

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Comprehensive Engagement Report
December 30, 2019



Engagement Summary

The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is to establish the vision, actions, and implementation framework to enhance Saskatoon's Green Network by integrating green infrastructure into land use planning and asset management.

Engagement for the Strategy included three phases:

- Phase 1: Seed - Our Current Situation
 - The [Green Infrastructure Strategy Baseline Inventory Report](#) was published in May 2018 and outlined 10 Guiding Principles and 25 Key Findings (vulnerabilities) in the current green network.
- Phase 2: Growth
 - The engagement goals for this phase were to provide opportunities for participants to acknowledge and understand the Strategy and the Guiding Principles, and to inform development of a vision and identification and selection of actions to help address some of the green network key findings.
- Phase 3: Bloom
 - This phase includes planning and implementation of the selected actions that comprise the Strategy.

This engagement summary includes the activities and results that informed the Phase 2: Growth engagement goals. A total of 699 participants took part in engagement activities (including education campaign, meetings, workshops, surveys and pop-ups) between October 2018 and November 2019.

Engagements goals, intended audience, activities, dates, participation rates and detailed engagement results are provided in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Comprehensive Engagement Report that follows this summary.

Engagement results from all activities that informed each goal are summarized below.

Acknowledge & Understand the Strategy & Guiding Principles

Acknowledgement and understanding of the Strategy and guiding principles was informed using input from participants from all engagement activities. A total of 144 residents, natural area users and key stakeholder groups provided input during the following activities which were designed specifically to inform this goal:

- Education Campaign
- Pop-up Events
- Meetings

Participants throughout all engagement activities demonstrated varying degrees of understanding regarding how the Guiding Principles were meant to be used and what the Strategy would aim to accomplish. The majority of comments received were focused on specific Strategy components or topics relevant to the participant and it was unclear if the public understands the purpose of the Strategy as a whole.

A list of recurring themes and areas for improvement related to public understanding included:

- Lack of clear language
 - Several components or terms used were either too vague or may have a different meaning to different people in different situations. These included words like “biodiversity”, “natural” and “heritage”.
 - Overly technical or complex language also caused concern, indicating that participants were not confident that they fully understood the Guiding Principles or Emerging Priorities.
- Level of Impact
 - The vague and high-level nature of discussion about potential impacts of the Strategy and undefined or unclear terminology made it challenging for some to participate in engagement.
- What it means to be “Green”
 - Some participants thought the Strategy would include discussion of all things “Green”, meaning sustainable or environmentally friendly, and questioned why single use plastics, composting and active transportation were not included.
- Concurrent Initiatives
 - Several comments reflected topics related to other concurrent initiatives at the City of Saskatoon that were featured in the media around the same time. These include budget deliberations, curbside waste discussions, bike lanes, single-use plastics, Low Emissions Community and Bus Rapid Transit.

At the conclusion of the engagement program, during the Our Green Network Event, questions asked during the presentation suggested that there is still a lack of clarity about the purpose of the Strategy and level of impact it can be expected to accomplish.

Vision and Actions Identification and Selection

Identification and selection of the green network vision and actions were informed using input from 491 participants as part of the following engagement activities:

- Green Strategy Workshop 2
- Shaping a Natural Community Workshop
- Green Strategy Options Identification Survey
- Growing a NatureCity Workshops
- Meetings
- Our Green Network Event

Stakeholder groups engaged to inform this goal included:

- Subject Matter Experts
- Residents and Natural Area Users
- Key Stakeholder Groups
- Technical Advisory Groups

Engagement results, summarized below, informed identification of green network baseline conditions (Our Current Situation), visioning and mapping, and identification and selection of preferred actions.

Our Current Situation

The 64 participants from Green Strategy Workshop 2 were invited to review the Natural Areas mapping and provide comments or corrections related to boundaries, current land uses and missing green spaces that should be designated as Natural Areas.

Visioning and Mapping

Input from 300 participants from Green Strategy Workshop 2, Shaping a Natural Community, Growing a NatureCity and meetings with the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group, Meewasin, University of Saskatchewan and Wanuskewin helped to inform visioning and mapping.

Recurring themes related to values and gaps in the green network that informed visioning and mapping are summarized below.

Socio-cultural Value

In addition to ecological and economic indicators, socio-cultural indicators are also important components of the vision for the green network and should be infused in planning and implementation of the Strategy.

Definition and Clarity

The Strategy should provide standardized definitions for key subjective terms to set clear expectations, and goals and targets that cannot not be left to interpretation.

Urban Agriculture

Some participants urged for community gardens, private gardens and edible forests to be considered part of the green network and inquired how the Strategy would support urban agriculture initiatives. Other were not supportive of including urban agriculture in the Strategy.

Soil Health

For emerging priorities like afforestation, naturalization and biodiversity to be successful, we need to ensure that there is adequate soil health enhancement and maintenance in addition to access to sufficient clean water.

Connectivity

Connectivity is important and was described in terms of wildlife and plant connectivity as well as human connectivity including access to natural areas, connection to nature and sense of place.

Economic Sustainability

Financial implications for tax payers as a result of the Strategy must be considered, however, monetary value should not be the only consideration in green network visioning. Actions that would be relatively low cost or no cost were preferred in comparison to other more costly alternatives. However, participants appeared to be more willing to invest in actions with high impact or those that would address the largest gaps.

Sustainable Governance

There is a general mistrust in the City's decision making processes, including the influence of competing City initiatives and ability of the project team to create change given current governance models. Participants suggested that City Council and Senior Management must adopt and mandate infusion of the vision into all aspects of decision making across the City. Participants identified a

need for the alignment or prioritization of the City's Strategic Goals, noting that the following goals conflict the City's Environmental Leadership goals:

- Recreation facilities/park space per capita
- Implement strategies to encourage downtown and infill development, including development process initiatives and financial incentives.
- Proactively prepare concept plans for urban development including a new sector plan with the University of Saskatchewan.
- Storm water management needs were also identified as a potential conflict with protection of natural wetlands.

Distribution

Participants noted a lack of green space and natural areas in the west and northwest portion of the city and recommended that resources are allocated to improve distribution in this region through conservation of existing natural areas within and outside City boundaries (West Swale for example) and exploration of opportunities to add new green spaces.

Identification and Selection of Preferred Actions

A total of 28 participants from the Shaping a Natural Community workshop and Options Identification Survey in addition to participants from internal engagement activities were asked to identify possible and preferred actions to implement as part of the green strategy. A list of over 150 potential actions was compiled and analysed by the project team for themes or "Emerging Priorities". The emerging priorities were shared with the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group, and 388 participants from the Growing a NatureCity workshops and Emerging Priorities Survey for feedback. Participants indicated some additional actions or considerations in response to the emerging priorities. Results of both the actions identification and emerging priorities activities are provided below.

Identified and Preferred Actions

Actions were identified by participants to address the key findings from the Baseline Inventory Report as part of the Shaping a Natural Community Workshop and Options Identification Survey. A complete list of identified actions is available in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Engagement Report. Participants were asked to identify their preferred actions from the list they provided. Preferred actions categorized into key finding themes are listed below.

Governance

- Formalize Administration and Council's commitment to protect or enhance the green network for the next 50 years through a resolution or similar.
- Develop acceptable limits for all pollution including light, noise, air and water to ensure the health of residents and wildlife.
- Improve protection of the urban forest by developing a private tree inventory, private tree bylaw and tree protection policy including post construction monitoring.

Land Allocation

- Design parks or green spaces with designated space for naturalized areas, conservation, source water and wetland protection in addition to active development space in a way that meets the needs of both adults and children.
- Develop a natural areas inventory for designation consideration.

Green Network

- Improve or maintain wildlife connectivity by installing wildlife or green bridges, corridors, culverts, green roofs and wildflower plantings in ditches, alleys and boulevards.
- Enhance connectivity and access between parks, schools, places of work, business areas and out of city trail systems and allow use of small electric vehicles in green spaces. Improve public transportation to green spaces and natural areas.
- Educate public about the importance of wetlands and all three swales
- Protect the urban forest by developing a tree inventory, increasing afforestation, and reducing stressors on trees to improve survival rates and prevent pests.

Storm Water Servicing

- Reduce use of impermeable surfaces and increase use permeable surfaces.
- Conserve treated water by implementing simple grey water systems in residential /community areas that take advantage of the landscape to allow water infiltration, explore technologies for water conservation and reuse, treat only water intended for drinking, and collect and store storm water.

Heritage and Culture

- Protect built heritage in the core from unnecessary demolition.
- Develop or promote place based and experiential learning opportunities.

Emerging Priorities Feedback

Participants from the Growing a NatureCity Workshops, Indigenous Technical Advisory Group and Emerging Priorities Survey suggested actions that should be included or considered as opportunities to help achieve the objectives of each emerging priority area. These suggestions are summarized below under the relevant emerging priority.

Biodiversity Action Plan

Participants envision the Biodiversity Action Plan as a tool to guide and monitor implementation of initiatives, however questioned what definition, tools and criteria would be used to measure biodiversity. Connectivity of natural areas was noted an important aspect of a Biodiversity Action Plan and participants mentioned that no space is too small when it comes to protecting biodiversity. Participants enjoy seeing a variety of birds and mammals, however protection of bee species appears to be a priority for many participants. Participants also want to see Indigenous knowledge, educational opportunities and protection/establishment of culturally important species incorporated into the biodiversity action plan.

Afforestation

Participants recognized the benefits that trees provide like shade and heat mitigation. They would like to see more native and fruiting species planted with a focus on parks, new areas, commercial and industrial areas, berms, and a buffer around the city. Participants would like to see more communities of trees planted instead of rows. In order to increase planting, participants suggested that any development must be designed with spaces saved for trees. They would like to see more community volunteer opportunities created and suggested shifting the community tree planting program from an “opt in” service to an “opt out” service. In order to ensure the success of the program, participants also mentioned need for additional funding and maintenance. To promote tree

planting on private property, participants also suggested incentives such as a free civic pass for every 10 trees planted.

Park Naturalization

Participant expressed support for connecting natural spaces by naturalizing medians, planting more native species and creating micro wildlife corridors for pollinators. They would like to see more protection and planting of flowers, fruiting trees, and shrubs in park spaces to attract wildlife and bees and create opportunities to connect with nature. Participants would like to see more naturalization in Beaver Creek and Brevoort Park specifically and protection of the Meewasin Trail.

While many participants supported a shift away from grass in parks and reduced maintenance needs it was noted that caution should be exercised with anti-grass messaging as more and more residents are shifting to alternatives like paving and artificial turf for landscaping.

Participants would like to see the introduction of natural play-scapes designed to integrate nature and recreation and mentioned opportunities to facilitate biocultural conservation models.

Bird Friendly Standards

Participants were supportive of both protecting and attracting birds, bats and pollinating insects to green spaces in the city and requested a ban on bio-accumulating pesticides. Adding bird and bat houses, feeders and nesting areas around green spaces were suggested along with back yard chicken coops. Participants would like to see more bird identification and protection information shared such as species information and bird strike prevention techniques for new and existing buildings.

Create New Open Spaces

Overall participants were supportive of creating new open spaces. Participants would like to see more green spaces that are connected with green corridors. More community gardens both indoors and outdoors were also suggested. Restoration of vacant lots to green space to improve community safety and parking lots restored to green space to help encourage active transportation were also noted. Green spaces should include resilient plantings and there should be planting mandated on boulevards and easements.

Some participants felt that before creating more open space, the City needs to better maintain existing green spaces. Garbage, dog waste and lack of use of existing irrigation systems were mentioned as areas for improvement.

Participants identified the opportunity for Indigenous groups to both govern and provide land management of new open spaces. Lands could managed using an approach consistent with the Indigenous Circle of Experts "we rise together" pathway document.

Renew Green Space

Participants acknowledged that some green spaces are deteriorating or underutilized. More watering in dry years was suggested along with additional funding for increased maintenance.

Participants suggested that green spaces should have purpose, such as areas for children to play, wildlife areas, organic gardens, and picnic areas and should incorporate trees, native grasses, bushes, flowers and naturalized areas that bring joy to people and support wildlife and pollinators. Green spaces should be connected to each other with naturalized corridors.

Green space should remain or become affordable, accessible, safe and welcoming to all residents regardless of income level. The inner city was identified as an area where green spaces require attention.

Participants would like to see green spaces renewed in areas where people, especially children and Indigenous women, do not feel safe. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is one approach to improving feelings of safety in green spaces.

Natural Capital Asset Valuation

Participants suggested that components of the Natural Capital Asset Valuation could include a tree inventory and maps and valuation of wetlands services like biodiversity and water filtration.

Participants also felt that undertaking the valuation has the potential to be a very high cost and complex project. Participants questioned which value indicators would be used to make the valuation and suggested that they must respect all world views. Participants also expressed some concern regarding treating the land as an “asset” instead of a shared resource.

Tree Protection Update

Participants felt it was important to protect local species and aspen stands, and only remove trees that need to be removed for safety and pest management. Participants suggested that the city could make topiaries and should provide more information about tree planting programs for newcomers. While protection of trees was important to people, participants felt that development of a private tree bylaw would infringe too much on property rights. Participant suggested consideration of tree teachings, ceremony and tree spirits into tree protection.

Lighting Policy Update

Participants were supportive of the concept of putting light where it needs to be and suggested using interesting and artistic lighting, new technologies, solar lighting and warm colored or red LEDs to reduce light pollution, mitigate health impacts and improve the feeling of a space.

Urban Agriculture Plan

Participants would like to see more community gardens in underserved areas as they bring joy, nutrition, education opportunities and help to improve food security. They expressed interest in exploring more underused garden locations such as rooftops, boulevards, and apartment windows. To accommodate more urban agriculture, zoning rules would need to change to allow for backyard greenhouses and opportunities to sell what is grown. Participants asked for more fruiting trees in the city, especially native varieties. This would require removal of current barriers preventing fruiting trees and food forests.

While urban agriculture is important, some participants explained that community gardens and food forests are not enough and urge the City to develop a comprehensive local food strategy of which the Urban Agriculture Plan is a component.

Low Impact Development Implementation

Participants suggested that we should stop developing new neighbourhoods in swamps, use more bio-swales, and collect, store and use storm water for irrigation and fountains instead of using treated water for these purposes. Participants also suggested providing education around water filtration could be helpful. Soil management, water run-off and established, regulated wetland buffers were also listed as considerations.

Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure

Participants expressed concerns about flooding and suggested we stop directing rainwater into the sewer. Participants suggested that we design better water collection and drainage systems and develop policies and incentives to encourage green roofs, rain tanks and cisterns.

Where new infrastructure is required, retrofit it into existing developed areas and incorporate artistic designs into the infrastructure. If using storm ponds, ensure they are safe and if possible, where appropriate, add in a solar pump and introduce fish to the pond.

Participants also identified a need for environmental impact assessment with storm water infrastructure developments or transparency when impact assessment is not used.

Strengthen Partnerships

Participants commented on the beauty of Wanuskewin and suggested educational initiatives to strengthen partnerships.

Participants explained that restoration needs to happen with Indigenous stewardship and suggested the City designate the Northeast Swale as an Indigenous Protected Conservation Area with assistance from Wanuskewin to help with biocultural restoration, conservation and protection.

Existing plans like Moriyama Plans and Meewasin were mentioned as partnerships or plans already in place that are working well and should continue and be recognized for their contributions.

Participants explained that partnerships are critical and suggested that exploring opportunity for partnership should be considered mandatory for all aspects of the Strategy. Others felt that the Strategy could be led by community partnerships, with the City contributing oversight only.

Participants also referenced the need to partner with residents and suggested there should be a consultation process for design of specific places.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

Participants enjoy participating in activities and community events in spaces like River Landing and would like to see more opportunities organized. They would like to see park and gathering spaces designed for cultural use and suggested exploring use of less structured parks with more “organic” elements.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation

Participants would like to see First Nations rights to enter land for fishing and hunting protected. They suggested working with elders and knowledge keepers to learn about how best to care for the land and documenting current land uses like berry picking and harvesting.

Participants appreciate the Moose Jaw Trail and suggested seeking more opportunities to incorporate stories of diverse peoples and their relationship to the land and space.

Participants from several engagement activities, but most notably the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group, suggested a different approach to discussion around connection, culture, heritage and reconciliation that is based in Story Telling.

The term “heritage” was rejected by several participants along with the concepts of “past and current culture”. Participants explained that culture is always evolving with no “then” and “now” so to only value or share culture based on historical events is not enough. Participants suggested framing

heritage and culture discussions around telling the stories of how we all came to be here from several different perspectives told by and in the language of the story holders. Pieces of the story could then be told in and about our green spaces, natural areas and notable sites.

Emerging Priority Preference

A total of 187 participants responded to the Emerging Priorities for Saskatoon's Future Green Network Survey to inform selection of preferred emerging priorities. Participants were asked to identify which of the Emerging Priorities were important to them as residents.



