Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 3, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 5 2026 Report on Parks and Open Space Assets

STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and approved the following:

1. That this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Durand-Wood,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

On April 10, 2024 the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service, as amended:

1. That this report be received as information.

2. That future reports be submitted no later than the end of first quarter of the calendar year for the preceding year.

3. That Appendix A be amended in future reports to include the previous 5 years comparable on each item on the bar graph.

On November 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks requested that the Winnipeg Public Service be required to report annually with the following breakdown for each Ward:

1. A list with the name of park, size and location;
2. A list of the parks amenities;
3. The most up to date conditional assessment of the park;
4. A Class 5 estimate of capital funding requirements in terms of the park deficiencies,

and that this annual report no later than the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: 2026 Report on Parks and Open Space Assets

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Winnipeg's Parks and Open Space inventory currently includes:

- 3,270 hectares of parklands.
- 172 hectares of green fields (lands under development that will become parks in the future).
- 535 hectares of boulevards.

These lands provide valuable greenspace and contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors. Parks and opens spaces promote physical and mental health and strengthen Winnipeg's communities. They preserve natural areas and make neighbourhoods more attractive places to live, work, and play.

The City has over 370,000 park, boulevard, and tree assets combined. Of those:

- Over half (60.9 percent) are in good or very good condition.
- 23.1 percent are in fair condition.
- 11.6 percent are in very poor to poor condition.
- 4.4 percent have yet to be rated.

This report identifies assets in poor and very poor condition or nearing the end of their useful life as deficiencies. The total replacement value of these assets is estimated at $108.5 million. Of this:

- $41.9 million apply to Regional Parks.
- $66.6 million apply to all other parks and any Parks and Open Space assets located on boulevards.

To keep the focus on evaluating park services, these deficiencies do not include:

- core infrastructure (such as roads);
- underground structures; and
- stormwater retention basins.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On November 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks requested that the Winnipeg Public Service be required to report annually with the following breakdown for each ward:

1. A list with the name of the park, size and location.
2. A list of the park's amenities.
3. The most up to date conditional assessment of the park.
4. A Class 5 estimate of capital funding requirements in terms of the park deficiencies, and that this annual report be submitted no later than the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

On June 12, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks requested that the Winnipeg Public Service provide a detailed breakdown on park assets for the Little Mountain, La Barriere, North Perimeter, John Blumberg (not the golf course), and La Salle River Greenway Parks, as part of the Annual Comprehensive Park Asset Report.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no direct financial implications with the Recommendations of this report.

Over the past five years, annual capital investment in our Parks and Open Space system has ranged between $9.2 to $17.1 million, consisting of $1.7 million to $6.8 million for parks and $5.8 million to $10.4 million for Urban Forestry programs. Over the same period, an additional $5.1 to $7.9 million in capital has been invested annually in Assiniboine Park. This funding has assisted with overall park amenity maintenance, providing support for a number of projects including playground renewals, tree replacements, athletic field renovations, and park building renewal projects.

The asset registries for parks, boulevards, and trees currently report $108.5 million (Class 5) in deficiencies (assets identified in poor or very poor condition), excluding roads, underground structures, and stormwater infrastructure. Assets in poor or very poor condition may deliver services with reduced quality.

The traditional approach to asset management would suggest these deficiencies be flagged for replacement and prioritized based on their age and condition. The Winnipeg Parks Strategy outlines an approach for asset management and investment prioritization using spatial analysis to measure services and identify gaps. It first recognizes the provision of services and the demand for those services, and then considers the assets required and any deficiencies in those assets. Using this approach, only the deficiencies required for maintaining service delivery are prioritized for replacement. Therefore, some age-deteriorated assets may be identified for removal in areas where demand is low and the applicable service provision targets have been exceeded. In some cases, a removal may be replaced with a different asset that can fill a service gap in the parks system.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Winnipeg's Parks and Open Space system has been designed to contribute to the enjoyment and quality of life for the City's citizens and visitors. It is an essential component of the urban fabric that encourages and promotes healthy lifestyles, cleaner environments, civic pride and urban beautification. Parks improve physical and mental health, strengthen communities and make the City a more attractive place to live, work and play.

