

Submitted: Mon, 06/29/2026 - 13:58

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

Minute No. 374 Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – Motions
Item No. 1 Establishing Policies for the Protection of Waterways

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Register as a delegation_checkbox

Register as a delegation

Register as a delegation

Via zoom

Submit comments in writing_checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

Water Presentation

Good morning, Councilors, thank you so much for allowing me to speak today. I'm here today to discuss the waterway concerns that affect the Northwest corner contained within the city and the RM of Rosser areas. The waterways I am addressing are East Coloney Creek, Truro Creek, Omand's Creek, and Sturgeon Creek catchment basins. These four creeks provide drainage for a vast region located within the Northwest corner of the city that flows into the Assiniboine River before flowing northwards into the at-risk Lake Winnipeg.

These four watershed areas constitute the bulk of the drainage systems in Northwest Winnipeg. Each provides a rich biodiverse environment. Marshland species thrive in these water areas. They provide homes for fish and other aquatic life, songbirds and nesting grounds for waterfowl. As well they are a source of water for our resident deer population and other mammals.

Regarding the future rail relocation. I need to bring up an important point. The development will be located within the Omand's Creek catchment area. My concern is if there were a rail spillage similar to what was recently seen at the McPhillips underpass area, the spillage could have a devastating effect on these waterways. Those contaminants would leach directly into the creek that flows into the Assiniboine and could enter Lake Winnipeg. What would be the environmental effects of such a disaster be? Short term and long term! The other three creeks catchment basins in the area are also at risk from poor business practices such as Illegal dumping or container spillage.

There is an even more critical issue. These four waterways are already stretched to their limits by City waste and agricultural run-off. Winter run-offs and the June rainstorms this year have provided ample evidence for the need to protect these waterway areas. The high-water levels collected into these basins and prevented massive flooding of homes and businesses in the downstream areas. Future developments need to respect these areas with appropriate setbacks. Cities in general have had a propensity for filling in drainage areas in favour of not respecting waterways as evident in our Woodhaven areas. These waterways still flow into Sturgeon Creek. The water still moves there as underground rivers with no respect for people's home basements. I lived on Woodlands Crescent, and we had an underground river flow behind our house, through a neighbour's basement then make its way to Sturgeon Creek. It would be interesting to overlay a map of past creeks, development and street deterioration. Water will flow where it wants to go! We need to respect that in our designs. Examine the historical inventory of the waterways before development proceeds.

All our waterways are precious for long-term environmental protection. They need to be protected as they serve not only to protect lives, the environment and future generations.

Public engagement (optional)

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

Yes

Personal information

First name

Lloyd

Last name

Johnson

Job title (optional)

chair

Organization title (optional)

Little Mountain Park Conservancy Group Inc.