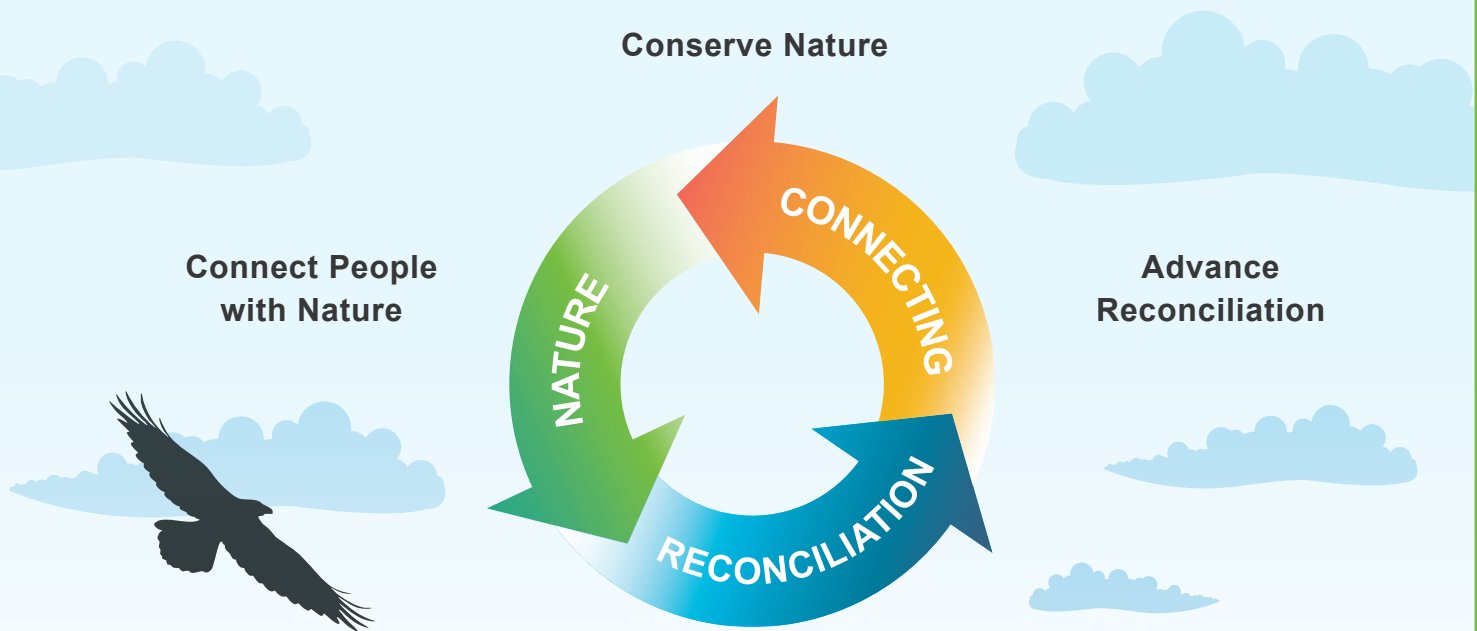


Engagement Executive Summary

Engagement At A Glance

The National Urban Park Exploration: [Meewasin Valley Authority \(Meewasin\)](#) and many partners are working together to explore the potential of a National Urban Park (NUP) in the Saskatoon region through [Parks Canada's NUP program](#). This designation would confirm a shared vision to:



For more information, go to urbanparksask.ca

What Happened This Summer 2025?

From **July 9 to September 12, 2025**, Meewasin and the NUP Steering Committee (made up of local, provincial, federal, First Nations, and Métis governments and community partners) worked with people across the region to help shape the future of the park. Together, we refined the vision, focus areas, and ideas for key features and investments.

We asked for input from First Nations, Métis communities, park users, and the wider Saskatoon region to make sure the plan reflects what matters most to you.



Participation in Numbers

Our engagement team connected with 4,396 people across the Saskatoon region. This included members of the public, First Nations, and Métis communities. We used a mix of online tools and in-person events to make sure voices from all corners of the community were present and included.

