

OURS-Winnipeg

Golf Course /Winter Parks Update May 17, 2017

Greetings from the OURS-Winnipeg Team!

We have a number of updates for you.

1. Golf Services Business Plan
2. John Blumberg Golf Course
3. Canoe Club Golf Course
4. Other

1. Golf Services Business Plan

The 2017 Business Plan for the City of Winnipeg Golf Courses has not been released and is not expected until sometime in the summer. Therefore it is not yet known to the public if rounds of golf and profits were up or down during the 2016 season or about future plans. At this time we are only able to refresh you with the information from last year.

2016 Business Plan

Leased Properties and Managed Contracts	
Leased Properties	Expiry Date
Tuxedo Golf Course	Feb 28, 2021
Canoe Club Golf Course	Apr 30, 2019
Wildwood Club Golf Course	Dec 31, 2023
St. Boniface Golf Course	Dec 31, 2024
Transcona Golf Course	Dec 31, 2024
Assinboine Golf Course	Dec 31, 2025
Rossmere Golf Course	Oct 9, 2058
Managed Contract	Expiry Dates
Harbour View Golf Course and Recreation Complex (contractor operated amenities; City maintained)	Mar 31, 2016
John Blumberg Golf Course	Nov 30, 2017
Crescent Drive, Kildonan, and Windsor Golf Courses are City operated	
Source: 2016 Business Plan for the City of Winnipeg Golf Courses, Released Jan 2016	

2. John Blumberg Golf Course

Blumberg has been allowed to run down to the point where leagues disbanded and the lease with the City was terminated this spring. A new operator, Brian Campbell, owner of South Interlake Golf and Country Club in Warren, Manitoba was found and the course reopened May 12, 2017.

In 2013, City Council voted to declare Blumberg surplus to the city's needs as a prelude to its eventual sale. Although this golf course is not physically located in Winnipeg it provides a service to Winnipeggers and is part of the Blumberg Sports Complex. The City decision in 2013 to declare John Blumberg Golf Course surplus required a simple majority vote by City Council but the decision to sell it would require a 2/3 vote, an indicator of how serious it is to dispose of public green space.

3. Canoe Club Golf Course/Winter Park

The Lease for the Canoe Club expires April 30, 2019. Councillor Brian Mayes has indicated there will be public discussions and community consultation about the future of the space with the goal to have a plan in place by June 2018. Already the City has received a proposal for the construction of a tennis

facility capable of hosting national competitions with a club that includes eight outdoor courts, including a stadium court that seats around 1,000 people, as well as locker rooms, washrooms and showers. Along with this can be expected parking lots and bright lights. This type of development would be incompatible with the river vista at the gateway to St Vital.

4. Other

While citizens have expressed an increasing desire for greenspace and natural areas, City planning persists in entertaining development proposals on the best greenspaces the city has to offer - golf courses, river corridors and natural areas. There is a glimmer of hope as *some* Councillors have suggested that the golf course/winter parks should be part of the Winnipeg parks system.

The golf courses and the parks are absolutely precious jewels. Any suggestion to sell them or development them for commercial or residential use may raise some tax revenue, but it diminishes our city and makes us a lot smaller as a city.

We can thank our City forefathers and the entrepreneurs of the day who “knew that beautiful parks, ornamental squares and scenic drive ways would increase property values and attract investment to the city”. (Macdonald ,Catherine, *A City at Leisure*, City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation Department, 1995) and so we have parks today.

Please share this email with all who may be interested. Also, please be encouraged to contact your Mayor and City Councillors to support the need for a city wide plan for the protection and enhancement of our urban greenspace.

Let's keep it ours!

We would love to hear from you..

Pam Lucenkiw, Ron Mazur, and Allan Smeall

Co-Chairs OURS-Winnipeg

www.ours-winnipeg.com



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