WRA Response to Budget 2019

Why Winnipeg's Urban Forest should be Maintained and Expanded



Darach McDonnell
Wolseley Residents Association

Outline

- Issue: Announced 36% Cut to Urban Forest Spending
- Winnipeg's Urban Forest
  - Benefits to Residents
  - Benefits to the Environment
  - Immediate Costs & Long-term Benefits to the City
- Comparison: Treed vs. Barren Streetscapes
- Cost/Benefit Analysis of Planning Priorities
- Summary & Conclusion

Treed vs. Barren Streetscapes



Assessed Average House Value on Poplar Street: $208,026



Assessed Average House Value on Union Street: $170,554

Winnipeg Tree Deficit

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (estimated)
Trees Removed									
DED	5636	5129	4930	6508	5257	4849	6123	6575	6575
NonDED	1609	1704	2028	2012	2661	2165	3296	2093	2093
Total	7245	6833	6958	8520	7918	7014	9419	8668	8668
Trees Planted	1495	1353	1446	2292	2245	2009	2757	2448	2448
Annual Deficit	5750	5480	5512	6228	5673	5005	6662	6220	6220
Cumulative Deficit	5750	10485	15997	22225	27898	32903	38755	44975	51175

Source: https://winnipeg.ca/interhom/budget/default.stm

Notional Benefits: Union Ave

- 6’ Sapling: $315 + $225 Maintenance = $540
  - Value of Property Tax Increase = $229
- Silver Maple
  - 50’ to 80’ at maturity
  - 26’ tall in the first 10 years
- Assumption: $219 annual increase in property tax over 10 years = $1205
- 22.3% annual return of $540 investment
- Associated Quality of Life & Infrastructure Benefits.

City Infrastructure Benefits

- Each tree soaks up 3,785 litres of rain annually
- Significantly reduced flow through ageing sewer systems
  - Reduced long-term maintenance
  - Reduced requirement for emergency repair

Summary & Conclusion

- Urban Forestry budget is a miniscule part of the City's annual expenditures
- Increased attrition due to Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer
- Real, measurable property tax returns result from investment in our urban forest
- Environmental benefits accrue to everyone who lives in Winnipeg
- 21st Century investment follows wise decisions made early in the 20th Century

Questions?

Darach McDonnell
Wolseley Residents Ass'n



200 meters apart



Assessed average House Value on Poplar Ave

$208,026

Assessed Average House Value on Union Ave

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Cumulative Winnipeg Tree Deficit
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Cumulative Deficit	**5750**	**11230**	**16742**	**22970**	**28643**	**33648**	**40310**	**46530**	**52750**

Source: https://winnipeg.ca/interhom/budget/default.stm

Parks and Urban Forestry

Includes:

- *Park Grass Maintenance*
- *Park Amenity Maintenance*
- *Athletic Field Maintenance*
- *Park Pathway Maintenance*
- *Park Planning / Development*
- *Tree Planting*
- *Tree Pruning & Removal (non-DED)*
- *Dutch Elm Disease Control (DED)*
- *Weed Control*
- *Natural Areas Management*
- *Playground Management*
- *Winter Amenity Maintenance*
- *Boulevard Maintenance*

Description

To develop, operate, maintain and preserve all parks and open spaces to promote vibrant, healthy communities while fostering environmental stewardship.

This service includes park, boulevard, and open space maintenance; litter collection; athletic field maintenance; pathway maintenance; park planning and development (shared with Planning, Property and Development); tree planting, pruning, removal; Dutch Elm Disease control (inspection, removal, disposal, public education); Emerald Ash Borer Management; weed control (inspection, serving of weed notices); natural areas management (replanting of native species, controlled burns, native and invasive species monitoring, education); playground equipment inspection and repair; and winter amenity maintenance (knock-down hockey rinks, pleasure skating rinks/ponds, toboggan slides/hills, park pathway snow clearing, cross-country ski trails and speed skating oval maintenance).

Key Goals

1. Maintain and improve parks, athletic fields, playgrounds and related amenities to meet community leisure needs and interests.
2. Provide natural environment and conservation education.
3. Preserve and enhance natural areas across the City's park and open space system.
4. Protect and enhance the urban forest through effective tree care practices and replacement planting.
5. Invest strategically in new and existing infrastructure.

Service Level Statistics

Description	2015	2016	2017
Total hectares of parks and open spaces [A]	3,555	3,587	3,610
Hectares of park, boulevard and athletic field turf mowing [A]	2,279	2,338	2,325
Park pathways/walkways maintained (linear km) [A]	254	266	280
Number of environmental program participants	5,064	4,522	5,427
Number of ecologically significant natural areas	462	467	476
Number of athletic fields in Parks and Open Spaces [A]	646	661	665
Number of boulevard and park trees [B]	305,257	304,278	304,530
Number of trees planted [B]	2,009	2,757	2,448
Number of DED trees and non-DED trees removed [B]	4,849/2,165	6,123/3,296	6,575/2,093
Number of trees pruned [B]	17,715	13,723	11,154
Number of playground equipment sites inspected and maintained [A]	505	505	499
Number of 311 Service Requests [C]	14,276	14,964	14,650

[A] Source: 2016 and 2017 Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management (audited data). Inventory excludes Assiniboine Park.

[B] Source: 2016 and 2017 Urban Forestry Tree Inventory.

[C] Source: 311 2017 Annual Reports. Does not include Insect Control.