

Candidate Question 7 – **Golf Courses are nature preserves and greenspace**

Explain how you see the municipal golf courses fitting into the city's masterplan for greenspace and natural corridors and biodiversity?

BACKGROUND

- The Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan by-law includes “consideration of municipal golf courses as major nature preserves and greenspace”.¹
- It does not make sense to sell or develop golf lands when the city is in the process of acquiring 1000 additional acres of greenspace
- Municipal Golf courses are large greenspaces that provide ecosystem services of stormwater retention, cool surrounding areas on hot summer days, provide wildlife habitat including for endangered species.
- Golf Courses have positive effects on biodiversity (i.e, pollination, and seed dispersal) by providing the functional connectivity or bridge between different green spaces and wildlife refuge.² With proper management courses can minimize impacts and make positive contributions to ecology and biodiversity.
- Golf Course lands can be used year round and provide access to nature for a growing population.
- Golf courses are greenspaces that are economical as they generate revenue for the city.

¹ Green amendments to Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0, secondary plan By-law No. 119/2020, (page 6 and 11), Council Meeting June 24 2021

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

² Biodiversity Audit of Vancouver Golf Courses https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2020-54_Biodiversity%20Audit%20of%20Vancouver%20Park_Oyunkhishig.pdf