

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Ann Coxworth - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:38:52 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 14:32

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Ann

**Last Name:** Coxworth

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Ann

**Phone Number :** [306](#) [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Saskatchewan Crescent West

**Ward:** Ward 6

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

I am excited that there is still work in progress on the national urban park, but I am concerned about the proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4). The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the

community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.

Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Berold Baijius - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:52:07 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 14:52

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Berold

**Last Name:** Baijius

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] 2nd St E

**Ward:** Ward 6

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited that there is still work on the national urban park, but I am very worried about the proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4).

The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science.

These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.

Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

I do not believe that you will be serving the interest of your constituents by voting in any way other than as expressed above.

Please do not try and justify the 'newly proposed' use as affordable housing when Elk Point is standing unused and undeveloped notwithstanding the fact that it has already 'got plumbing'.

The question therefore begs to be asked; Why are we planning another neighbourhood in an ecologically sensitive area? Yes, the bit of land between them is agricultural land, but maybe we should be restoring and connecting the Swales, instead of building houses between them.

Sincerely,

Berold Baijius

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Brette Crockett - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:07:12 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 15:06

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**First Name:** Brette

**Last Name:** Crockett

**Phone Number :** [306](#) [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Lorne Avenue

**Ward:** Ward 6

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 62.6

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited that there is still work on the national urban park, but I am very worried about the proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4). The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.

Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Sincerely, Brette Crockett

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Fraser Baalim - National Urban Park - Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:31:00 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 15:30

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Fraser

**Last Name:** Baalim

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** 306 [REDACTED]

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Munroe Avenue South

**Ward:** Ward 7

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited that there is still work on the national urban park, but I am very worried about the proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4). The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive

species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.

Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Sincerely,  
Fraser Baalim

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - John Penner - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:39:46 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 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:** Monday, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** John

**Last Name:** Penner

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] 7th Ave N

**Ward:** Ward 1

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Environmentalist

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** March 11 meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2 National Urban Park

**Comments:**

Greetings to members of City Council:

I support the creation of a National Urban Park which encompasses the Northeast Swale, the Minor Northeast Swale, Peturrson's Ravine, and parts of the riverbank area. However the proposed boundaries in the report do not include all of the areas within the biome of the swales.

The primary identity or character of the proposed National Urban Park would be there geological history of the swales as a glacial drainage system including the flora and fauna that evolved as a result. Not to be inclusive of the entire biome would threaten the long term viability of the Park and its unique interpretive potential for visitors.

Unfortunately the Provincial Government's plans to create a bypass highway bisects the northern ends of both swales. So at the least, the boundaries of the Park should be to the extended northward to the proposed highway. If some way were identified to extend the boundaries beyond the highway back to the river by an underpass or overpass, that should be considered as well. The continuity of the entire wetland system would ensure its biological viability and justify the creation of a park of national significance. Few such opportunities exist in an urban setting.

Attached is a plan which outlines in red the area which should be included in the National Urban Park boundary.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this proposal.