Most important: Afforestation, Park Naturalization, Low Impact Development Implementation, Biodiversity Action Plan and Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure were important to the greatest number of respondents with 86% to 90% respondents indicating that they these Emerging Priorities are important to them.

Least Important: Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation and Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory were considered important by only 55% and 63% of respondents respectively. Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation was considered Not Important by 30% of respondents and 16% were unsure. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory saw nearly equal responses for Not Important (19%) and Not Sure (18%) indicating that additional information may be required regarding what this Emerging Priority would entail.

Emerging Priorities Survey and Growing a NatureCity participants were asked to select the 5 priorities they would most like to see implemented as part of the Green Strategy.

A total of 265 residents and green space users participated in prioritization exercises.

At least 40% of participants would like to see the following emerging priorities implemented:



- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Afforestation
- Park Naturalization
- Green Space Renewal
- Urban Agriculture Plan

Less than 25% of participants would like to see these emerging priorities implemented:

- Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation
- Natural Capital Asset Valuation
- Strengthen Partnerships
- Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

While Low Impact Development Implementation and Green Storm Water Infrastructure were considered important by more than 86% of Emerging Priority Survey respondents, when asked to prioritize initiatives, these two Emerging Priorities were selected by fewer than 26% of participants.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation and Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory were considered important to the fewest number of Emerging Priority Survey participants and were also selected as priorities by fewer than 26% of participants.

When asked to explain why they selected the 5 Priorities they did, participants shared their decision-making process and justification for their selections which included consideration of:

- Greatest Impact
- Climate Change Mitigation or Adaptation
- Prerequisites that should be undertaken first to lead the way for other initiatives
- Balance between social, economic and ecological considerations.
- Low cost
- Immediate results
- Ease of implementation
- Focus on existing spaces in a way that maximizes maintenance of existing spaces
- Gaps that need to be addressed

The Emerging Priorities selected by participants who indicated use of specific decision making indicators were counted. The Emerging Priorities selected by the most participants based on each decision making indicator were also noted.

Biodiversity Action Plan was among the emerging priorities that received the largest number of selections in relation to the greatest number (5) decision making indicators which included greatest impact, prerequisite, immediate results, easy and focus on existing space. Park Naturalization and Urban Agriculture Plan were each among the highest number of selections for three decision making indicators including prerequisite, easy and focus on open space.

Consideration of results

The vision of Saskatoon's green network is to provide sustainable habitat for people and nature. To achieve this vision, the Strategy identifies a combination of actions initiatives for future implementation categorized under five broad themes including community, governance, open space, ecology and storm water. Public engagement informed selection of the actions and initiatives in each theme in the following ways:

Community

We heard from the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group that stories, including the way we write and share them, are important. Initiative 1.4 "Work with the community to tell the story of Saskatoon's Green Network from many voices through public art, interpretive features, and other mediums" was added to reflect what we heard.

During all engagement activities, the need for consideration of equity and inclusion in all Green Network design was expressed. Initiative 1.3 "Continue meaningful engagement with affected groups to design the Green Network through an equity and inclusion lens" was added specifically to address this need.

The Saskatoon Food Council, among other groups, has recommended the need for a city-wide food strategy which we have captured in Initiative 3.2 "Work with partners to develop a comprehensive food strategy, including implementation of the Saskatoon Regional Food System Assessment and Action Plan".

Several engagement participants urged the City to provide support and resources to community groups or organizations who are already managing and enhancing aspects of the green

network effectively. Action 2 “Inspire citizen-driven transformation of the Green Network” was added to address this opportunity.

Governance

Many stakeholders expressed concern that data pertaining to green network planning wasn't transferrable across multiple groups. Initiative 4.4 “Compile data sets across the City of Saskatoon for more effective data management, and create data sharing agreements with other agencies” was added to help address this barrier.

We heard that co-management of natural areas with Indigenous groups was an opportunity we should explore further so we added initiative 5.4 “Partner with Indigenous communities and organizations to explore traditional land management and governance models for the Green Network”.

We heard from Wanuskewin that establishment and conservation of the park's view shed, captured in initiative 5.3 “Work with Wanuskewin to conserve their view shed and support management of Opimihaw Creek”, was important for many reasons.

Action 6 “Redefine the partnership with Meewasin to achieve collective goals related to conservation, education, and development in the Green Network” and its initiatives were designed in partnership with Meewasin. Support for more collaboration with Meewasin was expressed by participants in several engagement activities.

Open Space

Action 9 “Increase walkability and active transportation throughout the Green Network” was added to address stakeholder concerns related to accessibility and connectivity barriers in the green network specifically around active transportation. The need for protection and growth in the urban forest (Action 10) was mentioned by several participants in all engagement activities.

Ecology

We heard in all engagement activities that protection of natural areas was important to participants. Action 11 “Protect, restore, and manage significant natural areas” initiatives explore protection of natural areas through various approaches. We also heard that development of a biodiversity action plan should be a priority for the Strategy. As such, it was included as a function of Actions 11 to 13.

In all engagement activities, participants noted the importance and benefits of incorporating native species into plantings, especially in relation to creating pollinator habitat. This was captured in Initiative 12.3 “Increase the City's use of native species in restoration and naturalization work”.

Storm Water

Stakeholders expressed a need for engagement with local organizations to identify natural and heritage resources as part of storm water planning. Initiative 14.4 “Consult with affected organizations when designing storm water infrastructure to mitigate impacts to natural areas and cultural assets within the watershed” formalizes this request.

We heard that some of the City bylaws contradict green infrastructure objectives, making it more difficult to add or retrofit with green infrastructure. Initiative 15.3 “Update bylaws and regulations to allow more permeable surfaces” would address this issue.

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1 Background

The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is to establish the vision, actions, and implementation framework to enhance Saskatoon's Green Network by integrating green infrastructure into land use planning and asset management.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy (Strategy) is structured using a phased approach as illustrated in the Project Pathway graphic below.

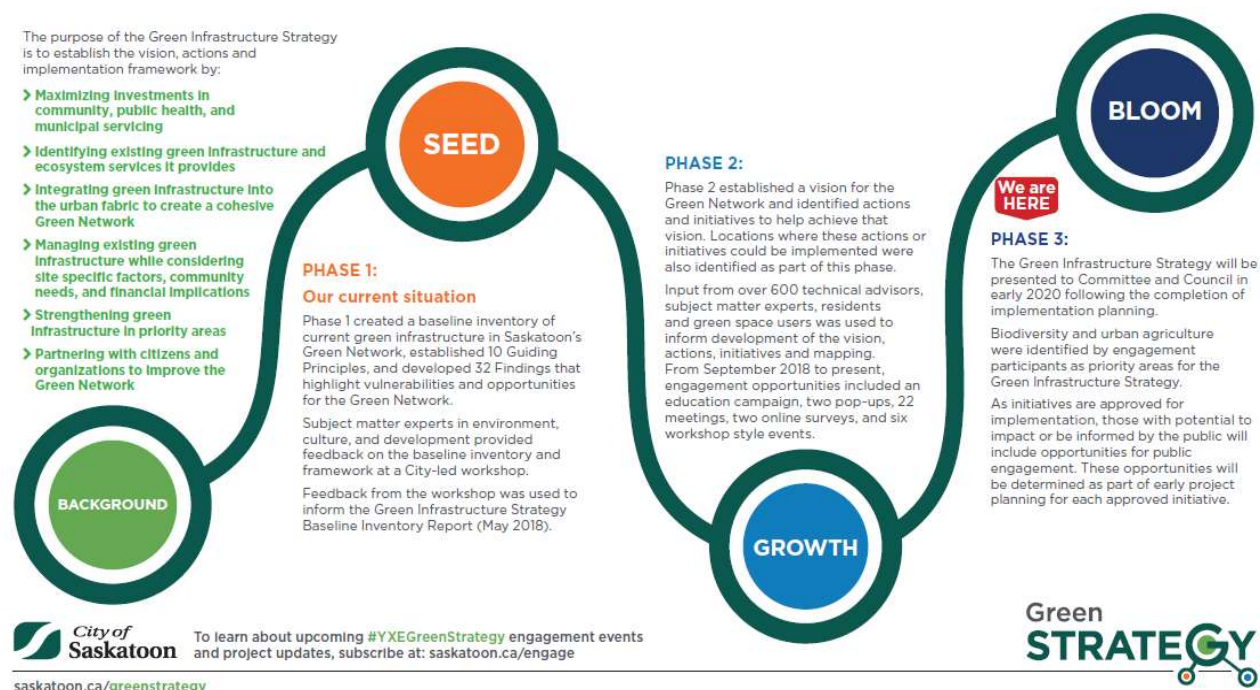


Figure 1: Project Pathway

Phase I (Seed) established a mission, vision and values (10 Guiding Principles) for the Strategy. A baseline inventory of current green infrastructure was also compiled during this phase and based on this inventory, a framework was developed to organize and characterize the diverse aspects of green infrastructure. This framework consists of 32 Key Findings within five broad themes that highlight both vulnerabilities and opportunities to strengthen the green network.

In December 2017, the City hosted a workshop with key technical experts in the fields of environment, heritage, culture, education and development to review and provide feedback on the guiding principles, baseline inventory and key findings. Feedback from the workshop was used to develop the Green Infrastructure Strategy Baseline Inventory Report, published May 2018.

With the baseline inventory and Strategy mission, vision and values in place, Phase 2 of the project will include:

- Determining Awareness and Understanding of the Strategy
- Identify and Select Preferred Actions

1.1 Strategic Goals

The Strategy aims to inform several strategic goals through implementation of the Actions it will recommend. The overarching goal of the Strategy is to demonstrate environmental leadership through identification and management of green infrastructure for the benefit of current and future generations.

1.2 City Project Team

- Genevieve Russell, Special Projects Manager
- Kellie Grant, Senior Planner
- Jessie Best, Environmental Coordinator
- Twyla Yobb, Environmental Protection Manager
- Katie Suek, Public Engagement Consultant
- Leighland Hrapchak, Marketing Consultant

1.3 Spokesperson(s)

- Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability

1.4 Summary of Engagement Strategy

Stakeholders were provided opportunity to inform the following engagement goals:

- Awareness and Understanding of the Strategy and Guiding Principles
- Identification and Selection of Preferred Actions
 - Develop green network vision and mapping
 - Identification and selection of preferred option to address each Key Finding or group of key findings for inclusion in the Implementation and Action Plans

A summary of engagement goals, objectives and selected activities in relation to each stakeholder group are provided in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of Engagement Strategy

Intended Audience	Level of Influence	Objective	Engagement Goal	Engagement Activity
Residents, Subject Matter Experts, Natural Area Users, Key Stakeholders, Advisory Groups	Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	Acknowledge and Understand Strategy and Guiding Principles	Education Campaign Pop-up Events/ Presentations Community Event
Residents, Subject Matter Experts and Green Space Users	Consult	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	Identification and Selection of Preferred Actions	Online Surveys
Advisory Groups	Collaborate	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	Identification and Selection of Preferred Actions	Advisory Group Meetings
Subject Matter Experts, Natural Area Users, Key Stakeholders, Advisory Groups	Involve	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	Identification and Selection of Preferred Actions	Workshops 1:1 Meetings

A summary of engagement activities selected, activity and event dates, intended audience, and number of participants engaged for each engagement goal is provided in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of Engagement Activities

Goal	Intended Audience	Engagement Activity	Date(s)	Participants
Acknowledge and Understand the Strategy and Guiding Principles	Residents and Green Space Users	Education Campaign	September 2018 to January 2019	130
	Saskatchewan Institute of Professional Planners	NE Swale Tour	September 17, 2018	3
	Residents and Green Space Users	World Rivers Day Presentation	September 23, 2018	4
	Maple Leaf Foods	Meeting	June 18, 2019	1
	Saskatoon Public School Division	Meeting	June 25, 2019	1
	Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce	Meeting	September 17, 2019	1
	Business Improvement Districts	Meeting	September 19, 2019	4
	Subtotal			144
Vision and Actions Identification and Selection	Subject Matter Experts	Green Strategy Workshop 2	October 29, 2018	64
	Subject Matter Experts - Students	Shaping a Natural Community Workshop	February 6, 2019	14
	Residents and Green Space Users	Green Strategy Options Identification Survey	March 19, 2019 to April 16, 2019	14
	Residents and Green Space Users	Growing a NatureCity Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kiwanis ParkStation 20 WestLakewood Civic CentreShaw Centre	May 23, 2019 June 5, 2019 June 12, 2019 June 12, 2019	137 20 20 24
	Indigenous Technical Advisory Group	Meetings	April 16, 2019 June 5, 2019	11
	Meewasin	Meetings (13 total)	June to November 2019	6
	University of Saskatchewan	Meetings	July 3, 2019 July 4, 2019 August 12, 2019	4
	Wanuskewin Heritage Park	Meeting	August 28, 2019	2
	Subject Matter Expert, Residents and Green Space Users	Emerging Priorities for Saskatoon's Future Green Network Survey	July 23, 2019 to August 6, 2019	187
	All Stakeholders	Our Green Network Event	November 21, 2019	52
	Subtotal			491
	Total Participation October 2018 to November 2019			699

Engagement activities, intended audience, marketing techniques, analysis methods and results are described in this report followed by a summary of evaluation feedback and data limitations.

2 Education Campaign

2.1 #yxeGreenStrategy

Engagement Goal: Acknowledge and Understand the Strategy and Guiding Principles

The primary function of the #yxeGreenStrategy education campaign was to inform residents about the Strategy. Comments provided by participants were tracked and, where applicable, used to inform engagement design and demonstrate acknowledgement and understanding of the Strategy and Guiding Principles. As part of the #yxeGreenStrategy campaign, a “PhotoShare” activity was also launched inviting residents to share photos of their favorite natural areas in Saskatoon. Photographs could be shared using a submission form on the Engage Page or posted to social media and tagged with #yxeGreenStrategy.

A total of 35 #yxeGreenStrategy posts were shared from the City of Saskatoon News Facebook account between September 22, 2018 and January 2019. Fifteen of these posts received comments. See “What we Heard” for a summary of the posts and comments.

2.1.1 Intended Audience

The intended audience for these activities were residents and natural area users.

2.1.2 Marketing Techniques

The Education Campaign was launched on social media platforms, namely Facebook, in September 2018.

2.1.3 Analysis

The results were analysed for emergent themes using open ended coding. Emergent themes are summarized in response to the topic of each post.

2.1.4 What We Heard

Green Strategy social media posts that received participant responses are provided below and include posting date, questions posed, and a summary of comments received.

January 10, 2019: Did you know? As we set out targets for total urban forest canopy cover, we are aligning ourselves with cities such as Calgary and Edmonton with are at 20%. What does #yxeGreenStrategy mean to you?

- 1 comment discussing the lack of trees downtown and disappointment with the removal of trees across from the Holiday Inn Express and covering of the resulting open soil with brick.

January 3, 2019: Did you know Saskatoon’s Green Strategy is made up of 10 principles? Of the 10 Green Strategy principles, which ones are important for green networks in your area?

- 22 comments were received which focused primarily on the implications of the project on municipal taxes, concerns regarding fiscal responsibility and perceived political agendas. The topic of waste and recycling was also discussed. Two of the comments indicated support for the Green Strategy as a mechanism to address climate change and introduce green technologies, suggesting that such technologies should be implemented immediately.

December 30, 2018: Did you know? 50% of water used to wash buses is from harvested rainwater.

- 2 comments were received from participants indicating that the pre wash for buses is mostly recycled and suggested the revival of cistern use for irrigation.

December 27, 2018: Did you know? There is currently no designated environmental reserve within Saskatoon city limits? What does #yxeGreenStrategy mean to you?

- 8 comments were received primarily focused on concerns regarding cost implications and user fees if environmental reserve was applied to existing parks or green spaces.

December 23, 2018: Do you have a favourite natural area in Saskatoon? Upload photos of your beloved natural area and tell us why you are passionate about it.

- 11 comments and several replies were received primarily expressing concern over the transfer of ownership and misuse of photos submitted. Comments and/or photos of Meewasin Trail, Furdale and a link to other Saskatoon and area natural areas to visit were shared.

December 18, 2018: Did you know that Saskatoon's Green Strategy is made up of 10 Principles? Of the last 5 Green Strategy principles, which ones are important for green networks in your area?

- 5 comments were received regarding need for public input and impacts to taxpayers.

November 30, 2018: Do you have a favorite natural area in Saskatoon?

- 8 comments were received from participants expressing disappointment in the City for not applying these principles to past developments like the Brighton wetlands and NE Swale. Participants also mentioned concerns regarding changes to Furdale and free tobogganing hills in neighbourhood parks.

November 13, 2018: Residents spending 30 minutes in a green space each week are 7% less likely to show signs of depression and 9% less likely to have high blood pressure. What does #yxeGreenStrategy mean to you?

- 1 comment was received indicating that snowy white spaces work just as well.

November 4, 2018: On average, 8 trees together remove the total CO2 produced by 1 car in a year. What does #yxeGreenStrategy mean to you?

