

Submission – Wendy Buelow

Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest (Item 1 - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Notice of Motion)

Submitted: Tue, 03/25/2025 - 21:14

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

No. 1 Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing

Comments

Dear Mayor and Council, I support the motion to rezone and expropriate the Lemay Forest land. It has a rich ecological value, and an immense cultural and historic value, not just for St. Norbert but for all Manitobans. It should not be in private hands.

Of huge importance is the information of over 3000 babies and children buried in this land. The little ones are of various ancestry, Metis, Indigenous, European, as well as some of their mothers who would be buried here also. The whole forest should remain intact out of respect for the graves, and because of The Cemeteries Act in Manitoba.

The Lemay Forest has been used by First Nations and Metis people for ceremony for years. The sweat lodges within were active until the chain saws started up. Currently there is a sacred fire beside an entrance to the land, Firekeepers have kept vigil since late December, through the bitter cold months, never leaving the fire unattended. This forest should be protected to honour our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

The City of Winnipeg has formally signed on to international goals for preserving biodiversity. We are required to protect 30 per cent of the lands and waters by 2030. As well, the City is supposed to be adding more greenspace and park areas, 1000 acres. This proposed Lemay park area fits beautifully into the plan.

Plant life and wildlife within the forest must be protected too. For example, the Pileated Woodpeckers nest in the trees, and they are federally protected animals. On March 8, International Women's Day, we walked around the land on the publicly approved dike area. A Great Grey Owl sat on a nearby branch in the forest, and watched us as we all went by, a special moment. Their nesting season has begun, and we should honour and protect them too. Please see the attached photo.

The City of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba must designate the Lemay Forest as a heritage site to begin the process of making it a protected public park. Thank you.

Submission for a committee of council

[2025_03-08 Owl Lemay.jpg](#)

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.

Yes

