Greenspace at Risk – Have Your Say in the Zoning By-law Rewrite

The City of Winnipeg is updating its Zoning By-laws for the first time in 20 years, and we're asking for a few minutes of your time to complete the City's short, mostly check-box survey. Any of the material below may also be used in the comment sections of the survey – specifically questions #6 and #8. The survey is open until **June 5,** 2026.

Survey • Events • Learn More https://engage.winnipeg.ca/zoning-rewrite

Why this matters

The current Zoning By-law does **not** adequately protect greenspace, natural areas, river corridors, or trees. This early stage of engagement is critical — without strong public feedback, these green priorities may not move forward to the next phase of review.

The City's questionnaire does **not** ask about parks near your home, access to waterways, or the nature you value in your neighbourhood. That's why your voice is essential.

What's missing today

The current Zoning By-law:

- does not protect natural areas or trees on private land
- allows development too close to river corridors
- does not reflect the City's own green policy guidance
- still relies on a Waterways Regulation that permits development harmful to river ecology
- is being reviewed by a consultant team largely drawn from the development industry, which narrows ecological priorities

The long-awaited **Greenspace & Natural Corridors Plan** and **Biodiversity Policy** have been delayed until next spring — meaning the rewrite is moving ahead **without** a Council-approved ecological frameworks in place.

Key improvements we're asking the City to include

- Zone city-owned downtown riverbank lands as **park** (downtown has the least amount of per person in the city)
- Strengthen protection along waterways — stop development too close to the edge
- Review the Waterways Regulation for **ecological impacts**
- Protect natural areas and the **corridors** that connect them
- Increase the waterway setback from **25 ft to 90 ft**, (as per *Winnipeg Complete Communities 2.0* Plan)
- Adopt **bird-friendly design** standards and **lights-out** policy, city-wide
- Include a Private **Tree By-law** and **Tree Fund**

• Stop applying the **Malls & Corridors** by-law (10-storey buildings with reduced park requirements) to sensitive waterways

• Zone for **more parks**, not less — greenspace is essential infrastructure (2021 commitment to acquire 1000 acres)

• Ensure residential setbacks are sufficient to allow **mature shade trees** to thrive.

• Maintain opportunities for **public feedback**, which will be reduced under *as-of-right zoning*

•Increase opportunities for land dedication fund to acquire new parks, which will be reduced under new *as-of-right zoning*

These items all relate directly to land use and the future livability of our city.

What you can do

Please take a few minutes to complete the City's online survey. It is brief and almost entirely check boxes.

https://engage.winnipeg.ca/zoning-rewrite

A draft of the new Zoning By-law and map is expected in **Fall 2026 / Winter 2027**. Your input now will help ensure that greenspace, waterways, and trees are properly considered.

Please feel free to forward this email to others who may be interested

Thank you for speaking up for Winnipeg's natural areas.