- 6 comments were received showing support for maintenance and planting of trees both by citizens and on City property.

October 23, 2018: Have you heard about Green Strategy?

- 16 comments were received regarding concurrent waste related discussions, disappointment that principles were not in place to protect the NE Swale and Brighton wetlands from development, concerns that principles regarding bird strikes were not implemented in recent development near the river, support for the strategy and maintenance of wildlife connectivity and concern over political influence over the project.

October 12, 2018: If you have taken a drive out to the new Chief Mistawasis Bridge, you might have noticed the cool lighting that Saskatoon Light and Power installed. This “Dark Sky Lighting” is both energy efficient, and biorhythm sensitive for all the inhabitants of the Swales.

- 3 comments expressing concerns about necessity of the roadway, speed limits and cost of the lighting

October 11, 2018: If you decide to take a stroll out to the Chief Mistawasis Bridge, the wildlife friendly fencing you will see is not for Jurassic Park scenarios, but it is used to reduce the amount of animal-human interactions on this new commuter.

- 3 comments discussing the fence and providing alternatives such as a wildlife overpass.

October 5, 2018: If you wish to drink in some nature on your travels toward the Chief Mistawasis Bridge., you may appreciate that those few seconds of narrowed roadway on the commuter to the bridge conserve out fragile Swale resource.

- 10 comments discussing concerns about traffic flow and congestion, speed limits and traffic planning. Some comments provided alternative wildlife crossing options like bridges and concerns about how long the fencing will stay in place once the area is fully developed.

October 3, 2018: Saskatoon is a whole lot more connected! The Chief Mistawasis Bridge is open to traffic, so remember the 50km/hr speed limit as you take in the natural beauty of our Swales and help prevent wildlife collisions.

- 26 comments primarily describing concern over the changing speed limits. One comment does discuss the importance of the natural area (North East Swale) and explains that it should have been protected from disturbance.

September 22, 2018: Have you heard about Green Strategy?

- 11 comments were received related to the concurrent ban on plastic bags, opportunities to increase green space, support for bird strike considerations, disappointment regarding green spaces that have already been developed, and concern over the need for, and political influence guiding the development of the Strategy.

Several recurrent discussion themes were evident in participant comments across multiple posts including:

- Appreciation of trees and disappointment when they are removed.
- Financial concerns including cost of programming and impacts to tax payers.
- Suspicion regarding City motives for the project and concerns about political influence or conformity.
- More public input needed.
- Disappointment and frustration that development has already impacted several natural areas and green spaces and skepticism over how much power the Strategy will have to influence planning and development initiatives going forward.
- Lack of clarity regarding how the Strategy relates to concurrent Sustainability or “green” initiatives like Bike Lanes, Waste and Climate Change portfolios.
- Interest in exploring suitability of innovative “Green” technology or infrastructure options.

3 Pop-up Events/Presentations

Several Strategy presentations and pop-up events were delivered in 2018 including:

- February 7-8, 2018: Native Prairie Habitat Restoration/Reclamation Workshop Presentation
- September 17, 2018: Saskatchewan Institute of Professional Planners NE Swale Tour
- September 23, 2018: World Rivers Day Presentation
- October 2, 2018: P4G NE Swale Tour
- October 17-18, 2018: Wicahitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference Booth
- October 30, 2018: More than an Urban Park Panel Presentation

Two of these presentations included engagement opportunities intended to inform the engagement goal of Acknowledge and Understand the Strategy and Guiding Principles and are described in this section.

3.1 Saskatchewan Institute of Professional Planners - Northeast Swale Tour

Engagement Goal: Acknowledge and Understand the Strategy and Guiding Principles

A Northeast Swale Tour and engagement activity were conducted on September 28, 2018 for participants of the 2018 Saskatchewan Institute for Professional Planners Conference. As part of the educational tour, participants were asked to complete an activity worksheet. A total of four worksheets were returned. The Strategy related worksheet content is described below in terms of the questions posed to participants and decision(s) that participant comments informed.

3.1.1 Intended Audience

The intended audience for these activities were delegates of the Saskatchewan Institute of Professional Planners Conference.

3.1.2 Marketing Techniques

No marketing techniques were employed for these activities.

3.1.3 Analysis

This activity was designed to use quantitative analysis to identify emergent trends. Given the lower than expected participation rates and small data set, trend analysis was not conducted.

3.1.4 What we heard

A total of three participants responded to the question. All respondents selected ecological integrity as a principle related to the Northeast Swale. Two respondents also selected education & awareness, high quality, recognizable & unique places and sustainable to describe the area and one participant selected wellness and climate change. The principles of safety, equitable & accountable, and integrated & multifunctional were not selected by participants as important considerations for the Northeast Swale.

3.2 World River's Day

Engagement Goal: Acknowledge and Understand the Strategy and Guiding Principles

A presentation and engagement activity were delivered on September 26, 2018 during the World Rivers Day celebration at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. A total of four worksheets were received. The Strategy related worksheet content is described below in terms of the questions posted to participants and decision(s) that participant responses informed.

- Decision: Acknowledge and Understand Strategy and Guiding Principles
- Question: In your opinion, which of these Guiding Principles apply to the Meewasin Valley?

3.2.1 Intended Audience

The intended audience for this event was residents and key technical experts attending the World River's Day event.

3.2.2 Marketing Techniques

No marketing techniques were employed for these activities.

3.2.3 Analysis

This activity was designed to use quantitative analysis to identify emergent trends. Given the lower than expected participation rates and small data set, trend analysis was not conducted.

3.2.4 What We Heard

All four participants responded to the question. All participants selected public safety, equitable & accountable, education & awareness, climate change, and recognizable & unique places as applicable to the Meewasin River Valley. Three participants also selected sustainable, wellness and ecological integrity as important principles, and two selected the principles of integrated & multifunctional and high quality to describe the Meewasin River Valley.

4 Workshops

Four workshops were hosted between December 2017 and May 2019 to seek public input to inform development of the Strategy. The “Green Infrastructure Strategy Workshop” occurred in December 2017 as part of Phase 1 of the Strategy and invited subject matter experts to inform development of the Baseline Inventory Report. One goal of this workshop was to seek feedback on the vision for Saskatoon’s green network. The vision was described in terms of purpose and values in the form of “Guiding Principles”. The other goal of the workshop was to vet baseline conditions and gaps or vulnerabilities in the green network which were discussed as “Key Findings”. The results of this workshop is not included in this engagement report, however the resulting Green Infrastructure Strategy Baseline Inventory Report is referenced throughout this report and was used to inform decisions related to each Phase II engagement goal.

Three additional workshops were offered in 2018 and 2019 as part of the formal engagement program for Phase II and are discussed in this section.

4.1 Green Strategy Workshop 2 – Natural Areas and Urban Forestry

Engagement Goal: Understand and Acknowledge the Strategy and Guiding Principles.

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

The Green Strategy Workshop 2 took place October 29, 2018 and was focused on natural areas and urban forestry content to inform development of the Natural Area Standards and Urban Forest Management Plan. Participants were invited to provide their feedback during the workshop and/or via email following the workshop. A total of 64 participants attended the workshop and three participants provided additional feedback via email following the event.

While workshop activities were not specifically designed to elicit feedback to inform Strategy engagement goals, several of the responses or themes that emerged from responses helped to instill confidence that participants understand and acknowledge the strategy and guiding principles.

While participants were not directly asked to offer goals/targets or “*Actions*” to address key findings, several goals and options were evident in participant responses and were framed as considerations or identified gaps that need to be addressed. The goals/actions identified from workshop and follow-up email responses are discussed further in the Engagement Summary and were added to the master list of options for consideration by the project team.

Details about the workshop including activities, marketing strategy and evaluation are provided in the [Natural Area Standards What We Heard Report](#) and [Urban Forest Management What We Heard Reports](#).

4.1.1 Intended Audience

This workshop was designed for internal and external subject matter experts with technical knowledge or experience related to management or enhancement of Saskatoon’s green network.

4.1.2 Marketing Techniques

Participants were invited to attend by e-mail.

4.1.3 Analysis

Participant comments from workshop activities and email responses were entered into the stakeholder tracking system and coded by guiding principle and key finding (if applicable) for thematic analysis. Open ended coding was also employed to capture emergent themes that were not accounted for through closed coding. Themes that emerged in response to specific questions or topics to inform the Strategy were also noted.

4.1.4 What We Heard

The following themes emerged from Green Strategy Workshop 2 activities that can be framed as opportunities to inform the vision and options identification.

Socio-cultural Value

While values such as views, vistas and view sheds; natural connectivity; walkability; and physical and mental wellbeing are described as principles of the Strategy, they were left largely absent from workshop content shared with participants. This gap was identified and challenged by participants during all engagement activities. Participants explained that in addition to ecological and economic indicators, socio-cultural indicators are also important components of their vision.

Definition and Clarity

Several participants required more clarity on subjective terms used throughout workshop activities such as “natural”, “naturalized”, “cultural”, “heritage” and “biodiversity” which can mean different things to different people in different contexts. It is clear from participant responses, that the language used and meaning applied to these words or concepts can greatly impact the level of acceptance for the role of those terms in natural area and asset discussions. Until the City adopts standardized definitions for key subjective terms like those mentioned above, the development of goals and targets using those terms will left to interpretation and therefore not defensible or measurable.

Urban Agriculture

Several comments were received from participants eager to understand how community gardens, private gardens and edible forests were categorized as part of the green network. They suggested that gardens were more ecologically valuable than green spaces, but not included in the definition of natural areas, however should be classified as components of the green network. Participants requested clarification on if and how the Strategy will support or include urban agriculture initiatives in the vision and goals.

Soil Health

Participants mentioned soil health as a requirement for healthy trees and natural areas. While soil health could be addressed through either the natural areas or urban forest initiatives the importance and frequent mention suggests that there may be appetite to include soil health as a goal.

Connectivity

Participants referenced connectivity in workshop activities and follow-up emails as an important goal and provided several suggestions or opportunities to improve connectivity of green spaces in Saskatoon. Connectivity was described in terms of wildlife and plant connectivity as well as human connectivity such as access to natural areas via trails and pathways.

Economic Sustainability

Comments provided by participants suggest the need for consideration of financial implications for tax payers of implementing protection and management of natural areas and the urban forest. Comments from the workshop also suggested that monetary value should not be the only consideration in protection of natural areas and assets.

Sustainable Governance

Another theme that emerged from several participants across stakeholder groups was a general mistrust in the City's decision making processes, influence of competing City initiatives, and ability of the project team to create change given current governance models. While it was noted that the overall intention of the Strategy project team to protect natural areas and the urban forest seemed sincere, many participants questioned if there was enough support across the Administration and City Council to support the initiative over the long term through both allocation of resources and funding. For the Strategy to be effective and sustainable, participants suggested that City Council and Senior Management must adopt the vision and mandate infusion of the vision into all aspects of decision making across the City.

Distribution

Participants noted a lack of green space and natural areas in the west and northwest portion of the city and recommended that resources are allocated to improve distribution in this region through conservation of existing natural areas within and outside City boundaries (West Swale for example) and exploration of opportunities to add new green spaces.

4.2 Student Workshop – Shaping a Natural Community

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

The purpose of this workshop was to seek input from graduate level students with experience in applicable fields to help identify options to address the key findings from the Baseline Inventory. Given the diverse experience and perspectives of this stakeholder group on the topic, the goal of this activity was to identify unique ideas or suggestions for project team consideration.

Participants were provided with a brief overview of the Strategy and a list of the 32 Key Findings from the Baseline Inventory Report in both poster and booklet format. Participants were invited to work independently or in groups to review the Key Findings and brainstorm or identify options or opportunities that may address one or more of the Key Findings.

Participants were provided opportunity to present the options they identified to the room and were encouraged to build on or ask questions about each option to explore it further as a group.

4.2.1 Intended Audience

This workshop was designed for students and other interested parties from the University of Saskatchewan from multiple disciplines including but not limited to natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and planning. A total of 14 participants, both students and U of S staff, were in attendance representing the following areas of study/interests:

- Sustainable Environmental Management
- Conservation Ecology
- Biology
- Pollinators
- Energy/Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Green Roof Technology
- Green Space
- Geographic Information Systems

4.2.2 Marketing Techniques

The Strategy Team partnered with the Graduate Students Association and School of Environment and Sustainability Students Association (SENSA) from the University of Saskatchewan to market and organize logistics for the event. The City of Saskatoon has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University and advanced notice of this event was provided to the MOU Steering Committee. The City of Saskatoon prepared a poster for distribution by the Graduate Students Association and SENSSA in relevant newsletters, Facebook groups and on the PAWS announcement board.

4.2.3 Analysis

The data received during this activity was provided in the form of options or actions for consideration by the project team. As such, no additional analysis of the data was required.

4.2.4 What We Heard

Results of the Shaping a Natural Community Workshop are summarized in this section.

Participants identified several options to address one or more of the 32 key findings. Most of the options provided below are loosely classified under at least one of the key findings. Options that could not be applied to address a specific key finding are included under the category “other”.

Centralized Data Management

- Creation of a data warehouse which should be managed by a data analysis team. ERP business solution can be used to integrate data from various departments of the City of Saskatoon. ERP: Enterprise Resource Planning (e.g. SAP).
- PMO (Project Management Office) to review the organizational framework to check for gaps and suggest a collaborative approach. The PMO should comprise of resources from various departments under the leadership of a program manager. This will be the best way to review and come up with a robust framework that will address all the issues.
- Fusion tables – a free tool to visualize data.
- The City of Saskatoon used ArcGIS systems for data management. If the City was to release or share data, ArcGIS licence costs can be prohibitive and proprietary uses may be restrictive. A better option would be to share data in open source GIS applications.

Natural, Walkable, Connected

- More accessibility for cyclists
- Community engagement to plant trees in the community. The City of Saskatoon can organize events or programs (community based) to plant trees in the nearby parks or walks so that families and kids can come and volunteer to plant trees to make their community greener and sustainable.
- Citizen Science. Citizens, especially student researchers who collect an immense amount of data. So if there where an app that could be used to submit verified data to, it can help with data access (especially in remote areas) and improve monitoring and enforcement.
- Stewardship of the environment will ensure the protection of our space and identity and allows us to move forward together.
- Solution: more collaboration with all stakeholders to develop greater public awareness of natural areas and its cultural importance.
- By promoting more community events, by promoting more environmental stewardship programs to capture the present knowledge for future generations.
- App with audio guide for self-guided tours of natural area in Saskatoon.

- Establishing a public repository online to encourage collaboration, transparency and consistency. Stats Canada would be a possible lead to help come up with such a platform.
- Hack-a-thons – have students at hack-a-thon’s design apps for citizen science.
- More public access information about the benefits of green spaces. Green Space should focus on nature, not people.

Open Space per Capita

- Developing parks and forest reserves
- Reimagining open spaces to incorporate a more natural setting – make them more inviting for adult populations, not just children.

Connectivity and Fragmentation

- Making eco-corridors and culverts for different species of animals to let them spread in a wide area. (A verbal example provided was installing culverts for small animals to cross the roadway at the NE Swale).
- Jasper National Park and Yellowstone National Park. Classic example of woodland caribou. Wicked Problem: Loss of Biodiversity. Problem of wolf predation and human interference with habitat. Overpass between these national parks in the form of eco-corridor that will help the species of caribou to cross these and spread their population in a more diverse form. Costly, but effective/culverts are still doable.
- Regional Impact Assessment: As the City grows, a regional impact assessment might help identify vulnerable areas (e.g. with unique species distribution, species richness) that can be avoided when establishing development plans to avoid habitat fragmentation.
- Identify areas at risk (e.g. NE Swale). Create a potential network (e.g. road networks) for the growing city. Plan for expansion well in advance avoiding areas at risk. Improve impact assessment process. Increase buffer around natural areas.
- Important things for bees: connectivity from one greenspace to another (green roofs, native flowers on boulevards/ditches). Develop up, not out, the city is expanding too quickly outward.
- Green roofs, wildflower alleys, boulevards and ditches.

Assessment of Natural Areas

- Assessment of natural area with wetland policy.
- Wetlands provide important ecological services including carbon sequestration. However, the carbon sequestration rate varies from wetland to wetland. Idea: is to integrate wetlands or restore wetlands into urban infrastructure so that they continue to provide ecological services and simultaneously the livelihood of the entire surrounding community is enhanced by supporting biodiversity. Implementing: more work on wetland monitoring and developing wetland policies that protect and restore wetlands.
- Natural area assessments need to be formed by allowing both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge to broaden the criteria for natural area screening. Link key findings with natural areas with heritage and culture. E.g. Wanuskewin Heritage Park as it moves to an urban park. To protect ecological resources and cultural importance and significance of sites to strengthen knowledge, appreciation and reconciliation of indigenous culture. This integrative knowledge community based approach will enhance public awareness and sites cultural, historical, natural importance to the City and public.

