

Parkland Acquisition Fund

July 16, 2026 Council – Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Dated July 6, 2026 Item #5 – Funding Parkland Acquisition

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OURS-WINNIPEG

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Position

- OURS-Winnipeg supports the City to adopt a Parkland Acquisition Fund as generally outlined in the June 11, 2026 Administration Report entitled “Funding Parkland Acquisition.”
- We support the EPC recommendation #1 “That the request for a Parkland Acquisition capital budget of \$2.64 million in 2027 and \$700,000 in 2028 to support the acquisition of new parkland be referred to the 2027 capital budget process.”

Position Continued

- We think the EPC amendments to Council Policies listed as:
 - A. Lieu of Land Dedication Reserve Fund Policy (Appendix B);
 - B. Real Estate – Land Operating Reserve Fund Policy (Appendix C);
 - C. Real Estate – Declaration as Surplus and Sale of Property Policy (Appendix D); and
 - D. Real Estate – Acquisition of Property Policy (Appendix E) would certainly help put monies into the acquisition fund.
- We do oppose deferring adoption of the Parkland Acquisition Fund and required amendments to policies to the Special Priorities Action Committee (SPAC) causing further delays.
 - Our feelings are delay, delay, delay = our fear of eventual no action.

Background

- **OURS-Winnipeg advocated for a Greenspace Master Plan at least as far back as 2014.**
 - **Eliminate ad-hoc and inconsistent decision making for greenspace and parklands.**
- **In 2022 City Council adopted the newly revised planning documents OurWinnipeg2045 and Complete Communities 2.0 that included developing a Greenspace and Natural Corridor plan bylaw and Biodiversity Policy as well as acquiring an additional 1000 acres of greenspace by 2045.**
 - **Also, it now appears public engagement on a draft plan has been delayed until next spring.**

Background continued

- For the last few years we have been advocating for a specific fund to support acquiring greenspace/parkland.
 - A fund where citizens and/or businesses could make monetary, land, and/or legacy donations and be able to receive a charitable tax receipt;
 - A fund that would be strictly used to acquire lands for greenspace and parks and not diverted to other uses;
 - A fund to work in harmony with a greenspace plan for potential purchases of lands considered important to acquire.
- The current Land Dedication Reserve Fund cannot seem to meet this need.

Concerns

- No dedicated funds for greenspace means:
 - Lost opportunities to secure federal and provincial cost-shared funding *e.g.*, Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.
 - Lost opportunities for Parks to obtain desired lands and ecologically significant lands when available, then lost forever when development occurs.
 - Lack of action with delays, *e.g.*, a proposed Parkland Acquisition program in the Parks Strategy was not funded in the 2023 budget process and another 3 years down the road.

Concerns continued

- As density increases and individual private properties become smaller, we need more greenspaces for the health and nature benefits for the general public.
- Despite positive amendments to Council Policies listed previously, there are still some concerns with some policies such as:
 - Real Estate – Acquisition of Property Policy and Land Operating Reserve Fund Policy where it would appear to require Parks to pay full market value and associated costs to gain City-owned land.
 - The Real Estate Policy Framework needs to revise criteria for assessment of City-owned land considered for surplus **to target to retain natural areas and properties adjacent to waterways .**

The background of the slide features a stylized, layered illustration of green leaves. The leaves are rendered in various shades of green, from light to dark, creating a sense of depth and texture. They are scattered across the frame, with some leaves appearing more prominent than others. The overall effect is a soft, naturalistic backdrop.

Thank you for your time