Currently, there are nearly 4000 hectares of Parks and Open Space lands consisting of 3,270 hectares of parklands, an additional 172 hectares of green fields (future parks and new parks still under development), and 535 hectares of boulevards. These lands are maintained, operated, developed, and preserved by the Parks and Open Space Division (POS) and its partners. Over the past few decades, Winnipeg's Parks and Open Space system has been greatly influenced by a number of factors including:

a) Population growth and changing neighbourhoods, demographic and dynamics;
b) Evolving needs and expectations of Winnipeggers with respect to infrastructure, amenities and services;
c) Limited and declining resources available to address often competing needs and desires of a developing city;
d) The addition of 255 hectares of parkland inventory since 2012 (an average of 19.6 hectares per year), including an additional 3 hectares in 2025;
e) Aging infrastructure.

To better address public need and prioritize operating and capital investments in our Parks and Open Space system, POS has developed and continues to refine its asset registries in accordance with the City's Asset Management Policy (FI-011) and Asset Management Administrative Standard (FM-004). Asset data from these registries was used to create this report. Asset data is current as of January 1, 2026.

See Appendix D for a detailed breakdown of the asset registries by ward including deficiencies and Class 5 estimates of replacement values. A general overview of the data, including limitations and year over year variances, is discussed below:

a) **List of Parks and Open Spaces**
Any year over year changes in the overall size and number of Parks and Open Space within a ward is attributed to mapping refinements or the purchase/sale of park properties.

b) **List of Parks and Open Space Amenities**
A count of park amenities by asset class has been provided in tabular format excluding roads, underground structures, and wastewater infrastructure. Data is based on information recorded in the asset registry and may have been collected at any time within the past three to five years. For this reason, any changes to asset counts and condition since last capture will not be reflected. Some of the amenities listed are the responsibility of the Community Services Department, including: wading pools, outdoor pools, spray pads, and permanent hockey pens.

c) **Park Condition and Deficiencies**

Condition is based on a five-point scale ranging from very poor to very good. Percent of assets captured in each of the five condition ratings have been identified by Parks and Open Spaces. Assiniboine Park amenities (except POS maintenance buildings), roads, underground structures, and stormwater infrastructure have been excluded from this analysis.

Similar to data collection processes in other municipalities, assets have been captured and condition-rated primarily by summer students. Exceptions include playground equipment and buildings – rated by Certified Playground Inspectors and VFA representatives respectively. To help limit subjectivity, a detailed training manual has been developed to assist summer students with asset condition ratings, and data integrity audits are ongoing.

A Class 5 estimate of park deficiencies by ward has been calculated based on the replacement value of assets recorded with a condition rating of poor or very poor. These deficiencies do not consider assets moving from fair to poor condition over time due to age, general wear and tear, obsolescence, vandalism or disease (in the case of trees). Reported deficiencies reflect condition ratings at time of last assessment, which may be up to five years for some asset classes as summer students cycle through the inventory and focus on a selection of asset classes each year. Replacement costs are based on available market data and may range from 2020 to 2025 values.

Roads and Community Services amenities have been excluded from condition ratings and deficiencies calculations. They are reported separately in the State of the Infrastructure report.

This is the ninth iteration and tenth year of this report. Adjustments to the methodology are continuously implemented to improve its focus on park services and alignment with the Winnipeg Parks Strategy. As such, year-to-year comparisons must acknowledge any changes to the scope of asset classes reported, updates to replacement values, and various data improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** January 21, 2026

Project Name:

2026 Report on Parks and Open Space Assets

COMMENTS:

As this report is for information purposes, there are no financial impacts.

J. Ruby, 2026-01-21
J. Ruby CPA,CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: N/A.

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

- **1.5 Evidence-Informed Decisions** – Invest in data and technology in order to support objective, evidence-informed decision-making; support open government and open data principles for collection and sharing; help coordinate records and information management; and improve process efficiency, results-based service delivery and accountability
- **2.19 Leverage Green Infrastructure** – Value, protect and integrate green infrastructure solutions within the urban environment, to achieve highest and best use for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, mitigate servicing capacity constraints, and accommodate only park, recreation, open space, or City operations related uses in City-owned land used as parks or under parks jurisdiction
- **2.21 Leverage Green Infrastructure** – Conserve, restore, and enhance the urban forest as a key contributor to air quality, erosion control, carbon sequestration, storm water management, efficient energy resource consumption, shade, improved health and wellbeing, and mitigation of and adaptation to the urban heat island effect.
- **3.16 Optimize Facility Access** – Maximize the use of existing municipal assets to promote recreation, community development, and social interaction, while optimizing equitable access, infrastructure reinvestments, service delivery methods and resource management.
- **4.11 Equitable Service Access** – Prioritize equitable access to recreation and parks systems, services, and infrastructure, in order to: enable active living; connect people and nature; create supportive environments; build community capacity; and achieve desired health outcomes, with a focus on children and youth.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Opportunity #7: Community Climate Resiliency

- 7.2 Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy
- 7.3 Preserve and Manage Parks and Natural Areas to Support Climate Change Mitigation

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive, and Accessible

- Residents have equitable access to City services, in particular demographic groups who experience marginalization.
- Community development models and collaborative approaches are enhanced or initiated for service planning and delivery in areas of higher poverty.