Low Impact Development

- Green roofs and permeable surfaces.
- Build up, not out.

Urban Infrastructure

- I think there is potentially a huge market for green architecture for growing cities like Saskatoon but not a lot of people might be aware of it. The City could encourage organizations /firms to collaborate with regional planning departments. LEED neighbourhood development is one 3rd party organization I can think of. Getting the certification might not be feasible, but they've done a lot of work on implementable green development strategies.
- Green Pavements: This might be expensive, but they've successfully implemented this in Europe. Upfront cost might be high, but it offers hopeful future as the demand for the innovation grows. Permeable pavements address storm water drainage, flood control and would also be combined with rainwater harvest technology.
- Improve public transportation to natural areas/parks. More bus shelters to encourage using transit in the winter months.

Use of Raw and Grey Water

- Implementation of simple grey water systems in residential /community areas that take advantage of the landscape (e.g. slopes and gravity) to allow water infiltration. For a long term solution, the implementation of toilets in houses with the washing sink on the toilet itself. This will allow users to conserve water by washing their hands and this water will then be used for the next flush. These types of toilets are excessively used in Japan.
- Recycling the water with use of minimum technology for storm water drain. Only water that is going to be used to drinking purposes shall be treated with accordance to drinking water standards. Storm water drainage collection.

Traditional Indigenous Sites

- Recognizing that both western scientific methods and indigenous ways of knowing are key to ensuring our sustainable future is an important concept. Indigenous ways of knowing are already incorporated throughout our K-12 curriculum, but education and awareness for the general public could be enhanced.
- Place based and experiential learning opportunities will help facilitate this education and awareness. A good example of this is at the Craik EcoVillage, with signage and space for quiet reflection. These spaces could be incorporated throughout the parks, green spaces and the river valley, with connections to nature and Mother Earth. One idea how this could be done in Saskatoon: Add an interpretive site at River Landing near the water, incorporating a Medicine Wheel and explaining its significance to everyone's ways of living. (Diagram of medicine wheel provided with following text: Spiritual (Eastern), Emotional (Southern), Physical (Western), Mental, Northern)).

Other

- Student engagement – classroom visits, lunch time info sessions
- More awareness about incentives for being environmentally friendly (verbal example: compost and rain barrel rebates).
- More informative events for the public
- Student ambassador programs (high school and university levels).
- Work shadowing/volunteer opportunities on project teams for students
- Incentives for public ideas (monthly draw)
- Comprehensive City directory – who to contact if people want to save a nest, wasp nest, etc. – Environmental questions.
- Water availability and security can be major issues with community gardens.

4.3 Internal Technical Advisory Group Workshop

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

The project team hosted a series of meeting and a workshop with the Strategy internal technical advisory group. The data collected in this workshop and related meetings is not provided in this report, however helped to inform development of the Vision and Actions.

4.4 Growing a NatureCity Come and Go Workshop Series

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

Engagement Goal: Priority Setting

The Growing a NatureCity Come and Go Workshop Series included four sessions at various indoor and outdoor locations in Saskatoon during the months of May and June 2019. Session locations and dates included:

- Growing a Nature City, Kiwanis Park, May 23, 2019
- Station 20 West Pop-up, June 5, 2019
- Shaw Centre Pop-up, June 12, 2019
- Lakewood Pop-up, June 12, 2019

Participants were asked to review 15 proposed “Emerging Priorities” for the green network (Figure 2) and provide feedback regarding which, if any of the emerging priorities they would like to see included in the Vision. Participants were also asked for feedback on which 5 Emerging Priorities they would like to see implemented first.



Figure 2: Emerging Priorities Engagement Boards

4.4.1 Intended Audience

Residents and green space users who otherwise would not seek out Strategy engagement opportunities. Target audiences included downtown residents and visitors, NatureCity Festival participants and Meewasin Trail users, core neighbourhood residents and Station 20 West staff, Lakewood Civic Centre residents and patrons, and Shaw Centre residents, patrons and high school students from Tommy Douglas Collegiate and Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Approximately 200 people participated in the workshop series in total based on facilitator counts broken down by venue as follows:

- Kiwanis Park - 137
- Station 20 West - 20
- Shaw Centre – 24
- Lakewood Civic Centre - 20

4.4.2 Marketing Techniques

The techniques used to market the events are described in this section.

4.4.2.1 Email

A Green Strategy newsletter was emailed to the Green Strategy Mailing List to advertise the May 23, 2019 Growing a NatureCity workshop on March 19 and May 21, 2019.

4.4.2.2 Posters

Posters advertising the May 23, 2019 event were sent to the School of Environment and Sustainability and NatureCity Festival organizers.

4.4.2.3 Social Media

Kiwanis Park (May 23, 2019):

- Boosted Facebook/Instagram Posts: May 14, 21, 22 and 23, 2019
- Twitter Post: May 22, 2019

Station 20 West (June 5, 2019):

- Facebook Post: June 3, 2019
- Boosted Facebook/Instagram Post: June 5, 2019
- Twitter Post: June 3 and 5, 2019

Shaw Centre and Lakewood Civic Centre (June 12, 2019):

- Boosted Facebook/Instagram Post: June 12, 2019

4.4.3 Analysis

Comments provided in response to specific emerging priorities were counted and analyzed for emergent themes. Quantitative analysis was completed on the results of the Resource Allocation activity and comments were analysed for themes regarding the decision making process and criteria participants used to determine which Emerging Priorities to implement first.

4.4.4 What We Heard

Vision and Emerging Priority feedback and Emerging Priority preference results are included in this section.

Vision and Emerging Priority Feedback

Content boards were shared that explained the vision through 5 distinct lenses; Biodiverse, Accessible, Sustainable, Integrated, and Connected. Emerging priorities that relate to each lens were also shared. Participants were asked to provide comments on the Vision and Emerging Priorities.

Biodiverse Vision

Two comments were received in response to the vision for the Biodiverse lens. Participants suggested using pilot projects and incorporated more natural alternatives to pesticide use. Comments received in response to each of the Emerging Priorities within the Biodiverse lens are summarized below.

Urban Agriculture Plan (21 Comments)

Participants would like to see more community gardens in underserved areas as they bring joy, nutrition, education opportunities and help to improve food security. They expressed interest in exploring more underused garden locations such as rooftops, boulevards, and apartment windows. To accommodate more urban agriculture, zoning rules would need to change to allow for backyard greenhouses and opportunities to sell what is grown.

Participants asked for more fruiting trees in the city, especially native varieties and more promotion of organic foods through incentives, technical support and requirements for organic foods to be served in schools and hospitals.

While urban agriculture is important, some participants explain that community gardens and food forests are not enough and urge the City to develop a comprehensive local food strategy of which the Urban Agriculture Plan is a component.

Biodiversity Action Plan (7 Comments)

Participants envision the Biodiversity Action Plan as a tool to guide and monitor implementation of initiatives. Connectivity of natural areas was noted an important aspect of a Biodiversity Action Plan and participants mentioned that no space is too small when it comes to protecting biodiversity. Participants enjoy seeing a variety of birds and mammals, however protection of bee species appears to be a priority for many participants.

Afforestation (14 Comments)

Participant recognized the benefits that trees provide like shade and heat mitigation. They would like to see more native and fruiting species planted with a focus on parks, new areas, commercial and industrial areas, berms, and a buffer around the city. Participants would like to see more communities of trees planted instead of rows. In order to increase planting, participants suggested that any development must be designed with spaces saved for trees. They also suggested shifting the community tree planting program from an “opt in” service to an “opt out” service. In order to ensure the success of the program, participants also mentioned need for additional funding and maintenance.

Park Naturalization (21 Comments)

Participant expressed support for connecting natural spaces by naturalizing medians, planting more native species and creating micro wildlife corridors for pollinators. They would like to see more protection and planting of flowers, fruiting trees, and shrubs in park spaces. Participants would like to see more naturalization in Beaver Creek and Brevoort Park specifically.

While many participants supported a shift away from grass in parks, it was noted that caution should be exercised with anti-grass messaging as more and more residents are shifting to alternatives like paving and artificial turf for landscaping.

Accessible Vision (16 Comments)

Participants indicated that access for residents of all ages, income levels and abilities need access to green space for physical and mental health. Participants identified gaps in accessibility for young girls, seniors, wheelchair users and public transportation users. Access could be improved by applying a gender lens, ensuring adequate ramps, paved trails and washroom facilities are available and ensuring that public transportation serves the area during all seasons.

Safety in green spaces was also an important consideration. Presence of used needles and other debris was noted as a reason that some participants do not access green spaces. Participant would like to see more accessible green spaces downtown and near the Market Mall condos.

Comments received in response to each of the Emerging Priorities within the Accessible lens are summarized below.

Green Space Renewal (19 Comments)

Participants acknowledged that some green spaces are deteriorating or underutilized. Concerns regarding maintenance of parks included too many dandelions, long grass, ruts, and too dry. More watering in dry years was suggested along with additional funding for increased maintenance. Participants also suggested installing dog waste composting containers in parks and educating residents on their use.

Participants also mentioned that they would like to see green spaces designed with purpose. Instead of grassy areas, participants suggested that green spaces should have areas for children to play, wildlife areas, organic gardens, picnic areas and should incorporate trees, native grasses, bushes, flowers and naturalized areas that bring joy to people and support wildlife and pollinators.

Participants would like to see green spaces remain or become affordable, accessible, safe and welcoming to all residents regardless of income level. The inner city was identified as an area where green spaces require attention. Green spaces should be connected to each other with naturalized corridors.

Create New Open Space (17 Comments)

Overall participants were supportive of creating new open spaces. Key areas identified included downtown, 2nd Avenue (participant suggested transitioning street to pedestrian only), the west side (more dog parks) and the Sutherland railroad tracks.

Participants would like to see more green spaces that are connected with green corridors. More community gardens both indoors and outdoors were also suggested. They would like to see vacant lots restored to green space to improve community safety and parking lots restored to green space to help encourage active transportation. Green spaces should include resilient plantings and there should be planting mandated on boulevards and easements.

Some participants felt that before creating more open space, the City needs to better maintain existing green spaces. Garbage, dog waste and lack of use of existing irrigation systems were mentioned as areas for improvement.

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Some participants felt that before creating more open space, the City needs to better maintain existing green spaces. Garbage, dog waste and lack of use of existing irrigation systems were mentioned as areas for improvement.

[Lighting Policy Update \(10 Comments\)](#)

Participants were supportive of the concept of putting light where it needs to be. Several areas were identified where lighting could be improved including: bus stops, Brightwood Park, Centennial Avenue, Circle Drive, and the area between 33rd Street and Hampton Village.

Participants suggested using interesting and artistic lighting, new technologies and warm colored LEDs to reduce light pollution, mitigate health impacts and improve the feeling of a space.

[Sustainable Vision \(9 Comments\)](#)

Participants would like to see the following elements considered as part of the Sustainable Vision:

- Focus on infill areas – ensure garden space, green space and native plants/trees
- Focus on private yards – encourage more naturalized grasses and develop private yard landscape guidelines that must be complied with.
- Address noise pollution
- Encourage more ecofriendly businesses and industries
- Design urban green spaces to address impacts of climate change (heat reduction).

Participants also suggested that government policy is key to making change and that local artists could be contacted to help spread messaging about importance of sustainability.

Comments received in response to each of the Emerging Priorities within the Sustainable lens are summarized below.

Tree Protection Update (8 Comments)

Participants felt it was important to protect local species, and only remove trees that need to be removed for safety and pest management.

Participants suggested that the city could make topiaries, and should provide more information about tree planting programs for newcomers.

While protection of trees was important to people, participants felt that development of a private tree bylaw would infringe too much on property rights.

Bird Friendly Standards (9 Comments)

Participants were mostly supportive of both protecting and attracting birds and bats to green spaces. Adding bird and bat houses, feeders and nesting areas around green spaces were suggested. Birds are valued because they offer insect control and their presence attracts other wildlife to the area.

Participants would like to see more bird identification and protection information shared such as species information and bird strike prevention for existing buildings.

Natural Capital Asset Valuation (3 Comments)

Participants suggested that components of the Natural Capital Asset Valuation could include a tree inventory and maps and valuation of wetlands services like biodiversity and water filtration.

Participants also felt that undertaking the valuation has the potential to be a very high cost project.

Integrated Vision (5 Comments)

Participants identified the following elements that they would like to see included in the Integrated Vision:

- Increase organic content in soil to help retain water.
- Increase storage and use of storm water.
- Replace storm water drains with bioswales and use more green roofs.
- Use artistic designs for storm water infrastructure
- Offer compost pick up on the east side

Comments received in response to each of the Emerging Priorities within the Integrated lens are summarized below.

Integrate Green Storm Water Management (9 Comments)

Participants expressed concerns about flooding and suggested we stop directing rain water into the sewer. Participants suggested that we design better water collection and drainage systems and develop policies and incentives to encourage green roofs, rain tanks and cisterns.

Where new infrastructure is required, retrofit it into existing developed areas and incorporate artistic designs into the infrastructure. If using storm ponds, ensure they are safe and if possible, where appropriate add in a solar pump and introduce fish to the pond.

Low Impact Development (4 Comments)

Participants suggested that we should stop developing new neighbourhoods in swamps, use more bioswales, and collect, store and use storm water for irrigation and fountains instead of using treated water for these purposes.

Connected Vision (13 Comments)

Participants in the inner city experience connection to green spaces in different ways than those in higher income areas. Connection and protection/enhancement of green spaces is not high priority for many inner city residents and will not be until food security and personal safety issues are addressed. Participants from the inner city would like to see more focus on access to food, jobs and crime reduction. In order to engage with inner city residents, participants suggested a community family event where food is served and the City offers to listen and try to help with the issues that are impacting residents in this area.

Participants from other areas of the city suggested more focus on connecting children and youth to nature through hands on experiences and more educational or experiential opportunities. Participants also mentioned a stronger connection to green spaces when they visited them with young children.

Participants suggested working with academia to educate people on the importance of being connected. They also suggested incorporating meaningful public art and green designs/materials into green spaces. Participants value the role that Meewasin plays in managing the river valley.

Comments received in response to each of the Emerging Priorities within the Connected lens are:

Strengthen Partnerships (4 Comments)

Participants commented on the beauty of Wanuskewin and suggested the following educational initiatives to strengthen partnerships:

- Plant identification and heritage spaces walking tours.
- Showcase contemporary energy efficient installations
- Use art and culture for intentional education programs

Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory (3 Comments)

Participants enjoy participating in activities and community events in spaces like River Landing and would like to see more opportunities organized. They would like to see park and gathering spaces designed for cultural use and suggested exploring use of less structured parks with more “organic” elements.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation (8 Comments)

Participants would like to see First Nations rights to enter land for fishing and hunting protected. They suggested working with elders and knowledge keepers to learn about how best to care for the land and documenting current land uses like berry picking and harvesting.

Participants appreciate the Moose Jaw Trail and suggested seeking more opportunities to incorporate stories of diverse peoples and their relationship to the land and space.

Suggested opportunities include integrating more temporary art in different spaces, creating a Saskatoon Municipal Museum and renewing Meewasin’s heritage program.

Emerging Priority Preferences

Preference for the emerging priorities was determined using a limited resources allocation activity.

Fifteen jars were displayed, each labelled with a different emerging priority. Participants were offered 5 marbles each which represent “limited resources” and asked:

- Which of the 15 Emerging Priorities would you allocate your resources toward first?
- Why?

Verbal responses were recorded by facilitators on an activity worksheet for consistency in response format.

A total of 429 marbles were counted suggesting that approximately 85 individuals participated in the activity. While each participant was offered 5 marbles, some elected to allocate fewer than five.

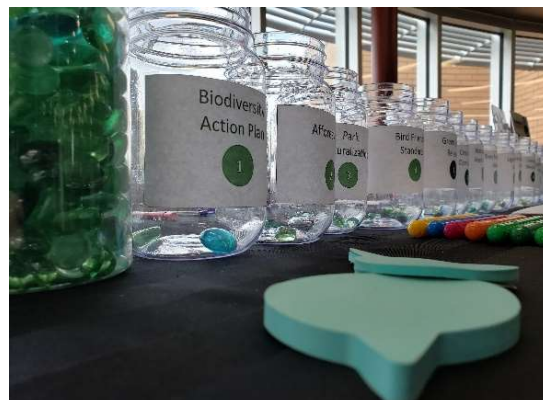


Figure 3: Emerging Priorities Activity at Shaw Centre

The number of marbles allocated to each Emerging Priority are provided below.

