

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Morden's parks and urban forest will evolve over the next 25 years. In the fall of 2020, Morden City Council and senior administration chose to prepare a Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan and to do so through a partnership between Morden staff and a Manitoba landscape architecture & design consultant.

The Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan is a City of Morden service plan, prepared to:

- Ensure Morden's legacy of parks, open spaces, and urban forest will continue into the future;
- Provide guidance for investing in the acquisition of new and development of all parks, trails, natural areas, and forestry assets as Morden continues to grow; and
- Illustrate prototype concepts for each parks asset type.

The plan emphasizes desired outcomes for Morden's parks and urban forest over a 25-year period guided by the plan's 5 principles:

Coordinate
Enhance
Connect
Sustain and
Engage.

The outcomes are achieved through a list of actions. As such, the plan presents the action items through an implementation strategy found early in the document — followed by outcomes, current status, and background information concerning this service area.

The plan's authors and participants are united in their appreciation for an integrated and thriving collection of parks and urban forestry assets in and around Morden. To secure the future of robust and resilient parks and urban forest assets, Morden community members recognize that ongoing coordinated actions will be necessary to achieve and sustain this valued future.

"Urban forestry is the sustained planning, planting, protection, maintenance, and care of trees, forests, greenspace and related resources in and around cities and communities for economic, environmental, social, and public health for people. The definition includes retaining trees and forest cover as urban populations expand into surrounding rural areas and restoring critical parts of the urban environment after construction. Expansion at the urban/rural interface raises environmental and public health and safety concerns, as well as opportunities to create educational and environmental links between urban people and nature. In addition, urban community forestry includes the development of citizen involvement and support for investments in long-term on-going tree planning, protection, and care programs."

"Local parks are an integral part of a happy, healthy city. There are so many benefits that come from having high quality city parks and a healthy forest canopy. In perhaps the most noticeable way, they provide beautiful green spaces and they usually have great programs for your community. However, there are many health benefits as well as other social goods underneath the surface to having well treed and open spaces in your community."



Photo Contest / Staff Images

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Project Oversight Committee acknowledges and appreciates the work of the plan's co-authors [McGowan Russell Group, City of Morden Community Services] and the contributions of Morden community members, key stakeholders [local recreation organizations, land developers, philanthropic organizations, design professionals], and City of Morden support staff [Communications & Marketing, City Planning] in delivering the Parks & Urban Forestry Plan.

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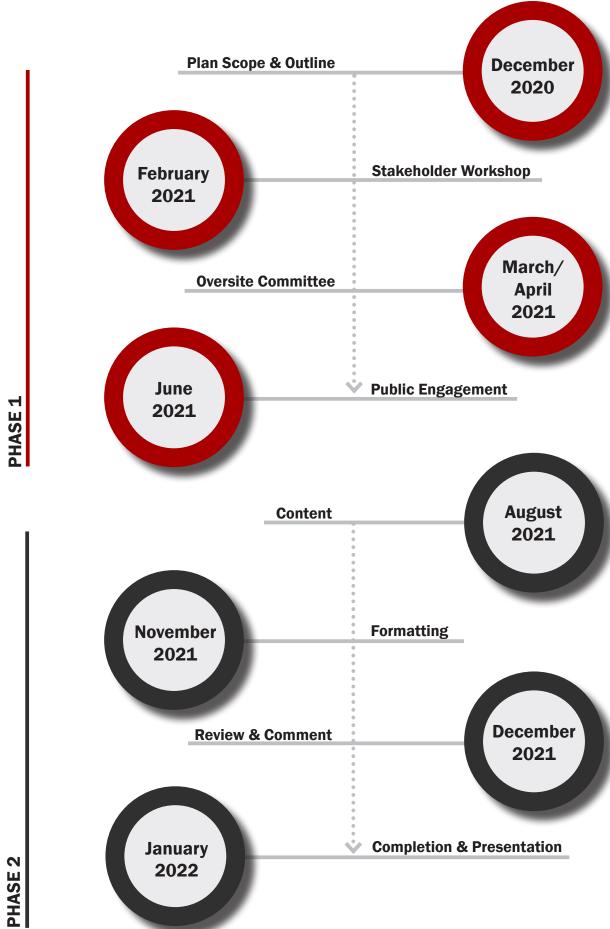
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# **Plan Preparation Process**



