

Submitted: Mon, 06/29/2026 - 22:24

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

1. Establishing Policies for the Protection of Waterways

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

I fully support the motion moved by Councillor Gilroy and seconded by Councillor Mayes. Winnipeg's history is intimately tied to rivers, creeks and waterways. Winnipeg stands as the only major Western Canadian city however where significant portions of the riparian areas around these waterways are held in private hands, and as such are inaccessible to the public. This is due to the river lot system that was adopted to allow private individuals to access these waterways. Ensuring that all riparian areas held by the city not be sold for development should be the top priority for City Council.

In the meantime, the Gilroy/Mayes motion ensures that the Complete Communities 2.0 recommendations be followed in terms of a 90 foot setback for all new development and redevelopment projects that will help reclaim the waterways for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Beyond the cultural and recreational benefits of these waterways, riparian areas of the city are critical for ecological and environmental benefits such as mitigating flooding, supporting biodiversity, providing critical habitat for wildlife, reducing erosion, and improving water quality. Overland flooding is going to be increasingly significant for the city and City Council and the administration need to make plans now to meet these new climate related challenges.

To ensure the long-term health of our river corridors, we must begin to gather evidence about the environmental impacts of our waterways. Winnipeg has no research or economic analysis on the ecosystem services our waterways provide — flood mitigation, cooling,

habitat, water quality, and public health. Without that evidence, decisions default to the interests that are easiest to quantify, rather than the ones that matter most for the city's future.

The city needs to implement policies regarding the waterways that look to the future. This motion begins that valuable process.

Public engagement (optional)

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

Yes

Personal information

First name

Shelley

Last name

Sweeney