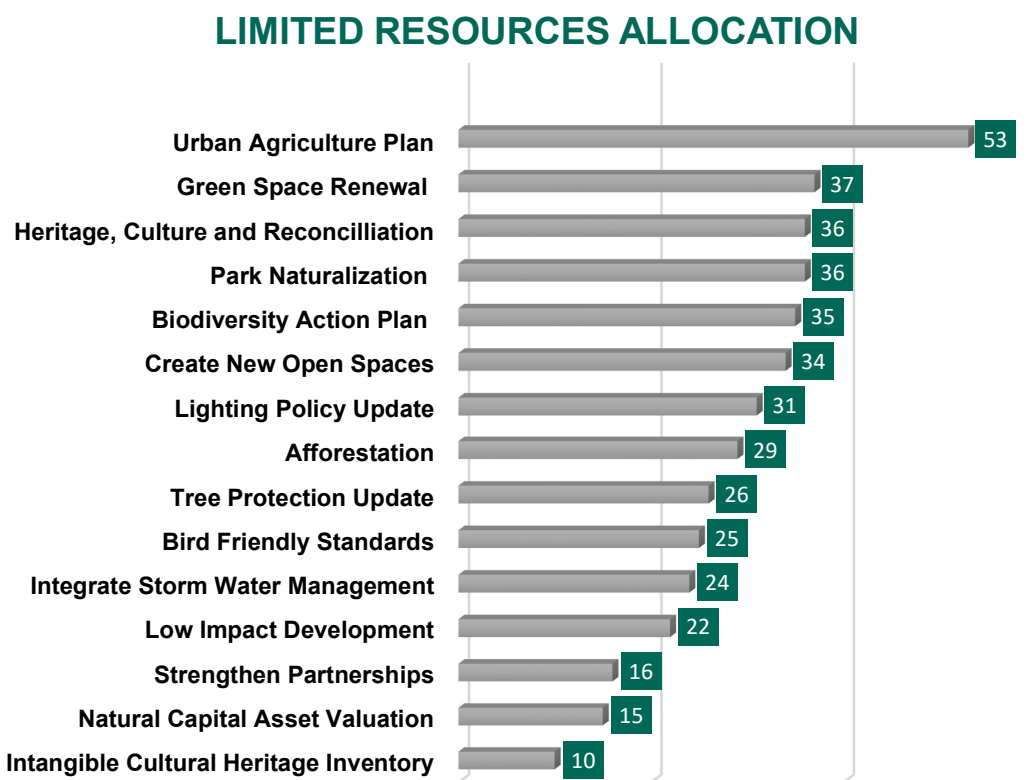


Figure 4: Limited Resources Allocation Results

The Urban Agriculture Plan was allocated the highest percentage of marbles (12%) in comparison to the other Emerging Priorities. The difference between Urban Agriculture Plan and the next most popular Emerging Priority (Green Space Renewal) was 16 marbles which is the most significant difference of all the results.

Strengthen Partnerships, Natural Capital Asset Valuation and Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory were allocated the fewest marbles (<5%).

In total, 173 comments were provided by participants explaining why they chose to allocate their resources how they did. Comment counts and emergent themes are provided for each Emerging Priority in order of highest number of marbles allocated to least number of marbles allocated.

Urban Agriculture Plan (19 comments)

- Urban agriculture builds community, creates gathering spaces, reduces carbon emissions, promotes organic food production, and provides educational opportunities and aesthetic value.
- It contributes to food security and could be positioned as a component of a larger “Food Strategy” for Saskatoon.
- There is a lot of space available for urban agriculture including vacant lots and rooftops.

Green Space Renewal (15 comments)

- Through Green Space Renewal we can improve accessibility (transit, all abilities, all ages, and all income levels), equity (older residents, inner city residents and old neighbourhoods) mental health and safety.
- Residents would like to see gathering places created with picnic areas, shade and more trees.
- There are several spaces available across the city that could be renewed, however, with renewal, maintenance is key.
- Flooding and reduction of light pollution could also be addressed through Green Space Renewal.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation (14 comments)

- There are opportunities to incorporate or inspire art, accessible educational activities and interpretive experiences into green spaces.
- Green space design should connect people, build community, and instill a sense of belonging, peace and harmony for all
- To accomplish this, we must bring together diverse perspectives at the green space planning stage.

Park Naturalization (16 comments)

- Through Park Naturalization there is opportunity to increase tree diversity, native species and wildlife, address flood prone areas and improve lighting.
- Protection of plants, wildlife and trees is also important.
- Consider connecting this emerging priority to the Biodiversity Action Plan
- Plan park naturalization in a way that considers limited Parks resources.

Biodiversity Action Plan (21 comments)

- The Biodiversity Action Plan should address biodiversity loss, increased naturalizations, connectivity, quality, composting, pollinators, invasive species reduction, increased ecosystem services and contributions to improved mental health.
- Biodiversity is considered a limited resource and green spaces should be used to promote humans living with nature.
- Biodiversity Action Plan will inform Park Naturalization, Green Space Renewal and Afforestation.
- Consider creation of an Office of Biodiversity to support the Action Plan and create appropriate green space use guidelines that protect or enhance biodiversity.

Create New Open Space (11 comments)

- New Open Spaces should be accessible and safe and include spaces for art and wildlife.
- New Open Spaces (including rejuvenated spaces) could be designed in abandoned lots of all sizes. Sufficient resources for maintenance of new open spaces must also be a consideration.

Lighting Policy Update (11 comments)

- Saskatoon is behind on Lighting Policy development and lighting upgrades.
- Bright lights are thought to impact health and the ability to view the stars, but improve safety.
- As part of the update, there is opportunity to study where light is needed, such as in parks.
- Explore opportunities to use more solar power.
- Include exploration of a Noise Policy as well.

Afforestation (8 comments)

- Trees reduce heat, increase shade and improve mental health.
- Increasing species diversity is an opportunity with Afforestation.
- Focus Afforestation on parks, trails, in industrial/ commercial areas and new developments / communities.

Tree Protection Update (10 comments)

- Tree Protection is important to participants because it contributes to mental health, improves aesthetics, attracts birds, creates sense of place, and provides shade.
- Plant more trees
- Tree Protection Updates are required for unprotected trees at risk, trees in construction areas, and familiar trees that hold social value.

Bird Friendly Standards (10 comments)

- Saskatoon is behind other municipalities in terms of Bird Friendly Standards.
- Birds should be protected as they help to disperse seeds and control insects.
- Protection of species diversity, insects and nests should be considered in development of the Standards.

Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure (14 comments)

- Integrating Green Storm Water Infrastructure can increase permeability, improve storm water quality, and prevent flooding.
- There is an opportunity to store and use storm water as a resource for irrigation and drinking water.

Low Impact Development (5 comments)

- Low Impact Development should focus on new neighbourhoods, consider green options, address flooding in older areas and reduce impacts to daily life

Strengthen Partnerships (7 comments)

- Strengthening Partnerships can help to make Saskatoon enviro-centric, can offer unique perspectives, educational opportunities, improve health of the city and move initiatives forward.

Natural Capital Asset Valuation (5 comments)

- Value is important to understand to help make better decisions, manage and protect natural assets, but how do we measure it?

Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory (6 comments)

- The Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory should include art, photography, important heritage spaces and archaeology.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage sites should connect people, showcase important heritage spaces, attract people to the space and create a feeling of belonging for green space users.

4.5 Our Green Network Come and Go Event

The purpose of this come and go event was to inform participants about what the Strategy will look like, what it will include, how their input informed it and details about the next steps for the project. Feedback was accepted regarding risks to the project (red flags) or missed opportunities with potential to greatly impact the success of the project. The event took place at Meewasin Main Office on November 21, 2019 from 4pm to 7pm.

4.5.1 Intended Audience

- External and internal stakeholders and key technical experts who were invited and/or have participated in past Strategy engagement events.
- Stakeholders who are interested in learning more about the Strategy

4.5.2 Marketing Techniques

Members of the Green Strategy mailing list were directly invited to attend by email. The event was posted to the Engage Page and social media posts were shared to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to generate interest in the event.

4.5.3 Analysis

List of red flags will be compiled and analyzed for frequency of mention and level of concern. List of missed opportunities will be compiled and analyzed for frequency of mention and level concern. This list will be highlighted in the project team report.

Implementation considerations shared at this event will be compiled, coded to relevant actions/initiatives, summarized in the What We Heard Report and stored for consideration during implementation planning.

Comments indicating level of support for the Strategy will be compiled and analysed for emergent themes and frequency of mention.

4.5.4 What We Heard

Results from this workshop are detailed in the [Our Green Network What we Heard Report](#) and summarized below.

A total of 52 participants signed in, however head counts suggested closer to 60 participants were in attendance. While data collection was not the purpose of the event, participants did provide feedback on the Strategy. This feedback was categorized into red flags, missed opportunities and implementation suggestions which are described below.

Red Flags

Red flags include suggestions with the potential to impact the success of the Strategy. The most prevalent concern raised by participants during the question and answer period was the lack of clarity about how the Strategy would be used by the City and how much influence or authority the strategy would have in relation to other potentially conflicting policies or procedures. Several participants expressed concern that the Strategy seemed like something that would be “optional” and not a requirement for Administration. Participants identified that if the Strategy is proposed as “implementation optional” it would likely not be successful in achieving the level of change expected by participants. To improve the outcome, participants suggested adding “teeth” or a level of requirement or authority to the Strategy so that all of Administration must comply.

Missed Opportunities

Missed opportunities are suggestions that require immediate attention to increase success of the Strategy. The following missed opportunities were identified on sticky notes:

- Connectivity between natural areas not clearly articulated. It is important to monitor both conservation of natural habitat for biodiversity, and connectivity between habitat features or natural areas. The current initiatives only mention connectivity of the Green Network to habitat in the Plan for Growth areas.
- An additional east-west connection opportunity was noted on the Ecology mapping layer which would run parallel to Circle Drive north (old 42nd Street) and would connect the Meewasin Valley “significant natural area” to the proposed “area of interest” near Avenue C.
- The Governance map layer did not identify the wetlands north of Highway 5 on the far east border of the city as “areas of interest.”
- A comment was posted on the Ecology board that asked: When will the COS review their 1972 commitment to more afforestation areas and their goal then?
- In reference to “Action 2: Inspire citizen driven transformation of the Green Network” an education initiative for citizens must be added.
- The north industrial area of the City was identified on the Ecology mapping layer as an area that requires attention as it is largely ignored currently.

- Incentive 11.5 should be updated to say “Recognize that high quality agricultural land is present and requires protection in and around the city.” The current statement does not reference protection of agricultural land.
- In response to Action 11: Protect, restore, and manage significant natural areas, the question of where wetlands fit in was posed.

Implementation Suggestions

Implementation suggestions are ideas related to future implementation of the Initiatives. Implementation suggestions were comprised mostly of questions and comments about how specific initiatives would or should be implemented. No new ideas were suggested that hadn't already been mentioned during previous engagement activities.

Level of Support

While it was anticipated that participants would provide comments related to their level of support or rejection of the Strategy, no comments were provided that directly indicated level of support. Based on questions and comments during the question and answer period it was clear that the majority of participants who spoke supported the Strategy in principle, however many did not support the current approach to implementation that positioned the Strategy as “optional” instead of a requirement for Administration. Some participants asked what they could do to support the Strategy.

Participants did not identify any actions or initiatives that should be removed, however several comments were provided on boards and during 1:1 conversations that suggested ways to improve upon or add necessary detail to the existing actions/initiatives.

5 Meetings

The following meetings with external stakeholder groups were organized by project team.

Table 3: Meetings

Stakeholder	Date
Maple Leaf Foods	June 18, 2019
Saskatoon Public School Division	June 25, 2019
Saskatoon Greater Chamber of Commerce	September 17, 2019
Business Improvement Districts	September 19, 2019
Indigenous Technical Advisory Group	April 16, 2019 June 5, 2019
Meewasin	June 26, 2019 July 4, 2019 July 18, 2019 July 25, 2019 August 1, 2019 August 6, 2019 August 9, 2019 August 9, 2019 August 12, 2019 August 19, 2019 August 26, 2019 September 3, 2019
University of Saskatchewan	July 3, 2019 July 4, 2019 August 12, 2019
Wanuskewin Heritage Park	August 28, 2019

Meeting notes were recorded by the project team for each meeting. A complete What We Heard report was prepared for the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group June 5, 2019 meeting.

5.1 Indigenous Technical Advisory Group

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

To help ensure that the unique interests and perspectives of Indigenous peoples are acknowledged, affirmed and implemented throughout the Strategy decision-making process, an Indigenous Technical Advisory Group (Group) was developed.

The Group is comprised of members of First Nations and Métis communities in or near Saskatoon. Each volunteer member of the group brings unique skills, expertise and perspectives to the table. The Group is managed through the Indigenous Initiatives section with support from the Public Engagement team.

The Group will be invited to review and provide recommendations on several City of Saskatoon initiatives. The Strategy was the first project that the Group was invited to review. The Group was invited to participate at the level of collaborate, meaning that their input will influence each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

The Strategy was briefly introduced during the Group's inaugural meeting on April 16, 2019. Supporting documentation was also provided at that time for the Group to review to prepare for the June 5, 2019 meeting where the Strategy was an agenda item.

The June 5, 2019 meeting took place at Station 20 West from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Strategy discussion and activities comprised approximately 2 hours of the meeting. A total of eleven members were in attendance. Members were provided with an additional two weeks following the June 5 meeting to submit any additional ideas or considerations to be included in this report.

5.1.1 Intended Audience

Indigenous Technical Advisory Group Members

5.1.2 Marketing Techniques

Members were invited to each meeting through e-mail.

5.1.3 Analysis

Participants shared their ideas and comments both verbally and on sticky notes as part of discussion and in response to specific activities. Verbal discussion was recorded in meeting minutes and/or captured on sticky notes by facilitators as topics were being discussed. Thematic analysis was conducted on all responses, however, responses were left largely in their original form to avoid any loss of meaning. Data was analysed at two scales: question specific and decisions specific.

5.1.4 What We Heard

Participants' comments provided in response to how they feel about the visions for each lens and the emerging priorities within each lens are summarized and presented in this section. Themes that emerged that are not specific to one vision or emerging priority, but have potential to inform development of the Strategy are summarized at the end of the section.

Biodiverse

The vision and emerging priorities related to the theme "Biodiverse" from the content board below were shared with participants for review and feedback.

The image shows a content board titled "BIODIVERSE" in large green letters. Below the title, it says "The Vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is viewed through five lenses to position Saskatoon as a biodiverse, accessible, sustainable, integrated and connected community. Through public engagement and research from other municipalities, the City of Saskatoon has identified the following Vision and Emerging Priorities." The board is divided into two main sections: "Vision:" and "Emerging Priorities:". Under "Vision:", there is a question "Is the Vision important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?" and a statement: "The Green Network will conserve and enhance biodiversity and increase resilience to climate change." Under "Emerging Priorities:", there is a question "Are the Emerging Priorities important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?" and four sub-sections: "Biodiversity Action Plan", "Afforestation", "Park Naturalization", and "Bird-Friendly Standards". Each sub-section has a brief description and an example. A magnifying glass graphic is positioned over the "Emerging Priorities" section. The board also features a circular image of a sunset over a body of water.

Figure 5: "Biodiverse" Content Board

Participants provided the following ideas and considerations in response to the Biodiverse lens:

- “Biodiverse” is a big word that needs to be defined. What are the indicators of “biodiverse?”
- Many people can help you to view the green network through this lens including:
 - Organizations that have a role in preservation and conservation (Meewasin).
 - Seek traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) from Indigenous elders.
- Biodiverse should include the human element so all things are considered.
 - All things animate and inanimate are woven together and should not be separated.
 - Set precedence and highlight the relationship Indigenous people have with the land and aspects of creation.
 - Biodiversity is important to support ecosystems (animals, fish, and humans).
- We must also detoxify and nurture the land back to health.
 - Include food production (fruit trees, gardens) and create a center for Indigenous Food Sovereignty.
 - We must educate the youth on the effects of climate change and use land-based education systems.

Comments received in response to each Emerging Priority within the Biodiverse lens are summarized below.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- Increase bee keeping initiatives
- With what tools? Traditional? Scientific? Indicators: legal protection - park specific regulations
- Conflicting emerging priorities - biodiversity action plan vs create new open space
- Know what Indigenous grass does. Need to teach kids and others to protect.
- Don't protect brome. Enhance land to encourage important plants/medicine.
- Fund education opportunities like medicine walks to learn to ID plants.

Afforestation

- Participants would like Afforestation to include consideration of the following:
- Protection of green areas from future economic development
- More volunteer opportunities - school groups, NGOs with funding to encourage more participation
- Plant 10 trees, get a free civic pass.

Park Naturalization

- Integrate people and nature "natural play-scapes"
- Biocultural conservation - lead by community grassroots people, not organizations and governments, all citizen science.
- Ban yard care
- Protection of Meewasin Trail

Bird Friendly Standards

- Better glass so birds don't hit them. Lighting is part of this too.
- Ban bio accumulating poisons - rat poison, insecticides, and pesticides.
- Protect the pollinators - bees, birds, bats.
- Allow chicken coops.

5.1.4.1 Accessible

The vision and emerging priorities related to the theme “Accessible” from the content board below were shared with participants for review and feedback.



