Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – December 1, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Winnipeg National Urban Park Assessment Contribution Agreement

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That grant funding from the Parks Canada General Class Grants and Contributions Program in the amount of up to $450,000.00 be approved for the Winnipeg National Urban Park Assessment Project, which is the planning phase of the process for designating a potential national urban park in Winnipeg.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing ("Ancillary Agreements").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Winnipeg National Urban Park Assessment Contribution Agreement

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Nichols	J. Berezowsky	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service requests approval to enter into a contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency. The City is to receive up to $450,000.00 ($100,000.00 in 2026-27 and $350,000.00 in 2027-28). This funding would support project planning for a new national urban park in Winnipeg. This includes public engagement.

Parks Canada and the City of Winnipeg share a common goal of enhancing urban greenspaces to reflect both natural and cultural values.

On July 20, 2021, the City of Winnipeg signed a non-binding Statement of Collaboration with Parks Canada on a new national urban park.

The City must cover all up-front program expenses (for reimbursement by Parks Canada). No new budget is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That grant funding from the Parks Canada General Class Grants and Contributions Program in the amount of up to $450,000.00 be approved for the Winnipeg National Urban Park Assessment Project, which is the planning phase of the process for designating a potential national urban park in Winnipeg.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (“Ancillary Agreements”).

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions

deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

In July 2021, the City of Winnipeg signed a non-binding Statement of Collaboration with Parks Canada signaling both parties' intention to work together to explore opportunities to enhance urban nature and access to urban parks in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Statement of Collaboration identifies the opportunity for the City of Winnipeg and Parks Canada to enter into subsequent agreements as required and agreed upon (e.g. contribution agreement for capacity support).

Council approval is required to receive grants and enter into the contribution agreement.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The City would be required to incur project costs of up to $450,000.00 in advance of reimbursement by Parks Canada Agency, with Council approval being required to accept the funds from Parks Canada Agency. No formal budget amendment is required as the project is intended to operate on a mill rate neutral bases annually, with additional expenditures being fully offset by additional revenues. The resulting mill rate neutral budget amendments can be addressed administratively.

In summary, if Council approval is given to enter into this agreement, the City expects to incur additional total estimated costs up to $450,000.00 and incremental revenues in the same amount as costs incurred. Should any incremental costs incurred by the City not be recovered under this Contribution Agreement, it is anticipated they would be nominal in amount. Should any incremental but unrecoverable costs be incurred they would be supported by the Parks and Natural Areas annual operating budget.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

This Agreement is undertaken in the context of the National Urban Parks program, formally launched by Parks Canada in August 2021. Urban parks play an important role in providing access to nature for communities, protecting biodiversity, mitigating the impacts of climate change, providing multiple ecosystem services, and supporting health and well-being. Urban parks also provide opportunities for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, by recognizing and honouring Indigenous knowledge and stewardship of the lands and waters for present and future generations. Parks Canada and the City of Winnipeg share a common goal to enhance urban greenspaces, reflecting both natural and cultural values.

In July 2021, the City of Winnipeg signed a Statement of Collaboration with Parks Canada signaling both parties' intention to work together to explore opportunities to enhance urban nature and access to urban parks in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Statement of Collaboration identifies the opportunity for the City of Winnipeg and Parks Canada to enter into subsequent agreements as required and agreed upon (e.g. contribution agreement for capacity support).

Since this time, the City has been working in collaboration with a core partnership group comprised of Treaty One Nations, Manitoba Metis Federation, Province of Manitoba, Parks Canada and the City of Winnipeg to assess the feasibility of a national urban park in Winnipeg. Discussions have focused on potential vision, locations and actions to support the pillars of the national urban park program - conserving nature, connecting people with nature and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. A preliminary study area has been identified in alignment with the objectives of the National Urban Parks Program. Centred on Waterfront and its surrounding waterways and greenspaces, the study area recognizes the region's interconnected ecological, cultural, and recreational significance. The study area is subject to further review, modification or expansion as needed.

The contribution agreement supports the City in advancing the potential establishment of a National Urban Park through planning, coordination, engagement, and project development activities. It enables collaborative work with partners to establish the governance, operational, and strategic foundations necessary to move the initiative from feasibility into the planning phase.

