

Winnipeg Municipal Election 2018

Councillor Candidate responses to email sent by OURS-Winnipeg on September 26, 2018 and email responses contributed by voters. For customizable template letter see <https://www.ours-winnipeg.com/2018-election.html>

“OURS-Winnipeg needs your active support in the campaign to ensure that the City of Winnipeg prepares a multi-year **Master Greenspace Plan** to manage Winnipeg’s green space, forest, urban wilderness and connecting corridors.”

If you noticed that we missed a comment please contact us and it will be immediately added to this list. The list will be updated as new responses are received. The list is current as of Oct 9, 2018.

WARD	CANDIDATE NAME	Reply Date	RESPONSE
Charleswood - Tuxedo	Klein, Kevin	Oct 12	<p>I believe in the significance of green spaces, parks and natural areas as being of great benefit in our urban environment.</p> <p>Green spaces improve air quality and liveability in our cities, create an important opportunity for people to interact with nature, and foster healthy, active living and a deeper sense of community.</p> <p>If elected, I look forward to working together to explore and discuss these issues and ideas further.</p>
	Nichols, Kevin	Oct 1	<p>Good Day Thank you for your questions and concerns. I could say my resume and activism in the community speaks for itself, instead, I will outline my stand on the abhorrent developments that claim the greenspace.</p> <p>When the Ridgewood development was first proposed, a group of residents formed what is called Citizens for Charleswood Habitat Preservation (CCHP). We entered into many talks with the City and the major developer (Qualico) in order to preserve as much greenspace as possible. I sat on the committee and was involved and vocal in those negotiations. Paula Havixbeck and the developers agreed to postpone the development until the William Clement Parkway Extension was built. You can see we lost that battle as they reneged on that deal. We did come to an agreement that the area around the ponds would not be considered part of the greenspace which the developer is required to leave. It is my</p>

		<p>understanding the agreement for this has since been reneged on. This was done with yet another Councillor from Tuxedo as our representative.</p> <p>It is my position on this matter to restore and preserve greenspace in addition to that which is already allocated around the ponds. We also must have connectivity, greenways, for animals to continue to co-exist with people. These must also be planned out. I have most recently been involved with a community group dedicated to preserving the Chapman School area and the greenspace attached. The school has no longer become an asset as part of the Pembina Trails School division and was put up for sale. The sale initially went to a church group but was overturned by the Provincial Finance board, this was a blow to the group due to the fact that the property was awarded to a developer, Karma developments. The fear now is that Karma will destroy every part of the greenspace in order to build condos, including cutting down some of the burr oaks that are well over 200 years old. In speaking with the developer at one meeting, he stated they would leave 30% of the land as greenspace.</p> <p>As stated above, I have found that in dealing with large developers, unless it is in writing, there is no deal. It is my intention to ensure that the development in this area will abide by the neighbourhood livability by-law and any other by-laws regarding developments. I will do everything in my power to see that this happens. Part of my platform is to ensure responsible development. I don't hate developments nor am I against any one developer. That said, the City has seemingly let developers run amuck in the City.</p> <p>Most recently one of my opponents spoke to a developer about the garbage strewn across the area. To me, the developer should have been fined. It was also brought up how the developer spent over \$130K to put in grasses and a pond. If the developer used a model of responsible development, they would not have bulldozed every piece of natural tall grass prairie, nor would they have to plant trees or create a retention pond over the natural wetlands. Currently, Karma Developments is building a condo unit on Tuxedo and Doncaster. As I drive by the worksite I notice trees, specifically burr oaks, with mud piled against them. These trees are sensitive to such mistreatment and will die off; this is not an example of responsible development. The Parker Wetlands is another disgraceful use of land for nothing more than political absurdity in my opinion. There is also the land in which Kenaston Commons sits, this was industrial and forest, now it is just industrial. I could go on and on about the atrocities against nature that have been perpetrated by developers but I'm sure you already know.</p> <p>In summary, I will stand in support of more and preserved greenspace and a Master plan ensuring such. We need to ensure we have quality of life and not just quantity. We as a City should set the standard for living with nature, not setting a standard for destroying it. Thank you, Kevin Nichols</p>
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	St. George, Ken	Oct 2	I deem protecting our existing green spaces, parks, golf courses, OLP's, anything to do with our natural beauty and authenticity as imperative. In Charleswood, Tuxedo, Westwood, my constituency, there are a number of concerns regarding the need for added infrastructure related to increased traffic flow related to urban sprawl. I have developed ideas of revenue, located on my site, as well as accountability of our Provincial counterparts to develop a greener Winnipeg, specifically to significantly shift to a Greener Transit, increase ridership and efficiencies. This type of future planning will reduce the need for larger traffic infrastructure projects in the future, hence retaining our green spaces. As a nurse by trade, I also understand the detriment of a lack of greenery, especially regarding both mental and physical health. I will strive to protect the natural beauty of our community as well as the city as a whole.
	Nordman, Grant		<i>No reply to date</i>
Daniel McIntyre	Gilroy, Cindy		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Brandon, Josh		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Sarowar, Miah		<i>No reply to date</i>
Elmwood - East Kildonan	Massey, Robb		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Schreyer, Jason		<i>No reply to date</i>
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry	Koroma, Peter		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Wolbert, Harry		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Rollins, Sherri	Oct 12	<p>Green spaces and natural are an essential part of a healthy community, and we need to make sure that they are sustainably maintained for all people to enjoy. In consultation with the community, I would support Winnipeg creating a Master Plan for Green Space that prioritizes regular upkeep, renewal, and protection of green spaces in our community. I would also advocate for better funding for parks through the budgeting process to make sure that city park maintenance workers have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.</p> <p>Our urban forest is one of the defining features of our city and needs to be properly maintained and protected. An important step toward this is to have a more complete accounting of our trees so that we can take more proactive steps in protecting them. I</p>

