

Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan By-law and Biodiversity Policy (City of Winnipeg Planning Documents)

Candidate Question 2 - Describe your commitment to ensure the Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan By-law and Biodiversity Policy will be completed and approved in a timely manner?

BACKGROUND

- Winnipeggers consistently rate greenspace and natural areas high on surveys and have told their Mayor and Councillors that Greenspace Matters. The upcoming municipal election will be a chance for Winnipeggers to make a choice based on the importance candidates place on greenspace.
- Transformative green amendments to City planning documents (OurWinnipeg 2045 and Complete Communities 2.0) were approved by City Council with a near unanimous vote in June 2021.^{1 2}
- OurWinnipeg 2045 directs City Council to create a Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan By-law and Biodiversity Policy that will be an overarching plan that guides and coordinates all manner of plans, bylaws and regulations relating to the environment including the Parks Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy
- The Plan By-law will enable conservation and enhancement of the inherent and ecological functioning of parks and waterways, natural areas, support the environment, advance climate change adaption and mitigation, and increase the quality of lands that can be accessed for recreation, social interaction, active living and connection of people with nature.
- Budget 2022 provided \$700,000 for funding for creation of the plan over two years³
- The pre planning process has begun
- The StatsCan study Urban Greenness 2001, 2011 and 2019 reported that Winnipeg had 38% coverage compared to the average of 70% coverage in large urban centres. Winnipeg was the lowest.⁴
- Investing in urban ecosystems and green infrastructure can provide lower-cost solutions to multiple challenges when compared to traditional infrastructure solutions.⁵

¹ Green amendments to OurWinnipeg 2045 Development Plan By-law No. 120/2019, (starting on page 3 and ending on page 8), Council Meeting June 24 2021

<https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=21053&SectionId=609806&InitUrl>

² Green amendments to Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0, secondary plan By-law No. 119/2020, (starting on page 6 and ending on page 16), Council Meeting June 24 2021

<https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=21053&SectionId=609812&InitUrl>

³ City of Winnipeg Supplement to the 2022 Adopted Budget, page 155

<https://winnipeg.ca/finance/files/2022AdoptedSupplement.pdf>

⁴ Urban Greenness 2001, 2011 and 2019, Statistics Canada, August 2021 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/16-002-x/2021001/article/00002-eng.htm>

⁵ Prairie Climate Centre, Building a Climate Resilient City, Urban Ecosystems p.1 <https://prairieclimatecentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/pcc-brief-climate-resilient-city-urban-ecosystems.pdf>