



Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

January 2026

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Daylighting Urban Streams: Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Justice

Dr. Luna Khirfan

School of Planning , University of Waterloo

On Line Only

7:30 PM Thursday January 15, 2026

Dr. Luna Khirfan is an Associate Professor at the School of Planning, University of Waterloo, Canada. Her research explores the intersection of public engagement, policy making, and climate



change adaptation, with a strong emphasis on climate justice. She develops coupled human-natural systems models to inform planning and policy while accounting for equity and resilience. Dr. Khirfan's current work investigates [the daylighting \(de-culverting\) of urban streams](#) (restoring buried waterways and reintegrating them into urban landscapes) as a nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation. She also serves as co-investigator on the Urban Futures project, which examines climate resilience strategies in African cities. Her expertise has been recognized globally through her contributions to recent chapters of the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022) and the UN-Habitats' World Cities Report: Cities and Climate Action (2024).

As cities confront the escalating impacts of the climate crisis, nature-based solutions (NbS) are emerging as powerful strategies for resilience. Among these, "daylighting" buried urban streams (restoring waterways that were culverted during rapid urbanization) has gained global attention. This presentation explores why daylighting matters and how different approaches shape

its outcomes for climate adaptation, mitigation, and urban livability.

Through a comparative lens, the presentation examines two contrasting cases: Seoul's Cheonggyecheon restoration in South Korea, a bold mega-project that uncovered over six kilometers of stream, and Zürich's bachkonzept policy in Switzerland, which has incrementally daylighted more than 25 kilometers of smaller stream segments since 1988. Despite stark differences in scale, timing, and cost, both interventions have transformed their cities, though in distinct ways. Neither fits neatly into conventional models of abrupt or directed transformations; instead, they reveal nuanced pathways for reintegrating natural systems into dense urban fabrics.



The findings highlight how daylighting can deliver multiple benefits: reducing flood risk, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by reclaiming auto-oriented spaces for transit and active mobility, and restoring socio-cultural connections to water. These lessons underscore that while the climate crisis demands urgent action,



transformative change can take many forms, whether disruptive or incremental. For planners, policymakers, and communities, daylighting offers a compelling example of how cities can adapt and thrive by working with nature rather than against it.

Please note that if the link to join online requests a passcode, please enter SNS. If you have trouble connecting via the Zoom link, please text or phone LeeAnn at 306-880-9027. Please consider joining the meeting a little early so we can address any problems.

*All members who have registered an email address with SNS will receive an **email containing the link to join the meeting through Zoom**. If you have not registered an email address with us, but would like to do so, please contact Claire Bullaro at c.bear@sasktel.net.*

Field Trips

Members who wish to participate in a particular field trip must contact the listed leader by phone or email as quickly as possible. Participants are free to depart early if they wish. Members with FRS radios should bring them on out of town trips. Bus Information: 306-975-3100. Many of our trip destinations are described in the 3rd edition of "A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon" available from

<https://saskatoonnature.org/special-publications/>

Saturday, January 10, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Holiday Park Bird Walk

We will walk through the former Sanatorium site portion of Holiday Park to look for winter songbirds. This park is one of five naturalized parks in the city which is managed to promote a diversity of wild birds and mammals.

Meet at the south end of Avenue K, adjacent to Bowerman House. <https://goo.gl/maps/wniy6XzhVka2>

Leader: Kerry Hjertaas (text 306-260-6602)

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 126.

Saturday, January 17, 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Magpie Roost at Sutherland Beach Dog Park

We plan to observe the impressive departure of hundreds of magpies before sunrise.

Meet at parking lot for Sutherland Dog Park. Access is off Central Avenue north of Attridge. Sutherland beach dog park parking lot pin:

<https://goo.gl/maps/raTdkc7UUEtn51BN9>

No registration needed.

Leader: John Patterson (text or phone 306-371-9354)

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 140.



Black-billed Magpie May Haga

Saturday, January 24, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Snowy Owl Trip

We will drive SW of Saskatoon to the Rosetown area in search of Snowy Owls.

Register in advance by texting the leader.

Meet at the gas station near the intersection of highway 7 and 11th Street West

Leader: Diego Medina (639-318-7625)

Saturday, February 7, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Pike Lake Birding Trip

We will search for winter birds at Pike Lake Park.

