

Lasby, Mary

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Carmen Formanek-Loncar - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 3:27 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

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

Submitted on Sunday, February 19, 2023 - 15:26

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

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Carmen

Last Name: Formanek-Loncar

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: CARmen FOR-man-EK LONchar

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] east hampton blvd

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7R [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Myself

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: February 22 Regular Business Meeting of City Council

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

Comments:

Dear City Councillors,

I wish to address the proposals for the Small and Northeast Swales. The three proposals set forward are inadequate and do not protect the long-term health and ecological integrity of the swales. Unfortunately, even the best of these options leaves many crucial problems unresolved. Specifically, the city's proposals all:

- Fail to provide optimal protection for the sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground in the Northeast Swale.
- Fail to safeguard the wetlands in the hydrologically sensitive Small Swale, and
- Fail to provide viable habitat linkages between the Small and Northeast Swales and between the Northeast Swale and the river valley. Providing these connections is absolutely crucial to maintaining the health of the Swales and the species who live there.

In sum, the City's plan would lead to further and potentially ruinous damage and loss to these unique natural features. The value of ecological services provided by these areas (estimated at over \$700,000 annually for the Small Swale alone) would be put at risk.

This is not the future I want. I want these miraculous fragments of grasslands and wetlands to thrive, for the sake of the hundreds of species that rely on them for survival. For the sake of our own wellbeing. For the sake of future generations.

I stand with the Swale Watchers of Saskatoon and wish to voice my support for their proposal. Their plan foregrounds the long-term health of the Swales and, at the same time, provides an opportunity for the City of Saskatoon to fulfill its goal of growing in harmony with nature. They have identified 260 acres that could be dedicated to low-to-mid density urban development, generously bounded by conservation zones.

- The Swale Protected Area includes all remaining natural grasslands and areas of high biodiversity value, as documented in recent studies. No significant development would be permitted in the Protected Area.
- The Swale Borders includes buffers and wildlife corridors necessary to safeguard the ecological and hydrological functioning of the Protected Area. "Soft" development such as trails, linear parks, storm water ponds and other amenities could be situated in the naturalized Swale Borders.

In short, the Swales are not to be taken for granted or misused without thorough, intentional, and mindful action. The risks are too great to be minimized. Please consider a fourth option, and a different plan that considers the longevity of our city and the species that make this land home.

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