorsement.

December 7, 2022 – NSWG meeting #11- Swale Boundaries & UH3 NAS Follow Up

Meeting Attendance:

Meewasin, the Swale Watchers, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Wild About Saskatoon, Saskatoon Nature Society, the University of Saskatchewan, Planning and Development, Sustainability and Councillor Gersher.

Meeting Goals:

- Provide an overview of the engagement and Natural Area Screening process to date; and
- Discuss recommended boundaries from Natural Area Screening for endorsement ahead of a Concept Plan being developed.

Meeting Summary:

Administration provided an overview of the engagement and Natural Area Screening process to date. This included review and analysis of comments from each group present on the UH3 NAS. Administration then outlined a recommendation for new swale boundaries. Extensive discussion followed, with no consensus emerging on the preferred boundaries.

Meeting Outcome:

Without consensus on one single option for swale boundaries, direction from the meeting was to bring forward a report providing a series of options, that were deemed to be viable options for swale boundaries, for City Council to consider endorsing.