John Penner

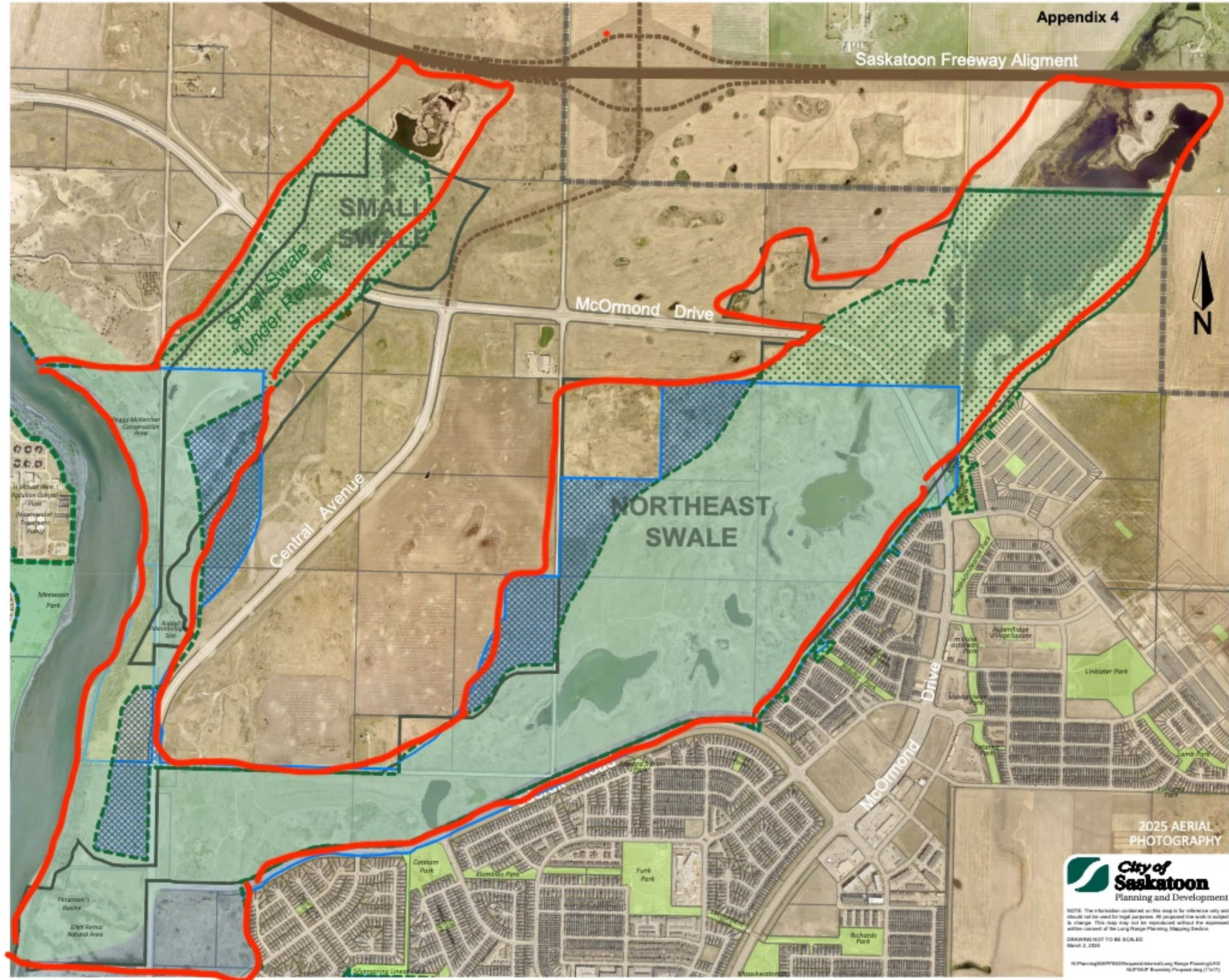
**Attachments:**

- [National Urban Park.jpg](#) 499.97 KB

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

# PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK (NUP) BOUNDARY REFINEMENT

-  City of Saskatoon Municipal Boundary
-  Saskatoon Freeway Alignment with Phase II Functional Design and ROW
-  Swale Boundary - Endorsed February 2023
-  Natural Areas - University Heights Sector 2013
-  Draft 2025 National Urban Park Boundary
-  2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary
-  Future Consideration for National Urban Park Boundary Refinement
-  Areas to be reviewed further in future concept plan submissions



2025 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY



NOTE: The information contained on this map is for reference only and should not be used for legal purposes. All proposed line work is subject to change. This map may not be reproduced without the expressed written consent of the Long Range Planning, Mapping Section.

DRAWING NOT TO BE SCALED  
March 2, 2024

W:\Planning\2025\2025Request\Internal\Long Range Planning\LRP NUP\NUP Boundary Proposed.dwg (1/1/21)

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Jamie Schmidt - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:05:16 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:05

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Jamie

**Last Name:** Schmidt

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** 306 [REDACTED]

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** Yes

**Address:** [REDACTED] Massey Road

**City:** Regina

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited that there is still work on the national urban park, but I am very worried about the

proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4). The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.

Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schmidt

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Michael Malagride - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:07:35 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:07

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Michael

**Last Name:** Malagride

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** 306 [REDACTED]

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** Yes

**Address:** [REDACTED] Massey Road

**City:** Regina

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** S4S [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited that there is still work on the national urban park, but I am very worried about the

proposed National Urban Park boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4). The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by council on February 22, 2023.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

1. Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.
2. Propose a motion and vote YES to aligning the NUP boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Sincerely,

Michael Malagride

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:39:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [GPC Swale Urban Park Boundary March 9 2026.pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:12

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**First Name:** Jory

**Last Name:** Vermette

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Jory

**Phone Number :** 306 [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Churchill Dr

**Ward:** Ward 5

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Saskatoon Climate Hub

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

Please see the attached letter for comments, thank you

**Attachments:**

- [GPC Swale Urban Park Boundary March 9 2026.pdf](#) 140.07 KB

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





## **SASKATOON** **CLIMATE HUB**

Saskatoon Climate Hub  
@SaskatoonClimateHub



We urge council to consider the long-term health and functionality of our city by moving to adhere to the original boundaries outlined for the Swales. Every opportunity to safeguard and secure the future of the Swales must be taken, as they are one of the last vestiges of natural prairie that exist in our city and their benefits have been reiterated countless times. To purposefully continue to put this ecosystem under further duress would be irresponsible and negligent.

Thank you for your consideration, we hope that the importance of the Northeast and Small Swales will be considered in full by adhering to the recommended requests outlined above.

Sincerely,

Jory Vermette on behalf of the Saskatoon Climate Hub

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Stewart Coles - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:51:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [CPAWS-SK - Governance and Priorities Committee - written submission to agenda Item 6.2.2 - March 2026.pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:38

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Stewart

**Last Name:** Coles

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [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 ?:** 6.2.2 National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries [GPC 2024-0603]

**Comments:**

See attached.

**Attachments:**

[CPAWS-SK - Governance and Priorities Committee - written submission to agenda Item 6.2.2 - March 2026.pdf](#) 305.65 KB

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

09 March 2026

Dear Governance and Priorities Committee, Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan Chapter (CPAWS-SK) wishes to comment in respect of agenda item 6.2.2 ‘National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries [GPC 2024-0603]’ of the city’s Governance and Priorities Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

In doing so, we wish to firstly express our support for a National Urban Park in Saskatoon and the opportunities this presents to strengthen and prioritize conservation efforts in the Saskatoon region. We further support the vision and governance model, as presented to the Committee. Protecting, restoring, and connecting our most prized and fragile ecological and cultural landscapes is critical to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, creating resiliency (inc., providing ecological services, i.e., flood mitigation, cooling cities, sequestering and storing carbon, etc.), and to supporting and maintaining space for people to access the land for the betterment of their wellbeing and cultural needs.

We also wish to provide additional comments concerning the latest submission to the Committee by the Administration, especially in respect of the boundary endorsement made by City Council back in February 2023 (detailed below), that gives us cause for concern.

*“Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council Wednesday, February 22, 2023:*

*That the boundaries for the Northeast and Small Swales, as outlined in Option 3, be endorsed including the two remaining green pieces identified in the February 17, 2023, correspondence from the Swale Watchers be added to the preliminary boundaries for the Northeast Swale. These areas are identified as “recommended additions” for the “Swale Protected Area”.*”

We notice that reference to this endorsement has been excluded from the ‘Approval Report’ submitted by the administration and only references the SPC on Planning, Development and Community Services meeting (February 8, 2023) recommendation to City Council to endorse Option 3, as is. While Appendix 4 provides reference to endorsed boundaries (2023), the administrations provisional NUP boundary has made a significant reduction to this endorsement without any clear justification why, especially given the detailed discussion amongst Members of City Council at that February 2023 regular meeting. As currently endorsed (2023), the boundaries do not include areas intended for development, while the Administration’s ‘Approval Report’ suggests existing endorsed areas for protection are ‘intended for development’. **We suggest clarity is sort to better understand the Administration’s direction to the Committee.**

