

**Lasby, Mary**

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Linda Tweddell - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 19, 2023 11:16 AM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Subject:** Email - Communication - Linda Tweddell - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Sunday, February 19, 2023 - 11:16

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**I have read and understand the above statements.:** Yes

**Date:** Sunday, February 19, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Linda

**Last Name:** Tweddell

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED] Egbert Ave.

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** S7N [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** City Council Meeting, February 22, 2023

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 9.3.1

**Comments:**

I am wrting to you, the Council of the City of Saskatoon, to request that you seriously consider the recommendations

of the Swale Watchers in your deliberations regarding the proposed boundaries of the University Heights III neighbourhood and how they will impact the Northeast Swale and the Small Swale. Their recommendations are endorsed by the Wilderness Society Saskatchewan, Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Society, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, SOS Trees Coalition, Walking Saskatoon, and Wild about Saskatoon, and by me.

The swales on the northeast side of of Saskatoon are a unique ecosystem and home to many increasingly rare, threatened, and endangered species of both plants and animals. We all know that conservation of threatened and endangered species is dependent on the ecosystem in which they live and thrive. In northeast Saskatoon, the connections between the swales, to the parts of that ecosystem further east, and to the South Saskatchewan River are essential to the integrity and health of that ecosystem and to the wildlife that depend on it. Once the ecosystem is fragmented, disconnected, and disturbed, the animals that call it home cannot thrive. With the loss of this ecosystem, our city will be losing a treasure that could enhance the lives of our citizens for decades to come.

This area holds examples of the long history of this region. Research into the ancient/pre-historic story of this area includes evidence of mega-fauna who once called area home -- camels, musk-oxen, mastadons, and more before the last period of glaciation. Pre-colonial history has been unearthed and discloses a mellenia old presence of Inidigenous peoples living in this area, travelling through it, harvesting the foods and medicine that grow here, and meeting with groups of kin folk and others for seasonal hunting and ceremonies.

Sitting on or walking on this small remnant of the land these people used for countless generations brings their history alive to those who hearit, who imagine it, who can feel it in the wind, see it in the beauty of the flowers, or hear it in the whispers of the grasses, the songs of birds, and the chirps of frogs. So much of the original landscape of this area in central Saskatchewan has been lost due to settlement that few of our residents have any idea about what the "prairies" originally looked like or how richly endowed they were with resources that sustained animals and people for many thousands of years.

This area could serve the people of Saskatoon -- particularly its children and youth, but adults as well -- for many, many decades as a learning space. Classes of children could learn about the natural history of the animals, big and small, that have lived here and continue to live here. Families and individuals could use the area as a retreat from the busy-ness and the noise of their lives within the city, a chance to breathe and unwind, a chance to walk on the the land the way people have walked the land for countless generations. I, for one, want to go this spring to hear (perhaps see) the Sharp Tailed Grouse dancing on their lek! If I (or we) don't go this year, we may never see it or hear it in our lifetimes! Once that site is encroached upon or destroyed, the grouse will be gone!

The decision you make this week related to the future of the swales and their integrity and connections to the river will have permanent consequences for both the native plants and animals that live there and for the many generations of people who will enjoy and learn from this unique area if it is preserved. Natural areas like this cannot be "built" and if they are disturbed or destroyed, they cannot be restored. Once gone, they're gone forever and they are irreplaceable.

I hope the advocacy of the Swale Watchers and their supporters will have a positive effect on your deliberations.

**Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No**

**Lasby, Mary**

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Linda Tweddell - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

**Importance:** High

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**From:** [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2023 2:05 PM

**To:** Web E-mail - City Clerks <[City.Clerks@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Clerks@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Subject:** Email - Communication - Linda Tweddell - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

**Importance:** High

[Warning: This email originated outside our email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]

Please make this email available to the Mayor and all Councillors prior to the meeting on February 22. My letter is related to Agenda Item #9.3.1 and Council's deliberation on the proposed boundaries of the neighbourhood, University Heights III and the impact of those boundaries on the environmental integrity of the Small and Northeast Swales.

I am writing to you, the Council of the City of Saskatoon, to request that you seriously consider the recommendations of the Swale Watchers in your deliberations regarding the proposed boundaries of the University Heights III neighbourhood and how they will impact the Northeast Swale and the Small Swale. Their recommendations are endorsed by the Wilderness Society Saskatchewan, Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Society, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, SOS Trees Coalition, Walking Saskatoon, and Wild about Saskatoon and by me.

The swales on the north east side of Saskatoon are a unique ecosystem and home to many increasingly rare, threatened, and endangered species. We all know that conservation of threatened and endangered species is dependent on the ecosystem in which they live and thrive. In northeast Saskatoon, the connections between the swales, to the parts of the ecosystem further east, and to the South Saskatchewan River are essential to the integrity and health of that ecosystem and to the wildlife that depend on it. Once the ecosystem is fragmented, disconnected, and disturbed, the animals that call it home cannot thrive. With the loss of this ecosystem, our city will be losing a treasure that could enhance the lives of our citizens for decades or more to come.

This area holds examples of the long history of this region. Research into the ancient/pre-historic story of this area includes evidence of mega-fauna who once called

this area home, camels, musk-oxen, mastadons, and more before the last period of glaciation. Pre-colonial history has been unearthed and discloses a millenia old presence of Indigenous peoples living in this area, travelling through it, harvesting the foods and medicine that grow here, and meeting with groups of kin folk and others for seasonal hunting and ceremonies. Sitting on or walking on this small remnant of the land these people used for countless generations brings their history alive to those who hear it, who imagine it, who can feel it in the wind, see it in the beauty of the flowers, or hear it in the whispers of the grasses, the songs of birds, and the chirps of frogs. So much of the original landscape of this area in central Saskatchewan has been lost due to settlement that few of our residents have any idea about what the "prairies" originally looked like or how richly endowed they were with resources that sustained animals and people for many thousands of years.

This area could serve the people of Saskatoon -- particularly its children and youth, but adults as well -- for many, many decades as a learning space. Classes of children could learn about the natural history of the animals, big and small that have lived here and continue to live here. Families and individuals could use the area as a retreat from the busy-ness and the noise of their lives within the city, a chance to breathe and unwind, a chance to walk on the land the way people have walked on the land for countless generations. I, for one, want to go this spring to hear (perhaps see) the Sharp Tailed Grouse dancing on their lek! If I (or we) don't go this year, we may never see it or hear it in our lifetimes! Once that site is encroached up or destroyed, the grouse will be gone!

The decisions you make this week related to the future of the swales and their integrity and connections to the river will have permanent consequences for both the native plants and animals that live there and for the many generations of people who will enjoy and learn from this unique area if it is preserved. Natural areas like this cannot be "built" and if they are disturbed or destroyed, they cannot be restored. Once gone, they're gone forever and they are irreplaceable.

I hope that the advocacy of the Swale Watchers and their supporters will have a positive effect on your deliberations.

Sincerely,  
Linda Tweddell  
[REDACTED] Egbert Avenue,  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7N [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]