			<p>would support an urban forest strategy that puts a real plan together and provides better resources to our forestry workers so that we can keep our urban forest healthy and strong for years to come.</p> <p>Our communities should be healthy and livable, and this means having access to greenspace, public and active transportation, and other important amenities like local grocery stores. As our city grows, we need to make sure that new suburban development includes space for parks and greenspace, and that urban infill development takes into consideration the character and needs of established communities, including access to green space. For example, some vacant lots in the inner city have been converted into green space and community gardens, allowing urban residents to enjoy those spaces in the heart of the city. We can make our city's development model work better for the health and wellbeing of all our residents.</p> <p>As our city grows we need to make sure new development creates complete communities that include greenspace, not just houses and condos. When development near rivers and streams is likely to occur, the city should ensure that planning and zoning decisions consider downstream environmental impact. As a city we are responsible for maintaining our rivers and streams and we should hold them in trust for all our residents, including with the creation of greenspace for all to enjoy</p>
	Thompson, Michael	Sep 26	<p>Thank you for all the hard work you do and for reaching out to me on this important issue. I believe strongly in our environment, supporting the green space and rivers in my ward and across the city. Growing up in Amaranth, MB I have appreciation and respect for nature that the other candidates may not have. This is one of the hundred reasons I am running for city council and that is to make a positive difference for our environment today and future generations.</p> <p>I am an avid golfer and my favorite golf course in the city is Windsor golf course, so you can trust me to protect our active golf courses. I am also the director for Ironman Curling that takes place on our rivers and so I am very active along the river. Plus I live in Osborne Village so I spend a lot of time walking our dog along the river in the winter time and in the community. My vision of Winnipeg is to strengthen our river trails on land to allow people to travel more either walking, hiking or biking. Our community centres are our hearts of our communities and need to be re looked to re purposed for what our communities are doing today and in the future. Perhaps community gardens, fruit trees or dog areas where green space is under utilized and engage our communities. I would push to have a sense of urgency with our urban forests so we don't lose more trees than is predicted at this point</p>

