North Committee Room
Council Building, Winnipeg
October 3, 2005

A meeting of the Civic Environmental Committee was held this day at 4:27 p.m.

Members Present:	Councillor Gord Steeves, Chairperson Bob Foster Michelle Kading Ken Klassen Rodney McDonald Ken MacKinnon Tony Zienkiewicz
Administration:	Alec Stuart, Environmental Coordinator, Chief Administrative Officer Secretariat Kristine Koster, Policy Assistant, Civic Environmental Committee Krista Kunz, Clerk, City Clerk's Department

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Rodney McDonald moved that the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2005 be taken as read and confirmed, which motion was carried.

DELEGATIONS

91. A J Matsune, Image Coordinator, Spence Neighbourhood Association, was heard with respect to the Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan a Five Year Strategy. File E-7

(See Minute No. 94 for Disposition)

GENERAL BUSINESS

92. From Councillor Gord Steeves, Chairperson, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/19

City Hall Reports
File E-7 (Vol. 1)

- Submitting for Committee's consideration, the following Standing Committee agenda item:

  Executive Policy Committee - September 21, 2005 – Item 3 - Insect Control Strategy
  (documentation attached)

- Submitting for Committee's information, an extract of the September 21, 2005 Executive Policy Committee Disposition of Items, with respect to the proposed development – Assiniboine Park Zoo south end parking lot.

Extract of the Executive Policy Committee Disposition of Items – September 21, 2005			
Minute	**Subject/File**	**Recommendations**	**Action Required**
555	Proposed Development - Assiniboine Park Zoo south end parking lot Motion 2005 09 21 PR-7.1.1	The Executive Policy Committee directed the following: 1. That the Administration prepare a feasibility study which explores converting for development purposes the land comprising the Assiniboine Park Zoo south end parking lot while restricting the proceeds of that development for the exclusive use of the Assiniboine Park Enterprise, and report back to the Executive Policy Committee with options and recommendations within 60 days. 2. That the feasibility study examine all issues related to the proposed conversion for development purposes including, without limitation, zoning matters, financing matters, and process matters.	Chief Administrative Officer

Moved by Bob Foster,

WHEREAS on September 21, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee directed that the Administration prepare a feasibility study, which study should examine all issues related to the proposed conversion for development purposes including, without limitation, zoning matters, financing matters, and process matters;

AND WHEREAS the Civic Environmental Committee is of the view that the scope of the feasibility study is not broad enough;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the administration be requested to broaden the scope of the feasibility study to include a comprehensive triple bottom line identifying environment; social and sustainability considerations on not just a small isolated piece of Assiniboine Park land but Assiniboine Park as a whole;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study be subject to a sustainability appraisal by a third party;

and forwarded to Executive Policy Committee.

Carried

93. From Councillor Gord Steeves, Chairperson, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/19

Action on Reports
File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Submitting for Committee's information, an extract of the September 21, 2005 Executive Policy Committee Disposition of Items, with respect to the CEC's recommendation of September 12, 2005, that the Administration be requested to consider adding the Civic Environmental Committee as a fifth organization to be invited to nominate one representative to the (proposed) Blue Ribbon Panel on Mosquito Control.

Extract of the Executive Policy Committee Disposition of Items – September 21, 2005

Minute	Subject/File	Recommendations	Action Required
552	Blue Ribbon Panel on Mosquito Control – Civic Environmental Committee Minute 75, CEC, 2005 09 12 E-7	The Executive Policy Committee referred the recommendation of the Civic Environmental Committee (that the Committee be added as a fifth organization and be invited to nominate one representative to the proposed Blue Ribbon Panel on Mosquito Control) to the Administration for report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.	Director of Community Services

Moved by Ken MacKinnon,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

94. From A J Matsune, Image Coordinator, Spence Neighbourhood Association
Communication 2005/09/21

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan a Five Year Strategy
File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Providing Committee with information on the Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan a Five Year Strategy which was submitted to City Centre Community Committee for presentation on September 6th, 2005 by the Spence Neighbourhood Association. (Strategy document attached)

Moved by Ken MacKinnon,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

95. From Alec Stuart, Environmental Coordinator, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/27

Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy

File E-7

Providing for Committee's consideration, the opportunity to form a partnership with the City of Winnipeg to support the Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy.

