

TO: Mayor Gillingham and members of Executive Policy Committee

RE: May 16, 2023 EPC Meeting, agenda item #19 – Strategic Priorities Action Plan

We would like to express our enthusiastic support for two items listed in the proposed Strategic Priorities Action Plan:

25. Plant new and replacement trees in streets and parks using a 2:1 ratio
26. Prune street and park trees on a 7-year cycle

These actions were critical pieces of the Trees Please Pledge, which most of you committed to during the last civic election. By committing to adequately fund re-forestation and pruning, you are helping to ensure our urban forest will grow and thrive. Investing in our urban forest is some of most effective spending out there:

- Of all infrastructure projects, only trees increase in value and capacity over time. Studies have found an ROI of close to $6 for every $1 spent.
- Similarly, investing $1.00 in natural infrastructure will save $6.00 in future climate change costs.
- Shade trees can add from 40-60% more life to asphalt road surfaces.
- The presence of boulevard and street trees increases property values.

Sources can all be found on our website: https://treespleasewinnipeg.com/benefits-of-urban-trees/

In sum, we are delighted that actions have been identified as budget priorities.

On a related note, we were dismayed to find that the Community Energy Investment Roadmap was not mentioned or reflected anywhere in the SPAP. Council ***commissioned and unanimously approved*** the CEIR, yet there is no real plan to act on its recommendations. In the words of Brent Toderian, the truth of a city's aspirations is not found in its visions and its policies, it's found in the budget. We need our budget priorities to better align with the plans and policies that council, the public service and Winnipeggers have worked so hard to create.

Sincerely,

Emma Durand-Wood on behalf of **Trees Please Winnipeg Coalition**

TREES PLEASE WINNIPEG COALITION MEMBER GROUPS INCLUDE:

Resident and Neighborhood Groups:

- Armstrong's Point Association Tree Committee
- Balmoral Spence Residents Association
- Fort Richmond Residents
- Friends of Kildonan Park
- Friends of Peanut Park (Crescentwood)
- Glenelm Neighbourhood Association
- Glenwood Neighbourhood Association
- Kingston Crescent Residents
- North Valour Road Residents
- Norwood Flats Resident Association
- River Park South Community Association
- South St Boniface Residents Association
- South Valour Road Residents
- Southdale and Area Group
- St John's Residents' Association
- West End Residents Group
- West End-St. James' Residents
- West Kildonan
- Wolseley Residents Association

Supporting and Affiliated Organizations:

- Bishop Grandin Greenway
- Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corp.
- Coalition to Save The Lemay Forest
- Friends of Fisher Park
- Friends of the Harte Trail
- Manitoba Eco-Network
- Manitoba Urban Forest Council
- OURS Winnipeg
- Save Our Seine
- Sustainable South Osborne Community Co-op
- Transcona Trails
- Trees Winnipeg
- Wildwood Heritage and Conservation Committee