			<p>which is 20,000.</p> <p>Our green space, forests and rivers are the heart of our communities and if elected I will support them fully and those that want to provide good stewardship. Hopefully with your help and others I will be voted in and I can help your cause.</p> <p>I didn't even touch on the financial benefits and cost savings when we plan and take care of the environment.</p> <p>I didn't even touch on the financial benefits and cost savings when we plan and take care of the environment</p>
	Meilleur, Stephanie		No reply to date
	Spina, Bryanna	Oct 10	<p>My platform supports preserving our community green spaces – parks, pathways, community gardens, playgrounds and preserving Winnipeg’s Urban Forest.</p> <p>I would be open to looking into a Greenspace Masterplan.</p>
	Palmer, Jeff	Oct 8	I fully support the development of a Greenspace Master Plan for our City. I hear at the door how important our public green spaces are, how valued our urban forest/tree canopy is, both as destinations and corridors.
Mynarski	Eadie, Ross	Oct 5	<p>I of course support your cause. Besides my campaign commitment below, I support a much larger investment in riverbank restoration, increasing operating funds to maintain our parks and open spaces, and the Urban Forest plan being worked on right now by Forestry due to be presented in late spring 2019.</p> <p>Improving Parks and Recreation Our parks.....deteriorating parks and recreation facilities.”</p> <p>Standing Up for Fair City Financing Our inferior existing infrastructure, shrinking city services, environmental responsibility initiatives and growth all need to be improved and paid for fairly. Fairness exists when people and businesses pay according to their ability. In the face of rising taxes, we cannot continue to provide subsidy to the wealthy, and cut business taxes for those who can afford to pay for essential city services.</p> <p>“I will continue to present fair and transparent ideas for city financing”</p>
	Eadie, Ross	Oct 1	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an answer that comes from the following commitment to Mynarski and Winnipeg:</p> <p>Improving Parks and Recreation Our parks, leisure, recreation, and youth sport makes the North End, West Kildonan and</p>

			<p>Winnipeg a better place to live. This infrastructure is just as important as roads and bridges. There is a dire need to renew and improve our parks and recreation facilities! “Similar to road renewal programs, I will be advocating for park and recreation/sport facilities renewal and improvement programs to deal with our deteriorating parks and recreation facilities.”</p> <p>In terms of the parks plan, you are probably aware of the “master parks and recreation plan” process going right now with a completion date in I believe Spring next year. The dedicated parks and recreation funds will be needed to tackle the deficit in this infrastructure hopefully in this plan. Our local and regional road renewal programs are working toward a long term goal which should be the same for parks. I’m not sure how long the parks and recreation programs will take to achieve what Winnipeggers want and need for a healthy city.</p>
		Sep 10	<p>My campaign flyer supports the position you have described in your request for my position. I have been protecting the removal of park/recreation/athletic land at Old Ex, and I have moved a motion with the support of Council on increasing the amount the budget provides for groups like the Boys and Girls Clubs, North End Hoceky, and other groups providing affordable recreation for our youth. I proposed a 0.25% property tax increase to increase grants by about \$1.75 million. The city has steadily decreased our support to parks and recreation which has to stop because it is these services that make Winnipeg and any city a great place to live. Without going into a lot of detail, the city needs to step up and do what the City of Winnipeg Charter states we do. There are those who think of parks and recreation as soft services and infrastructure with roads and such things as hard services and infrastructure. In other words, hard means the city must do, and soft means it is okay to cut – NOT! Ross Eadie</p>
	Wiens, Michael	Oct 1	<p>You are 100% correct about the pressure on the green space areas in Winnipeg. Current housing developments place very little priority on adequate leisure space or community lands when they propose the development to the planning department. The current city policy is to create housing density, to maximize potential tax revenues. I fully support the protection of our parks and public spaces. I would work to dedicate budget funds to ensure proper maintenance of our city owned properties.</p> <p>I would like to see the Kildonan Golf Course closed and our adjacent park expanded to include the old golf course.</p> <p>I would agree that we over develop our municipal land to accommodate housing developers and or big box retailers.</p> <p>The 4 picnic shelters that currently exist in the park are older than men and the park no longer has running water. in the fountains.</p>

