

Submitted: Thu, 11/27/2025 - 18:58

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

11 - city Winnipeg tree bylaw.

Support or oppose recommendations

I am opposed to the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

Our city needs trees, and trees need our protection. Current City bylaws related to trees are non-existent, or not effective. And the City's Charter, granted by the Province, does not even allow jurisdiction over private property trees except when adjacent to streets. These deficiencies must be urgently addressed. Already the Standing Committee on Community was supposed to report 90 days from Nov 20, 2023 about a bylaw to protect trees on private property. Here we are two years later, without meaningful progress and potentially many more trees removed, some unnecessarily, and no requirement to replace them. The City's own Comprehensive Urban Forest Strategy has specific recommendations regarding protection, preservation and enhancement of the urban canopy. This can only come about with the City's commitment to bylaw development and implementation.

Even as we recognize how important trees are to shelter us from the harms of extreme heat and to reduce airborne toxins, it is also clear how threatened our urban forest is. Climate change impacts that our trees so generously protect us from are at the same time damaging both young and established trees. With the majority of our City's trees on private property, it is not enough to limit protection to those on public lands. All construction must take trees into consideration and be required to replace any losses.

Trees are as essential as other City infrastructure such as streetlights and roads, and there needs to be the same importance given to them. They are the single best measure to prevent, mitigate and adapt to climate change, all in one beautiful living package.

This tree bylaw cannot and should not wait another year and must be acted on immediately. Every urban forest could be decimated by then. Please act responsibly.

Thank you

Public engagement (optional)

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

Yes

Personal information

First name

Paul

Last name

Thorimbert

City (optional)

Winnipeg

Province or territory (optional)

Manitoba