

Candidate Question 3 – Biodiversity Policy

Describe your commitment to implement a Biodiversity Policy for Winnipeg?

BACKGROUND

- City of Winnipeg Master Greenspace Plan by-law requires the inclusion of a Biodiversity Policy¹
- The Biodiversity Policy as described in the city planning documents² will detail an ecological network that is interdependent, reciprocal, healthy, connected and integrated with the built environment and life on land; one rooted in traditional knowledge of land, community and ecology. It is to include a commitment to report annually to City Council with the structure in line with the Durban Commitments Local Governments for Biodiversity.³
- Seven of Canada’s 10 largest cities have Biodiversity plans
- The word Biodiversity is derived from the words “life” and “diversity”. Biodiversity includes all living things - humans, animals, insects and the tiniest microbes in the soil and water – Their interconnectedness makes possible the mutual existence of all living things.⁴
- Loss of biodiversity is a threat to
 - Our food supply
 - Our urban canopy
 - Our ability to adapt to climate change
 - Life on earthBiodiversity is most at risk in urban areas.⁵
- Urban areas host a surprising amount of biodiversity that contributes to urban ecosystems. Functioning urban ecosystems help clean the air and water, cool urban heat islands, and support our well-being by shielding us from hazards and providing opportunities for rest and play.⁶

¹ Biodiversity amendment to Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0, secondary plan By-law No. 119/2020, pages 6 and 7, Council Meeting June 24 2021

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

² City of Winnipeg Supplement to the 2022 Adopted Budget, page 155

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

³ Durban Commitment <https://cbc.iclei.org/durban-commitment/>

⁴ City of Winnipeg Supplement to the 2022 Adopted Budget, page 155

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

⁵ National Urban Parks <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-130-million-to-work-with-partners-to-create-a-network-of-national-urban-parks.html>

⁶ UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, Urban Areas <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/types-ecosystem-restoration/urban-areas>