

**Vote NO to leasing and selling Golf Course Lands
Public good/maximum profitability/real estate deal?**

**Harbourview provision for development
Blumberg to be sold**

Very important to contact all your City Councillors and let your voice be heard

May 17, 2013 - [Alternative Services Delivery Committee](#) approved leasing Crescent Drive, Kildonan, Windsor Park and Harbourview Golf Courses and selling Blumberg. The two committee members present were Russ Wyatt, and Grant Nordman.

May 22, 2013 – Executive Policy Committee to vote on leasing Crescent Drive, Kildonan, Windsor Park and Harbourview Golf Courses and selling Blumberg @ 9:00 am at City Hall

May 29, 2013 – City Council to vote on leasing Crescent Drive, Kildonan, Windsor Park and Harbourview Golf Courses and selling Blumberg @ 9:30 am at City Hall

Public land accessible - Privately operated not!

Any plan to convert public lands to private lands through long-term leases and sale surely demands public consultations. Blumberg is simply the first step in a long term plan to eliminate public green space and replace it with private development. Further, there is no guarantee that off golf season activities including cross country skiing will be allowed on all of the leased courses or that golf fees will remain accessible. Privacy regulations prevent access to financial and operational information for leased golf courses preventing accountability and scrutiny of public lands.

Accountability and Transparency

City Administration has avoided responding to a request from the Manitoba Ombudsman for financials of the individual golf courses. How hard can it be to provide basic financial information? The first request was put forward in July 2012. City Councillors are expected to make decisions with incomplete information.

The City operated Golf Courses have the potential to earn revenue as does any other golf course They are situated in prime, accessible locations. Winnipeg Golf Services was saddled with a long term debt over \$4M in its opening statement and the four City-operated golf courses pay the major share of interest on this debt every year. In addition \$1.7 M was taken from the golf courses and put into general revenue over a five year period.

Keep the Green space

People are increasingly valuing green space. If the golf courses can't be afforded as golf courses then keep them as green space. The golf course lands are mostly well treed areas and mostly along waterways. Once they are gone they are gone forever.

Public lands – Public good/maximum profitability/real estate deal?

City Administration has shifted the perspective toward city-owned golf courses. Municipal golf courses have historically been regarded as recreation facilities that served a public good or social need. The

change to maximizing profitability was implemented with the formation of Winnipeg Golf Services in 2002. Its Operating Charter changed the mandate to “shift the strategic and operational focus to that of maximizing profitability.” In 2011 the view changed to real estate development with the Expression of Interest to sell the golf courses for commercial and residential development.

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[Write letters to the editor](#)

[Attend City Council Meeting on May 29](#)

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