



**SAVE OUR SEINE
RIVER ENVIRONMENT INC.**

Box 83, 208 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R2H 3B4
www.saveourseine.com | info@saveourseine.com

Establishing Policies for the Protection of Waterways – Minute No. 374, Item No. 1

Winnipeg is often recognized as a River City, bifurcated by two large rivers fed by several smaller rivers and creeks. And yet we have allowed our rivers and creeks to be poorly protected from residential and commercial development.

Save Our Seine Environment Inc. gave a presentation on the value of riparian areas in the City of Winnipeg to City Council on June 2, 2025 as part of the hearings on the Housing Accelerator Fund. We now would like to reiterate some of our concerns regarding the lack of protection of riparian areas within the City of Winnipeg. Riparian areas are transitional; they occur between the surface water of a river, wetland or lake and the adjacent drier upland. Riparian habitats typically develop vegetative communities that are lush and different from the surrounding uplands because of better soils and water availability. Healthy riparian areas may have any combination of trees, shrubs, and grasses, depending on local conditions. Riparian areas buffer the impacts of uplands on the aquatic area as well as protect uplands from erosion.

Healthy riparian areas provide many functions, including the following: erosion control; sediment retention; construction and maintenance of banks and shorelines; water and energy storage; recharging of aquifers; water filtering and buffering; reduction and dissipation of energy; moderation of water temperatures; provision of habitat and food for resident and migratory species; and maintenance of biodiversity.

So, why should we protect riparian areas? Healthy riparian areas can serve extremely important roles. In many cases in Manitoba, riparian areas have been modified or cleared by previous land activity. Although the riparian area still exists, the natural vegetation has been removed and replaced by manicured lawns, or the undergrowth has been replaced by materials that do not serve an ecological function. Unprotected riparian areas can lead to a variety of detrimental effects over time, including the following:

- Loss of land through erosion can occur quickly from storm events, or slowly over seasons and years. Landowners can find themselves losing a significant amount of



**SAVE OUR SEINE
RIVER ENVIRONMENT INC.**

Box 83, 208 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R2H 3B4
www.saveourseine.com | info@saveourseine.com

land, sometimes with shorelines encroaching dangerously close to buildings and homes.

- Loss of soil to water bodies contributes to nutrient loading. Nutrient loading, or eutrophication, changes water quality and can result in unsightly vegetation and algae blooms.
- Effects to aquatic biota from the release of silt and chemicals.
- Increased Costs: Water treatment costs are directly related to source water quality; the poorer the water quality, the higher the cost to treat it.
- Lack of protection against climate adaptation.
- Given that riparian areas are crucial to the health of our surface waters, and they are often our only remaining natural areas in some regions, it is especially important that appropriate land use practices are used to maintain or enhance their functions and values.

Save Our Seine River Environment Inc. supports Minute No. 374, Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment - Motions, Item No. 1, Establishing Policies for the Protection of Waterways Moved by Councillor Gilroy and Seconded by Councillor Mayes.

We request that the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment examine best practices in other Canadian municipalities, including Edmonton and Calgary, with respect to riparian protection, ecological reserves, public access, habitat conservation, and riverbank management. We recommend the incorporation of a meaningful buffer zone on any new developments along all of Winnipeg's rivers, creeks and other notable waterways, to protect the riverine environment.

Richard Remnant

Secretary, Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.

secretary@saveourseine.com

Address:

P.O. Box 83
208 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 3B4



Web:

www.saveourseine.com
info@saveourseine.com