

## Lasby, Mary

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Natural Areas Policy Framework - CK 4110-38  
**Attachments:** Natural Areas Policy Framework January 2024.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 6, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Natural Areas Policy Framework - CK 4110-38

--- Replies to this email will go to [hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org](mailto:hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org) ---

Submitted on Saturday, January 6, 2024 - 15:24

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

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

**I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.:** No

**I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.:** No

**Date:** Saturday, January 06, 2024

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

**First Name:** Candace

**Last Name:** Savage

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

**Email:** [hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org](mailto:hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org)

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Albert Avenue

**Ward:** Ward 6

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Wild about Saskatoon

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

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** SPC Planning

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 8.3.1 Natural Areas Policy Framework

**Comments:**

Please circulate the attached letter to members of the committee.

**Attachments:**

- [Natural Areas Policy Framework January 2024.pdf](#)104.01 KB

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

# Wild About Saskatoon

January 6, 2024

Re 8.3.1. Natural Areas Policy Framework

By studying the small print in the City's pre-budget documents, we had mistakenly concluded that this important initiative had been lost in the shuffle. We are very glad to see that work on the Natural Areas Policy Framework has, in fact, advanced and will begin bearing fruit later this year.

We appreciate the candid analysis of gaps and weaknesses in the City's current process that are identified in Appendix 1. This understanding, which matches our experience, establishes a good basis for moving forward with necessary improvements.

A few questions and comments about Appendix 2, *Natural Areas Policy-Current State Summary*:

\* Section 1.3 identifies the Wetland Policy as the City's "most significant policy" for "planning and development of areas that include natural assets." Strengthening of the Wetland Policy is not listed among the goals of this Policy Framework as summarized in Appendix 3. Can we expect to see a revised Wetland Policy in 2024?

\* Figure 2 maps the connection between the City's green network and the Green Network Study Area in the P4G. Again, this connection is not highlighted in the outcomes for the Policy Framework. How will the City of Saskatoon engage with its partners in the P4G to develop an effective Natural Areas Policy Framework for the region?

\* Section 5.4 identifies the difficulty of protecting natural areas through "one-size-fits-all" regulations "partially due to the nature of diverse ecosystems requiring a level of interpretation and flexibility." The City of Edmonton has addressed this challenge through (among other measures) its Natural Area Systems policy (2007). This foundational document combines high-level statements of desired outcomes with a clear delegation of responsibility, across all city departments, for ensuring

that these outcomes are achieved.<sup>1</sup> We look forward to seeing the same vision and clarity expressed in Saskatoon's forthcoming Natural Area Policy.

\* Section 5.5 acknowledges the linkage between climate resilience and the protection of wetlands and other natural areas. Unfortunately, the language in this section of the report is weak, promising only that tools "may be explored further in future stages." As difficult as these issues may be to address, we believe that nature-based solutions to climate change should be prioritized and included in the deliverables for this project. This would bring us up to date with Calgary<sup>2</sup>, Windsor<sup>3</sup> and many other cities in Canada and around the world.<sup>4</sup>

Overall, we are grateful that this work is proceeding and look forward to reviewing the new processes and policies as they are developed.

Joanne Blythe  
Chad Hammond  
Candace Savage

Wild about Saskatoon  
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<sup>1</sup><https://www.edmonton.ca/public-files/assets/document?path=PoliciesDirectives/C531.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.calgary.ca/environment/climate/natural-area-restored.html>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/environment/climate-change-adaptation/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.unep.org/resources/report/smart-sustainable-and-resilient-cities-power-nature-based-solutions>