Moved by Michelle Kading,

That Cheryl Heming or a representative of the Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy Working Group be invited to appear in delegation at the next meeting of the Civic Environmental Committee and that a copy of the Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy be obtained as soon as it becomes available.

Carried

96. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/28

Rapid Transit Task Force Final Report

File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Submitting for discussion, the Rapid Transit Task Force Final Report released on Friday September 30, 2005.

Moved by Ken Klassen,

That Committee members provide their comments regarding the Rapid Transit Task Force Final Report to Councillor Steeves for conveyance at the upcoming meeting of Council.

Carried

97. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/28

Acquisition of Abandoned Rail Right-of-Ways
File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Providing Committee with information on a reported negotiation between the City of Winnipeg and Canadian Pacific Railroad to purchase the CPR Marconi spur line for a "possible linear parkway and future transit corridor".

Moved by Ken Klassen,
That Councillor Steeves include in his comments to Council when discussing the Rapid Transit Task Force Final Report, that bus rapid transit lanes be added along Kenaston Boulevard.

Carried

98. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/28

Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change
File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Providing Committee with information on the Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change in Montreal, December 5 - 7, 2005. Advising that the Committee recommend Mayor Katz attend.

Moved by Ken Klassen,
WHEREAS Mayors and senior municipal officials from around the world will gather in Montreal from December 5 to 7, 2005 for the Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change to be held in conjunction with the United Nations first meeting of parties, including Canada, who have signed the Kyoto Protocol which entered into force earlier this year;

AND WHEREAS these Mayors and municipal leaders will share the latest knowledge and best practices in building sustainable cities and communities through greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation strategies;

AND WHEREAS the City has made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission through Plan Winnipeg Policy 2B-01;

AND WHEREAS concern about the cost and availability of non-renewable fossil fuel imported from outside Manitoba has made it strategically important that the City facilitate development of a community-wide plan to reduce Winnipeg's greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible;

AND WHEREAS development of this climate change action plan will only succeed if it has the support, understanding and commitment from the Mayor of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of Winnipeg and the City's Environmental Coordinator participate in the Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change to learn about the positive business case for Winnipeg taking action on climate change and how it can enhance our community's triple bottom line;

and forwarded to Executive Policy Committee.

Carried

99. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Communication 2005/09/28

Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program

File E-7 (Vol. 1)

Requesting further discussion on the Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program and the suggestion that the program's criteria be altered to give an enhanced incentive to people who improve the energy efficiency of their home and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Moved by Ken Klassen,

That the Environmental Coordinator enquire as to the status of a recommendation made by the Civic Environmental Committee in 2002 for revisions to the eligibility criteria and promotion of the Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program.

Carried

100. From Bob Foster, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Report 2005/09/29

Progress Report - Land Use Sub-Committee

File E-7

Providing for Committee's information, a progress report of the Land Use Sub-Committee comprised of Michelle Kading, Terri Willard, Tony Zienkiewicz, Bob Foster and Councillor Steeves.

Moved by Michelle Kading,

That the verbal progress report be received as information.

Carried

101. From Ken MacKinnon, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee Report 2005/09/29

Progress Report - Green Buildings Sub-Committee

File E-7

Providing for Committee's information, a progress report of the Green Buildings Sub-Committee comprised of Ken Klassen, Rodney McDonald and Ken MacKinnon.

Moved by Ken MacKinnon,
That the verbal progress report be received as information.