Furthermore, we would stress to the Committee that the submission by Meewasin Valley Authority and Parks Canada (Appendix 3 – Annex A) does not make it clear what their boundary proposals are. The

Administration's 'Approval Report' also recommends endorsement of Appendix 3 – Annex A. **Are they resubmitting 'Option 3', supporting the Administration submission (Appendix 4), or are they supporting the 2023 boundary endorsement by Council?**

What we do understand is that a new Council has been sworn in since these endorsements were made in 2023, with only a few Councillors who were part of that 2023 endorsement; thus, given the overwhelming support for the amended 'Option 3' endorsement back then, we encourage the new Councillors to show strong ambition and leadership for nature conservation in urban settings. The City of Saskatoon has an incredibly important and responsible role to play in effectively managing land for conservation – especially as we continue to witness biodiversity loss and species extinction at unprecedented levels globally – as do many other municipalities across Canada. The prospect of a National Urban Park in the region presents the ideal opportunity for the city to be part of the solution in halting and reversing biodiversity loss and using this designation process to support greater conservation measures across the city. The Meewasin Valley Authority has taken great strides over the decades to protect and manage many important areas of the city. With this greater opportunity and at such a time when action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss is critical, the city is well placed to take on this leadership role and show Canada and the world that protecting, restoring, and connecting urban ecosystems - like the Small and NE Swale – through the designation of a NUP, makes ecological, cultural, and economic sense.

Regarding economics, research by CPAWS<sup>1</sup> and others, including DUC and NCC<sup>2</sup>, continue to identify the significant role protected areas can play in demonstrating that returns on investment in nature are persistent and long-term, continuing to accrue year after year as protected areas mature. This represents significant growth in spending, tax revenue and GDP. Recognizing this value is critical in a time where destruction and fragmentation of natural capital remain widespread, especially in our urban environments.

Therefore, the considerations you attempt to address at this Committee meeting on boundary endorsements for the National Urban Park will undoubtedly pave the way for the level of commitment the city places on **prioritizing ecological and cultural conservation** in some of our most important and at-risk landscapes and how **natural capital is as important an economic driver as development**.

The reward for such leadership goes well beyond the protection afforded such habitats and species. It goes towards inspiring future generations to learn about the value of protecting critical ecosystems and species, better acknowledging natural capital assets, and adding to the great work already entrenched in Meewasin's mandate. It also provides access to nature in ways many urban citizens are not always afforded, with many of our province's prized landscapes some distance from urban centres and out of reach for many. This is an opportunity to ensure our important ecosystems remain connected, ecologically functional and, where possible, intact, accessible, and a source of rich and flourishing biodiversity.

In these deliberations, we would also draw your attention to the requirements of the Official Community Plan (OCP), and specifically section E.2.5, with reference to objective (a) *"to identify and protect important ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas and assets as part of the land development process"* and objective (c) *"To conserve the biodiversity of all species to support climate resilience in the city and*

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<sup>1</sup> [Canada's Protected Areas Generated \\$10.9 Billion in GDP, CPAWS Study Finds | Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada, DUC & NCC](#)

*region*". We feel the city has set out a clear plan within the OCP more broadly to protect, sustain and connect natural systems. We, and many other stakeholders, will welcome the opportunity to work with the Administration and MVA to address any questions and/or opportunities to ensure the functionality of the Small and NE Swale Complexes, as part of the Saskatoon National Urban Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important subject, and we hope this dialogue and other submissions will ensure that the Saskatoon National Urban Park – as a public park – will serve the best interests of its community and continue to support and enhance a vibrant and connected landscape.

Yours sincerely,

**Stewart Coles**

Executive Director

CPAWS-Saskatchewan

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Daniel Schott - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 4:56:21 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:56

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Daniel

**Last Name:** Schott

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** daniel shott

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Shannon Cres

**Ward:** Ward 6

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

To the members of the committee:

Saskatoon has limited natural spaces compared with other cities I've lived in. It's an important factor in the quality of life in a city. Therefore, I was pleased with the proposal for an urban national park in Saskatoon.