4,396 total participants



2,497 public participants
57%

1,899 First Nations and Métis participants
43%



How We Communicated With You

We got the word out about the project in the following ways:

website updates and sign-ups



posters and lawn signs in the community

letters to key interest groups



newsletter sent to over 20,000 people



social media posts reaching thousands

news releases and media interviews



direct emails and phone calls for questions

How We Engaged With You

We carried out a variety of engagement activities, including:

General Public Engagement

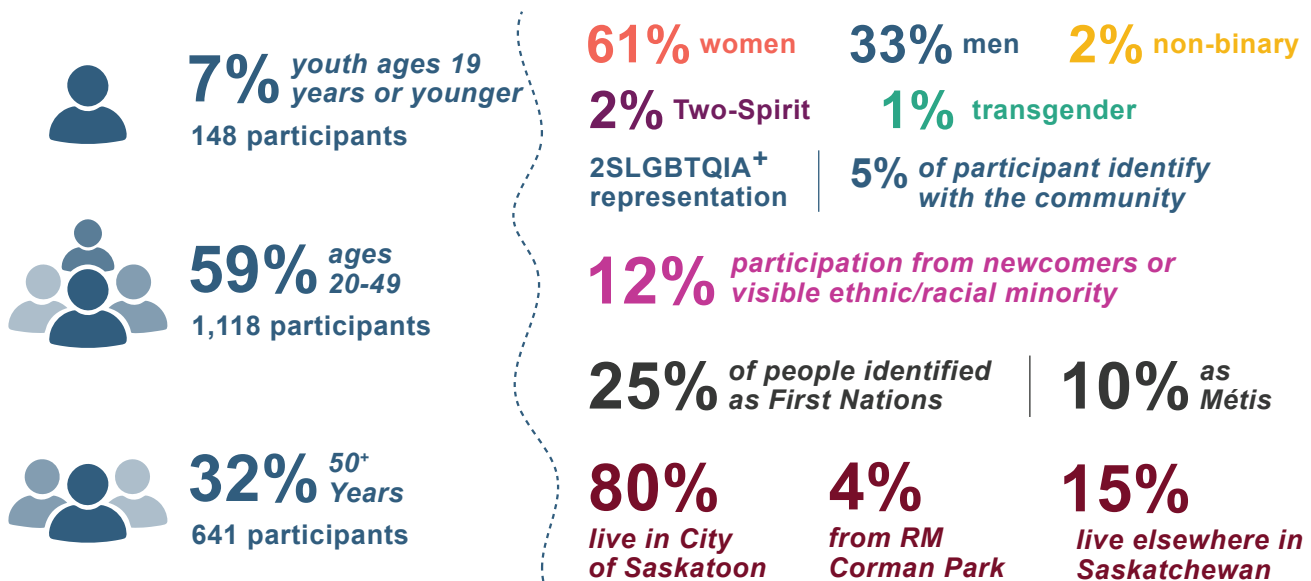


First Nations & Métis engagement



Who We Learned From

Our goal was to learn from as many voices as possible across the region. Participants represented a diverse range of individuals and communities, with input coming from Saskatoon and surrounding area as well as Indigenous communities. All questions, including demographic ones, were optional, and everyone who took part stayed anonymous.



Snapshot of What We Learned From You



Vision for the Valley

- Overwhelmingly, 88% of people supported the draft vision, with 9% being neutral.
- 88% of people supported the draft focus areas with 7% being neutral.



Park Boundaries and Governance

- 83% were in support of the potential boundaries with 13% being neutral.



Conservation Recommendations

- 80% of people said the top priority was restoring and protecting valuable and natural habitats.



Reconciliation Recommendations

- Feedback on the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations was overwhelmingly positive and supportive from the public, First Nations, and Métis participants.



Cultural Spaces

- 95% of the 620 First Nations and Métis participants said cultural spaces are important to their community.

High importance placed on spaces for ceremonies and teachings, with the most popular cultural practices being dance traditions (69%), gatherings (66%), cultural teachings (65%) and medicine/plant harvesting and education (65%).



Connecting People and Communities

- Opportunities to experience nature (75%) and protecting wildlife corridors and habitats (66%) were the top priorities.

