

Candidate Question 5 – *Nature and River Corridors*

What steps would you take to acquire, restore, and enhance nature and river corridors including the water and riparian zones?

BACKGROUND

- The Winnipeg planning documents call for a Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan By-law“ that includes “A corridor plan to protect and enhance Winnipeg forests, greenspaces, natural environment and natural area corridors including Winnipeg’s connecting riverbank corridors”.¹
- Natural corridors connect green spaces and make that greenspace infinitely more valuable, productive and biodiverse. Riparian areas and waterways are inherently connecting corridors.
- “all riverbank areas proposed for development shall be strongly considered for protection as ESNL (Ecologically Sensitive Natural Land) irrespective of their natural heritage grade. Riverbank areas are extremely important for aesthetics, erosion control, water quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, corridors, greenways and maintaining ecosystem health.”²
- The draft plan for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region establishes a path toward building a sustainable, climate-resilient region positioned to meet the challenges of the future and includes the following
 - Sustainable cities prioritize environmental conservation; and invest in protecting, restoring, and maintaining green spaces, urban forestry, and local ecosystems
 - Limit the fragmentation of habitat and support wildlife corridors through the protection, conservation, and enhancement of connectivity between natural areas³

¹ 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>

² Ecologically Sensitive Land Strategy ESNL p. 17

<https://winnipeg.ca/publicworks/parksOpenSpace/NaturalistServices/PDF/ESNL.pdf>

³ Draft Plan 20-50 Regional Growth and Servicing Plan, Winnipeg Metropolitan Region June 2021 p. 93