Introduction

Following a City Council workshop in late-summer 2020, the City of Morden issued a Request for Proposals in fall 2020 to engage the services of a landscape architecture / city planning consultant; the assignment was to prepare, in partnership with Morden Community Services and Planning & Engineering staff, a Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan. Work on the master plan commenced immediately following consultant selection in early-December 2020.

The master plan preparation consisted of two main phases:

phase 1 being the stakeholder and community engagement component and the first draft of the plan policies and implementation strategy; and

**phase 2** being the final draft of the plan policies and implementation strategy and production of prototype concept plans for each park classification.

City Council adoption of the master plan is anticipated early in 2022.

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- Introduction to the Plan -

### **25-Year Plan Horizon**

The master plan includes park and urban forestry outcomes to be attained by 2046. In addition to the what, the plan will include: why, who, how, and when.

Although the plan may identify opportunities expected to be in play post-2046, those opportunities are considered to be beyond the scope of the master plan.

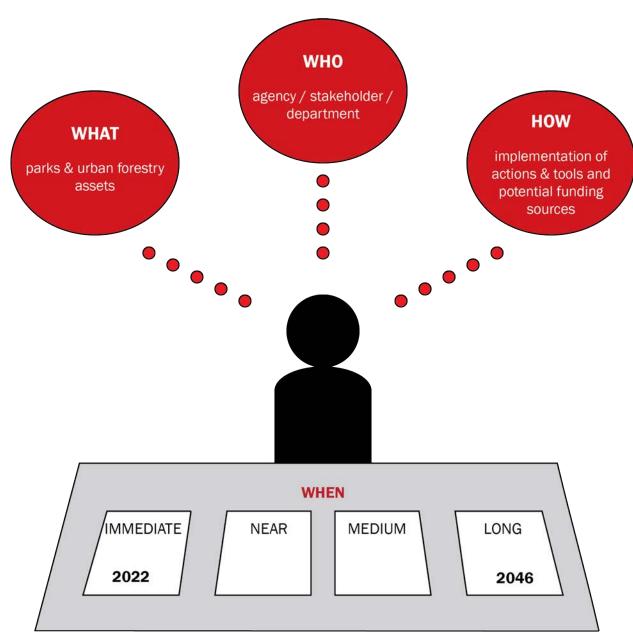
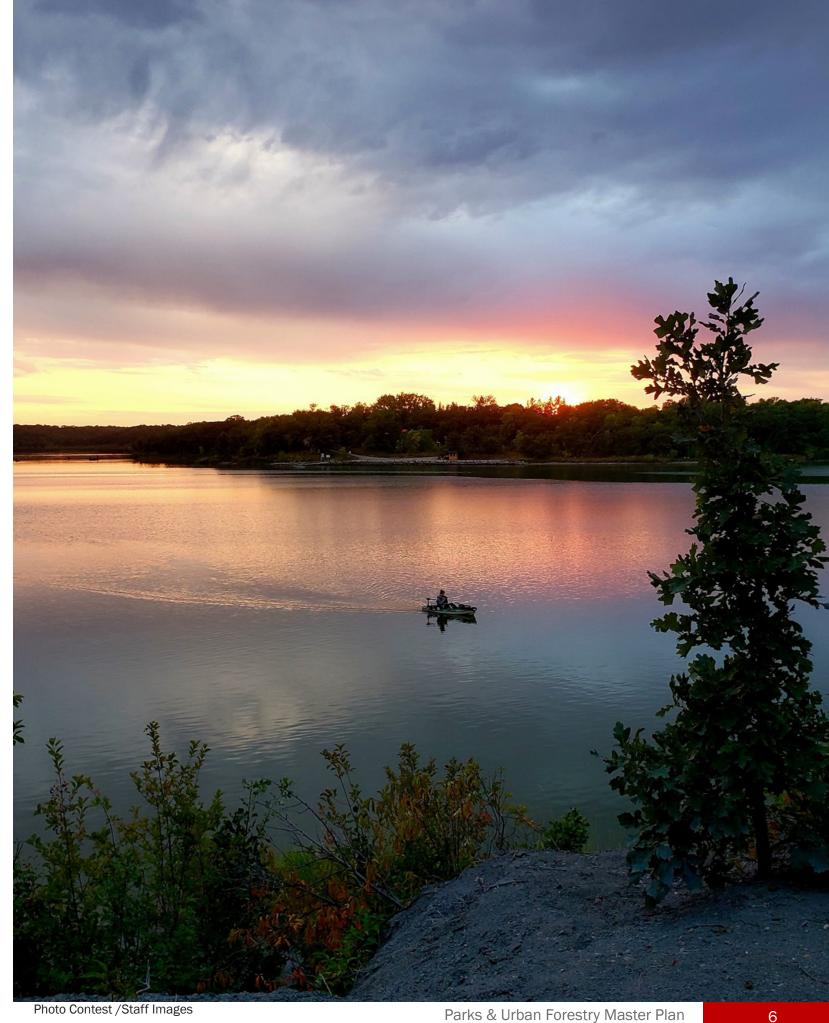