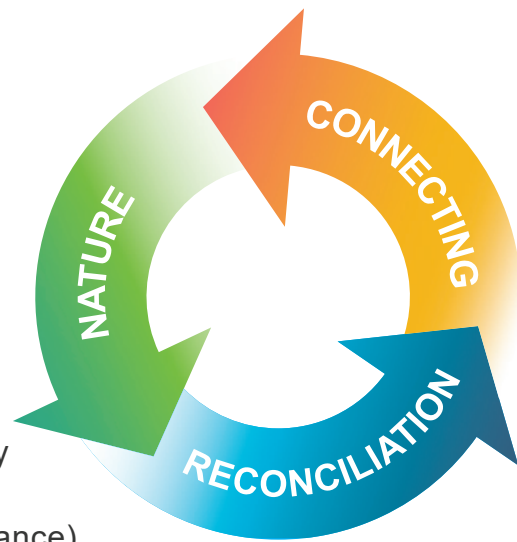


Top Investment Priorities

- 34% of participants would like the park to prioritize new and improved trail routes followed by cultural spaces (24%).

Snapshot of Key Themes

Here's an overview of the big ideas shared by participants. These points highlight what people liked, what they felt was missing, and what they think could make things better.



Reconciliation

- **Indigenous leadership and inclusion** – Many people want Indigenous Peoples to lead the work, with shared decision-making (co-governance) and meaningful land acknowledgements built into the NUP process.
- **Truth-telling and education** – People asked for honest histories (truth-telling) and learning opportunities, including multilingual signs and interpretation co-designed with Indigenous Peoples.
- **Cultural spaces and ceremonies** – There is strong support for welcoming outdoor spaces for ceremony, teachings, and gatherings.
- **Traditional stewardship (care for the land and water)** – The public supports Indigenous-guided conservation, using traditional knowledge and practices in land and water management.
- **Economic opportunities** – People want tangible benefits, like jobs, contracts, youth training paths, and support for Indigenous-led businesses.
- **Inclusive implementation** – Recommendations should continue centering Indigenous voices while ensuring the park is welcoming for everyone.

Conservation

- **Protecting habitats** – People want to protect and restore important natural areas, especially places like the Northeast Swale, Small Swale, and wetlands.
- **Active restoration** – There is strong support for removing invasive species and restoring native plants.
- **Wildlife refuge** – The park should be a safe home for wildlife, with connected corridors and safe crossings to support biodiversity.
- **Climate and water stewardship** – People want plans that prepare for climate change and protect long-term ecological health and water, including the South Saskatchewan River and swales.
- **Sustainable management** – Stable funding, proper maintenance, and enforcement are needed to protect nature and ensure safety.

Access, Inclusion, and Community Connection

- **Universal accessibility** – People support a park that is accessible to all. The vision is a park that is easy to use for everyone: all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- **Equitable infrastructure** – People want accessible design, transportation options, and useful amenities for diverse users, including newcomers, people with disabilities, and people who are unhoused.
- **A place to gather** – Participants want the Valley to be a community hub: a place for connection, cultural exchange, and intergenerational activities.
- **Safety and social support** – People shared that safety matters. People asked for better lighting, upkeep, and compassionate responses to issues like homelessness and addiction.

Wellness, Education, and Cultural Enrichment

- **Health and well-being** – People expressed the many ways that nature supports mental, physical, and spiritual health. This is especially important for youth, newcomers, and Indigenous communities.
- **Learning and stewardship** – People want the Valley to be a living classroom for history, culture, ecology, and caring for the land.
- **Cultural programming** – People support culturally significant interpretive signs, workshops, and spaces for Indigenous teachings and ceremonies.

Balanced Development and Investment

- **Nature-conscious development** – People support better trails, cultural spaces, and visitor amenities, but not at the cost of nature.
- **Practical improvements** – Top priorities include trail enhancement, additional washrooms and water fountains as well as features that support accessibility, safety, and cultural vibrancy.
- **Sustainable Development** – People value growth and development that balances tourism and business with environmental sustainability and community values.

