Submitted: Tue, 04/29/2025 - 09:01

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Agenda Item 2, Lemay Forest.

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your efforts to protect this vital urban greenspace. Through advocacy, dialogue, and exploring all available channels—including expropriation—you have shown leadership and a commitment to preserving Winnipeg's natural heritage.

We were overjoyed and deeply grateful when the Provincial Government announced it would be expropriating the Lemay Forest land to create a public park. This is a tremendous win for Winnipeg, Manitoba, and future generations.

We would like to give special thanks to Councillors Wyatt, Orlikow, Schreyer, and Gilroy for standing up in support of the expropriation motion. Your commitment to protecting biodiversity, invaluable urban forests, our shared heritage and history, Indigenous spiritual and ceremonial land, and the future of our city did not go unnoticed. Your leadership in this moment mattered deeply.

But while this chapter has a hopeful ending, it must also be a turning point.

We need to ensure that we never face another Lemay Forest—where residents are forced to take up the frontline to defend a cherished ecosystem under threat. Residents should not be left to hold the line alone while developers target natural lands for destruction. You must do everything in your power to prevent this from happening again. We need stronger tools, policies, and enforcement mechanisms that support thoughtful, responsible urban development—development that considers not just housing, but also sustainability, quality of life, and environmental resilience.

I urge City Council to:

Pass a strong Tree Protection By-law that prevents developers from removing vegetation before plans are approved. The current loophole is unacceptable and results in irreversible damage.

Protect existing city-owned greenspaces, especially riverfront lands, by keeping them off the surplus lands list. These lands are already in public hands—there is no justification for putting them up for sale. In this time of climate urgency, we must treat natural assets as essential infrastructure.

The outcome at Lemay Forest shows what's possible when leaders step up and work together. Let's use this momentum to make lasting changes that prioritize nature, community, and long-term vision over short-term profit.

Public engagement (optional)

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

Personal information

First name
Stacy

Last name
Gosman