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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Request to Speak - Raeanne Kurtz - National Urban Park Vision, Governance and Boundaries

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2026 10:03 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Request to Speak - Raeanne Kurtz - National Urban Park Vision, Governance and Boundaries

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

Submitted on Friday, March 6, 2026 - 09:44

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:** Friday, March 06, 2026

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

**Comments:**

Raeanne Kurtz will speak on behalf of Parks Canada National Urban Parks Program. City Administration would speak to this item first, and then Parks Canada, and then Meewasin Valley Authority. I will have a short slide deck to add to this request early next week when City Clerk's office is in contact. Thanks

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Speak - Mike Velonas - National Urban Park Exploration  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:21:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [GPC Presentation March 11 2026 \(1\).pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 15:20

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:** Mike

**Last Name:** Velonas

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] 3rd Ave S

**Ward:** Ward 6

**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)::** GPC

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

**Comments:**

I will speak to this agenda item. We have discussed this with city admin, and will follow their presentation. Parks Canada will go first, then Meewasin.

**Attachments:**

- [GPC Presentation March 11 2026 \(1\).pdf](#) 4.88 MB

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

# National Urban Park Exploration

A vision for a National Urban Park  
in the heart of the Prairies

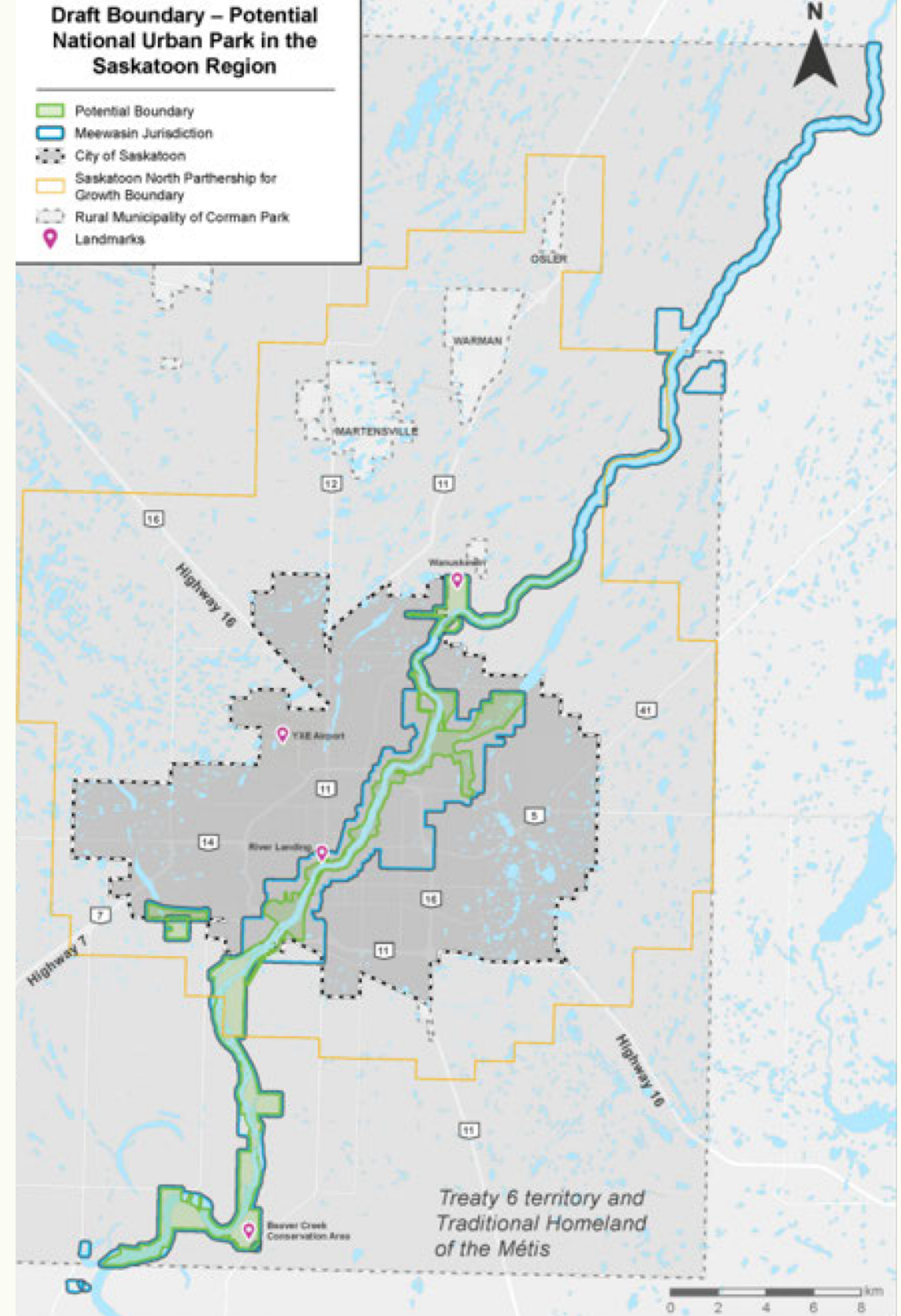


# The Vision

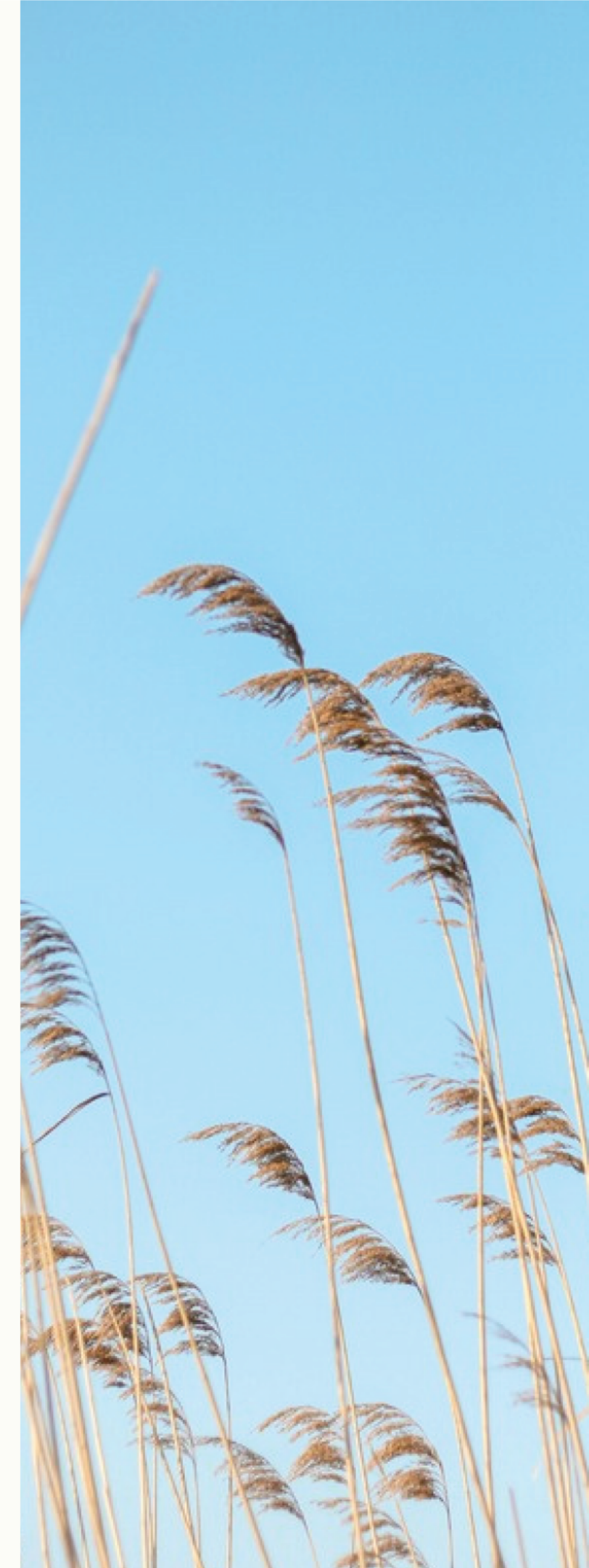
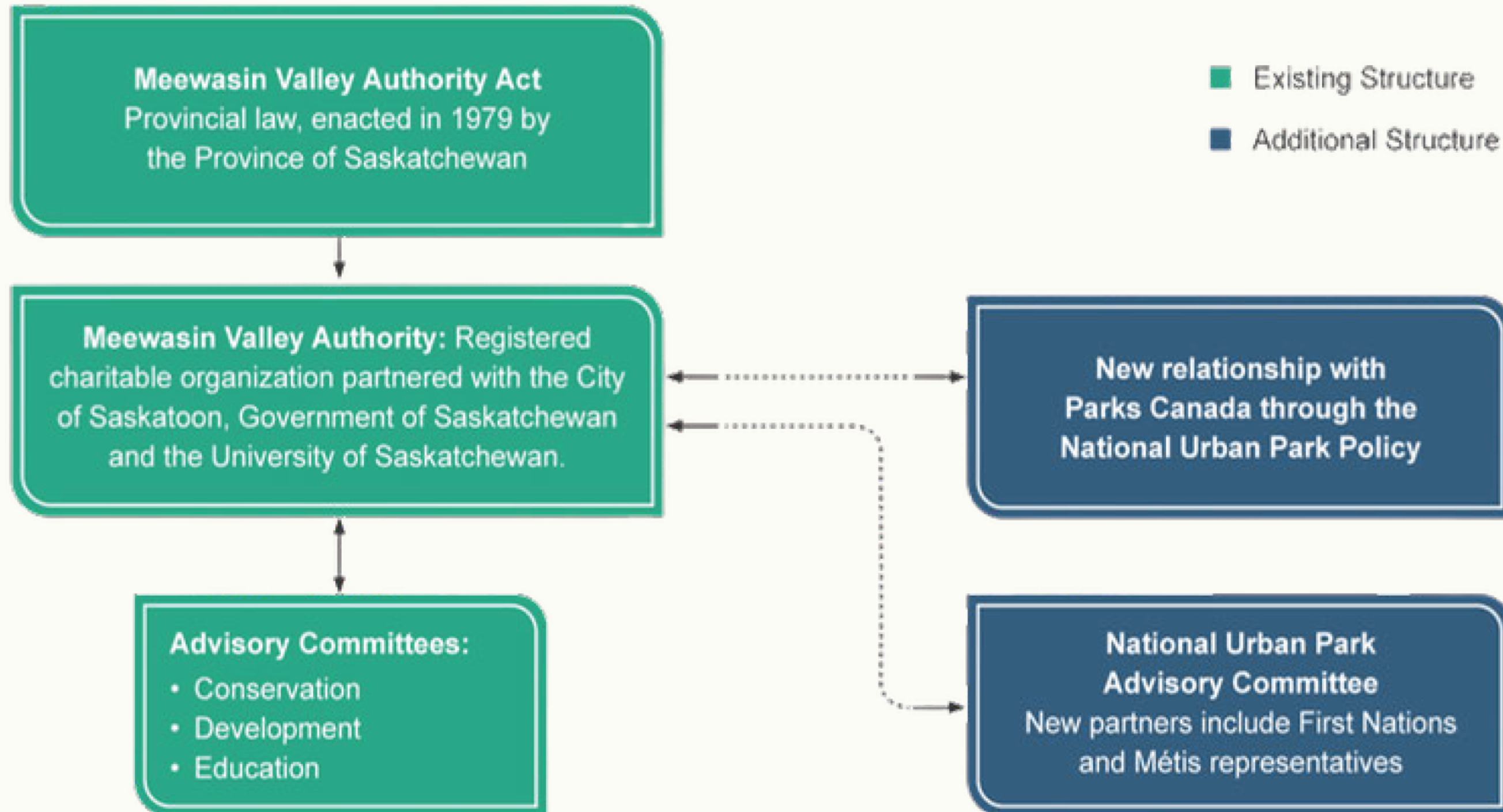
An aerial photograph of a wide river, likely the Saskatchewan River, under a cloudy sky. The river flows from the background towards the foreground. On the left bank, there is a lush green grassy area. In the lower center of the river, a small red boat with several people is visible. The background shows a distant shoreline with some buildings and more greenery.

