

██████████ 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK ██████████  
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Mayor Clark and members of Saskatoon City Council:

**Re: Legal Protection of Northeast Swale and Small Swale and Withdrawal of Support for Proposed Siting of Saskatoon Freeway**

The City of Saskatoon has the great good fortune to have within its boundaries one of the few remaining remnants of native grassland. The Northeast Swale, the Small Swale, and connecting natural areas, such as Peturrson's Ravine, are home to rare and endangered plants and birds, as well as herds of mule deer, and a sage-grouse lek. What an honour to share our urban home with such a vast array of wildlife and plants. At a time of rapidly decreasing biodiversity, climate change, and human-wildlife disconnect, the Northeast Swale and connecting areas are the jewel in Saskatoon's crown and a huge part of what makes Saskatoon a great place to live.

Such a valuable natural area must be protected and City Council would be remiss in its duties if it did not do all in its power as quickly as possible to protect this valuable resource. The first step must surely be to provide legal protection for the Northeast Swale, the Small Swale, and the connecting areas. The City will then be in a position, with the support of the Meewasin Valley Authority, to properly protect this area.

The City of Saskatoon must also take immediate action to withdraw its support for the proposed route of the Saskatoon Freeway. The proposed route was established in 2001 before the City had become aware of the importance of the Northeast Swale and Small Swale. It is sorely out of date and must be revisited in light of our current understanding of the area's importance and the risks humanity faces if it does not recognize that it cannot survive if it doesn't learn to co-exist in harmony with nature.

It is absurd and beyond belief that the City would endorse a 4-lane freeway with speeds up to 110 kmh in such close proximity to existing roads and bridges through such an invaluable natural resource.

The time is now to speak up for our future and to protect the small amount of native grassland that remains. Do it for yourself – do it for your children.

Thank you,

Penny McKinlay