However, the proposed national urban park boundary refinement (Appendix 4) shows a reduction or protected area for the Northeast Swale and Small Swale compared with the swale boundaries endorsed by council in 2023.

I would like to request that these areas be included in the national urban park.

Natural prairie has become very scarce in central Saskatchewan, so these areas are ecologically valuable, and require buffer zones to protect against pollution and non-native species.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

– Daniel Schott

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments - Maria Virgen - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 5:00:22 PM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 16:59

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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, March 09, 2026

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** They/them/theirs

**First Name:** Maria

**Last Name:** Virgen

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Mah-REE-ah Ver-HEN

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] DeGeer St

**Ward:** Ward 8

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** All My Relations Enterprise

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

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

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

I am speaking to you today as a tax-paying utility-paying Saskatoon citizen, and Two-Spirit volunteer with a local non-profit grassroots organization called All My Relations Enterprise that is

comprised of 13 members who live and work in the Saskatoon region. In 2021, we transferred our community food forest garden into Ward 2 by the River, transforming rocks and sand into an urban food forest called Colours of the Rain, and we have been running it since. A safer place for 2SLGBTQIA+ & BIPOC to grow food, reclaim cultural & spiritual practices with plant medicine, and to re-establish native pollinators. As we live together in Treaty 6, we must abide by Treaty Law, First Nations' Natural Laws and Spiritual Laws, which are legally above municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions. When our community informed us that the City planned to develop into the Swales, we knew we needed to take a stand to protect Indigenous Land.

We are concerned that the proposed "National Urban Park" boundaries, specifically around the Small and Northeast Swales (Appendix 4) will desecrate the natural lungs of this land, violate Treaty Laws, and will disrupt the natural ecosystem balance of this Grassland - Wetland.

Currently, according to Nature Conservancy of Canada, over 80% of our Prairie Grasslands are gone. That's 80% less carbon-storing land that stores billions of tonnes of carbon; 80% less of land purifying water (that would mitigate flood risks and stop wildfires from spreading which we are under current crisis of in the last 5 years). 80% less habitat for grassland native species. (Source: <https://natureconservancy.ca/what-you-can-do/protect-habitats/grasslands/>) According to the SP Institute, an ecosystem becomes under threat from unsustainable land use practices. Despite their ecological significance, the conversion of Grasslands for agriculture and urban development has led to the loss of native habitats and the decline of many species. Since 1867, over 80% of Canada's Prairie grasslands have been lost, and bird populations that exclusively rely on native prairies — like the Sagebrush sparrow and Western bluebird — have declined by a staggering 87% since 1970. (Source: <https://institute.smartprosperity.ca/Grasslands-Biodiversity>)

Swales feed clean water into the soils and roots of the land, helping the earth to swell with nutrients and sustain life, especially native species, and protect against our droughts. In balance, the excess waters will run and drain back into the swale, preventing flooding. This exchange is like a lung breathing. Our swales are homes for beavers, otters, foxes, coyotes, elk, deer, pronghorn, and at one time buffalo, before colonizers mass-murdered them and destroyed them across our Plains / Prairies - all in the name of money, development and bureaucratic society. Ecological science shows us it would take multiple thousands of years for the land to heal itself from harm that would be caused from development, run-off, pollution, and interference. We cannot prevent that harm or reduce it by developing.

These swales support 175+ bird species, including rare native birds, and our known beloveds like owls, hawks, ravens. The meadowlarks are regular residents. When our founder of AMRE, Robin Link, heard that the meadowlarks of the Swales were in danger, they were called to action and offered this for City Council: "When you invade our home and displace our Swales, you are directly invading on my relatives and displacing us further from our motherlands. Our nations are from the Plains, the rolling meadows, The Sacred Black Hills, The Wood Mountain, The Bear's Lodge and Thunderbird's Nest. We belong to the prairies and took care of them before the settlements came. When you hurt our native prairie, you hurt us. The birds are our kin, and my matriarch lineage is a part of them. My blood mother's traditional spiritual name and guardian is the meadowlark, a sacred being to the Oceti Sakowin. So when you steal from the meadowlarks and poison their sanctuary, you are stealing from my mothers and poisoning my mother's blood."