The Saskatoon Region National Urban Park will protect endangered prairie grasslands and wetlands while supporting ecosystems vital to urban health and the traditional ways of life of First Nations and Métis peoples. Weaving through the heart of Saskatchewan's largest population centre, **it will connect people with nature, culture, and outdoor experiences for generations to come.**

# Proposed Boundary



# Proposed Governance

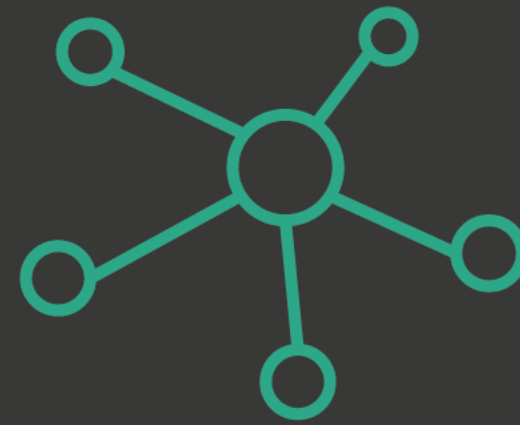


# Benefits of a National Urban Park



## National Recognition

Parks Canada brand elevates awareness & puts us on the map



## Strong Network

Join a national network of urban parks for shared benefits



## Enhanced Funding

Unlock new resources to grow and strengthen Meewasin

# Investment Priorities



**Seedbank & Greenhouse Learning Centre**



**Cultural Spaces**



**Visitor Centre**



**Trail Development**



# Engagement

## General Public



**976+**

Conversations



**13**

In-person  
Activities



**1**

Online Survey



**2,497**

Participants

# Engagement

## First Nations and Métis



**1,279+**

Conversations



**17**

Pop-up Events



**1**

Online Survey  
& Hard Copies



**1,899**

Participants



**4,396**

**Participants engaged.**

**1,899 participants were First Nations & Métis**



**88%**

of respondents **supported our draft vision** for a National Urban Park in the Saskatoon Region

# **Steering Committee**

**Formal Support Received**

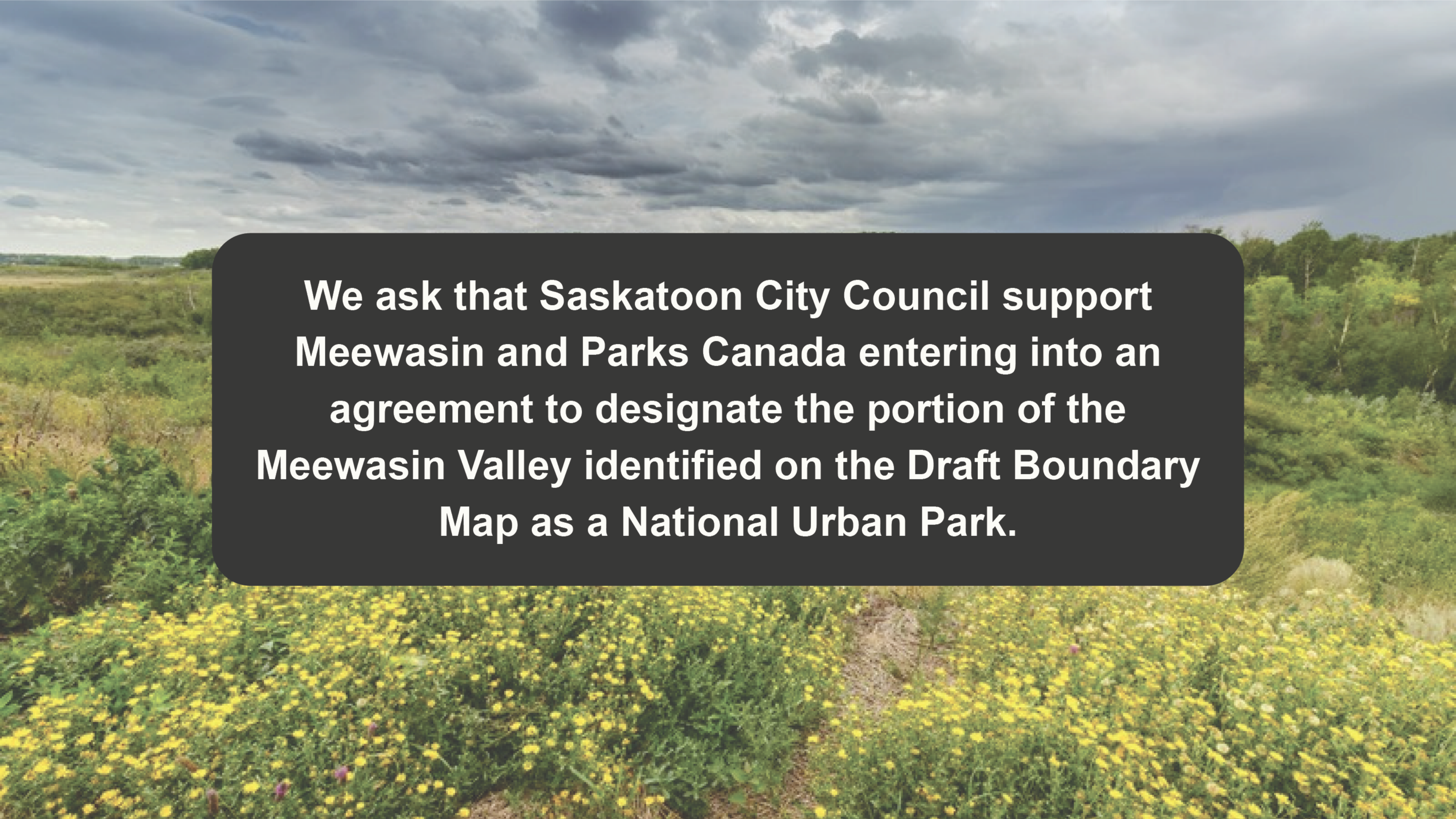
**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

