

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Protect Lemay Forest.

Dear Members of the Winnipeg City Council,

We are writing to you today concerning the impending expropriation hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 27, regarding the property known as Lemay Forest. The current owner/investor of this property intends to develop the Lemay forest, which would result in the destruction of a vital ecosystem connected to both the Red and La Salle rivers.

The Lemay forest holds significant importance on multiple fronts. Not only does it support a diverse ecosystem, but it also plays a crucial role in protecting the community from overland flooding. Moreover, the area holds deep cultural and historical significance, particularly for the Métis people, serving as a symbol of heritage and connection to the land.

We understand that all three levels of government are actively engaged in efforts to preserve this invaluable natural asset. Recognizing its intrinsic value, efforts have been made to safeguard the Lemay forest for future generations. However, the proposed development at Lemay Forest poses a serious threat to these preservation efforts.

We also understand that the owners have received several generous offers to buy the land for preservation.

Allowing the destruction of the Lemay forest would not only be detrimental to the environment and biodiversity of the area but also a costly mistake for all stakeholders involved. The long-term implications of such actions extend beyond the immediate interests of the current owner/investor to encompass the well-being of the city, the surrounding community, and the broader ecosystem.

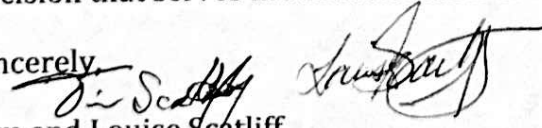
Furthermore, it's essential to consider the impact on traffic routes and safety within the neighborhood. With schools located on both ends of Lemay Ave., the street is already operating near capacity. Introducing a major development without adequate consideration for traffic management and safety could pose significant risks to the well-being of children and residents in the area. We must not allow the proverbial "cart to get in front of the horse."

Lastly, in consideration of the number of community graves throughout the property, one must only consider that each spring, throughout the decades, community graves would be required to bury those unfortunate humans who died at the shelter and possibly who died at the Misericordia Hospital during the winter months when the grounds were too frozen to dig.

Therefore, I urge the City of Winnipeg to carefully consider expropriation and to prioritize the preservation of the Lemay forest. By protecting this invaluable natural asset, we can ensure the continued health and resilience of our community and ecosystem for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make the decision that serves the best interests of both present and future generations.

Sincerely,


Tim and Louise Scatliff