Carried

102. From Councillor Gord Steeves, Chairperson, Civic Environmental Committee Report 2005/09/29

Chairperson's Monthly Report

File E-7

Submitting for Committee's information, the Chairperson's monthly report.

Moved by Ken MacKinnon,
That the verbal report be received as information.

Carried

103. From Alec Stuart, Environmental Coordinator, Civic Environmental Committee Report 2005/09/29

Environmental Coordinator's Monthly Report

File E-7

Submitting for Committee's information, the Environmental Coordinator's monthly report.

Moved by Tony Zienkiewicz,
That the verbal report be received as information.

Carried

Moved by Michelle Kading,

WHEREAS at a prior meeting of the Civic Environmental Committee, discussion took place regarding the matter of "green" buildings in Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the administration be requested to identify a trial or demonstration of two green roof projects at high profile city locations; one in an existing building (potentially City Hall) and a second in a planned future construction;

and forwarded to Executive Policy Committee.

Carried

104. From Kristine Koster, Policy Assistant, Civic Environmental Committee
Report 2005/09/29

Policy Assistant's Monthly Report
File E-7

Submitting for Committee's information, the Policy Assistant's monthly report.

Moved by Tony Zienkiewicz,

That the verbal report be received as information.

Carried

Ken Klassen moved that Rule 9.3 of the Procedure By-law be suspended in order to consider the following item, which motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

105. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Motion 2005/10/03

Reduction in the Consumption of Non-Renewable Fossil Fuels and their Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Civic Operations
File E-7

Requesting Committee's comments on the City's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Minutes - Civic Environmental Committee – October 3, 2005

Moved by Ken Klassen,

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba have both endorsed the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty that entered into force earlier this year that requires industrialized countries to cut emissions of gases that cause climate change;

AND WHEREAS the City has made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission through Plan Winnipeg Policy 2B-01;

AND WHEREAS the City has joined the Partners for Climate Protection Program that recommends that municipal governments set a goal and develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from civic operations by at least 20 percent below 1990 levels and community-wide emissions by at least six percent below 1990 levels with 10 years of joining the program;

AND WHEREAS the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Winnipeg is the consumption of non-renewable fossil fuel imported from outside Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the dramatic increase in cost of these non-renewable fossil fuels is having a serious negative economic impact on Winnipeg and there are growing concerns about the long-term availability of these fuels;

AND WHEREAS the target in Embracing Sustainability: An Environmental Priority and Implementation Plan for the City of Winnipeg that a "Climate Change Action Plan be developed by the end of 2004" has not been met and that development of a plan for emissions due to civic operation is only just beginning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the administration be directed to

1) expedite the development of a target and implementation plan to cost-effectively reduce the consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels and their greenhouse gas emissions from civic operations; and

2) concurrently facilitate development of a city-wide target and implementation plan to reduce the consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels and their greenhouse gas emissions;

and forwarded to Executive Policy Committee.

Carried

106. From Ken Klassen, Committee Member, Civic Environmental Committee
Motion 2005/10/03

Results from Probe Research Survey
Conducted in September 2005
File E-7

Submitting for committee's information, a copy of the results of the conducted by Probe Research Inc. which included two questions submitted by the Civic Environmental Committee regarding expenditure of gas tax revenues and priorities for transportation development.

Moved by Ken Klassen,

That the Chairperson provide to the Mayor's Office, the results from the survey conducted by Probe Research in September 2005, noting:

a) that 1 in 3 Winnipeggers support gas tax revenues for purposes other than repairing roads;

b) the near equal split of support for the expansion of roads and support for the expansion rapid transit – 48 vs 44.