**University of Saskatchewan**

**Rural Municipality of Corman  
Park**

**Wanuskewin Heritage Park**

**Saskatoon Tribal Council**



**We ask that Saskatoon City Council support Meewasin and Parks Canada entering into an agreement to designate the portion of the Meewasin Valley identified on the Draft Boundary Map as a National Urban Park.**

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Speak - Candace Savage - Nation Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 8:54:45 AM

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 08:54

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

**First Name:** Candace

**Last Name:** Savage

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Albert Avenue

**Ward:** Ward 6

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

**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)::** SPC Governance and Priorities, March 11

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.2.2. National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries

**Comments:**

I wish to speak to this meeting.

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

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request to Speak - Joanne Blythe - National Urban Park - Vision, Governance and Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2026 3:13:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [WAS Letter NUP for March 11.pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, March 9, 2026 - 15:10

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:** Joanne

**Last Name:** Blythe

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

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

**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)::** GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE March 11

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

**Comments:**

Our organizations has questions concerning the proposed boundaries for the National Urban

Park.

**Attachments:**

- [WAS Letter NUP for March 11.pdf](#) 79.03 KB

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



March 9, 2026

### **Re 6.2.2. National Urban Park: Vision, Governance and Boundaries**

Wild about Saskatoon is a grassroots group of Saskatoon residents, “joyfully advocating for nature” in this beautiful city.

We have three questions for you.

**Question 1:** Could this be more confusing?

**Question 2:** If Council approves the NUP boundaries shown in Annex A of Appendix 3, what are you actually approving?

Judging from the shapes of the various areas on the Annex A map, it seems you *might* be approving the “2025 Draft National Urban Park Boundary,” which is shown as a mostly hidden blue layer on the map in Appendix 4. To the best of our knowledge, these boundaries have previously only been presented in compressed form, as you see them in Annex A. If this is what you are approving, these boundaries should be available to you and to the public as a separate, legible map.

**Question 3:** Why has the Proposed National Urban Park Boundary Refinement (Appendix 4) been attached to this discussion? This inclusion has thrown a bomb into the center of what would otherwise be a straightforward decision. The proposed “Refinement” is actually a “Reduction” of the Swale protected area that was endorsed by Council in 2023. It is not appropriate to introduce this drastic and harmful revision as a kind of “oh by the way,” without justification, rationale or context.

The “refined” boundaries presented in Appendix 4 exclude areas of prime habitat for rare plants and breeding birds, as well as buffers for the ecological cores of both Swales. These losses would come at a cost to the Park’s resilience, biodiversity, cultural significance and economic value and are not acceptable.

If Council decides to endorse Appendix 3, you need to make it clear that you are NOT endorsing the Proposed Refinement in Appendix 4.

**Recommendation:**

We strongly support the potential of Meewasin's proposed National Urban Park to protect and restore biodiversity, support reconciliation, and reconnect people with nature. But the heart of the Park is the land and waters that it will protect. This understanding is reflected in the boundaries that Council endorsed on February 22, 2023. As one person said to us recently, "No, no, Council can't reduce the protected area for the Swales. They promised!" Whatever boundaries you endorse today, you need to keep this promise.

Joanne Blythe  
Andrea Carroll  
For Wild about Saskatoon