

Appendix A –

Preliminary Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives

PREAMBLE & PURPOSE:

Note: The Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives defined in this document are preliminary, and will be further developed and refined in subsequent phases of the project.

Urban greenspaces are considered urban areas covered by vegetation of any kind. This includes vegetation on all lands within the City's boundaries, irrespective of ownership, size and function. Many greenspaces and natural corridors are City "assets" (aka: green infrastructure) that contribute to the health and well-being of the city, its people and biodiversity. They are privately- and publicly-held lands, that include but are not limited to; parks, river corridors, institutional and industrial lands, golf courses, cemeteries, boulevards, stormwater retention and detention basins, public utility corridors, natural areas, and urban tree canopies. They are essential to the quality of life in our city now and for the future.

The development of a Master Greenspace & Natural Corridors Plan, integral Biodiversity Policy and Council's commitment to acquire 1000 additional acres of park land is a response to the anticipated growth and densification of Winnipeg, as well as global efforts to restore biodiversity and ecosystems and integrate nature-based solutions in urban planning and development (*UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UN COP15; WEF BiodiverCities, and others*).

As development continues to see the expansion of Winnipeg's urban footprint, the preservation, management, and enhancement of greenspace and natural corridors will help protect valuable natural areas from the impacts of growth to ensure the vitality of our biodiverse habitats are recognized and sustained. Council has given specific direction to develop this planning initiative through *Our Winnipeg 2045, Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0* and the recently approved *Winnipeg Parks Strategy*.

Specifically, the Winnipeg Parks Strategy includes policy and implementation direction as follows: Develop a Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan and By-Law to replace, or as a companion to the Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy and Policy. The plan and by-law should:

- i. Ensure conservation, management, restoration, and enhancement of the inherent value and ecological functioning of parks, waterways, natural areas and systems;
- ii. Advance climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- iii. Increase the quantity of open space for recreation, social interaction, active living, and connection of people with nature as population growth occurs;
- iv. Provide a biodiversity framework or policy;
- v. Provide a methodology to quantify the value of ecological goods and services and natural assets.

As the steward of many of Winnipeg's greenspaces, the City plays a vital role in the protection, well-being and sustainability of these spaces and their level of biodiversity. The Master Greenspace and Natural Corridor Plan will inform the coordinated protection, management, and enhancement of valuable vegetative areas under the City's care, provide direction and tools for acquisition of new greenspace and corridor lands and provide strategies for education and increased environmental awareness, ensuring that as the city grows and densifies, these valuable spaces will not be lost to development.

Inspired by the UN *Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)*, the following 'preliminary' Guiding Principles, Vision, Goals and Objectives provide a framework for developing the City of Winnipeg's Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan. It is acknowledged that as the development and implementation of the Plan moves into subsequent phases, this framework will evolve through shared learning and through input from a wider variety of stakeholders, public and knowledge keepers.

VISION

Winnipeg is a healthy, sustainable, and beautiful city....

- Where for the health and wellbeing of all life on Earth and that of future generations, we have restored the relationship between humans and nature, by increasing the area of healthy ecosystems and where ecosystem loss, fragmentation and degradation has been halted.
- Where increased ecosystem integrity and health provides more livable and healthier environment for residents in an equitable way and advances climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Where its residents, businesses, government, and community organizations are committed to and are actively engaged in respecting, valuing, protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity, ecosystem services, and interconnected networks of greenspaces and corridors.
- Where efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity and urban greenspace embrace the importance of Indigenous knowledges and world view and utilizes cross-cultural understanding, linking Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principles are what we believe and value to guide how we develop the Plan

1. Intrinsic Value

Acknowledge that the reciprocal, interconnected and spiritual kinship between humans and the natural world is core to human well-being.

2. Urgency

Recognize that time is of the essence to protect and enhance ecosystem health and integrity to address ecosystem degradation and meet climate action goals.

3. Global Context

Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Goals of the Rio Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change, and Combat Desertification.

4. Local Fit

Ensure the local ecological, cultural and socio-economic perspective is respected while considering the larger regional and global context.

5. Multiple Knowledge Systems

Bring the strengths of both Indigenous and Western knowledges to all planning and implementation decisions and be inclusive of different lived experiences and ways of knowing for the benefit of all.

6. Inclusive Process

Promote inclusive and participatory governance, social and health equity and multi-stakeholder collaboration in all phases and ensure engagement aligns with Truth and Reconciliation calls to action

7. Comprehensive Action

Incorporate a continuum of valuation, protection, connection, enhancement, and restoration activities to ensure ecological integrity for future generations.

8. Accountability

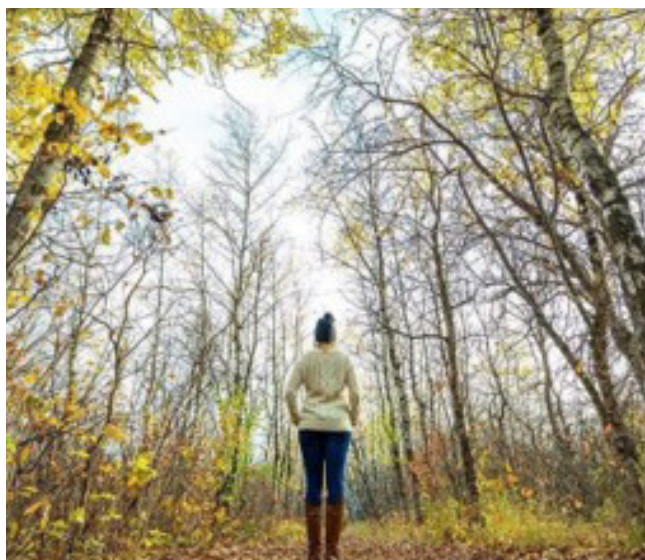
Establish clear metrics, baselines and targets and include ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management practices and in the interest of providing all people with equitable access to opportunities for recreation, social interaction, active living, and connection of people with nature, as population growth occurs.

