

Dear Mayor Gillingham and Councillors,
As a concerned citizen of Winnipeg, I request that you approve item 11, the City of Winnipeg Tree By-Law.

The city must do everything in its power to protect the as many trees as possible within the city limits including trees that are on private lands adjacent to streets.

The vast majority of Winnipeg's tree canopy is on private property. The trees in our yards and businesses create an urban forest of over three million trees. Winnipeg risks losing almost 50% of our public trees in the next four decades to pests and disease. Development means even more stress and lost trees.

In 2023, Winnipeg City Council adopted a new Urban Forestry Strategy that promises our canopy will cover a quarter of our city by 2065. (Our canopy coverage was 17% in 2018). To help achieve this goal, Winnipeg's first public/private tree protection bylaw is now in development at City Hall.

A well-treed neighbourhood provides shade and can be four degrees cooler than a neighbourhood without trees.

Trees absorb rainwater, reducing the stress on our sewers and pipes.
A large, healthy tree can store approximately 65 times more carbon and remove 15 times more air pollution than a small tree.

I applaud Mayor Scott Gillingham and all the City Councillors for signing the Trees Please Pledge in 2022, that have made way for excellent progress.

The replanting rate of 100% is extremely encouraging as is the improvements to the pruning rates.

But the trees on private property in the City of Winnipeg deserve to not be left behind. We must protect the whole tree canopy.

I respectfully request that you Mayor Gillingham and all of the Councillors do just that by passing approve item 11, the City of Winnipeg Tree By-Law.

It is imperative that the city urges the province to act quickly to approve the necessary city charter change to ensure the execution of a comprehensive private tree bylaw.

Kind regards,
Shawn Kettner