			<p>I would like to see new picnic structures with water stations built in to them and new washrooms in a expanded Kildonan Park.</p> <p>The current golf club house can be leased out to the Cricket association and fields built on the golf course.</p> <p>A off lease area could be fenced so people can let their dogs loose without interfering with the rest of park users.</p> <p>Absolutely NO residential construction would be allowed in this project.</p>
	Littlejohn, Greg		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Capar, David		<i>No reply to date</i>
North Kildonan	Browaty, Jeff	Sep 27	<p>Thanks for the e-mail and the work you to do promote outdoor urban recreation spaces! It has been my pleasure to invest in the enhancement of outdoor recreation spaces for the benefit of our residents.</p> <p>Take care. Sincerely, <i>Jeff Browaty</i></p>
	Podolecki, Andrew		<i>No reply to date</i>
Old Kildonan	Sharma, Devi		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Gross, Brad	Sep 26 Oct 1	<p>Yes I will do my best at your goals also being mine</p> <p>Yes green grass and trees which a devolper is saying he wants to take down for a park is wrong trees are important as is green space and water so yes in short we need more as homes and areas get developed.</p> <p>Brad Gross</p>
	Sidur, Kaur		<i>No reply to date</i>
Point Douglas	Santos, Vivian		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Sjoberg, Kate		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Koshelanyk, Dean		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Palmisani, Filippo	Sep 12 2018	<p>I have lived in the Point Douglas area for the last 16 years and I have also lived in core area for many years, You would think our city bureaucrats would provide or at least maintain our parks to provide an area of recreation and a safe place for our children to play. I can tell you they couldn't care less if we live or die.</p> <p>As a candidate in the civic election, residents in my area of Point Douglas talk about how they hate the direction the city is going. They want the city to invest into their neighbourhoods. They don't want the city give money away to rich developers . They don't</p>

			<p>want our parks to be a haven for drug dealers and criminals.</p> <p>I am not backed by any political party like some candidates and I live in Point Douglas, unlike some candidates. I care about the concerns of my neighbours and I want to make a difference. Hopefully, I can sway you and your group to back me.</p> <p>I appreciate your e-mail and if possible meet with your group to further discuss the issue. You have a really great day.</p> <p>Filippo Palmisani Candidate for Point Douglas ward</p>
River Heights – Fort Garry	Orlikow, John		<p>Investing in our public spaces and protecting our trees is a strong part of my platform. I've made it my priority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Protect our tree canopy by successfully getting more than \$5 million added to forestry budget to fight Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer · Create a \$200,000 tree replacement/removal program and establish a working group to discuss and fund solutions · Renewed all tennis courts and play structures throughout the ward · Improve park amenities by adding lighting, benches, and trees <p>Going forward, I'm committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Completing the Grant Park Recreation Campus, which includes the city's largest accessible playground, with extra tree planting and the new Bill and Helen Norrie Library with an outdoor reading room. · Creating a new monarch butterfly reserve and nature walking trail in the Beaumont area. <p>I know we have more work to do, green spaces are so important for us all. I pledge to continue to seek out and be guided by your input to keep this positive momentum going. On Oct. 24, 2018, I hope that I can once again count on your support to re-elect me as your city councillor.</p>
	Steek, Garth		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Lenko, Gary Dale		<i>No reply to date</i>
St. Boniface	Allard, Matt		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Boille, Marcel		<i>No reply to date</i>
St. James	Gillingham, Scott		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Dobson, Shawn		<i>No reply to date</i>

	Morton, Kurt		<i>No reply to date</i>
St. Norbert – Seine River	Cooke, Nancy	Oct 3	Thank you for your email and your input on the importance of greenspace. I value feedback and suggestions from residents. Regards, Nancy
	Davis, Chris	Sep 26	Thank you for taking the time to reach out to me. I would very much like more information on the campaigns and projects you are currently working on. I believe that this city needs more greens spaces and to protect the spaces we currently have. There are too many infill projects that are currently taking over green spaces in areas where it should remain green space. Green spaces benefit everyone of all ages, as well can give tourists places to visit.
	Chambers, Markus	Oct 3	Thank you for your e-mail and bringing your concerns and ideas to my attention. I very much support protecting our green spaces and have advocated protecting and expanding green spaces where possible. I have been a board member of the Henteleff Park Foundation and have been an advocate at City Hall (most recently at the Riel Committee Meeting) voicing concerns against the proposed rezoning of Normand Avenue to allow for development of 355 condo units. Additionally I have attended meetings with the Save the Seine Committee and heard the potential impacts that development could have to the natural environment of the Seine that we currently enjoy. I am not opposed to development as our city grows, but it must be done responsibly, sustainably and with as minimal impact to green spaces as possible. Your thoughts on the Sumka property are interesting and I would like the opportunity to learn more.
	Churchill, Glenn		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Joyal, Niokolas	Sep 27	As a great part of my platform is geared towards having a city prepared for the future, finding ways to maintain and improve the city's green spaces and parks is very important to me. I would be fully supportive of your proposal of a City Wide Master Plan for Green Space, however I think this plan would be most effective if it is done in conjunction with other master plans, such as master plans for transportation, active transportation, future development, and infill development. This would give the city clear objectives and guidelines to follow in regards to maintaining and improving urban green spaces.