Figure 1.1 - 25 - Year Plan Horizon



Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan City of Morden

- Introduction to the Plan -

### **Principles**

Once adopted, the master plan will serve to guide decisions and actions concerning Morden's future parks & urban forestry assets. Decisions and actions will be based on these 5 principles:

#### Coordinate

Morden's parks and urban forest are components of an overall system; the park & urban forestry system will be improved, expanded, maintained, and operated through the implementation of a series of inter-connected, collective, and coordinated actions.

#### **Enhance**

Morden's parks will be enhanced by upgrading current park assets and acquiring new parks and open spaces; park amenities and opportunities will be expanded and diversified to better meet the values and desires of residents and visitors.

Morden's urban forest will be enhanced through attention to industry standards and best management practices for the installation of new plantings, with consideration of planting site conditions conducive to trees reaching maturity in combination with species diversity based on stock selection, availability, and climate adaptability.

#### Connect

Morden's parks and urban forest will be physically linked to neighbourhoods, to each other, to municipal amenities, and to regional parks and recreation destinations by a convenient and comfortable system of multi-use trails, sidewalks, roads, and natural features; parks and the urban forest will be equitably distributed throughout the municipality and be designed to reduce or eliminate distance, age, ability, and other barriers to use and enjoyment.

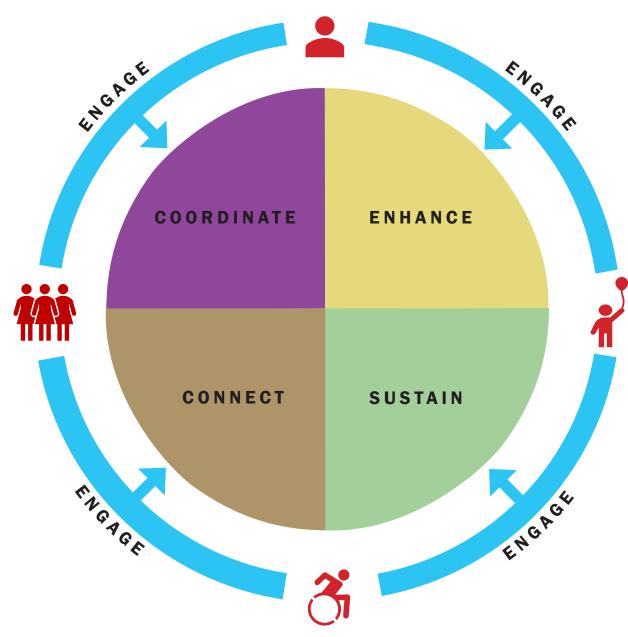
#### Sustain

Morden's existing parks and park assets will be maintained and protected in order to ensure public safety and to benefit from full natural life and manufactured product service life expectancy. Morden's tree canopy originates from and extends over private and public property, encompassing the urban forest. A healthy, safe, and protected urban forest canopy provides benefits throughout the community. The parks and urban forestry system will conserve [and, in some cases, restore] natural habitats and ecosystems and will contribute to ecological connectivity throughout the region.

#### **Engage**

Morden's residents and stakeholders will continue to be engaged in the planning, improvement, maintenance, and operation of the park system, as partners and co-stewards of the system.

Morden's residents and stakeholders will be offered forestry learning opportunities and information materials to ensure those working with and in proximity to trees will employ best management practices contributing to a safe, healthy, and diverse tree community.



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Figure 1.2 - Principles

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#### **Overall Parks & Urban Forestry Overview**

Morden's parks and urban forest assets are part of an overall system, rather than independent and disconnected items. Together, the system:

- provides a range of experiences for residents and visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities;
