

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: City Nature Challenge Saskatoon and Area CNC YXE. Sorting out noxious invasives from beneficial pollinator species.

Speaker: Julia Adamson, Chair, Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.

Summary: Help put the City of Saskatoon and area on the world nature scene! Using the free iNaturalist app take photos of plants, animals, insects and mushrooms between April 29 - May 2, 2022 to compete for the title of the most Biodiverse City. Take part in the #CNC #CityNatureChallenge YXE Saskatoon and Area. Observations made on iNaturalist from April 29 – May 2 will play a part in helping to shape conservation efforts, assist with scientific studies and land management in our local area! iNaturalist is an amazing resource for identification of observations as it combines computer vision technology with social networking to specialist scientists around the world. It is a powerful tool to correctly sort out invasives and native pollinator species which may be similar.

About the Presenter:

Julia Adamson is chair of the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc., a researcher, and writer with an education in Engineering who has been helping to document the environment and status of 474 acres of urban forest at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area and George Genereux Urban Regional Park in Saskatoon. Both of these local parks were formed at the same time as Cranberry Flats and Chief Whitecap Park, and yet the afforestation areas have remained Saskatoon's best kept secrets. Through citizen science fieldwork on iNaturalist and eBird, noxious invasives have been identified and removed, and over 20 species at risk have been identified in these semi-wilderness habitats. This is a great segway to celebrate the United Nations 2021–2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and take action to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, UN SDG 15 Life on Land and the UN SDG 13 Climate Action. Since 2015 the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas have been working with the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin for best practices, and iNaturalist is a great tool. We love to encourage everyone to talk about trees, forests, and preserving our native species in Saskatchewan.

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