Figure 6: "Accessible" Content Board

Participants provided the following ideas and considerations in response to the Accessible lens:

- Shift away from bike lanes, create a network of bike streets - bike circle drive
- More access for mobility impaired to areas to do activities.
- Improved bus schedule to center green spaces and outdoor activities
- Connect Meewasin Trail along the river to Wanuskewin.
- Each household in Saskatoon is 4 blocks from a green space.
- Links to get around via Greenspace, like Meewasin to Wanuskewin, all the way to Whitecap. No cars.
- Ensure land is restored
- Connect habitat?
- Nurture an appreciation for the Land (capital L).
- Accessible for all living and non-living things as they are dependent.
- Highlight and emphasize Indigenous Inherent Treaty Rights.
- Offer opportunities to learn how integral our relationship to the land is to Indigenous people.
- Offer more alternative transportation systems
- Free, accessible

Comments received in response to each Emerging Priority within the Accessible lens are summarized below.

Create new open spaces

- Participants would like the creation of new open spaces to include consideration of the following:
- Give these lands to Indigenous Nations
- Manage lands consistent with the Indigenous Circle of Experts "we rise together" pathway document.
- More green space: Expand the green space like City of Regina - Wascana Lake and NYC

Renew Green Space

- Participants would like the renewal of green space to include consideration of safety and use. Comments related to these two overarching themes are described below.

Safety

- Safety needed! Physical/emotional/mental – not just physical, emotional safety for Indigenous women.
- Places in Saskatoon where Indigenous women don't feel safe. Parks in the city where Indigenous kids aren't trouble. MMIWG report released.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design - the Forks NHSC downtown Winnipeg.
- Safety and access: For example bike lanes, parks designated for people with limited abilities (blind parks, quiet parks).
- Keep injection sites away from parks? What is the reality?

Uses

- Excellent idea! Use neglected space for good of all.
- Realities of parks/riverbank spaces. Folks who live there. In the winter time they use washrooms/rink to warm up. Kids with no place to go. Help people navigate and understand how these green spaces are used and needed and by whom.
- Need learning component and supports
- Be real about actual uses, the multiple uses! Think about how people actually use spaces. How can we make it easier for homeless people? How can we work toward their safety and the safety of others?
- Free to assemble, i.e. Tipi Village at Regina Leg's.

Sustainable

The vision and emerging priorities related to the “Sustainable” lens from the content board below were shared with participants for review and feedback.

SUSTAINABLE

The Vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is viewed through five lenses to position Saskatoon as a biodiverse, accessible, sustainable, integrated and connected community. Through public engagement and research from other municipalities, the City of Saskatoon has identified the following Vision and Emerging Priorities.

Please comment on the Vision and Emerging Priorities:

Vision:

Is the Vision important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?

The Green Network will be governed through a triple bottom line of sustainability, supporting economic, social, and environmental needs.

Emerging Priorities:

Are the Emerging Priorities important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?

Natural Capital Asset Valuation

We will recognize that natural assets—our trees, vegetation, soils, and wetlands—provide needed ecosystem services to the community such as storm water management and carbon sequestration.

Example: Native tree stands are not currently inventoried or assigned value, but doing so would allow an improved level of management.

Tree Protection Update

We will update our current tree protection standards, and reduce inconsistencies through a policy renewal.

Example: A tree protection bylaw is created and enforced.

Lighting Policy Update

We will reduce stress to natural systems and people by lighting the city through careful design.

Example: Incorporating Dark Sky Lighting adjacent to the Northeast Sewer.

Urban Agriculture Plan

We will increase community opportunities for urban food production as part of the green network.

Example: Maintain a publicly accessible inventory of edible plants on public land.

Figure 7: "Sustainable" Content Board

Participants provided the following ideas and considerations in response to the Sustainable lens:

- Number these "triple bottom line" to avoid competing priorities!
 - Revenue vs protection in Parks Canada.
- Green Roofs
- Reduce car use - remove parking spots
- Be guided by UNDRIP, Human Development Index Report and Traditional Indigenous Legal and Justice Systems and Values
- Work with existing partners on sustainable actions.
- Traditional virtues will educate policy makers
- Economic needs typically are at odds with and trump environmental conditions.
- Sustainable practices and resources to support.
- Parks Canada struggles with dual mandate
- How will the triple bottom line work?
- Land-based education is not a trend, City of Saskatoon needs to educate
- Nature is a key part of wellbeing! Humans need nature.

Comments received in response to each Emerging Priority within the Sustainable lens are summarized below.

Natural Capital Asset Valuation

- Participants would like the Natural Capital Asset Valuation to include consideration of the following:
- Designate the swale as an Indigenous Protected Conservation Area, Wanuskewin can help with biocultural restoration, conservation and protection.
- By this inventory, one can educate citizens on the value of natural assets.
- Valuation by or for who? Indicators must respect all world views.
- This land is more than an 'asset', it is a shared resource

Tree Protection Update

- Participants would like the Tree Protection Update to include consideration of the following:
- Tree deity/spirits
- Tree teachings
- Incorporate ceremony into this
- Trees are important - protect aspen stands, etc. during development.
- Free City trees program should be better advertised.

Lighting Policy Update

- Participants would like the Lighting Policy Update to include consideration of the following:
- Solar lighting, red lights
- Less lighting
- Lighting in certain areas but not all areas.

Urban Agriculture Plan

- Participants would like the Urban Agriculture Plan to include consideration of the following:
- Fewer barriers for food forests/fruit trees
- Decreasing farm to table distance - economic opportunities in Urban Agriculture
- Edible forests, gardens, open to all.

5.1.4.2 Integrated

The vision and emerging priorities related to the “Integrated” lens from the content board below were shared with participants for review and feedback.



Figure 8: "Integrated" Content Board

Participants provided the following ideas and considerations in response to the Integrated lens:

- Design cities not to sprawl, connect green spaces with transportation – look at footprint. Find a balance between too tall and too sprawled.
- 20% of Saskatoon protected green space - nature needs half.
- Design and connect green space with transport system. Link to how we get around.
- How as city encourage other places - example new developments to have green spaces? How educate along the way?
- Put green space in common areas where we celebrate green space as part of us.
- Will teach us about traditional plants
- Health and management of resources long-term
- Integrate, not harmonize – why integrate? Implies that you are cherry picking the good stuff and ignoring the rest.
- Be honoured in ceremony.
- Great idea, do more of this.
- Examples of how storm water can be reused and recycled.
- Storm water is one aspect of natural systems
- We should ensure infrastructure does not conflict with natural systems.

Comments received in response to each Emerging Priority within the Integrated lens are summarized below.

Low Impact Development Implementation

- Participants would like Low Impact Development Implementation to include consideration of the following:
- Teach us how to filter water
- Soil management

- Establish buffers around wetlands with real legal mechanism to enforce environmental regulations
- Artificial wetlands: whose run off from urban areas can impact the environment
- Can storm water be stored for watering in dry times?
- Efficient and purposeful use of water from start to finish - full H2O Cycle

Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure

- Participants would like the integration of Green Storm Water Infrastructure to include consideration of the following:
- Medicine plant education
- Urban chemicals and waste can poison the environment. Create natural filters through environmental engineering.
- Environmental Impact Assessment? If it is not used, be transparent. Scope is important, project and development.

5.1.4.3 Connected

The vision and emerging priorities related to the “Connected” lens from the content board below were shared with participants for review and feedback.

CONNECTED

The vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is viewed through five lenses to position Saskatoon as a bioeconomy, accessible, sustainable, integrated and connected community. Through public engagement and research from other municipalities, the City of Saskatoon has identified the following Vision and Emerging Priorities.

Please comment on the Vision and Emerging Priorities:

Vision:

● Is the Vision important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?

The Green Network connects places to each other and supports human habitat by facilitating placemaking, heritage, and community stewardship.

Emerging Priorities:

● Are the Emerging Priorities important to you as a resident of Saskatoon? Why?

Strengthen Partnerships

We will work with regional partners and community stakeholders to enhance green infrastructure and public stewardship of the green network.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

Intangible or “living” heritage is the living expression of community place-making such as performing arts, social customs, festivals, and traditional land uses. We will identify the city’s living heritage so that every day human uses of green space are recognized and valued.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation

Interpretive features in the Green Network reflect Saskatoon’s diverse community

Figure 9: “Connected” Content Board

Connected took on a very different meaning for many participants than what was presented by the project team. Responses are presented below in terms of the themes that emerged from the comments.

More than a name, a story must also be told

- Indigenous tourism experiences should be always incorporated when the story of Saskatoon is being shared to the world (e.g. Maori culture in New Zealand, the Vancouver Airport, Denver Airport, the Land of Enchantment – New Mexico)
- Allow people to tell their own stories. Stop taking stories out of context. Include the use of more Indigenous leaders when creating new signage in the new development areas. Using places Indigenous names now helps the space become everyone's - shared language.
- Needs story of how we got here, where we go.
- Tell the story of Meewasin, Wanuskewin and Round Prairie Settlement.
- Language and Signage - Cree, Michif, Dakota- revitalize.

- Women represented in naming in an empowering way.
- See human development index report - the current system of naming facilitates trauma.
- Through art, show that everyone has a space in the circle.
- I can be me in this space.
- Avoid gender differentiation - neutral
- Land-based teachings from First Nations Elders - Elder involvement
- Leverage tech to tell story of how people use space (past and current), digitized portal can help fill the gap.
- Educate public on impacts of colonization and imperialism.
- Develop an app to encourage city engagement – should have points or levels like Pokemon Go, could have a map of place names or a story map. Must take a photo and submit it to earn points.

Heritage

- So closely tied with heritage front. Why heritage areas?
- Heritage has multiple meanings - not always talking about the same thing.
- Placing history within a cultural lens.
- Culture is evolving - not "then" and "now" - past and current cannot be separated.
- Term heritage - old buildings/white people lived in. Need for shared heritage, and Indigenous heritage important.
- Heritage needs to be shared history, not just the stories of old white dudes.
- Parallel stories in multiple languages important to discuss heritage in green space. Not just one person's version. Challenge finding Indigenous histories benefit to make so don't have to hunt down. Need to search them out and ask knowledge keepers.
- Low hanging fruit - make Saskatoon's history include Indigenous history and shared history
- Restoring? Don't really like the word "heritage"

Partnerships and Governance

- Partnerships are critical - not just a checkbox. People working together on the ground.
- Acknowledge and learn from partnerships that went wrong.
- Partnership - a group of people united.
- Rouge National Urban Park, a good model (funding, governance).
- Recognizing Indigenous protected and conserved areas - creating and designating lands through federal process.
- There should be a consultation process for design of specific places "What do you want to see here?"
- Model the Big Swale as an Urban National Park - Rouge NP in Toronto.
- Restoration needs to happen with Indigenous Stewardship - at a neighborhood level and large green spaces.
- For a strategy, know what goals trump others. E.g. Sustainability supersedes others. This is why NCAV is important.
- Moriyama Plan and Meewasin have been managing green infrastructure in a good way for 40 years - e.g. Identified 5 archaeological sites including Wanuskewin.
- Recognize good work of partners in conservation – Meewasin has largest sweet grass greenhouse.

- Conservation perspectives - partners Meewasin
- Opportunity to give land back. Indigenous nations are sovereign, and Indigenous land base is important.
- Meewasin Interpretive signs work with STC and Whitecap - different formats. Finally found the right people - part of challenge.

Uses

- Have place for different land uses. E.g. Dirt bikes at WHP - separate these uses - find somewhere for those uses.
- Striking a balance between different uses of space - e.g. NE Swale rec zone/conservation zone.
- Green Spaces should not be "all uses", instead: multiple uses, appropriate uses.
- Green Spaces have the potential to unite community.
- Incorporate treaty rights
- Conserve and redevelop Indigenous species.
- Ceremonial spaces are needed and policies need to support use of these spaces.
- Treaty rights, hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, education. - Need to know where we can do this and online videos of how to.

Connections to Land

- How do we see ourselves with the land? Elemental, spiritual, circle of life. Everyone has a place in the circle.
- Incorporate ceremony in all aspects of Strategy, for example tree protection plan.
- Benefits of nature: affects body, mind, soul
- "A person's heart gets cold when they are away from nature, even the food doesn't taste right. The land is a part of you, it energizes you, makes you whole. Everything is better at home with the land."
- How can we make it so a young person wants to be outside? Parks that are safe and nice.
- How can we get back to nature? Kids are not growing up with it. Strategy needs to bring people back to nature. Market a green life, a connection.
- Challenge all citizens to learn how to be more conscious of the damage we have done and to think of the future.
- Citizen science reports
- Connected how?
- Human habitat vs habitat? Life sustaining systems.
- What about animals and plant habitat "interconnected?"
- Connects our community, fostering unity.
- Awareness of and respect for existing and potential wildlife usage and needs

The Importance of Stories

A central theme that emerged from several discussions and comments was the Importance of Telling Stories.

Stories should be told in many languages. Words in other languages provide context more succinctly than English words with similar meaning. Some examples provided include:

takatichagi (future)	sakihitowin (love)	tapwewin (truthfulness)
takatichahi (building a future)	Miyo-otēnēwin (act with a good heart)	tapowakéyihitamowin (act with true connection)
mni ŋdožja Saskatoon (fast river)	pimatisiwin (life)	kitimakeyimisowin (inner perseverance with your heart)
mitakage oyasun	papeyátikamowin (peacefulness)	manacihitow (respect)
atoskēwin (initiative to do work)	tapohteyitamowin (humility)	wakohtowin (interrelatedness)
kisewatitatowin (love)	nistotamowin (understanding)	wīcihitowin (helpfulness)
miyotwawin (generosity)		

How we tell the stories is important also. Stories can be written, shared orally, through art or photography or through experiences – ceremonies, hands on learning etc.

How will we share the Strategy story?

- Stories we tell must be accurate and with all perspectives/versions told in parallel, even if it isn't always positive. Search out these stories – knowledge keepers can help.
- Stories must be told in a way that dismantles gender and removes stereotypes.
- We have the opportunity to tell stories that are based on the foundations of the treaties (sun, river, grass) and that celebrate and affirm nation to nation relationships.

Some additional story telling considerations

- Reconciliation is sometimes “wreckonciliation”.
- Mayor acknowledges Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Metis - good start but needs more work.
- Lots of hard feelings out there to consider. While Treaty acknowledgement is good, it also stirs up bad memories about why treaties were made. Can be triggering.
- Acknowledge Human development Index Report, UNDRIP

Stories to tell in the Strategy Document

- Need to know how we came to be here to understand where we want to go. There is opportunity to include the story about the history of the land and how we came to be here in the introduction of the Strategy. This must be a joint story about a shared history, one that details our relationship with each other and with the land. Saskatoon has only existed for a small part of history of this land. What was there before is important and thousands of years of Cree, Dakota and Blackfoot histories must be told. These histories tell the lesser known, but integral, stories of how Saskatoon came to be.

The messaging and language we use to tell the stories can portray different perspectives. All perspectives should be told. Some key messaging for the introduction includes:

- First Nations shared and opened the territory and did not agree to be confined to reserves.
- Treaty Territory and Métis Homeland acknowledgements.
- Acknowledge treaty rights to hunt, fish trap, and gather and explain that not everyone is able to do that today because of genocide.
- First Nations people were always here, and have always lived with nature.

The introduction also needs to include a stronger sense of urgency when it comes to protection of the land.

The treaty foundations (sun, river, grass) can be used guide how the strategy is presented. Treaties represent an aspect of our shared history, building the Strategy with these foundations as the framework may help to honor the spirit of the treaties.

6 Online Surveys

Two survey questionnaires were completed in 2019 and are described below.

6.1 Green Strategy Update – Options Identification Survey

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

The Strategy Actions Identification Survey was launched online March 19, 2019 and concluded April 16, 2019. The survey was comprised of three open ended questions and invited the public and subject matter experts to identify and prioritize actions to address vulnerabilities in the green network (key findings) for consideration as part of the Strategy Action and Implementation Planning.

6.1.1 Intended Audience

A Strategy project update and link to the Options Identification Survey were sent by email to stakeholders who subscribe to the Strategy mailing list as of March 18, 2019.

6.1.2 Marketing Techniques

The survey link was shared initially with the Green Strategy mailing list as part of a project update email. Residents were later invited in a social media posts to Facebook and Twitter to participate.

6.1.3 Analysis

The survey was designed for open ended responses. Responses in the form of “Actions” will be provided to the project team in raw format for their considerations. Responses will also be analyzed for emergent themes to help inform the development of goals for the Strategy.

6.1.4 What We Heard

A total of 14 responses were received. Identified actions within each key finding are provided below.

