

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Speak - Joanne Blythe - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2026 3:14:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [WAS letter to Council 25Mar26.pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, March 23, 2026 - 15:09

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 23, 2026

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

**First Name:** Joanne

**Last Name:** Blythe

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

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

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

**Ward:** Ward 6

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

**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)::** City Council March 25

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 8.5.2 National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries

**Comments:**

Wild about Saskatoon would like to address our concerns regarding National Urban Park governance and Swale boundaries. Please see attached letter.

**Attachments:**

- [WAS letter to Council 25Mar26.pdf](#) 119.09 KB

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



March 25, 2026

**Re: 8.5.2 National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries**

First off, we would like to thank Councillor Dubois for her leadership at the committee meeting of March 11 and for her motion acknowledging the importance of Council's direction on Swale boundaries from February 22, 2023. We are pleased that the committee acknowledged concerns raised by Saskatoon citizens.

Today we have two points that we would like to address: 1) National Urban Park governance, and 2) Swale boundaries.

**Governance:**

In the Vision and Governance document attached to this agenda item, we see the proposed governance structure of the park (Appendix 3, Page 5, Annex B) –featuring a new National Urban Park Advisory Committee. No information is provided about the membership of this committee, except a comment that First Nations and Metis representatives will be “added.”

We whole heartedly support the inclusion of Indigenous voices. It is also critical that this committee include representatives of the public and the conservation community. Council's approval of this governance structure must be conditional on ensuring that the public and the conservation community will be represented on this committee.

**Boundaries:**

We were grateful that Council's February 2023 Swale boundaries are acknowledged in the motion you are considering today. However, we remain concerned about the revised boundaries of 2025 and 2026 which remove ecologically important areas and threaten to reduce the resilience and integrity of these precious landscapes. The 2023 boundaries are based on scientific evidence and ecological wisdom and the lands they include would give the National Urban Park its strong beating heart.

A member of Wild About Saskatoon was recently talking about these issues with Senapan Thunder. Senapan is an educator who recently received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for her work lifting up Cree language and culture. This is what she had to say about attempts to reduce

protections for the grasslands and wetlands of the Northeast and Small Swales: We are quoting her words, which were recorded as part of an online class, with her permission.

*If we chip away at all these sacred spaces, where does life come from? Where is there space for life? If you're going to fill that space with concrete or development –*

*They call it development, but this is water and water is a life-giving force. When you kill that, then you're killing the aspect of life that endures. And it doesn't just endure for us. It endures for all those beings— [animals and plants]-- that are our siblings, that are our relatives.*

*So we have our plants. We need water for the plants; we need space for the plants to continue. Even our breath, our oxygen can only come from healthy plants.*

*And how can we keep plants healthy in concrete. How can we keep healthy in pavement?*

*We should have that National Park inside the city that will continue to bring life, continue to bring enjoyment of our wildlife, of our plants – our native plants.*

*But [at the same time,] I always think, “we need money. We need money to live!” And my mother Gladys Wapass Greyeyes, my mother says, “It is so hard today, because money has become the highest value in the modern age”. But it is not that man-made object we call money that is the life-giving force that helps us know we are people.*

*We really have to control that greed, the hunger of that greed. And the only way we can is by remaining connected to the land and understanding the connections that we have to those life-giving elements.*

*We have to go to that space and ask all those spirits that stand in that space to help us, so this space can continue to live and continue to give life. Help us to preserve that life.*

We cannot sum it up better than this. Senapan speaks what is in our hearts. “Help us to preserve that life.”

You can make a small start today by:

- 1) Making your acceptance of the governance structure conditional on the National Urban Park Advisory Committee including members of the public and the conservation community.
- 2) Endorsing a motion to align the National Urban Park boundary with the 2023 Council approved boundaries of the Small Swale and Northeast Swales.

Joanne Blythe, Andrea Carroll & Michelle Tustin

Wild About Saskatoon

<https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/>