Allan Barry
288 Wildwood Park
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0E5

January 14, 2005

Councillor Jenny Gerbasi
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B9

Dear Councilor Gerbasi,

The Wildwood Heritage and Conservation Committee (WHACC) is an environmental group active in the Wildwood Park community since 2000. Wildwood Park is an East Fort Garry neighborhood located in a river bottom forest natural environment surrounded by the Red River.

The Riparian forest along the banks of the river is continually under stress related to urbanization, pressure from foreign species and diseases such as Dutch elm disease. As a result, the riverbank is increasingly threatened by destabilization. Similarly, the parklands throughout the adjacent residential neighborhood have deteriorated and many trees have been lost over the years with many more threatened.

The volunteer members of WHACC are pleased to be able to contribute their time and efforts coordinating sustainable environmental restoration projects within the community. With the support of area residents, the Wildwood Community Centre executive and the City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services Department, the local Green Team and many others, WHACC is actively restoring much of the historical and natural characteristics of Wildwood Park.

WHACC has been fortunate to have raised funds and contributions that have resulted in some significant achievements to date. However, funding requirements remain consistent and necessary as we endeavor to continue to build on the momentum generated over the last five years.

To that end, this letter is a request for a $6,000.00 Land Dedication Grant to be put towards WHACC's objectives of halting the deterioration of the natural environment with strategic recovery initiatives. This funding will go a long way to ensure real long term sustainable environmental restoration in the community.

This grant would be used primarily to fund the purchasing of native trees, shrubs and other plant material as required based on the schedule of planting projects WHACC has identified in conjunction with the City of Winnipeg Naturalist.

On behalf of WHACC, I am hopeful you will be able to give favourable consideration to this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Allan Barry
Chairperson
Wildwood Heritage and Conservation Committee

cc. Kevin Nixon - Planning, Property and Development Department
Cheryl Heming – City Naturalist – Parks and Open Spaces