9. Policy Integration

Build upon existing policies and strategic directions for cohesive implementation across City departments and other jurisdictions.

10. Resourcing

Support ongoing implementation, monitoring and management through sufficient and secure funding and human resources.



GOALS

Goals are general, qualitative, long-range descriptions of desired outcomes and provide the basis for allocation of resources and a clear direction for action.

- 1) Place biodiversity, greenspace, and natural corridors protection at the heart of the City of Winnipeg's urban planning, infrastructure development and decision making.
- 2) Incorporate a nature-based, holistic view of the land into urban planning and development, whereby Indigenous knowledge and world view will be a key contributor to land planning, development, implementation, and adaptation over the long term.
- 3) Prioritize valuation, protection, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and greenspace / natural corridors at a local level through strategic and coordinated planning, management and policy development.
- 4) Prioritize that all Winnipeggers have access to biodiversity, and to natural areas within walking distance of their residences.
- 5) Create and enhance networks of connected and integrated greenspaces and corridors at the neighbourhood and city levels, with consideration of the relationship to the regional landscape.
- 6) Provide a variety of tools, incentives, and financial resources to enable the timely identification, acquisition and protection of natural areas, with emphasis on acquiring riverbank and other corridor lands.
- 7) Use analysis of data and input from public and stakeholder engagement to identify and maximize the protection, enhancement and restoration of greenspaces and natural corridors.
- 8) Fulfill Winnipeg City Council's commitment to acquire 1000 additional acres of greenspace and natural corridors land, in keeping with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030),
- 9) Increase and share knowledge of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration, and foster a sense of stewardship for biodiversity and greenspace among all Winnipeggers.



OBJECTIVES

Objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time certain statements (SMART) of what will be done to achieve a goal.

- **Establish a Biodiversity Policy to protect, enhance, restore and manage biodiversity in Winnipeg.** (aligns with Goals 1,3,4,5)
- Ensure meaningful dialogue and integration of input from **Indigenous stakeholders, elders and knowledge keepers** in the development of the plan and its ongoing implementation and adaptation over time. (aligns with Goal 2)
- Integrate biodiversity and greenspace protection, restoration and acquisition as priorities in **City processes and systems** including but not limited to secondary planning, development application review, land dedication policy, development agreement parameters, capital and operating budget investment planning and multi-criteria budget prioritization. (aligns with Goal 1)
- Establish **management standards and guidelines** for greenspaces and natural corridors that includes the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of degraded natural areas. (aligns with Goal 1, 3)
- Define a **value methodology** and determine the value for greenspaces and natural corridors and the ecological services they provide, to guide future management, development, acquisition, and decision-making, (aligns with Goals 1, 3, 6)
- Identify and evaluate **traditional and innovative approaches for financing** and operating resources necessary for implementation (aligns with Goal 6)
- Inventory key public and private greenspaces, natural areas and natural corridors, and identify the ecological, cultural and recreational functions they serve in order to **identify lands for potential acquisition.** (aligns with Goal 7)
- Establish **partnerships** in support of the plan that enable collaborative efforts to identify, acquire and protect greenspace and natural corridor lands at both the local and regional scale. (aligns with Goal 9)
- Develop and confirm **level of service metrics** for access to natural areas and biodiversity at the neighbourhood, community and regional level. (aligns with Goal 4)
- Develop a **public information and awareness campaign** about the value of biodiversity and the need for its protection in all sectors of society. (aligns with Goal 9)
- Ensure meaningful dialogue and integration of input from **all equity seeking groups** to ensure the plan achieves equity objectives.



DEFINITIONS

Public greenspaces – Publicly-owned open spaces within an urban area, generally accessible to the public and covered with natural or planted vegetation, including river corridors, parks, schools and institutional sites, storm water retention basins, urban street trees and boulevards, public golf courses, sport fields, and cemeteries.

Private greenspaces – Privately-owned open spaces that contribute to an urban area's biodiversity but are not protected from development or readily accessible to the general public including residential gardens and yards, private golf courses, business parks and green roofs.

Corridors – Vegetated ecological conduits that enhance the movement of species and increased biodiversity. Corridors may include naturally occurring corridors such as rivers or greenways, as well as human influenced rail and utility rights-of-way.

Natural areas – any physical area that contains sufficient native species, ecological communities, or habitat features to support biodiversity and ecological function.

Biodiversity – Biodiversity is the richness of plant and animal species, their habitats, and the ecological processes that sustain them. Biodiversity encompasses both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and includes genetic diversity (diversity within species), species diversity (between species), and ecosystems diversity (different biological communities).

Ecosystem/Ecological Services – the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood control and water filtration; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Green Infrastructure – The components of the natural and built environment that provide ecosystem services such as stormwater management, ambient temperature regulation and improved air quality.

