

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans - CK 1860-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 4:54 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans - CK 1860-1

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

Submitted on Monday, May 6, 2024 - 16:50

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

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: Monday, May 06, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Candace

Last Name: Savage

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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): Swale Watchers

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: SPC Environment, Tuesday, May 7

What agenda item do you wish to comment on?: 7.2.1 Natural Area Management Plans

Comments:

Swale Watchers were fully engaged with the consultants and City staff in preparatory discussions about the Small Swale Management Plan and also provided two rounds of feedback on early drafts. We are dismayed to discover that the final document contains errors that we pointed out during these consultations, together with new-to-us errors in sections of the document that we had not seen until the Appendices were posted a few hours ago. In case you haven't seen it, the full document is available here:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/Small%20Swale%20-%20Natural%20Area%20Management%20Plan%20%28Updated%20Version%29.pdf>

As a result of these errors, we recommend that you send the Plan back to its authors for correction.

Sample errors:

Table 3-12 (page 152/228) misidentifies prairie sage, *Artemesia ludovinciana*, a culturally important plant, as prairie wormwood *Artemesia campestris*.

Appendix F (page 188/228) includes incorrect information about the conservation ranking and status of several species of birds, including American robin, brown-headed cowbird, house wren and warbling vireo. The list also includes bendire's thrasher, a species that is limited to the southern US and Mexico. Its presence in the Small Swale seems highly unlikely.

We also continue to be concerned about the geographical limits of this study. The Plan is bounded by a previous alignment of the proposed Saskatoon Freeway, an artificial and now outdated boundary. As a result, the best quality segments of the Small Swale --within City limits and owned by the City --have been excluded from the Management Plan. This opportunity to protect the ecological core of the Small Swale needs to be addressed.

We are pleased that the Small Swale has been identified as a priority for protection and management but there is still clearly a lot of work to be done. Swale Watchers look forward to future engagement as this Plan evolves.

Meghan Mickelson
Candace Savage
Co-chairs, Swale Watchers
www.swalewatchers.org

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: Yes