			<p>While it is vital that the city to continue to provide support to our parks and green spaces, I would also like to see a greater focus put into how we can better link these spaces together. Green spaces around The Forks are linked by the river walk and walking/biking paths, and this is something the city be pursuing in other areas of the city. It could, in a way, give a sense of having more green spaces simply by making them more connected and accessible. The benefits of this could be further increased if these connections are done in conjunction with active transportation corridors and paths.</p> <p>It is also important to look at neighbourhood green spaces, and not just our major parks. In newer developments, the city has begun placing a focus on ensure there is green space other than wide open parks and sports fields. For example, Bridgwater Forest has, in addition to parks, a large forest in the centre of it. Sage Creek has a large expanse of natural prairie grass running through it. However it seems to me that the city at times forgets about private green spaces. By this I mean that many of these new developments lack trees and other natural elements on private properties. Having a well treed, green neighbourhood gives many of the benefits you list, even if there are no actual parks or other spaces in the immediate area. If the city want these neighbourhoods to continue to be attractive and healthy far into the future, plans should be in place now to ensure trees, shrubs, etc.. are planted from the start.</p> <p>I realize I wrote a lot, so to quickly summarize: I would support a City Wide Master Plan for Green Space, especially if done as part of a broader plan for the city's future. As part of improving green spaces, I would also support a greater focus on linking current green spaces, and a push to make our newest communities green from the start of their construction.</p> <p>Hopefully this is enough for you to know where I stand on this issue. If you have any other questions or comments, feel free to email me back!</p> <p>Thanks for taking the time to contact me regarding this issue, Nikolas Joyal</p>
St. Vital	Mayes, Brian		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Sharma, Baljeet Kumar		<i>No reply to date</i>
Transcona	Evan, Basil		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Lipischak, Steven		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Panting, Chad		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Welechenko, Wally	Sep 11	I always say that there can never be enough trees. I am aware that the urban advantages of having more greenspace within the city can definitely improve the urban environment by helping to regulate the air as well as helping to remove dust, smoke, and carbon dioxide.

			These areas are both important and beneficial and I would support such areas in our city.
	Nason, Shawn		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Geschiere, Shane	Sep 26	Hello, thank you for the email. Would you like to meet to discuss these issues? Just let me know. Thank you for reaching out.
	Allard, Alex	Sep 27	Although development is important for community growth, just as important is the need for greenspace. Recent housing development plans within Transcona include green space provided by the developer. The City of Winnipeg has earmarked areas for development which doesn't affect already existing green spaces within Transcona. If that situation would present itself within council, I would vote against it.
	Raymond, Ulasz		<i>No reply to date</i>
	Sharma, Sandeep Kumar		<i>No reply to date</i>
Waverley West	Lukes, Janice	Oct 1	Not only to I support the creating of a City Wide Master Plan for Greenspace - we ARE doing just this. on December 13, 2016, through the 2017 Capital Budget, Council approved the development of a 25 year Parks Strategic Master Plan; The Winnipeg Recreation and Parks Strategies will provide a 25-year framework to help guide recreation and parks programs, services, policies, standards and procedures, and future investment in existing and new infrastructure - and maintenance of the assets from what I understand - this master plan will look at ALL greenspace and look at how to protect / preserve. Now - the city provides funding to the Red / Assiniboine / Seine River stewardship groups to care for the waterways.