

To Council,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of Winnipeg and more locally, St. Norbert. I am in support of the expropriation and rezoning of Lemay Forest.

One factor in my support of expropriation and rezoning of Lemay Forest is the importance of this particular piece of land to the community as well as the significance of it when considering the history of the area and priorities in reconciliation. St. Norbert is a historically Metis area. This land was part of the property of an orphanage and there are burial grounds onsite. Development of the land may result in unmarked graves getting disturbed as it is difficult to map them out. I have been listening to the people of the land speak of its importance to them as individuals and culturally. Their stories bring the importance of expropriation to the forefront of my mind in order to promote healing from the past and to build a stronger future. We have just begun to build bridges with people and this is another way in which to do so.

Currently the land is prone to flooding, which is why the dyke was built. The land also serves as a habitat for endangered or at-risk species. With Winnipeg's commitments to plant trees, in order to preserve urban forests and green spaces, why not allow mature trees to stand instead? They are irreplaceable. Not only are there financial benefits by preserving trees, rather than planting there numerous other benefits to having more trees. These benefits include.... improved air and water quality, enhanced local biodiversity, reduced heating and cooling costs (which I benefit from with trees in my backyard), increased property values, recreation areas and improved health and quality of life. Health problems such as allergies and asthma are impacted by the air pollution we live with. Enabling mature trees to continue to clean our air will help to combat that.

I believe that expropriating and rezoning Lemay Forest will have both economic, Health and Spiritual benefits to the more local community of St. Norbert as well as the city of Winnipeg as a whole. I ask that you vote to expropriate and re-zone Lemay Forest. We need to preserve our history and nature in order to prepare for the future.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kuyp