Submitted: Mon, 12/01/2025 - 10:59

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Standing Policy Committee on Community Services

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Item 11 City of Winnipeg Tree Bylaw

Support or oppose recommendations
I am opposed to the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
I write in opposition to the current City of Winnipeg delays and deferrals regarding protection of trees on private property. Our city needs trees, and trees need our protection. Most of the magnificent trees - and the young ones that will replace their elders - are on private property. Current City bylaws related to trees are non-existent, or not effective. The City's Charter, granted by the Province, does not even allow jurisdiction over private property trees except when adjacent to streets. And yet the City is not even using that small opportunity to protect at least some trees. These deficiencies must be urgently addressed. Already the Standing Committee on Community was supposed to report in 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. Mental and physical health of our citizens are measurably improved in the presence of trees, and active transportation routes are enhanced and used more often when accompanied by trees. Everyone deserves the many benefits of trees. All forms of construction and development must take trees into consideration and be required to replace any losses.

Trees are as essential as any other City infrastructure such as streetlights and roads, and there needs to be the same importance given to them. We must stop seeing trees as expendable at best, and an inconvenience or a threat in so many circumstances. They are our single best measure to prevent, mitigate and adapt to climate change, all in one beautiful living package, regardless of where they are located. Please do more, and now, to protect them.

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
No

Personal information

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