- Use of City’s tools and resources are maximized to reduce systemic inequities.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks & Open Space
Prepared by: D. Domke, Manager of Parks & Open Space Division
Date: January 22, 2026

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2026 Summary of Overall Parks & Open Space Asset Condition Ratings

Appendix B: Class 5 Estimate Parks & Open Space Deficiencies by Ward (Regional Parks Only)

Appendix C: Class 5 Estimate Parks & Open Space Deficiencies by Ward (Excl. Regional Parks)

Appendix D: 2026 Asset Ward Details

Appendix B:

Class 5 Estimate Parks & Open Space Deficiencies by Ward (Regional Parks Only)

Parks & Open Space			Deficiencies by Ward - Class 5 Estimate (in thousands $)			
Ward	**Park**	**Area (Ha)**	**Buildings**	**Trees**	**Other Amenities**	**Total**
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry	*Crescent Drive Park*	25.6	$ 253	$ 135	$ 32	$ 420
Mynarski	*Kildonan Park*	38.9	$ 20,458	$ 266	$ 235	$ 20,959
North Kildonan	*Kilcona Park*	126.8	$ 10,784	$ 566	$ 456	$ 11,806
St. Boniface	*Whittier/Lagimodière-Gaboury Park*	32.1	$ 7	$ 18	$ 36	$ 61
St. Norbert - Seine River	*King's Park*	39.7	$ 1,273	$ 105	$ 116	$ 1,495
	Maple Grove Park	64.9	$ 586	$ 126	$ 32	$ 744
St. Vital	*St. Vital Park*	46.8	$ 564	$ 417	$ 109	$ 1,091
Transcona	*Buhler Recreation Park*	56.0	$ -	$ -	$ 399	$ 399
Outside City Limit	*John Blumberg Park*	30.8	$ 3,216	$ -	$ 396	$ 3,611
	La Barrière Park	79.4	$ 362	$ 77	$ 410	$ 849
	Little Mountain Park	66.4	$ 27	$ 1	$ 454	$ 482
TOTAL		**607.4**	**$ 37,530**	**$ 1,711**	**$ 2,676**	**$ 41,917**

Appendix C:

Class 5 Estimate Parks & Open Space Deficiencies by Ward (Excl. Regional Parks)

Parks & Open Space			Deficiencies by Ward - Class 5 Estimate (in thousands $)			
Ward	**Count**	**Area (Ha)**	**Buildings**	**Trees**	**Other Amenities**	**Total**
Charleswood - Tuxedo	121	658.2	$ 2,502	$ 1,549	$ 1,137	$ 5,188
Daniel McIntyre	42	37.1	$ 8,489	$ 601	$ 1,555	$ 10,645
Elmwood - East Kildonan	51	90.8	$ 1,407	$ 475	$ 1,636	$ 3,519
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry	75	103.0	$ 266	$ 1,015	$ 1,068	$ 2,349
Mynarski	81	72.8	$ 4,835	$ 815	$ 2,678	$ 8,329
North Kildonan	78	142.0	$ 82	$ 834	$ 631	$ 1,547
Old Kildonan	104	114.8	$ 43	$ 544	$ 2,447	$ 3,035
Point Douglas	75	125.3	$ 160	$ 725	$ 6,347	$ 7,232
River Heights - Fort Garry	76	108.6	$ 1,596	$ 1,609	$ 511	$ 3,715
St. Boniface	115	166.1	$ 23	$ 1,067	$ 1,333	$ 2,423
St. James	102	205.3	$ 3,219	$ 754	$ 2,890	$ 6,863
St. Norbert - Seine River	101	356.7	$ 2,011	$ 850	$ 2,379	$ 5,239
St. Vital	122	246.3	$ -	$ 1,179	$ 405	$ 1,584
Transcona	143	200.2	$ -	$ 1,439	$ 1,593	$ 3,032
Waverley West	87	201.5	$ -	$ 949	$ 772	$ 1,721
Outside City Limit	2	6.1	$ 74	$ -	$ 91	$ 165
TOTAL	**1375**	**2834.8**	**$ 24,707**	**$ 14,405**	**$ 27,473**	**$ 66,584**