Carried

On motion of Tony Zienkiewicz, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED AND CONFIRMED

R. Kachur, City Clerk

G. Steeves, Chairperson

Attachment to Minute No. 92

Extract of Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2005

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Insect Control Strategy
File PA

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2005, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended to Council:

1. That the July 27, 2005 Council Motion pertaining to questions on the Insect Control Strategy, be filed, inasmuch as the administration has provided the information requested.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2005, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended:

1. That the July 27, 2005 Council Motion pertaining to questions on the Insect Control Strategy, be filed, inasmuch as the administration has provided the information requested and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council. Further, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested that the administration provide the information pertaining to the questions on the Insect Control Strategy to all Members of Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 27, 2005, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services:

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Pagtakhan,

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2005, Council adopted Item 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services dated March 11, 2005, Insect Control Strategy;

AND WHEREAS, on July 14, 2005, the provincial Health Minister signed a public health order under the Environment Act to begin spraying for adult mosquitoes with malathion in the City of Winnipeg because of the high numbers of adult Culex tarsalis mosquitoes and evidence of infection with West Nile virus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request City Administration to provide the answers to the following questions:

- Who gave the directive not to release the mosquito trap counts?
- Who decided not to take immediate action to fog when trap counts exceeded an average of 25 mosquitoes on three consecutive nights and why?
- Why were the trap counts for West Kildonan not released when the counts rose on June 13 from 43 to the highest count of 512 on June 27?
- Who decided not to take action in West Kildonan and why?

Attachment to Minute No. 94

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
a Five Year Strategy



Submitted to City Centre Community Committee
For presentation on September 6th, 2005
By the Spence Neighbourhood Association

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Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Support for Green Space

Greater investment in urban parks and green spaces is certainly worthwhile; not only does it add value to regeneration, renewal and housing development, it also contributes to saving costs in other policy areas (e.g. healthcare, education and environmental management), and contributes to better overall use of public resources. (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of England, 2002)

Urban green space is incredibly important to the life and vitality of cities. Beyond sustaining property values and adding to the revitalization of the community there are many areas where accessible inner city green space assists in achieving the goals that the City of Winnipeg and its citizens work to achieve. Spence Neighbourhood Association has identified 5 areas of particular importance to residents and visitors to our neighbourhood that would be addressed through a long-term commitment to green space in our community. Those areas are health, safety, learning, environmental responsibility, and the development of social capital.

Health

Green space makes communities more liveable. We see the evidence of this as new communities being proposed are sold on the idea of being walkable communities, with wide boulevards, trees and park space. Trees and urban green space enhance a community's economic stability by increasing property values and attracting businesses.

The vitality of a neighbourhood is closely linked to the physical and mental health of the residents. The Population Health Promotion approach focuses on creating conditions that make healthy choices easy choices. It is an approach that addresses health inequalities and looks at root causes rather than symptoms in striving to improve the health status of an entire population. This approach recognizes the importance of the physical environments impact on health (Manitoba Health, 2003). Green space has been proven to play a significant role in improving health.

The Attention Restoration Theory (ART) proposes that natural setting meets all four of the characteristics of recovery from attentional fatigue which increases a person's irritability, proneness to mistakes and lowers a person's ability to concentrate and solve problems. By creating escape for urban dwellers, urban green space engages the mind through the observation of ecosystems, provides paths, life and foliage to explore, provides fascination and the diversity provides high opportunity for personal compatibility to the environment, all of which contribute to the revitalization of an individual's health. (T.R. Herzog et al., 1997) Further more, Kuo (2001) found a link between green space in the inner-city and the opportunity for residents to increase their self-sufficiency. Individuals who had some nearby vegetation were significantly more effective in managing their major life issues than their counterparts living in barren environments.

