

Submitted: Mon, 04/13/2026 - 09:22

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

Item 5 – Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

Submission in Support of Item 5 – Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – April 14, 2026

OURS-Winnipeg Co-chairs - Pam Lucenkiw Dave Green

The Public Service is currently developing a Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan, including priorities for restoration and the acquisition of new park space. OURS Winnipeg is strongly supportive of the funding proposals outlined in this report, as dedicated funding is essential for implementing this much-needed plan.

The city's highest level development plan, OurWinnipeg 2045, recognizes the value and function of natural areas and directs the City to acquire 1,000 acres of new parkland. The Parks Strategy further identifies priorities for natural restoration, land acquisition, and a clear framework for decision making.

Stable, dedicated funding is essential to achieving the goals of the Greenspace Plan, including a capital fund, accepting land donations, and considerations for existing funding opportunities. At present, Winnipeg does not have a reliable funding source for parkland acquisition. Without significant policy changes and a dedicated capital budget, the City cannot act quickly when opportunities arise.

Not having funds set aside leads to missed opportunities and higher long term costs, as the City is unable to acquire properties while they are available. The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund is one such example: it requires matching dollars, and without dedicated municipal funding, Winnipeg cannot fully access these federal investments. The same is true for the federal government's upcoming \$3.8 billion nature protection strategy, which

includes support for urban nature.

Opportunities to leverage external funding, secure ecological value, and protect remaining natural areas are being lost. As land prices continue to rise and development pressures intensify, the window to protect valued natural spaces is closing. Establishing a reliable funding mechanism will ensure Winnipeg can act proactively — not reactively — while there is still land left to protect.

Public engagement (optional)

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

Yes

Personal information

First name

Pam

Last name

Lucenkiw

Job title (optional)

Co-chair

Organization title (optional)

OURS-Winnipeg

City (optional)

Winnipeg

Province or territory (optional)

Manitoba