We can only protect the Swales by keeping it completely conserved. It took millenium to evolve glaciers to the point of mixed Grassland-Wetlands. These Swales support 289+ plants species, namely native plant species used for Indigenous Medicine practices and health, and relied on by native animals for food source that is untouched by any chemicals, "natural" sprays or GMO soil amendments. Many of our Indigenous medicines we use in our daily healthcare and treatments

for illness/disease grow in the water and require a Wetland-Grassland mix habitat, along with helpers like the beaver, muskrat, ermine, and badger to manage and engineer the systems. The native flowers our humans and wildlife needs include these as shown in this brochure by Swale Watchers: <https://swalewatchers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Wildflowers-of-the-Swales.pdf> . According to Nature Canada, Canada has lost over 25 million acres of Grasslands. Since 1970, Grassland bird populations have fallen by 57%, and populations of species dependent on native grasslands have fallen 87%. Grasslands have been home to Indigenous nations for thousands of years, who long hold a deep and symbiotic relationship with land and species, including millions of bison roaming the area. (Source: <https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/nature-based-climate-solutions/toolkit/grasslands/> )

The newly proposed boundaries reduce the amount of protection of the Small and Northeast Swales endorsed by Council on February 22, 2023. Building unnatural development for the sake of tourism, government control of native land, and making money from foreign immigrant visitors that are not from Turtle Island, will NOT make you the revenue return you think it will, nor will the federal funds for "National Park" be used appropriately for Indigenous Land Reclamation and Reconciliation. No where in the TRC's Calls To Action did it promote or suggest more loss of their stewarded native lands for government parks (consumerism). The Council and City failed to consult with Indigenous knowledge keepers, Elders, medicine people, and youth on infiltrating the Swales. As you can see & hear from this Swale Watchers public video of interviews, our community wants to protect the Swales as it is: <https://vimeo.com/718062486?fl=pl&fe=vl>

This construction project will not only reverse Indigenous Healing and Settler Reconciliation, but Saskatoon and Saskatchewan are not healthy enough with their own people, citizens, and Treaty people to support a National Park in the middle of an urban setting. We are not New York or Seattle. We are not Vancouver City. We are Mane-me-saskwatan; the place where the willows are taken from. The City is not respecting or honouring Plains Cree land, nor remembering the true name or hereditary caretakers. The name was corrupted when the settlers confused it with Mesaskwatoomin, Plains Cree for the berry, and then made up a word "Saskatwan" thinking it was the berry and the place, becoming "Saskatoon". (Source: Rev Edward Ahenakew, Onion Lake Cree Nation) The City needs to heal their relationship with First Nations people before they impose more ecological damage.

Federal funds for a National Park will not change our poverty, crime, houselessness, country's highest rates of interpersonal violence and STI's, overdoses and addictions, country's highest rates of unemployed and uneducated teens & young adults, country's highest rates of disability and chronic illness (ex. MS), healthcare crises, nor our climate change droughts & wildfires. We must take care of our people first. With the first ones to be our native species who were here first before humans, and then next our Indigenous people.

City Council's (6-2) endorsement of those conservation boundaries was strongly supported by the community and by the principles and data of conservation science. These boundaries protect ecologically valuable areas of both Swales, with buffers to safeguard these assets from invasive species, contamination, and other threats.

I am writing with two requests, that the Committee:

1. Propose a motion and vote NO to Recommendation 2: Approval of the 2026 Provisional National Urban Park Boundary in Appendix 3 based on the deficiencies of the boundaries, as shown in Appendix 4.
2. Propose a motion and vote YES to prohibiting any NUP boundary or any other future developmental boundary from touching, interacting, affecting or changing the boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Sincerely,  
Maria Virgen (they/them)  
Ward 2, Ward 8 citizen

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