Physical health is also directly affected by the presence of green space. Asthma incidents increase in urban communities where trees are eliminated in favour of new roads, homes or commercial

developments. Trees remove or trap lung-damaging dust, ash, pollen and smoke from the air and filter thereby reducing the conditions that cause asthma. (Georgia Forestry Commission)

People are more inclined to get outdoors and exercise when their surroundings are greener. Logically, greater physical activity leads to fewer cases of obesity, which in turn may help reduce other health problems such as heart disease and diabetes. (Georgia Forestry Commission)

Learning

Green, growing environments contribute significantly to the ability to concentrate and to learn. Taylor, Kuo and Sullivan (2002) found that girls living in an inner-city low income housing project, in homes with a view of trees and maintained green space scored higher on concentration tests than girls living in areas of the same complex where green space had been paved over. The Spence Neighbourhood has one of the highest population densities in the city, which can make green space hard to access. These findings prove a green view plays a significant role in decreasing juvenile delinquency. The girls living with a green view scored higher on concentration, inhibiting initial impulses and delaying gratification all of which are important forms of self-discipline, which is seen to curb juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancy while also increasing academic achievement.

When parents of ADD children were asked what activities had helpful impacts on their child's attention deficit symptoms, Taylor, Kuo and Sullinvan (2001) found that 85% (17 out of 20) activities which take place in green outdoor settings were listed as the best activities while 57% (69 out of 122) activities which take place in non-green settings were listed as the worst activities. One parent further observed that when she took her son to a local park for 30 minutes before school he had a better attitude towards going to school and his schoolwork improved. The parent hypothesised that this was because the time at the park was pleasurable, peaceful, quiet and calming.

Experimental study results, testing children's activities in natural environments also showed considerable improvements in motor fitness.(Office of Deputy Prime Minister of England, 2002) The diversity of the natural landscape met the needs of the children for varied and stimulating play.

Evergreen Canada's Learning grounds program recognises that greened schoolyards create meaningful play and learning grounds which are safe, gender neutral and less hostile for students than traditional hard tops. Teachers also note reduced classroom management problems increased enthusiasm for teaching and learning as well as new curriculum connections when natural environments are present. In our west central neighbourhood where schools have limited resources, students face many barriers to continuing education and truancy is high, the community plans to use green space to play a crucial role in fostering healthy children and youth. In the long term, the gardens will be used as an educational tool by local schools who have limited outdoor space and the various after school programs.

Safety

Visibility decreases crime and more "eyes on a street" make a safer community. Kuo and Sullivan (2001) suggest that green space in inner-city neighbourhoods encourage more outdoor activity and there by increase "eyes on the street". The Spence Neighbourhood Association has

experienced that greened outdoor spaces will not only bring people outside but also facilitate community connecting. The opportunity for neighbours to meet each other at near-by play spaces with benches or at community gardens is made possible by the presence of these spaces. Through these opportunities relationships are created which build a safer community.

It has been commonly understood that dense vegetation contributes to crime or at least the fear of crime. Criminals have admitted that dense vegetation can provide cover. At the same time studies have suggested people feel fearful in densely vegetated areas but safe in open mowed areas. The key then becomes understanding the difference between dense vegetation and open vegetation. Dense vegetation, which can be seen as unsafe, includes large shrubs, thick underbrush and dense woods all of which decrease visibility and can contribute to crime. On the other hand well maintained grassy areas, widely spaced high canopy trees, flowers, vegetables or low growing shrubs have proven to decrease crime.

A greener environment contributes to a reduction in crime. Analysis by Kuo and Sullivan (2001) reveals that trees and grass around a building decreased the number of crimes reported to police in a low-income housing project in Chicago. The greener a building's surroundings were the fewer the total crimes. Certainly, the Spence community saw a shift in resident and visitor attitude as vacant lots that were dangerous eyesores were turned into gardens and green space, changing a liability into a community asset.

Environmental Responsibility

The urban city centres are like heat islands. Buildings, asphalt, and concrete absorb solar radiation and then remit it as heat, causing the air temperature of the city to rise 5 to 9 degrees warmer than surrounding areas. Plants have been shown to reduce the urban heat island effect, directly by shading heat-absorbing surfaces, and indirectly through evapotranspirational (ET) cooling.