Meet by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot on Lorne Ave.

<https://goo.gl/maps/3j1KTNfasmC2>

No registration needed.

Leader: Kerry Hjertaas (306-260-6602)

As a volunteer or participant in the activities of the Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS), you are fully responsible for your own safety, and for your own personal insurance in case of injury. Please exercise great caution and care on field trips or any other outings. The Saskatoon Nature Society is not responsible for damage incurred to vehicles or other personal property while participating in any SNS activity. If going onto private land, always ask for permission, be friendly and respectful, exercise caution, and please be aware that participants may be responsible for damage to landowners' property.

President's Message

Welcome to the new year! I hope everyone enjoyed a happy Christmas & Solstice holiday – we anxiously await the Christmas Bird Count results. As I have noted, it is our 71st Christmas bird count -- quite a milestone!

I was delighted to see over 100 people in attendance at our November General Meeting, it has been a long time since Covid knocked our numbers back but between a great topic (Honeybees & wild bees), guests and the new Nature Sk butterfly guidebook on sale, people had a lot of reasons to come out - it was wonderful to see!

I want to acknowledge our own Jan Shadick who received the Nature Saskatchewan Conservation Award at the 2025 Fall Meet. As we know and appreciate, Jan is the founder and executive director for Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation since its inception in 2010. It is the largest wildlife rehabilitation facility in Saskatchewan. Jan is very well deserving. Thank you as well to her nominators who ensured that Jan received appropriate recognition!

I've also received some interesting notes over the past few weeks – I think they deserve your particular attention. At the general meeting I talked about an email from Dr. Leanne Grieves asking about the possibility of donations/loans of binoculars for her senior ornithology class. I just got an update from Leanne saying that she just heard from her department that they have come up with a funding mechanism to purchase binoculars for the ornithology class. Great news so we are all good! Second, we got an email from the City insect people about the

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insect asking that when we birders are out and about to please keep our eyes open for signs of this pest. The City suggests that woodpeckers can be valuable allies in early detection. In areas where EAB is present, woodpeckers often feed on the larvae living beneath the bark causing “blonding”. For further explanation go to the [City of Saskatoon EAB information page](#).



Image: inspection.canada.ca

I also received an encouraging letter from the folks at Blackstrap Provincial Park concerning the re-establishment of the Park Advisory Group (PAG) for Blackstrap Provincial Park. Our executive is looking forward to participating through our reps in this group. If you are interested in this, please let me know!

This leads me to a very important topic, renewal of our executive. We are getting to that time when we will be looking for new board members and coordinators to serve for the next few years. Whether it is as a general director or a specific co-ordinator such as programming, conservation, or social media, it is a very rewarding opportunity to help with the leadership of our organization. So please consider volunteering with us!

Don't forget we have Kids in Nature Grants to award in the next few weeks – check out the notice in the newsletter and if you know a group, please let them know about KIN!

So, the book for this cold and dark month is *Flight of the Godwit* by Bruce Beehler. It's a fascinating read of the summer travels the author undertook a few years ago during Covid. His goal was to learn more about his favourite shorebird, the Hudsonian Godwit and what he calls the magnificent seven or the shorebird royalty, species that mostly make their way through Saskatchewan each year. In fact, he writes of stopping in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon areas to observe many of these shorebirds. Interestingly, he makes a small plea for birders to have their hearing tested regularly, so we don't miss the quieter or distant birdsongs – good point! I'm reminded of a note Stan Shadick sent to me a few years ago about the Hudsonian Godwit (HUGO). Stan wrote: “Way back in the summer of 1973, I worked as a summer student for the Canadian Wildlife Service. That summer I was shown the remarkable concentration of many hundreds of migrating Hudsonian Godwits at Porter Lake.

Some experts then suggested that perhaps 10% of the world's population of Hudsonian Godwits was using that lake.

I have visited Porter Lake on several occasions in recent years and normally find at most a very small number of HUGO individuals. I have never found more than a few individuals in recent years.”

Beehler's writing inspires us to look forward to the spring and fall as these migratory birds fly amazing distances each year. We know our region plays a big part of these annual journeys. He urges us to step up and protect our valuable wetlands as much as we can - we know these shorebirds along with the song and grassland birds are at perilous risk!

