

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: CPAWS-SK - Governance and Priorities Committee - agenda Item 6.3.4 - June 2025.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 4:41 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

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

Submitted on Monday, June 9, 2025 - 16:39

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, June 09, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Stewart

Last Name: Coles

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

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

[REDACTED] Ave N S

Ward: Ward 2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 9:30 A.m. Council Chamber, City Hall

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 6.3.4 National Urban Park Exploration 2024 – 2025 Update [GPC2024-0603]

Comments:
See attached.

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

09 June 2025

Written response to Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda item: 6.3.4 National Urban Park Exploration 2024 – 2025 Update

Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan Chapter (CPAWS-SK) welcomes the submission of the National Urban Park Exploration 2024 – 2025 Update, as detailed in respect of agenda item ‘6.3.4 National Urban Park Exploration 2024 – 2025 Update’ of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

Firstly, we welcome the work that has been focused on Indigenous leadership and participation. The Indigenous Cultural Spaces Project, from the outside, certainly seems to create the necessary space for *“teaching, learning and cultural revitalization”*. We hope the outcomes of this project leads to a strong Indigenous presence, involvement and leadership across the park.

In terms of the broader alignment of the NUP model, we welcome reference to the City’s Strategic Plan and an outcome, where *“the green network is integrated, managed and enhanced to protect land, air and water resources”*. It will be critically important that at-risk species are also acknowledged as part of this process, as several species at risk are identified in and around Meewasin’s jurisdiction – notably the Northern Leopard Frog, a species that requires well oxygenated waterbodies in the winter and moist upland meadows and native prairie in the summer. Their presence within the NE Swale complexes is at risk and is being adversely affected by habitat conversion and fragmentation.

As identified in the report under ‘*Why Pursue a National Urban Park Designation*’, NUPs have great promise to *“conserve and restore nature in cities”* and *“help cities manage climate change”*. There are several areas of land that serve to support this pursuit and that are currently at risk to habitat conversion and fragmentation. We encourage the committee and all partners involved in the study and boundary area discussions to prioritize these areas as part of the NUP designation process, now and beyond initial designation.

We have not seen any advances in the study area work or any detail on the discussions related to potential boundaries. We appreciate that designation is the primary target for early 2026 and this update suggests that land within the existing MVA jurisdiction of 6700ha will be the extent of this 2026 designation target. We would remind the committee of Parks Canada’s NUP policy and the commitments under section 7.2.2 *Commitment to Conserve Nature*. Sub-sections 7.2.2.1.1 - 1.3 make it clear that expanding protected and conserved areas should be a priority and that once designated *“protection measures are not weakened or removed and there is no reduction in the amount of area that is recognized as a protected area or an ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’.”* This is critical to the long-term viability of both flora and fauna. Without such attention and priority, this park will have failed in its responsibility to *“plan and*

implement coordinated actions in the national urban park to conserve nature and support climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation through, for example, restoration, enhancing protection, improving connectivity, implementing nature-based solutions, and monitoring.” (Parks Canada NUP Policy)

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and understand this update is for information to the Committee. Our comments highlight the need for due diligence under phase 2 (The Planning Phase) and meaningful public engagement, which has been lacking to date.

We look forward to this work continuing and to playing an active role in advancing a Saskatoon NUP that delivers on the guiding principles (s.6 of NUP Policy) of this NUP program:

- 6.1 Nature and Climate** (NUPs contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss and putting nature on a path to full recovery);
- 6.2 Indigenous Stewardship;**
- 6.3 Respectful, inclusive and collaborative** (Decisions are informed by meaningful, deliberate, early, and ongoing engagement with and collaboration amongst a wide range of communities);
- 6.4 Knowledge-informed** (two-eyed seeing);
- 6.5 Precautionary** (Where there are threats of environmental damage, lack of certainty is not used as a reason for postponing preventative measures);
- 6.6 Flexible.**

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Coles
Executive Director
CPAWS-Saskatchewan