Submission – Emily Payne

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

Submitted: Mon, 03/24/2025 - 14:55

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Item No. 1 Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing

Protect Lemay Forest as a green space and historically important space in our city.
Honour its importance, cherish the trees.

Our city needs to immediately and genuinely take the need for protected outdoor space seriously.

We are suffocating ourselves with sprawl, and noise, and trapping our kids into smaller and smaller places of confinement and then turning around and asking our medical experts why we are so depressed, and why our kids as so restless and disenchanted.

The Lemay Forest is a beautiful healthy river-bottom ecosystem and a great asset for Winnipeg's natural spaces. We can not support our cities growth by simply pouring more concrete, erecting more buildings and pumping more inhabitants into postal codes. We also need to support the land on which we have the privilege to settle and build. The precious wild spaces that give our city moments of calm, and relax. Free and wild spaces that promote movement, creativity, research, and stillness.

What good is it to have a urban studies program at our university's if we blatantly ignore the advice for green spaces in municipal zoning and planning?

The developers' plans for the property were rejected by the city. Despite this, the developer is choosing to cut the trees down, and we need that to stop. This is a serious offence, and should be charged as so. It would be appropriate for fines in step with vandalism, noise and air pollution, and river bank destabilization to be applied, at the very minimum. Without explicit permission, or explanations each treee felled should be met with a $10 000 fine, regardless of age or height. The removal of trees from the forest is a direct assault to the surrounding ecosystem, and communities.

The Lemay Forest has been used by First Nations and Metis people for ceremony for years. The forest should be preserved and ceremony must be allowed to continue.
The Lemay Forest is the location of the abandoned Asile Cemetery of unmarked graves. Anecdotal

stories suggest unmarked graves also exist outside the formal boundaries of the Asile Cemetery. The whole forest should remain intact out of respect for the graves, and because of The Cemeteries Act in Manitoba.

Several levels of government have submitted a generous offer to purchase the property in order to make it into a public park, which is great news. There is some hope still for our elected officials to use their core muscles to stand up for the needs and futures of Winnipegers.

Respectfully, and desperate for the preservation of our forested spaces

Yours truly,

Emily

Public engagement (optional)
I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes