

Conceptualizing a Potential Saskatoon Region National Urban Park

The draft vision statement, key areas of focus, governance and boundaries for a potential Saskatoon Region National Urban Park were developed and refined in the Planning phase of the exploration.

Draft Vision

The Saskatoon Region National Urban Park aspires to conserve imperiled prairie grasslands and wetlands and protect vital ecosystems that are critical to urban health and traditional Indigenous ways of life. Weaving through Saskatchewan's largest population centre, this space emphasizes the importance of outdoor experiences to our collective well-being and has been designated as a featured Canadian destination to ensure all will be able to know and connect with the natural, cultural and recreational value of this area for generations to come.

Areas of Focus

- Wellness
 - Support Physical & Mental Health Benefits
 - Create Connection/Gathering Spaces
 - Honour Spiritual/Cultural Spaces
 - Facilitate Outdoor Recreation
- Reconciliation
 - Respect Indigenous rights and interests
 - Acknowledge Traditional Territory & Features
 - Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- Tourism / Economic Development
 - Showcase Unique Aspects of Region
 - Attract Visitors
 - Offer Cultural & Recreational Experiences
 - Encourage Small Business Opportunities
- Conservation
 - Preserve for our Children
 - Protect nature
 - Conserve biodiversity
 - Manage water
- Education
 - Create Interactive Experiences
 - Culture
 - History

Vision Boundaries and Governance

- Access
 - Foster spaces inclusive of all abilities, ages, languages, etc.
 - Facilitate Free Active Spaces
 - Welcoming

Governance

In the Saskatoon region, the potential national urban park would not be a federally governed or administered park. The Meewasin Valley Authority would be the lead partner and the model under consideration suggests that Meewasin would coordinate park operations with partners, like how these areas are managed today. It has been identified that a designated national urban park would be governed under the existing *Meewasin Valley Authority Act*. No changes to any Act or legislation are proposed, and there will be no change in the authority or autonomy of any entities.

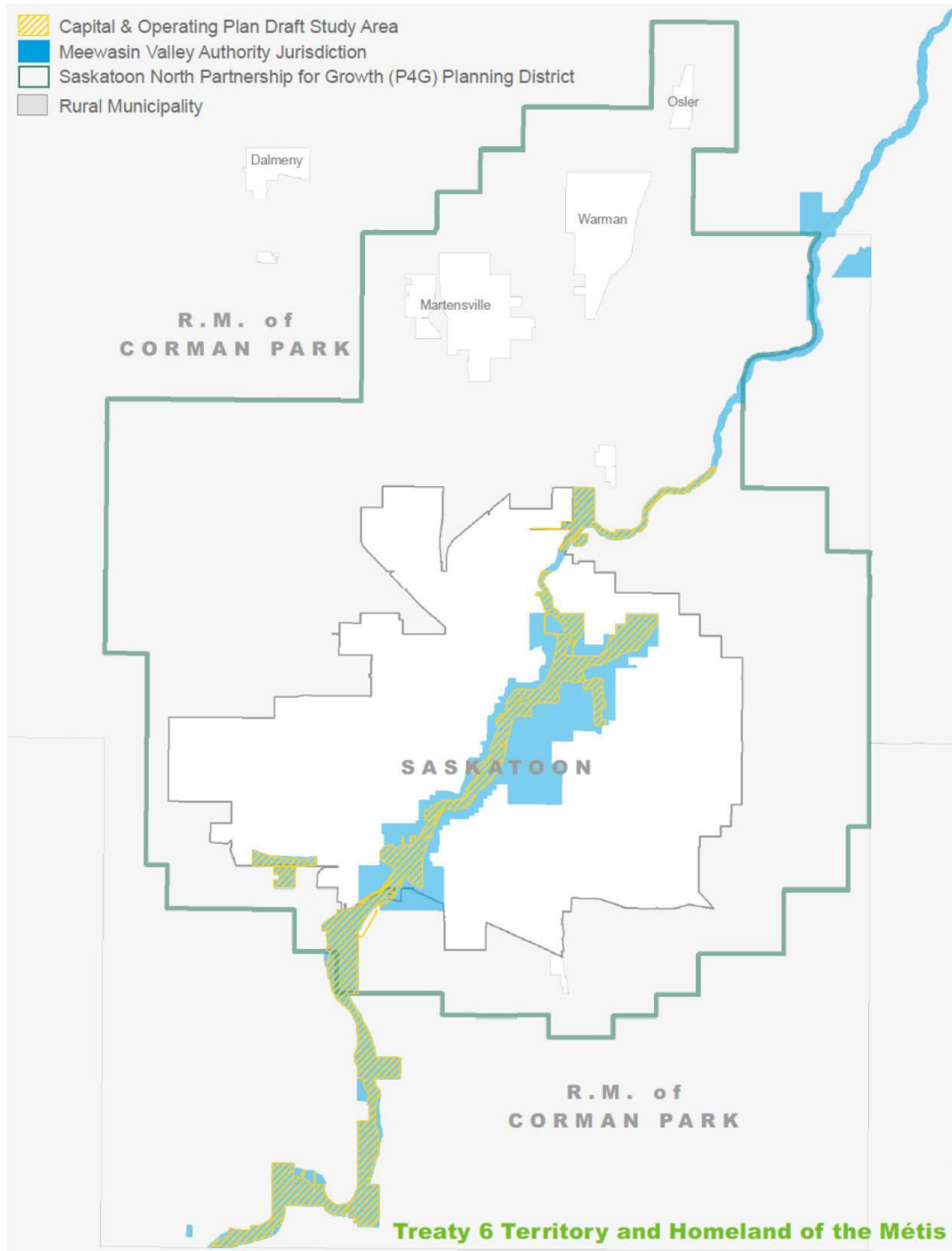
Boundary

Figure 1 illustrates a provisional park boundary for the NUP study area. This area includes lands already within the Meewasin Valley and owned by a steering committee entity. At this stage of the project, the boundary is not finalized, rather it is provisional and are open to further refinement through ongoing discussions and engagement with entities such as the City of Saskatoon, the Rural Municipality of Corman Park, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the University of Saskatchewan. The project acknowledges that any boundary that may be finalized leading up to or upon designation may further evolve in future decades. Should a designation be obtained, and should boundary changes be desired, they would follow a formal process to ensure appropriate stakeholder and partner engagement as part of any decision-making process.

The vision, areas of focus, governance, and boundary for a potential National Urban Park for Saskatoon and Area are still evolving and will continue to develop through further discussion with the Steering Committee and Indigenous and public engagement.

Vision Boundaries and Governance

Figure 1: National Urban Park draft boundary for Saskatoon and Area.



Map showing Capital & Operating Plan Draft Study Area for a potential Saskatoon Region National Urban Park (yellow) and related jurisdictions and boundaries. Boundaries are provisional at this point and depend upon further discussion with the City, RM, and University.