

Candidate Question 2 – *Acquire 1000 Additional Acres of Public Parkland*

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

Describe your commitment and timeframe to acquire 1000 additional acres of public parkland in the City of Winnipeg while greenspace is still available.

BACKGROUND

- OurWinnipeg 2045 includes “a commitment to increasing the public reserve land within the City of Winnipeg by taking steps to add another 1,000 acres of public park space ¹ in addition to the already existing public reserve lands” to ensure that greenspace is preserved and enhanced for future generations.
- Winnipeg is below average in the amount of parkland at 6% of city area compared to the Canadian city average of 9%. ²
- The purchase of an additional 1,000 acres of greenspace over the planning documents’ 25 year duration must be budgeted with a plan to purchase at least 75% of the land within the next five years while it is still available as greenspace and does not require costly restoration.
- The City should buy a large majority of the 1000 acres of greenspace now while natural greenspace is still available at prices that are lower than future prices will be.
- When Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg was formed 60 years ago one of its initial pledges was to add over 1000 acres of parkland. It exceeded this goal by acquiring land in and around urban areas³ Thanks to this foresight we have beautiful parks such as La Barriere, Little Mountain, John Blumberg and its golf course, Maple Grove, Bonnycastle, and King’s Park. Surely we can do as much today starting with a greenspace vision and plan for 2022 and beyond.
- Greenspace contributes to biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, social equity, public health and wellbeing, image as a city.

¹ OurWinnipeg 2045 Development Plan By-law No. 120/2019, page 4, Council Meeting June 24, 2021
<https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=21053&SectionId=609806&InitUrl>

² Park People, The Canadian City Parks Report 2020 <https://ccpr.parkpeople.ca/2020/>

³ Into the Archives, Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg 2020 <https://youtu.be/DIE3P361PPk>