Project management and oversight will be the responsibility of a temporary City of Winnipeg project manager (PM) within the Public Works Department for the term beginning January 5, 2027, and ending April 30, 2028. The PM will work directly with the City of Winnipeg's Office of Public Engagement and additional public engagement consultant(s) to implement the project, as required.

Reimbursement for eligible expenses is subject to satisfaction of Parks Canada Agency reporting obligations.

Expected Results

- Active participation in partner committee activities for the Winnipeg National Urban Park project.
- Development of a collaborative governance model with the Partners with defined roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes to support future park implementation.
- Completion of planning and operational foundations that support the proposed national urban park, including study area refinement, visioning, operational planning and priority investment identification to inform future designation and operations.
- Partnerships are strengthened, vision and priorities are aligned, and the public has been meaningfully engaged regarding the proposed national urban park.

Key Activities

1. Participate in partner committee activities, working groups or sub-committees, regular bilateral meetings with Parks Canada and other engagement activities supporting the feasibility and planning phases of the Winnipeg National Urban Park project.

2. Undertake planning, technical, and operational studies that contribute to feasibility assessment and planning of the proposed park. This may include operational planning, site assessments, ecological and cultural resource analysis, visitor experience planning,

infrastructure and asset planning, and identification of priority projects and investments.

3. Conduct meaningful public engagement to refine the park vision, identify opportunities and priorities, build support for the initiative, and incorporate partner and stakeholder perspectives into planning and decision-making.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 21, 2026

Project Name:

Winnipeg National Urban Park Assessment Contribution Agreement

First Year of Program **2027**

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 362,500	$ 87,500	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	362,500	87,500	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs represent the estimated City expenditures to be incurred related to this contribution agreement. The estimate is compromised of a temporary staff member to lead project planning and public engagement, and other incremental expenditures including studies and public engagement. Under the agreement eligible costs will be reimbursed through the acceptance of funds from Parks Canada Agency based on eligible costs incurred up to $450,000.00. No formal budget amendment is required as the initiative is intended to operate on a mill rate neutral bases annually, with additional expenditures being fully offset by additional revenues. The resulting mill rate neutral budget amendments can be addressed administratively.

A. Fischer CPA,CA *10-21-2026*

for J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

2.19 Leverage Green Infrastructure

- Value, protect and integrate green infrastructure solutions within the urban environment, to achieve highest and best use for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, mitigate servicing capacity constraints, and accommodate only park, recreation, open space, or City operations related uses in City-owned land used as parks or under parks jurisdiction

- In June 2021, Council amended the By-Law No. 120/2020 (*OurWinnipeg*) for second reading to include a commitment to increase the public reserve land within the City of Winnipeg by taking steps to add another 1,000 acres of public park space in addition to the already existing public reserve lands.

2.21 Leverage Green Infrastructure

- Conserve, restore, and enhance the urban forest as a key contributor to air quality, erosion control, carbon sequestration, storm water management, efficient energy resource consumption, shade, improved health and wellbeing, and mitigation of and adaptation to the urban heat island effect.

4.11 Equitable Service Access

- Prioritize equitable access to recreation and parks systems, services, and infrastructure, in order to: enable active living; connect people and nature; create supportive environments; build community capacity; and achieve desired health outcomes, with a focus on children and youth.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Opportunity #7: Community Climate Resiliency

- Strategize and implement opportunities to improve Winnipeg's resilience and adaptability to the effects of a changing climate.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 1: Equity and a Culture of Caring are Demonstrated through Strategy Implementation and Systems Change.
Related 10-year Objectives:

C. Equity and a Culture of Caring are factored into all service planning and budget decisions, resulting in City-wide systems change.

Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible:
Related 10-year Objectives:

A. Residents have equitable access to City services, in particular demographic groups who experience marginalization.

B. Community development models and collaborative approaches are enhanced or initiated for service planning & delivery in areas of higher poverty.

C. Use of City's tools and resources are maximized to reduce systemic inequities.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: L. Nichols
Date: October 21, 2026