Green spaces play an active role in countering various forms of urban pollution. Trees can combat air pollution, which is concentrated in cities,, a single tree can absorb as many as 1000 dust particles per litre of air. Trees or shrubs can also absorb excess city noise pollution. As well an urban tree has been found to absorb 5 to 10 times more carbon than rural trees. (Canadian Forestry Association, 2001)

The Spence Community Gardens are currently acting as community composting locations. In 2004 several compost workshops involved community members and in 2005 the compost bins are being actively used. Residents fill the bins with the appropriate materials and volunteer to turn the material. Older compost has been added to the community gardens to enrich the soil and grow food. As indicated in a recent article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* recycling organic waste decreases the amount of garbage at the landfill thereby decreasing costs to the City. By composting in our own neighbourhood the Spence community is further cutting costs and creating a resource, which is maintained through the existence of community green space.

Urban areas, like our community, are dense with impermeable hard surfaces. Soil and vegetation act like sponges to absorb rainwater and reduce the volume and rate of run off. Urban green

spaces play a vital role in absorbing excess water, particularly in flash floods, thereby reducing the demand on failing resources of the infrastructure.

Social Capital and Community Development

Many aspects of urban green space create increased opportunity for the development of social capital; "connections, networks, reciprocity and trust (Putnam, 2000)," between community members. However, community gardens and small parks are critical because in Spence they create the kind of social capital that bridges naturally formed groups, "that is most essential for healthy public life in an increasingly diverse society like ours": "the kind of social capital that is hardest to build."(Better Together, 2005)

In our very diverse neighbourhood where meetings and other forms of verbal or written communication in English are a staple of community decision making we see a very different group of committed community members breaking ground in community gardens. Under represented groups are finding their role in the community by sharing information, resources, skills, and creating relationships through their involvement in the hands on decision making within community gardens. Some of these people will eventually bridge the gap from the garden to the meeting room. Others will draw more outsiders into the community through gardens and green space. Still others will build a safer, healthier more beautiful community through their work in the gardens and other green spaces. Wherever our gardeners chose to be it is evident that gardens and green spaces are creating community leaders, building a unique kind of social capital and pulling quiet voices into the community decision making process.

Introduction to the context of the Spence Neighbourhood

The Daniel McIntyre Ward, which Spence is part of, has the lowest percentage of Open Space and is the only electoral ward in the city with no surplus open space. Major commuter roads, such as Ellice and Sargent Avenues, which lead to the central business district, further limit access to green space by acting as barriers to existing parks and playgrounds.

Assuming the standard planning measurement of 3.86 acres of park space per 1000 people, the Spence community has been measured as having a park space deficit of 12.3988 acres. There is no way to achieve a standard park space area within the community. The only possible compensation to the lack of park is to create small pocket parks or gardens which can be accessed by children and adults.



Community Planning Processes

Five years ago the Spence Neighbourhood Association created a housing plan. In that plan residents recognized that green space was an integral part of a healthy, desirable, community. At that time they set the goal of creating a community green space plan in 2004 and 2005. The following green space plan is what has been created. It has been spurred on by recent developments that have made it necessary to identify vacant lots which are critical gardens and green spaces in the community, but also includes the improvement of small park spaces and the potential of a greened walkway along a traffic route. Central to the decision making in this community planning was the fact that the Spence community more than any other residential community in Winnipeg is dissected by commuter traffic routes. Accessibility to green spaces without having to cross major thoroughfares was set out as an important goal.



Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Support for Green Space

Green space in any community allows neighbours to connect. This is a vital part of combating the negative effects of isolation and the fear of crime. In order for our community to be viable for families and enjoyable for everyone, green space has to be a priority. As growth continues through the city it is important that SNA remain committed to the goal of maximising green space.

The following outlines the annual goals of the next five years; identifying key lots for development and protection into green space. It is important to notice that some goals are expected to take more than one year and are therefore stated in more that none year.

Year one is identified as the calendar year of 2005. The SNA Board of Directors has approved the outline below in concept. A more detailed year by year work plan will be developed through community consultation on a annual basis.