On that note, I hope you can get out a bit, enjoy the weather, and hopefully see some of the birds that call Saskatoon home year-round!

David Forbes

Why Volunteer to Join the Board of Directors?

Heather Brenneman, Vice President

The Saskatoon Nature Society has now been around for 70 years and has reached a membership just shy of 500. Its longevity is in no small part due to the dedication and passion of its volunteers. We have many nature lovers over the years whom we can thank for their contributions to the organization. However, the volunteers who have belonged to its board of directors have been essential to its success. I want to provide some brief information about the board and what it does in the hope of stimulating your interest in becoming involved by putting your name forward for our board elections in March 2026.

SNS is registered under the Saskatchewan Non-profits Corporations Act of Saskatchewan (2022). Under its rules we may have up to 15 members on the board of directors. For the 2025-26 year we have operated with 13 members. (You can find their names listed at the end of our monthly newsletter.) Board members serve for a maximum of 5 successive years. Based on this, we know that at least 4 board members will not be continuing the board in 2026. This will create a total of 6 (40%) vacancies on our

potential 15-member board; and there may be others who are leaving for other reasons. This is why we hope you will consider joining the board.

The criteria for becoming a board member are that you are a member of SNS and over the age of 18. You do not need to have previous experience belonging to a board nor do you need to be an expert bird watcher or wild plant enthusiast. You just need to have an interest in the conserving nature and a desire to help SNS keep functioning successfully.

Most people join the board initially as Directors with no specific responsibilities for chairing or coordinating committees or becoming Officers of the Board. Later, you may feel comfortable taking on such responsibilities. Experienced Board members are always generous in sharing their knowledge about how things work. If you do have previous board experience, you may feel prepared to be more active on the board right away.

The SNS Board has the following Officers: President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The current secretary and treasurer will be continuing but we will be electing a new president and vice president, likely from among the existing board members. Our current president will become the Past President.

Although our current Membership Coordinator will be leaving the board she is planning to continue in her role and report to the Past President. We will be looking for additional members to two permanent committees: the Programme Committee (fall and winter speaker series), and the Conservation Committee; as well as short-term, temporary committees such as the Saskatoon Bird-Friendly Team, and the Treaty Land Acknowledgement and Reconciliation Committee.

The SNS Board meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month, from August to May. Please consider volunteering to ensure that SNS continues its legacy of success!



Golden Eagles

The Golden Eagles is an informal group of Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS) members. Our interests include all aspects of the natural world as well as social and multicultural history. We engage in out-of-town and city field trips. Participants should be SNS members and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise indicated, we meet on Thursdays at the Churchill Shopping Centre, Taylor St and Clarence Avenue. Please check departure dates and times. Leaders may request registration for certain destinations. Participation is free, although some destinations may charge admission or encourage donations. Please contact the trip leader if you have any questions.

Thursday, January 22, 10:00 AM

St. Thomas Moore College, U of S Campus

Art and architecture tour of this beautiful college.

Tour arranged by Irene Ositis-Schmeiser.

Cafeteria lunch available, or bring your own.

Please register by Sunday, January 18.

Contact Hilda Noton, 306-321-4760 (text or phone)

Young Naturalists

The Young Naturalists is all about nature activities for kids and their families. Each program offers interesting activities geared for children aged 5 to 11 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. **Advanced registration is required.** To register or for more information e-mail: naturekids@saskatoonnature.org. Visit the Young Naturalists web page for more details. <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists/>

Tracks and Scats - January 25

Chickadee Pishing - February 7



Black-capped Chickadee Jaswant Singh



Kids in Nature Grant Program

January 15, 2026 Deadline

The Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS) aims to strengthen existing programs and encourage new initiatives that connect youth in the Saskatoon area with nature. Each year, we accept proposals from educational institutions including primary or secondary schools, community associations, First Nations and Metis, and registered charities in the Saskatoon area to fund projects that target children or youth up to and including 18 years of age. Priority will be given to projects with a focus on local natural history. Please note that gardening projects which do not focus on local natural history will not be considered. The total funding available is approximately \$2000.00. This amount may go to one applicant or may be divided among several applicants

Grant application available on the home page of Saskatoon Nature Society website.