Proposed Actions

Governance

- Pass a resolution that indicates political commitment for urban parks and conservation areas that meet at least a 50 year commitment by the city.
 - This will necessitate rethinking the entire discussion on “growth and development” to balance the environmental, social, cultural, economic cost/benefit analysis.
 - Maintain and protect green infrastructure in all municipal planning activities (neighbourhood development, roads, etc.).
 - Increase project budgets for implementation of the Strategy, City Parks, City storm water management, and Urban Forestry initiatives.
- Honour the 1972 unanimous vote by City Council to preserve the 660 acres of afforestation areas in the city (City and P4G).
 - Consider the 2,300 acres (or more) originally envisioned in 1972 to be afforested as part of the City planning process.
- Develop acceptable limits for all pollution including light, noise, air and water to ensure the health of residents and wildlife.
- The next step is enforcement. Without enforcement this initiative is doomed to fail.

- Require that all natural assets are marked on any development plan sent into the City for review. Sites must be either walked before approval to confirm assets present, or at the bare minimum compared to google maps so that trees and wetlands, for instance, are saved.
 - Hold developers accountable to comply with natural area study recommendations and provincial/federal environmental laws and regulations.
 - Provide developers with guidelines for expectations around due care and attention to ecological and heritage preservation.
 - Apply fines and bylaws to prevent destruction of green spaces and natural assets. Bylaws are more enforceable than policies.
- Develop bylaws protecting trees on private property from removal without due cause.
 - Consider private trees part of the Urban Forest.
 - Policies could be set before permits are given to have land assessed.
 - Trees that can be saved, should be saved.
 - Develop private tree inventory and aerial imagery.
 - Develop a new policy for tree protection.
 - An example might be: A City tree that is protected during construction should also be monitored and under protection for at least another 5 years. If the tree deteriorates every year and eventually dies it could be deemed a construction fatality. The developer would have to pay not only the value of the tree but maybe 4 or 5 x the value.
- Compile data so that complete inventories and civic addresses for all green spaces are in one spot.
- Focus public engagement on long range discussion in terms of cost, assessment and idea sharing.

Land Allocation

- Identify and protect natural assets.
 - Develop an inclusive inventory of all natural areas. Ensure these areas are properly classed as natural areas and not included in the land bank for development as either residential or industrial.
 - Redefine the meaning of “park” to consider conservation, source water protection and wetland conservation in addition to active development space.
 - The entire discussion on urban conservation and open space is a park issue.
 - City Administration has narrowed “park” to mean active development space with no discussion on conservation or source water protection and wetland conservation.
- Change the location of the Saskatoon Freeway so it does not come across the swale.
 - The Northeast Swale is one of the City's most valuable Natural Areas.
- Increase development in the core and restrict it in the suburbs.
- Add more washroom facilities to improve walkability of trails.

Green Network

- Develop proper interpretation, protections, and educational opportunities at all three swales.
- Plan connectivity in terms of movement corridors and not just trails for hiking or biking.
 - Develop green bridges between the Chappell Marsh Conservation Area, Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area and George Genereux Afforestation Area.
 - Develop or maintain corridors for wildlife to access habitat like the river.

- Design connectivity for small electric vehicles like adapted golf carts, scooters, and, in winter, small electric snow machines.
 - Design connectivity that include schools, places of work, shopping and entertainment areas as well as between parks.
 - Connect to out of city trail systems. Connectivity should be a park planning system.
 - Prohibit use of green spaces such as roadway corridors and utility parcels for recreational purposes due to safety risks.
- Be proactive and protective of the green infrastructure that will help to mitigate and help us adapt to climate change.
 - Protect existing trees and consider additional planting of the urban forest especially in the new areas.
 - The trees will be paramount in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
 - Conduct a tree inventory.
 - Focus efforts on reducing stressors on trees. This will improve survival rates and prevention of disease and pest infestation.
- Conduct more research on natural methods for green space preservation.
 - Incorporate "living wild" features such as urban cityscapes living in harmony with displaced wild creatures.
 - Increase use of permaculture and organic techniques to manage and support green spaces.

Storm Water Servicing

- Encourage maintenance of natural wetlands instead of replacement with constructed wetlands.
- Develop a process to clarify if wetland assessment recommendations to developers will be mandated by the City for implementation. If a recommendation is not feasible to implement, there should be transparency around that decision. Implementation of any required recommendations should be inspected/enforced to ensure compliance.
- Design constructed wetlands for wildlife, not just drainage.

Heritage and Culture

- Protect built heritage in the core from unnecessary demolition.
- Increase education and awareness about human/pet/wildlife interactions in Saskatoon that position wildlife as an integral component of green spaces not a nuisance.
- Develop adult and all-ages field trips or programming to natural areas. Supply funding to Meewasin to run field trips/events at multiple times a year to their conservation areas. Many people would enjoy going, and learning about those places.
- Educate City employees at all levels including Mayor, Council and Administration and extending outwards to residents of all ages regarding:
 - what green infrastructure is,
 - the natural areas in and around Saskatoon and their ecology,
 - what the natural flora and fauna of this area actually look like,
 - ecology in general, and
 - urban design that works with nature, not against it, and that integrates our city into nature rather than imposing the city on nature and adding a little nature around the edges.

Other

- All buildings should have green carts.
- City should have recycling coaches.
- Implement no actions – too costly.
- Just do it, no more studies.

Actions recommended for early implementation (1-4 years)

Actions suggested are provided below within the category of the key finding they may function to address.

Governance

- Pass a resolution that indicates political commitment for urban parks and conservation areas that meet at least a 50 year commitment by the City. This will necessitate rethinking the entire discussion on “growth and development” to balance of environmental, social, cultural, economic cost/benefit analysis. This needs to be done to lay a sound foundation to take on the other excellent suggestions.
- Enforce the limiting of pollutants that effect the health, safety and quality of life of residents and wildlife.
- Establish bylaws to protect our natural assets.

Land Allocation

- Restrict development in the suburbs and protect our built heritage in the core. These are both long overdue and should start immediately.
- Consider park space in terms of conservation or source water protection and wetland conservation in addition to programmable space. This needs to be done to lay a sound foundation to take on the other excellent suggestions.
- Increase open space per capita not including utility corridors.
- Identify and protect natural assets and improve connectivity immediately.
- Establish a natural area inventory. Remove natural areas from the land bank for development.
- Identify and Protect Natural Areas immediately.
 - Identify natural areas in and near the city (that may be encroached on by development) and find ways to designate them as protected areas now. This includes the river bank, the north east swale, the small swale, Kernen Prairie, the crocus prairie, the west swale, the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands. That is just a start. There are many more.
 - All areas big and small need to be identified and protected. No prioritizing. We need to save all the pieces. That is the priority. Natural areas include natural prairie and wooded areas and naturalized areas, afforested areas such as the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area and the adjacent George Genereaux Park.
 - Adopt the 2007 Planning and Development Act which allows the dedication of ecologically sensitive land as Environmental Reserve – this tool should be adopted by the City and applied immediately to the Northeast Swale, Small Swale, West Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, the Afforestation areas mentioned above (Richard St. Barbe Baker and George Genereaux Park).

- Develop natural, walkable and connected corridors throughout the city linking neighbourhoods, from one end of the city to the other (north-south, east-west, larger corridors connecting to major ones. These corridors can connect to the river, parks, and natural areas.
- Wherever one lives in the city one should be able to take a pleasant walk to the river through a series of connected natural walkways (wherever possible no pavement, asphalt or other built up trails).

Green Network

- Protect our green assets through better monitoring and planning of new developments.
 - Monitor and inventory undocumented natural assets and park features.
 - Evaluate the green spaces and their contribution as carbon sinks.
 - Protect the urban forest.
 - Develop a private tree inventory.
 - Make protection of trees a high priority, not only near development but in residential yards
 - Trees are essential to cooling the city and providing a beautiful and livable atmosphere.
- Ensure connectivity and safety for wildlife as well as people, where this does not exist, create it.
- Listen to and act on recommendations from community partners such as nature and conservation groups, wildlife biologists, ecologists, and ecological designers.

Storm Water Servicing

- Develop strategies for conserving and harvesting rainwater and ensuring that it stays clean and unpolluted. Rainwater should be allowed to spread slowly and sink into the land wherever possible. There are design strategies for doing it – from the residential to the wider city level.
- Change terminology from storm water to rainwater.
 - Rainwater is a resource not a waste product and needs to be treated like something that is valuable.
- Remove impermeable surfaces where possible and limit use of impermeable surfaces in the future.
- This is essential to the health of the rest of the ecosystem of which we are a part and is needed to help restore the water cycle, which functions to cool the city.

Heritage and Culture

- Heritage Properties, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Views, Vistas and View sheds already receive attention and are prioritized.
- Increase interpretative presence at natural and constructed wetlands to inform residents about benefits and protect wetlands from unnecessary destruction.
- Develop all ages programming and adult field trips.

Other

- None
- All of them, immediately.

Other Considerations

Several participants provided Additional Considerations for the Strategy. These are summarized into 6 emergent themes below:

Urgency and Action

Participants expressed a need for urgency and action in regards to protection and/or enhancement of green spaces and natural assets suggesting that the City (both Council and Administration) and community need to start considering the environment as a priority in our decisions.

What to Protect and Enhance

Specific natural assets and areas mentioned that require protection include:

- Wetlands
- Trees
- Grasslands
- River Valley

Participants note that success of the Strategy and protection of these assets and areas also requires protection of soil quantity and quality, the microorganisms in the soil, diverse plants and wildlife, and clean air and water.

Ecosystem Services

Protection of these green spaces and natural assets will offer the following benefits, or ecosystem services” to the community:

- Support Wildlife
- Storm water servicing and flood protection
- Quality of life
- Biodiversity

How to Protect and Enhance

Participants suggested the following additional actions for consideration:

- Reduce and divert waste
- Require a combination of natural and naturalized engineered wetlands to manage storm water servicing requirements with natural wetlands the preferred approach.
- Plant more trees, including a second Green Belt around the city to complement the perimeter road.
- Designate the Northeast Swale, Small Swale and Peturrson's Ravine as Environmental Reserve.
- Identify and enforce compatible uses, for example, reduce impacts from illegal dumping and use of recreational vehicles in natural areas.
- Develop a Citizen Science reporting program where citizens can learn about impacts to green infrastructure and report signs of impacts such as pests, vandalism and incompatible uses through a chat line or function on the City website. This initiative could be shared over social media as well.
- Provide support to neighbourhood groups to plant trees on vacant public property.
- Improve definition of bicycle routes to downtown.

- Continue to funding and support Meewasin.
- Protect soil air and water.

Definition

Green infrastructure needs to be carefully defined and described. Green infrastructure is living green infrastructure that includes:



Figure 10: Concepts Included in "Green Infrastructure"

"Green infrastructure is NATURE in and around the city."

Clarify City Priorities

Participants expressed concern regarding if and how the Strategy will be prioritized by Administration and City Council in decision making processes that relate to new grey infrastructure and development. Concerns reflect a belief that both Administration and City Council currently prioritize infrastructure development (roadways and storm water infrastructure) over the conservation of the green network. Participants are also concerned that the Strategy will be treated as no more than a study, meaning no actions will be implemented.

Participants would like to see a commitment from Council and Senior Administration to advance the Strategy. This would include funding and resources for Sustainability staff to assess impacts to natural areas and assets as part of the planning process and funding to designate wetlands and important conservation areas.

6.2 Emerging Priorities for Saskatoon's Future Green Network Survey

Engagement Goal: Options Identification and Selection

Engagement Goal: Priority Setting

The Emerging Priorities for Saskatoon's Future Green Network survey was live from July 23, 2019 to August 6, 2019. The purpose of the survey was to identify the Emerging Priorities for the green network that were most important to residents.

6.2.1 Intended Audience

Residents and Green Space Users.

6.2.2 Marketing Techniques

The majority of Strategy engagement activities received feedback from subject matter experts and environmental advocates. While it is likely that several members of those stakeholder groups submitted responses, marketing for this survey was designed to also reach residents and green space users who had not yet engaged on the topic. The link to the survey was posted to the Engage Page and shared using the techniques described below.

E-mail

Emails including the link to the survey were sent to the following groups to be shared with their respective networks:

- Green Strategy Mailing List Members
- University of Saskatchewan
- Meewasin
- Community Consultants

Social Media

- Boosted Facebook/Instagram Post: July 25, August 6
- Twitter Post: July 23, August 6

6.2.3 Analysis

Quantitative data was analysed and presented in counts and/or percentages. Qualitative data was analysed for emergent themes in response to each question.

6.2.4 What We Heard

A total of 187 responses were received. 50% of participants fell within the 35-64 age range, 28% were aged 16-34 and 22% were over 65 years of age. No respondents identified themselves as under 15 years of age. Participants represented 56 neighbourhoods with the highest responses rate of 17 participants located in Nutana. The following residential neighbourhoods were not represented in survey responses:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Blairmore | • Lakewood |
| • Dundonald | • The Willows |
| • Hudson Bay Park | • University Heights |

Results are provided below regarding emerging priorities preference and decision making criteria employed by participants.

Emerging Priorities

Participants were asked to identify which of the 15 proposed Emerging Priorities are important to them, not important to them and which they were not sure about. The results are shared in the Figure below and summarized in this section.

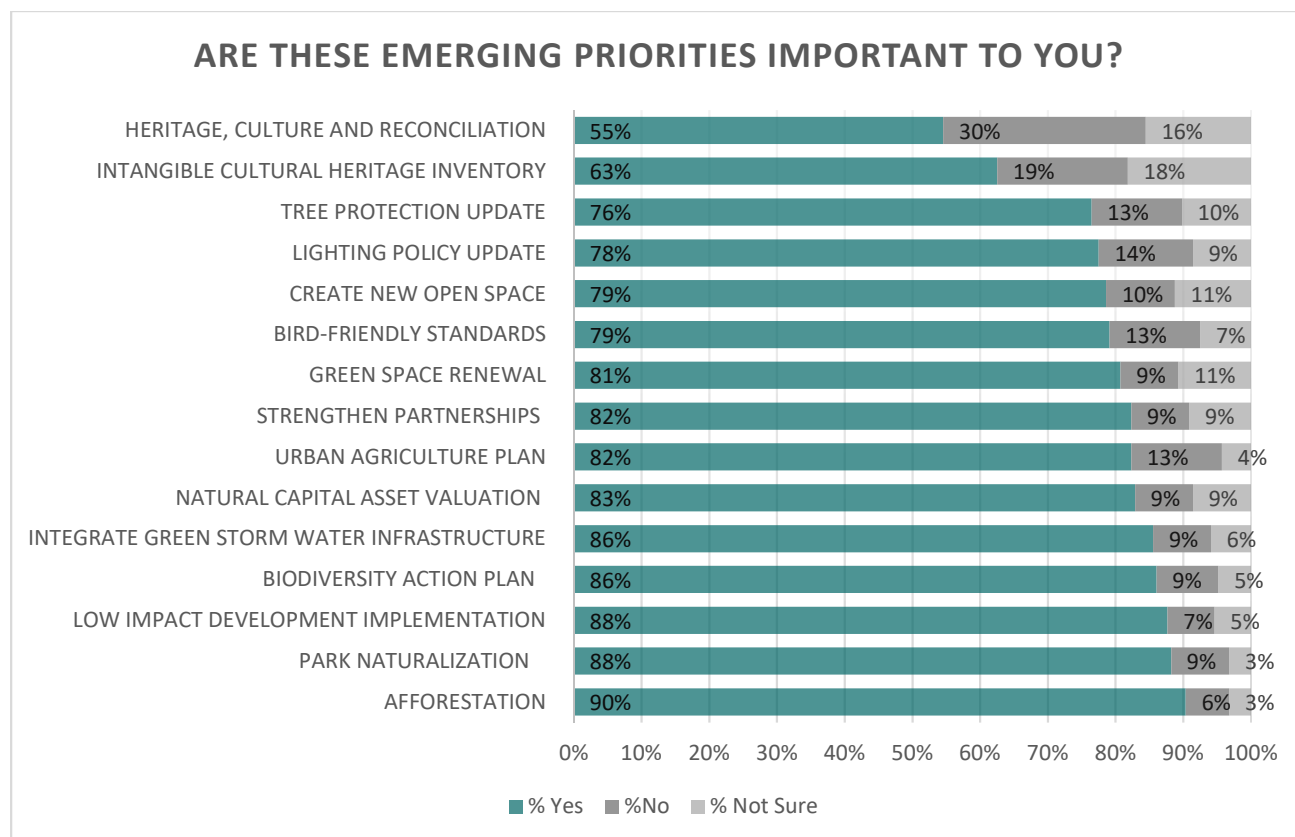


Figure 11: Results: Are these Emerging Priorities Important to You?

Afforestation, Park Naturalization, Low Impact Development Implementation, Biodiversity Action Plan and Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure are important to the greatest number of respondents with 86% to 90% respondents indicating that they these Emerging Priorities are important to them.

Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation and Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory were considered important by only 55% and 63% of respondents respectively. Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation was considered Not Important by 30% of respondents and 16% were unsure. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory saw nearly equal responses for Not Important (19%) and Not Sure (18%) indicating that additional information may be required regarding what this Emerging Priority would entail.

