

## 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Question

### *4. Healthy River Corridors*

***What steps would you take to restore and enhance our rivers corridors including both water and riparian zones?***

#### **Perspective:**

In Winnipeg our river corridors, under infill pressure, are getting the biggest developments with little to no new public access or public green space. Focus on the rivers has been more often than not economic development over ecological considerations. Too tall condos and parking lots continue to be built in the river corridors with the south Seine River seeing more than its fair share. The influx of invasive weeds along the rivers is harmful for people and wildlife. Work needs to be done to keep our rivers natural and healthy so they can do their job and remain treasures.

A study by The Nature Conservancy estimates that four out of five cities could improve water quality using nature-based solutions to improve water quality and quantity.

Edmonton considers its rivers and river banks as natural heritage to be conserved with its park system extending into the surrounding communities.

Wildlife and their habitats can be found in cities particularly along river corridors. Cities have a responsibility for stewardship of that habitat and wildlife. The greatest threat to urban wildlife is habitat loss caused by human activity such as urban and industrial development, pollution, urban fragmentation and climate change. The World Wildlife Federation Report 2017 showed shocking losses of wildlife populations in Canada and has called on communities to be part of the solution.

#### **References:**

Nature-based solutions used to improve water quality and quantity can also help us reduce our carbon footprint, maintain critical ecosystems and build healthier, more resilient communities in the face of climate change. <https://global.nature.org/content/beyond-the-source>

Living next to water could make you live longer. Crouse, the lead researcher, saw a 12 to 17 per cent reduced risk of dying for people living within 250 metres of a body of water compared to the rest of a city's population.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/living-water-reduced-risk-dying-unb-study-1.4763647>

Living near rivers in urban areas has important benefits to our health

<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP3397>

A study of Canada's 30 largest cities, including Winnipeg, shows living near water is good for our health. This demonstrates how important it is to look after rivers and their riparian areas. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/living-water-reduced-risk-dying-unb-study-1.4763647>

Sad Tale of the Seine River Greenway [https://www.ours-winnipeg.com/uploads/1/0/0/9/10092894/on\\_the\\_sad\\_tale\\_of\\_the\\_seine\\_river\\_greenway\\_june\\_2014.pdf](https://www.ours-winnipeg.com/uploads/1/0/0/9/10092894/on_the_sad_tale_of_the_seine_river_greenway_june_2014.pdf)

Calgary's Biodiversity

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Planning-and-Operations/Biodiversity.aspx>

Edmonton River Park provides one of the longest stretches of urban green space in North America at 7,400 hectares (18,285 acres). <https://www.travelalberta.com/ca/listings/north-saskatchewan-river-valley-2005/>

'It's pretty embarrassing:' Winnipeg aims to put less poop in river, Global News <https://globalnews.ca/news/4437388/its-pretty-embarrassing-winnipeg-aims-to-put-less-poop-in-river/>

Randy Turner, Rivers Winnipeg Free Press Three part series

Light on ecological and sustainable content

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/the-rivers/> <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/the-rivers/The-Rivers---Part-1-Sacred-Ground-Troubled-Water-332713141.html>

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/the-rivers/The-Rivers---Part-2-A-new-beginning-334272191.html>

Go to the Waterfront, Forks Development Corporation

[https://www.theforks.com/uploads/public/files/partnership/go\\_to\\_the\\_waterfront\\_2014.pdf](https://www.theforks.com/uploads/public/files/partnership/go_to_the_waterfront_2014.pdf)

The capital region growth strategy of the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital proposes concrete steps to establish a coordinated regional planning strategy. One of the five key objectives is Pillar No. 2: "Stewardship of land, water and resources — The health of natural resources, lakes and waterways is seen as critical to the region's future prosperity. The plan establishes goals for a coordinated approach to environmental and resource management with built-in accountability and strong commitment to a long-term vision, the future of Manitoba's capital region could be a picture of dynamic, compact communities surrounded by healthy waterways and forests, and productive agricultural land anchored by a prosperous and vibrant capital city.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/examining-five-pillars-of-a-big-picture-plan-414311823.html>