



# Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

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To whom it may concern,

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan is a membership-based environmental non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote understanding and conservation of native plants and their ecosystems by facilitating communication, research and education. As Executive Director, I have been involved with the University of Saskatchewan in various activities associated with the Prairie Habitat Garden. This project is only one of two of its kind in the province, and so is a valuable asset to the university campus and the Saskatoon area. There are many benefits to this project. The environmental benefits to the Prairie Habitat Garden are many including preservation of local plant species and genetics, an increase in local biodiversity, food and habitat for pollinators and an ecological connection to the South Saskatchewan River Valley. The garden is also innovative in that it is showcasing a growing trend in horticulture of low impact/low maintenance landscaping. It is a beautiful area that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and uses hardy, drought-tolerant native plants that require no fertilizer or pesticides. The Prairie Habitat Garden also has other benefits such as its use as a teaching tool for students across Saskatoon and area, engaging youth in experiential learning and fostering positive environmental attitudes. The garden also serves as a window into the Saskatchewan's past, representing a once vast prairie of which little remains today. Its design and species selection also reflect the heritage and cultural values of our aboriginal peoples, and have directly involved them in events at the garden. For these reasons, I commend the actions of those involved and highly recommend the Prairie Habitat Garden at the University of Saskatchewan for innovation credits through the STARS program.

Sincerely,

Chet Neufeld, B.Sc., P.Ag.

Executive Director, NPSS