

Candidate Question 6 – *Tree Protection By-law*

Explain what you see as the benefits of implementing a tree protection by-law for both public and private trees.

BACKGROUND

- The urban tree canopy is one of Winnipeg’s defining features. It is under threat from disease, development and climate change. It must be protected and enhanced.
- Trees provide essential climate adaption and public health benefits - shade on hot days carbon storage, storm water retention, reduced localized flooding, habitat, clean air, mental and social health benefits
- Some areas of the city with little to no tree canopy and abundant impermeable road and building surfaces tend to be hotter and are most likely to experience the Urban Heat Island Effect, a situation that can be lethal, especially in vulnerable populations.
- The draft Urban Forestry Strategy *Urban Heat Island Effect Map* shows areas of the City that are coolest and warmest on summer days.¹ The coolest areas tend to be areas with high tree canopy cover.
- To obtain the benefits of the urban forest both public and private trees must be included. Not having a tree bylaw that extends to both public and private trees to help manage and maintain the tree canopy is a critical barrier to preserving the urban forest in the face of climate challenges²
- The majority of Winnipeg’s trees are located on private land. Of Winnipeg’s three million plus trees, 300,000 of those are inventoried as City-owned street and park trees, and the remainder grow in natural areas and on private land.
- Large, long-lived tree species provide many times the benefits of small tree species over a much longer timeframe when planted in the right place.³

¹ Draft Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy, May 2022 <https://engage.winnipeg.ca/urbanforest> p.36

² Draft Winnipeg Urban Forest Strategy, May 2022 <https://engage.winnipeg.ca/urbanforest> p.32

³ Winnipeg State of the Urban Forest page 2 https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/3b2c717f7bea689303a701e75ac0484066e117972/original/1620669219/171ad24dc65cbd649d0a2f5e05fd777c_FINAL_State_of_the_Urban_Forest_at_a_Glance_Report_20210507.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIBJCUK4Z04WUUA%2F20220626%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20220626T225242Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=216df11eabf834ce66a551e4313a1cea307d82ab87e92c13545f358d508832c1