

SHERRI ROLLINS

For City Councillor
Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry



OURS WINNIPEG QUESTIONNAIRE

Q: Do you support the urgent need for a Winnipeg ‘Master Plan for Green Space’ that includes a vision and a dedicated budget to protect, enhance, and expand green spaces and natural areas? If so what would it take to ensure this happens? How will you lead the City of Winnipeg to meet its obligation to implement a Master Plan for Green Space?

A: Green spaces and natural are an essential part of a healthy community, and we need to make sure that they are sustainably maintained for all people to enjoy. In consultation with the community, I would support Winnipeg creating a Master Plan for Green Space that prioritizes regular upkeep, renewal, and protection of green spaces in our community. I would also advocate for better funding for parks through the budgeting process to make sure that city park maintenance workers have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.

Q: Actual budget dollars for parks and urban forestry have effectively been reduced over the last decade despite a dedicated 4.8 % allocation in the budget which should have grown in step with Winnipeg’s growing number of homes. Would you restore those actual dollars back into parks, and if so, what steps would you take to ensure this will be done?

A: It is important that there is clarity and consistency in how tax dollars are raised and what they are spent on. City council needs to do a better job of understanding and identifying the priorities that the people of Winnipeg have for their tax dollars. This way, when city council dedicates a particular amount of property taxes toward specific priorities like parks and urban forestry, the amount dedicated would reflect the needs and priorities of the community. Once those amounts are set, I would advocate for that funding to actually be provided to support those priorities as part of the budgeting process.

Q: If elected would you expedite the implementation of a Comprehensive Urban Forest Strategy and what steps would you take?

A: Our urban forest is one of the defining features of our city and needs to be properly maintained and protected. An important step toward this is to have a more complete accounting of our trees so that we can take more proactive steps in protecting them. I would support an urban forest strategy that puts a real plan together and provides better resources to our forestry workers so that we can keep our urban forest healthy and strong for years to come.

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Q: What steps would you take to restore and enhance and our rivers corridors including both water and riparian zones?

A: As our city grows we need to make sure new development creates complete communities that include greenspace, not just houses and condos. When development near rivers and streams is likely to occur, the city should ensure that planning and zoning decisions consider downstream environmental impact. As a city we are responsible for maintaining our rivers and streams and we should hold them in trust for all our residents, including with the creation of greenspace for all to enjoy.

Q: Would you support having health and climate change considerations as part of a standard practice in local development and planning decisions for green space, and if so, what steps would you take to ensure this is done?

A: Our communities should be healthy and livable, and this means having access to greenspace, public and active transportation, and other important amenities like local grocery stores. As our city grows, we need to make sure that new suburban development includes space for parks and greenspace, and that urban infill development takes into consideration the character and needs of established communities, including access to green space. For example, some vacant lots in the inner city have been converted into green space and community gardens, allowing urban residents to enjoy those spaces in the heart of the city. We can make our city's development model work better for the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

Q: If elected, what steps would you take to protect the city-owned golf courses as green spaces for public access and to ensure they are available for generations to come, if not as golf courses than as parks? What steps will you take to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of these lands, many located along river corridors?

A: The city has already set aside golf course lands as parklands and that is how they should be approached when their leases come up. I believe the default should be for any city-owned golf course to automatically revert public city parks that are maintained by city workers, particularly those located along rivers and streams. In some cases, if it is deemed advantageous to approve some residential development at these sites, particularly if the existing golf course footprint is extremely large, we should ensure that a large portion of the land be retained as parkland. My goal will be to protect as much greenspace as possible while respecting the need for more densification in established communities.