<https://saskatoonnature.org/>

Sustainability Speakers Series

The Sustainability Speakers Series is hosted by the Saskatoon Public Library in partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society. These are FREE, in-person events.

Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Ron Steer

Title: The Fundamental Physical Science of Global Warming in Less Than 50 Minutes

Dr. Ron Steer will present and will explain the clear, scientifically unchallengeable evidence that our planet is now undergoing warming unprecedented in the last million years. The modelling that now accurately predicts the observed and projected future global climate changes resulting from surface warming will also be described. Dr. Ron Steer is a Distinguished Professor

Emeritus in the Chemistry Department of the University of Saskatchewan, whose research interests include environmental science.

This free in-person event will be held in the Auditorium of Cliff Wright Library (located in the Lakewood Civic Centre, 1635 McKercher Drive, Saskatoon). The event will start at 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:40 p.m.) and end at about 7:30 p.m.

Recordings of some previous presentations are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRUK7BHZUVfrHCXuJyBeO0lgijeqBwseY>

It's time to RENEW!

Membership Information

SNS memberships go from January-December. **Renew by December 31 to ensure delivery of your newsletter.**

Memberships paid after July 1 will continue through the following year.

SNS Membership can be paid for 1 year or up to 5 years. Member cards are mailed out annually.

Donations qualify for a tax receipt.

Don't forget the retail discounts available

- Early's Farm and Garden Centre provides a 10% discount on regular-priced seed, birdhouses and books.
- Wild Birds Unlimited provides a 10% discount on many regular-priced items.
- Don's Photo offers a discount on photo-finishing.

You can find a link to the membership form and information at:

<https://saskatoonnature.org/membership/>



Saskatoon Nature Society

Mailing address:

PO Box 27013 GROSVENOR PARK

SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9

Website:

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety

Newsletter



The deadline for the next newsletter is **January 17**. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: godmee@sasktel.net or call 306-343-8590. The editor would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy of the SNS newsletter. You will help us save on paper, stamps, and volunteer time and you will get information more quickly and get pictures in colour.

Please contact Claire Bullaro (c.bear@sasktel.net) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

Chairs and Coordinators

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Conservation | Sara Bryson.....306-261-6156 | |
| Display | Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839 | |
| Facebook Editor | Sara Bryson | 306-261-6156 (text please) |
| Field Trips | Stan Shadick | 306-652-5975 |
| Golden Eagles | Valerie Martz.....306-249-0468 | |
| Membership | Jan Spencer | j.spencer01@sasktel.net |
| Newsletter | | |
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| Mailing List | Claire Bullaro | 306-373-1787 |
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| Program | Heather Brenneman..... | habrenneman@sasktel.net |
| Publications | Donna Bruce.....306-956-3437 | donna.bruce@sasktel.net |
| Publicity | Ron Jensen | 306-741-7537 |
| Webmaster | Trent Watts | web@saskatoonnature.org |
| Young Naturalists | Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839 | naturekids@saskatoonnature.org |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| President | David Forbes.....306-230-5611 | president@saskatoonnature.org |
| Past President | Jim Lee | |
| Vice President | Heather Brenneman..... | |
| Secretary | Mercy Harris..... | |
| Treasurer | Nancy Lease..... | treasurer@saskatoonnature.org |
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| Director | Julianna Balaton | |
| Director | Sara Bryson.....306-261-6156 | |
| Director | Kerry Hjertaas..... | |
| Director | Robert Johanson | 306-653-2610 |
| Director | Nicole Pasloski..... | |
| Director | Peggy Schmeiser..... | |
| Director | Jan Spencer | j.spencer01@sasktel.net |

The board of directors meets about once a month, usually in the week before the monthly meeting. If you wish to bring an item to the attention of the board, please contact the president.

January 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
|  | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 CBC: Pike Lake |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Holiday Park Bird Walk |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Jan Meeting (Online) | 16 | 17 Magpie Roost |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Snowy Owl Trip |
| 25 YN: Tracks and Scats | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

February 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Pike Lake Birding ----- YN: Chickadee Pishing |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

YN: Young Naturalists; GE: Golden Eagles; CBC: Christmas Bird Count