

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40
Attachments: Swales Letter to Council from SES Feb 2023.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:23 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

--- Replies to this email will go to meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca ---

Submitted on Thursday, February 16, 2023 - 16:15

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Megan

Last Name: Van Buskirk

Phone Number : [306-665-1915](tel:306-665-1915)

Email: meganvb@environmentalsociety.ca

Address: PO Box 1372

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K 3N9

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Environmental Society

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

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

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

Comments:

Please view the attached letter from the SES, endorsing the Swale Watchers' Vision Statement.

Attachments:

- [Swales Letter to Council from SES Feb 2023.pdf](#)863.31 KB

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

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February 16, 2023

City of Saskatoon
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RE: February 22, 2023; Agenda item 9.3.1

To Mayor Clark and Members of Saskatoon City Council:

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society recognizes the intrinsic value of the Northeast and Small Swales, as well as the ecosystem services provided to Saskatoon and area, including stormwater management, active lifestyle opportunities, and property value uplift in nearby neighbourhoods. The Swales are also home to hundreds of species of plants and animals, many that are rare, endangered, and culturally significant. The Northeast and Small Swales are one of the largest surviving fragments of native prairie in this part of Saskatchewan, and one of the keys to long-term sustainability is to provide functional habitat corridors and to buffer the Swales from residential development and roadways.

Therefore, we are writing to **strongly endorse the Swale Watchers' Vision Statement and boundaries.** The maps contained in this document are an exceptional piece of work. They provide the City of Saskatoon with the scientific guidance required to put in place boundaries that will safeguard the Swales' long-term ecological functioning and protect its grasslands and high biodiversity areas, while at the same time allowing for appropriate neighbourhood development.

We hope the City of Saskatoon will move forward as quickly as possible in making the proposed boundaries in the Swale Watchers' *Vision Statement* a reality, which will provide optimal protection for the sharp-tailed grouse's lek in the Northeast Swale, safeguard the wetlands in the hydrologically sensitive Small Swale, and provide viable habitat linkages between the Swales and to the river valley.

Prompt action by City Council will ensure future generations of Saskatoon residents are able to enjoy the remarkable biodiversity the Swales offer and will continue to benefit from the many ecological services the Swale provides, including its important role in mitigating climate change impacts.

Together we can conserve this incredible ecosystem for all who depend on it!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Megan Van Buskirk
Acting Executive Director