The Green Spaces

The Spence community is seen by this plan as the boundaries of the SNA. These are from Balmoral to Agnes Street and from Portage Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue. Within this area there are many types of green space. For the purpose of this plan the green spaces, both existing and planned are placed into four categories, as listed below.

1) Community garden lots consist of city owned vacant lots that have, over the last seven years been converted into community gardens and small grassed areas.

2) Tot lots/parks to improve are small spaces that are currently zoned as city park. All 5 locations require considerable upgrades or improvements. In one case, although the zoning is in place, the lots are currently used as a gravel parking lot.

3) The Cumberland Corridor exists as a series of small green spaces that were created when Notre Dame Avenue was split into two one way streets. There is potential to transform this awkward set of green triangles into a biking and walkway that could serve commuters as well as the Spence community.

4) The final category is a list of 3 spaces that the community did not see immediate need to improve. However, there are small improvements and maintenance needed in these spaces on an ongoing basis.

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Site List

The following list includes currently recognized green spaces or parks as well as a list of addresses, which have been selected through community consultation as green space to be protected.

1. Community Garden lots
   - 483/485 Young
   - 607/611 Langside
   - 435/437 Furby
   - 637/639 Maryland
   - 350/354 Agnes
   - 547 Furby
   - 559 Langside

2. Tot lots/ Parks to improve
   - Furby Park/Tot Lot
   - Maryland/Wellington Tot Lot
   - Spence/Cumberland Tot Lot
   - Jacob Penner Park
   - Sherbrook lots

3. Park Corridor (Cumberland)

4. Existing spaces to be maintained as is
   - John M King School yard
   - MERC park
   - Vietnamese Park

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Timelines

Year 1 – 2005

Winter

- Start discussion with interested community partners on an Aboriginal cultural park and find a suitable location.

- Assist planning and resource development for new play structure at Jacob Penner Park

Spring

- Work with the city to have 435/437 Furby included as part of the MERC park space

- Work with housing committee and SNA board to develop a sustainable plan for ongoing maintenance of designated lots with a CED focus. See appendix for maintenance plan

Summer

- Consult neighbours on the properties either side and across the street of lots not already zoned for park to obtain written support.

- Secure agreement from the City of Winnipeg through WHHI that community gardens will not be sold or built on until such time as a community garden policy exists.

Fall

- Initiate discussion with the city regarding lease agreements for city owned lots to be designated as green space.

- Initiate Furby Park/Tot lot development through consults with individual residents to collect ideas and a community meeting to discuss strategy for development into multi-use area.

- Develop further staff resources

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Timelines

Year 2 - 2006

Winter

- Work with the City of Winnipeg developing a community garden policy.
- Develop resources for ongoing maintenance of gardens/ green spaces
- Continued work on the revitalization of Jacob Penner Park

Spring

- Provide a clear standard for maintenance of green spaces that uses CED principles
- Continually build volunteer gardening teams
- Work on developing Furby Park/Tot Lot

Summer

- Continued movement towards an Aboriginal Cultural garden; secure location, devise plan for ownership and begin development
- Finalize agreement with City for all City owned lots designated as green space/gardens. Community Priorities: 637/639 Maryland, 607-611 Langside, 483/485 Young 350/354 Agnes.
- Develop a lighting plan for lots designated as green space

Fall

- Build partnerships to use green spaces to educate youth. Initiate communication with educational institutes, including U of W, RRC, U of M and public schools. Focus on increasing learning and training in green space, ecology, agriculture and sustainability and other related fields.
- Hold a community meeting to plan future, evaluate process so far

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Timelines

Year 3 - 2007

Winter

- Pursue further funding opportunities for Greening and Image projects
- Further development of maintenance resources
- Continued evaluation and implementation of maintenance plan

Spring

- Begin Community planning process for development of Sherbrook Park and community greenhouse, hold community meetings
- Development of the Aboriginal Cultural garden