Participants were then asked to select the 5 Emerging Priorities they would most like to see addressed through the Strategy. The results are shared in the figure and summarized below.

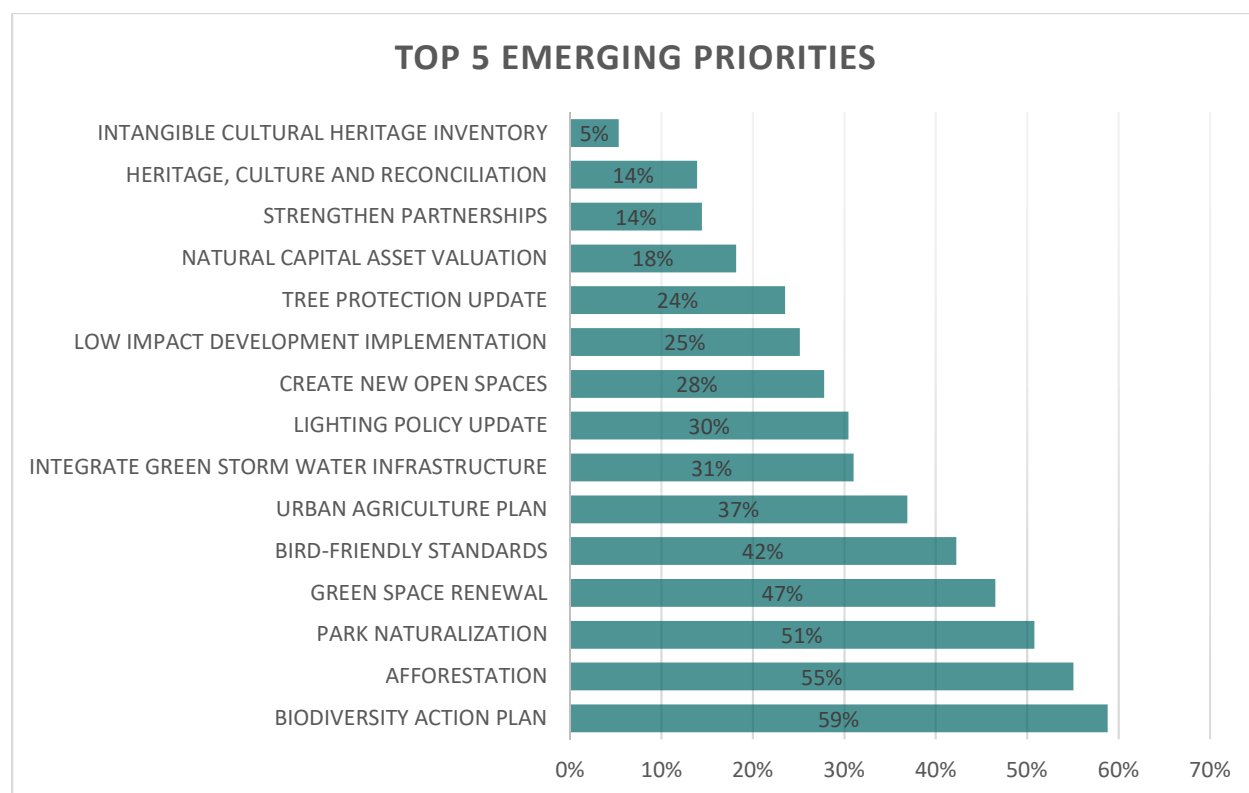


Figure 12: Results: Top 5 Emerging Priorities

The five Emerging Priorities selected by the **most participants** include:

- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Afforestation
- Park Naturalization
- Green Space Renewal
- Bird Friendly Standards

The five Emerging Priorities selected by the **fewest participants** include:

- Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory
- Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation
- Strengthen Partnerships
- Natural Capital Asset Valuation
- Tree Protection Update

Decision Making Criteria

Participants provided the following explanation for why they preferred some Emerging Priorities over others:

Greatest Impact

- Twenty one participants indicated that they chose their top 5 priorities based on what they felt would provide the greatest impact in their areas of interest. Areas of interest described by participants in relation to impact include:
 - Environmental Health – protection or improvement of environmental health.
 - Community Needs – use, access and enjoyment of green spaces, food production and employment opportunities.
 - Climate – mitigation and adaptation contributions including emission and carbon reduction and resilience of Saskatoon in the face of climate impacts.
 - Trees – protection, health and planting.
 - Bigger Picture – provide benefits for both Saskatoon and the larger regional or global community.

All 15 Emerging Priorities were listed in at least one of the 21 responses as being part of a group of 5 that would result in the greatest impact if implemented. Over half of the 21 respondents selected Biodiversity Action Plan (81%) and Afforestation (62%) as Emerging Priorities with potential for greatest impact.

Climate Change

A total of 19 participants explained that they selected the Emerging Priorities they felt would contribute most to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. All Emerging Priorities were mentioned as contributing to Climate Change in some capacity, however Afforestation, Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure and Green Space Renewal were the most popular selections within this theme.

Prerequisites

Many participants selected their top 5 priorities based on benefit of early implementation explaining that if you implement these priorities the rest will either be addressed within these larger more encompassing priorities or will provide a natural transition to subsequent initiatives.

With the exception of Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory, all Emerging Priorities were mentioned as possible prerequisites. More than half of the 11 respondents mentioned Urban Agriculture Plan, Park Naturalization, Biodiversity Action Plan and Bird Friendly Standards as Emerging Priorities that would serve as prerequisites for later initiatives.

Balance

Some participants explained that they selected their preferred priorities in a way would achieve a necessary balance or diversity of benefits for both the environment and residents. Each of these participants included some Emerging Priorities designed to provide ecological benefit and other designed to provide social or cultural benefit.

Cost Implications

A total of 7 respondents indicated that cost implications were a strong consideration or their only consideration in selection of their preferred Emerging Priorities. This was especially relevant in terms of potential to increase or “waste” tax money. One respondent explained their preference for

no funding to be allocated to any Strategy Emerging Priorities. Other respondents explained that they selected Emerging Priorities that they felt would lead to a reduction of maintenance or planting costs in the long term. One participant listed Afforestation, Park Naturalization, Urban Agriculture Plan and Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure as potential low cost Emerging Priorities. Some participants also suggested that creating or leveraging partnerships with community organizations could help to save implementation costs and improve outcomes.

Immediate results

Some participants explained that they selected their Top 5 Emerging Priorities based on what they felt would provide immediate impact or change. Several of these responses also encouraged the City of Saskatoon to take more immediate action in terms of implementing the Priorities. The following Emerging Priorities were selected for their potential to provide immediate results:

- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Afforestation
- Natural Capital Asset Valuation
- Tree Protection Update
- Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation
- Bird-friendly Standards
- Lighting Policy Update
- Low Impact Development Implementation
- Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure
- Park Naturalization
- Urban Agriculture Plan

Easy

Some Emerging Priorities were selected because they are seen as easy to implement or easily attainable in comparison to others. All Emerging Priorities with the exception of Strengthen Partnerships and Tree Protection Plan were identified as “easy”.

Existing space

Many participants chose Emerging Priorities that focused on improvements to existing spaces instead of or in addition to development of new green spaces. They urged the City of Saskatoon to improve maintenance of existing spaces before new spaces are created.

Gaps

Some participants selected Emerging Priorities they felt would address existing gaps or areas where there has not been adequate attention in the past.

Biodiversity Action Plan, Afforestation, Park Naturalization, Natural Capital Asset Valuation, Lighting Policy Update and Bird-friendly Standards were noted as Emerging Priorities that could fill perceived gaps.

Other

Participants also expressed preference for the City taking on more responsibility to lead Strategy initiatives, but less responsibility for the actual implementation of the initiatives noting value in community driven action and opportunities for partnerships.

Several participants explained that their based there selection of preferred priorities on personal preference.

Some participants suggested that additional or clearer information would be been helpful in their selection of preferred options as they were not sure what each priority entailed or the potential implications of implementation which are important factors for sound decision making.

Emerging Priorities not to include in the Strategy

Participants were asked which Emerging Priorities should not be included in the Strategy.

More than half of respondents indicated that all Emerging Priorities should be included in the Strategy by clearly stating so or responding “no”, “N/A” or in symbols suggesting no need for a response to the question.

Six respondents suggested that none of the Emerging Priorities should be included in the Strategy, 4 of which referenced concerns about cost and taxes. One response suggested that there should be no Strategy.

A total of 11 participants responded that they were not sure or that they did not have enough clear information to make a decision.

A total of 36 participants identified specific emerging priorities that they would like to see removed from the Strategy.

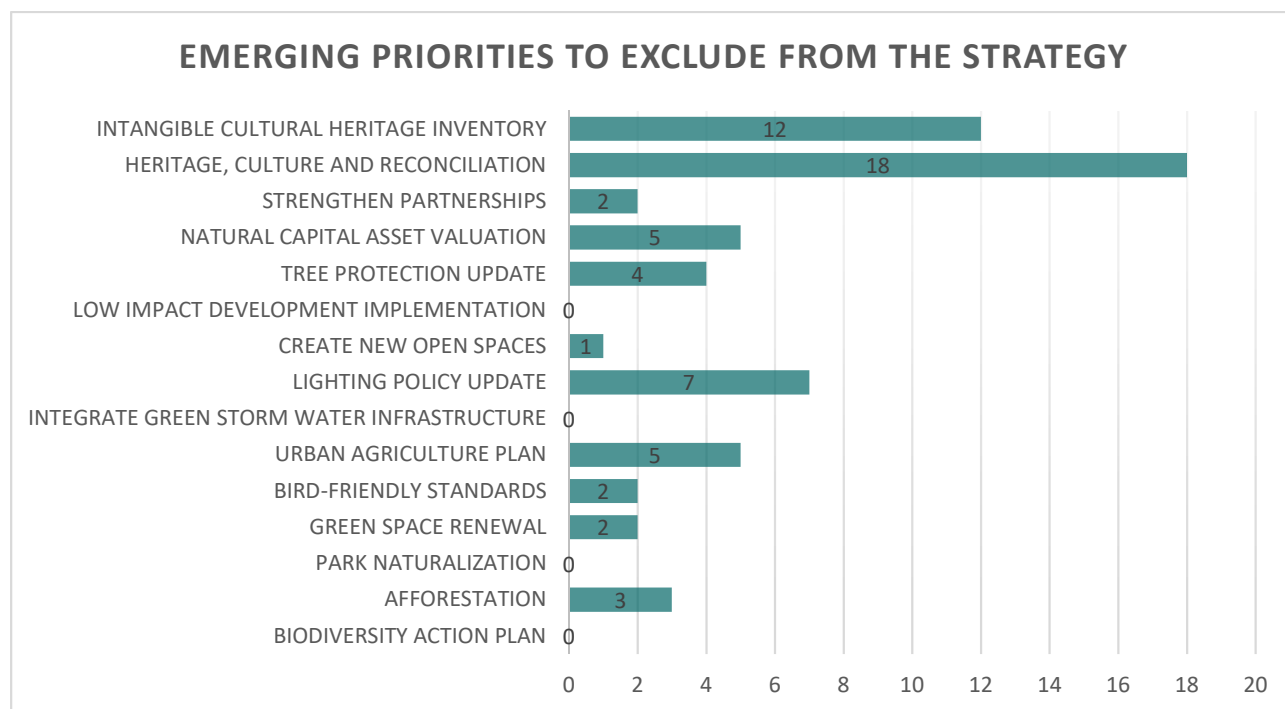


Figure 13: Emerging Priorities to Exclude from Strategy

Biodiversity Action Plan, Park Naturalization, Integrate Green Storm Water Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Implementation were not mentioned by participants as Emerging Priorities to remove from the Strategy.

Half of the participants who identified an Emerging Priority to exclude selected Heritage, Culture and Reconciliation. Twelve participants selected Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory to exclude.

Respondents justified these exclusions based on beliefs that:

- We should not be accommodating human needs during a climate crisis.
- Culture and reconciliation are politically driven topics that do not belong or make sense as part of a long term environmental strategy.
- There are other groups at the City who already manage heritage, culture and reconciliation initiatives.
- Culture and heritage initiatives should be community driven, not lead by the City.

Lighting Policy Update was selected by 7 participants for exclusion. These participants explained that it was not clear how lighting was related to the Strategy and felt it should be addressed as an initiative separate from the Strategy.

Natural Capital Asset Valuation was identified by 5 participants for exclusion. Participants questioned if there would be benefit in implementing this complicated and contentious Emerging Priority and commented that they thought there was already an inventory of Natural Assets developed.

Urban Agriculture Plan was selected by 5 participants as well. Participants explained that urban agriculture, particularly community gardens would not benefit a large enough portion of the population and was already being led by community groups. Others were unclear how gardening related to the Strategy.

Tree protection update and Afforestation were selected by 3 and 4 participants respectively. Participants were concerned that additional tree planting would result in increased spread of disease and loss of natural prairie habitat if the species selected were introduced. Participants thought these initiatives would be better suited as standalone projects and not connected to the Strategy.

Two participants requested removal of *Strengthen Partnerships* from the Strategy. One participant felt that strengthening partnerships should not be a separate Priority, but instead infused into every aspect of the Strategy and City initiatives in general. The second participant felt that this Emerging Priority was not a long term initiative and was politically motivated which made it stand out as separate from the other Emerging Priorities.

Bird Friendly Standards was identified by two participants, one of whom expressed concerns about increase bird habitat leading to increased pigeon populations.

Two participants selected *Green Space Renewal* for exclusion, one of whom explained that this Emerging Priority does not address the climate crisis. One participant selected *Create New Open Space* for removal because they felt that the City needs to better maintain existing spaces before introducing additional spaces to maintain.

7 Evaluation

Evaluation is discussed in terms of formal participant feedback form results, informal feedback and opportunities for improvement.

7.1 Participant Feedback Form Results

Participant evaluation forms were received from Pop-up events, the Shaping a Natural Community workshop and the Our Green Network event. Participants were asked to select their level of agreement with a list of statements which included:

- This was a valuable use of my time and energy
- It was easy for me to participate in the process
- The information was clear and understandable
- I understood what was expected of me as a participant
- The facilitator kept us engaged and focused
- All participants were given an opportunity to contribute
- I believe my voice mattered in this conversation
- I understand how my input will be used

A total of 18 evaluation forms were received from participants. More than 75% of participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statements above during reflection about their experience. When asked how the participant experience could have been improved, participants indicated that:

- providing information to review before the session would have helped them participate
- More specific problems and concrete examples would allow better solution brainstorming.

7.2 Informal Feedback

Feedback about engagement events was also received informally during the Indigenous Technical Advisory Group meeting where participants indicated that instead of the workshop style facilitation that was used, a group discussion approach would have been a more comfortable and organic way to share ideas and concerns.

Some survey participants noted flaws in the survey design related to a lack of clear language. Participants noted that the terminology used in the Emerging Priorities survey was too technical and they could not meaningfully participate without fully understanding the context of each Emerging Priority.

7.3 Opportunities for Improvement

Based on participant and facilitator feedback, the following opportunities for improvement will be considered for future engagement events:

- Where possible information will be sent out in advance of activities to help participants prepare.
- Activity timing and room sizing will be carefully considered for events going forward.
- Additional attention will be given to ensure that written and verbal information shared is clear and easy to understand.

8 Data limitations

- Participants were asked to prioritize the emerging priorities, but have not been asked to prioritize the Actions and Initiatives selected for the Strategy.
- Several participants from engagement activities expressed confusion regarding the purpose and intent of the Strategy and the potential impact that could result from implementation.
- Participants shared that time limitations and use of technical language made it difficult to participate fully in engagement activities.
- A total of 699 participants took part in engagement activities, however there is high potential that several individuals participated in more than one event, meaning that the total engagement reach was likely less than what was calculated.
- The majority of participants were subject matter experts or environmental advocates. Efforts were made to reach residents and green space users outside of these stakeholder groups, however, participation rates were lower than we had hoped which may have been related to the activity timing (summer months) lack of awareness about the activities, or lack of interest in the topic.
- Participant comments were noticeably influenced by current events or City announcements between fall 2018 and fall 2019. For example, the Northeast Swale was a common theme in fall 2018 engagement which coincided with the opening of Chief Mistawasis Bridge. Climate Change was a prevalent theme during fall 2019 engagement results, likely because it coincided with release of the Low Emissions Community Plan.
- Emergent themes were also noticeably influenced depending on which community groups were actively sharing engagement marketing. For example, results from engagement activities that were shared by Afforestation user groups had a greater focus on tree related topics than those opportunities that were not shared in that manner.
- Event location also influenced emergent themes in engagement results. For example, there was noticeably more discussion about the river during the event in Kiwanis Park.

9 Next Steps

No further engagement is planned to inform development of the Strategy. The Strategy will be presented to Committee and City Council for consideration in early 2020.

As implementation is being planned for specific actions or initiatives with potential to impact, or be informed by the public further engagement is recommended.