

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles outline what the Strategy strives to achieve. These principles will be used to analyze the existing Green Infrastructure Network (Network) and to help develop strategic actions to achieve the desired Network. These principles are important for the Network as a whole; certain principles may be of greater priority for specific sites. Application of the principles will be prioritized and balanced based on site characteristics and intended land use.

### Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

**Our contributions to climate change are mitigated and our ability to adapt to local change is enhanced.**

The Strategy strives to reduce the City's impact on the environment through policies and standards that guide development in and around significant natural areas, our urban forest and green spaces. Conserving sensitive ecosystems and increasing urban biodiversity and connectivity will support community resilience to climate change. When redevelopment occurs in built up areas, new green infrastructure will be considered.

### Ecological Integrity

**Biodiversity and connectivity of the urban green network is conserved and supported.**

The ecological health of green spaces will be maintained and monitored. Policy will guide appropriate land use based on site characteristics and development needs. Development standards and maintenance guidelines will protect diversity, incorporate traditional knowledge and strengthen ecological connections, supporting the integrity of the Network as a whole and enhancing quality of life for residents.

### Education & Awareness

**Educational opportunities incorporate ecological, cultural and traditional knowledge. The community is aware of appropriate uses of green spaces.**

Saskatoon residents value natural areas and seek to understand the ecology of their local urban environment. Offering additional information about the importance of local conservation, biodiversity, connectivity and traditional knowledge, will build community ownership and encourage appropriate use. The Strategy will identify significant sites using traditional knowledge and community consultation.

### Equitable & Accountable

**Green infrastructure is distributed throughout the city to provide access to all residents.**

The Strategy strives to provide all residents, regardless of income, housing type and location, with access to the Network within walking distance.

### High Quality

Green spaces are evaluated and used for their best purposes, taking into consideration the types of infrastructure and amenities they have, the value of the functions they provide and community needs. Best purposes are determined through a review and consultation process. The City's green spaces serve a variety of purposes, including diverse ecosystems, natural water storage and conveyance, passive and active recreation and cultural experiences. The

Strategy will provide for robust asset management to ensure that development of green spaces is purposeful. Standards will be developed to ensure that site specific maintenance occurs. For example, irrigated areas within parks will be watered and mowed for active recreation needs, while natural areas, such as swales, will be conserved in their natural state and maintained to keep invasive species at bay.

## **Integrated & Multifunctional**

**Green spaces are integrated into the city fabric to form a network that serves multiple uses and needs.**

A network of green spaces will seamlessly integrate into the City's urban fabric. This network will protect sensitive ecosystems from adjacent land uses and provide access for residents in a sensitive and appropriate manner. The connections from natural area to buffer area to built environment will be strategically planned and executed to ensure connections are gradual and natural. Sites that make up the network will provide multiple functions, varying from important ecological functions, to storm water servicing, to a variety of recreational, traditional and cultural purposes.

## **Public Safety**

**The green network is safe, accessible and inclusive for all.**

The green spaces that make up the network will be designed to ensure public safety during appropriate use, taking into consideration site-specific uses. Different types of sites will have different standards. Policy will promote network safety and accessibility for all residents regardless of age and ability.

## **Recognizable & Unique Places**

**A range of green space types and functions reflect heritage, traditional land uses and community identity and needs.**

The green spaces that make up the network include sites with unique characteristics and components, such as historical features, traditional uses and important ecological services. Development and maintenance standards will be developed to conserve these heritage and ecological components.

## **Sustainable**

**The green network responds to operational requirements, flood resiliency, community capacity and environmental and local needs.**

The City strives to create a network of green spaces that is responsive to operational requirements and environmental needs, while balancing financial, environmental, cultural and social long-term sustainability. The network will help to address enhanced flood resiliency by protecting natural wetlands and swale complexes, where they exist in their natural state prior to development.

## **Wellness: Physical & Mental**

**The green network meets community needs, recognizing that access to green space is strongly related to residents' physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing.**

The green network will provide space for all residents to enjoy, whether for physical exercise, traditional or ceremonial uses, family outings, community gatherings or solitude in natural settings. Likewise, we are stewards of the land and are responsible for protecting the earth's wellbeing.