

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Request to Speak - Raeanne Kurtz - National Urban Parks Exploration Update
Attachments: Presentation-City of Saskatoon GPC- June 2025.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:00 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Request to Speak - Raeanne Kurtz - National Urban Parks Exploration Update

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

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2025 - 14:59

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: Thursday, June 05, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Raeanne

Last Name: Kurtz

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

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Waters Lane

Ward: Ward 10

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

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Governance and Priorities

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: National Urban Parks Exploration - Update

Comments:

Both myself and my Director will be speaking, sharing the 5 minutes.

Raeanne Kurtz, Project Manager

Jarred Picher, Director, Urban Parks and Ecological Corridors

Plan as discussed with City Administration (Celene Anger and Jeanna South) is that they will introduce the agenda item, then Parks Canada will speak, then Meewasin Valley Authority will speak and then all would be available for questions and answers at the end.

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



Context

Speech from the Throne (2020)

- Expansion of urban parks

Federal Budget (2021)

- Historic investment over 5 years in Canada's natural legacy including \$130 million to create a network of national urban parks

Speech from the Throne (2025)

- Government will protect more of Canada's nature including the creation of new national urban parks





Core Objectives for National Urban Parks

Nature

Foundational Requirement

Contributes to national conservation targets

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Ecological values
- Conserve and restore ecosystems
- Connectivity/corridors to other natural areas
- Natural infrastructure
- Programs to build nature stewardship
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Aiming For

Conservation, biodiversity and climate gains



Connecting People with Nature

Foundational Requirement

Proximity to population centres

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Free admission
- Varied programming for exploration, education & recreation
- Accessible visitor facilities and trails
- Public transit, active transportation
- History & culture
- Strong partnerships
- Inclusion of diverse groups

Aiming For

Access to nature for all local residents in an inclusive and welcoming environment

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Foundational Requirement

Collaborative work towards shared priorities

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Foster Indigenous stewardship and leadership
- Connection to land and water opportunities
- Nature-Culture values
- Respect Indigenous knowledge & values
- Training and employment opportunities
- Promote Indigenous voices and stories

Aiming For

Achieving shared goals for protecting nature in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation

Process for national urban park designation: Activities, outcomes and deliverables

The four steps below outline the process for designating national urban parks. The approach to each step will be flexible and informed by the local context.



Saskatoon Region NUP

- Positive momentum with all partners working together
- Strong example of a third party led partnership model that can guide future NUP site development
- Create a strong foundational park to anchor a network of national urban parks
- Funding for park enhancements