Summer

- Continued work on lighting plan for green lots designated as park space and improve lighting and signage in existing park spaces
- Finalization of Furby Park and re-opening celebration

Fall

- Continued work of Jacob Penner Redevelopment phases 2 and 3
- Development of green spaces in to education settings, work with established partners
- Hold a community meeting to plan future, evaluate process so far

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Timelines

Year 4 - 2008

Winter

- Secure lease or partnership agreement with city for 559 Langside and 547 Furby
- Continued development of maintenance resources
- Continued development of resources for greening projects

Spring

- Designate site for community green house
- Continued work on revitalization of Jacob Penner Park

Summer

- Create plan for Sherbrook park development and seek out resources
- Continued work on lighting plan including implementation
- Evaluation of maintenance needed, fences paths etc.

Fall

- Identify 4-5 more lots, possibly boarded houses to set aside for future Green Space
- Implementation of green spaces as education sites
- Hold a community meeting to plan future, evaluate process so far

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Timelines

Year 5 - 2009

Winter

- Develop plan for additional lots designated in year four
- Investigate options for installing water onsite at gardens
- Develop further resources for Sherbrook Park development

Spring

- Look at promoting gardens for additional uses including learning grounds for elementary schools and community recreation programs.
- Develop a plan to provide on site water to gardens

Summer

- Construct Sherbrook park as community plan indicates
- Secure water sources for all protected community Gardens

Fall

- Completion of Jacob Penner Park re-development
- Community Meeting to plan future, evaluate process so far

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Maintenance Plan

Lot Care Tender Program

- A shared project of the Housing and Image Committee
- At the end of the winter the tender will be advertised using the Skills bank, the SNA newsletter and other community tools
- The tender will request proposals that encourage community economic development
- The tender will request proposals to use organic methods whenever possible.
- Through this program we expect vacant lots to be cut and maintained 2 times per month

Urban Green Team/ First Job for Youth

- Local youth will be hired to develop professional work place skills
- The team will do initial prep and clean up of community gardens
- The team will take on several community beautification projects throughout the summer
- The program supports community economic development
- The program contributes to the safety of our neighbourhood by involving the youth in it's upkeep.

Volunteer Gardeners

- A database of all local gardeners will be maintained
- A community of gardeners sharing resources will continually cultivates new gardeners to carry on the work as others move on
- Gardener appreciation events will be held annually
- Newsletters and workshops will be used to pass on skills and facilitate information sharing between gardeners
- Resources will be collected and shared through the gardening community
- Information sharing between other communities will be encouraged

Cost - Maintanance of small lots - approx $5000 /year plus volunteer labour and green team labour and assistance from City Parks Department.

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
Budgets and Funding Sources

Budgets

Creating and maintaining community green space can be costly and complicated. Budgets would be developed using the results of community consultation. The chart below outlines the money raised so far for green space development.

Site	Date	Cost
Furby Park Improvements	1999 –2001	$30, 000
Small Parks and Gardens	1999 – 2005	$36, 000
Jacob Penner Park Play Structure	2005	$97, 600
		$ 163,600

Over the last 6 years approximately $36,000 has been invested into creating small green spaces in the community – both gardens and small parks The cost of setting up a small green space is in the range of $5000.00-$10,000.00 depending on the size. This includes, levelling, grass, fences, paths and benches. This investment has already gone into the small garden/green space lots listed in the green plan.

Funding Sources

Municipal: City of Winnipeg -community incentive grants program

Provincial: Neighbourhoods Alive! – neighbourhood renewal program, Community Places, Sustainable Development Innovation Fund

Federal: Eco-Action – Environment Canada

Private/ Corporate: Winnipeg Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Evergreen, Manitoba Hydro – Forest enhancement program

In Kind: Local greenhouses, garden centres and gardeners contribute to in kind donations of plants

Spence Neighbourhood Green Plan
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