- is cohesive and legible, composed of an inter-connected network of parks & urban forest assets;
- coordinates efforts to maintain, enhance, and expand the system consistent with the 5 guiding principles;
- is scaled to Morden's size, in terms of geographic area and population, as it grows over the next 25 years;
- is planned as part of a broader parkland region;
- is achieved in partnership with local stakeholders and community members; and



#### Introduction to the Classification & Categories

#### **Park Classification**



#### City-Wide Park

City-wide parks are expected to draw users and visitors from the entire city and beyond. These parks are typically large in area [10+ acres] and varied in activity opportunities.

Examples include Morden Park, Access Event Centre grounds, Colert Beach/campground, 40-acre [future], Minnewasta side south [future].



#### **Neighbourhood Park**

Neighbourhood parks are intended to serve a more immediate catchment area, similar to that of an elementary school. These parks are typically smaller in area [0.5-10 acres] and are easily accessible by neighbourhood residents on foot or on bicycle. Amenities typically include open turf area, play equipment, and paths.

Examples include Rampton Park, Elks Park, Lions Park, Steppler Park, Conner Hill Park, Falcon Drive Park [future], Hanover Park [future]



#### **Feature Park**

Feature parks are expected to draw users and visitors from the entire city and beyond. These parks may have specific ceremonial or civic purposes and are often established as part of a culturally-significant site or facility.

Examples include Confederation Park, Suncatch Park, Milne Park, Civic Centre Courtyard, Morden entrance gateways, Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre [future site], City Square [future], Falcon outlook [future].



#### **Natural Areas**

Depending on their scale and location, these areas may invite users and visitors from their immediate vicinity or from the broader region. These areas are intended to offer opportunities to immerse residents and visitors in nature and include forested, creek-side, hill-side, and other areas of ecological and topographic interest.

Examples include Livingston Nature Park, creek-side areas north and south of Livingston Nature Park, Minnewasta gorge [slopes north and south of golf course], lakeview cemetery-adjacent lands, Deadhorse Creek north [future], north west quadrant poplar grove [future], portion of south Willcocks lands [future], west PR30W [future].

#### **Linear Parks**

Linear parks are typically composed of a narrow open space that is in linear format and often contains a trail connecting parks, schools, and other community focal points.

Examples include north side of Country Club Lane, areas paralleling Mountain Street, areas paralleling Mountain Street South, areas paralleling Parkhill Drive, select utility corridors [future].



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## **Urban Forestry Categories**

#### **Conventional Parks Urban Forestry**

Conventional parks include Morden's collection of city-wide, neighbourhood, and feature parks that are described and identified in the parks system section. Urban forestry assets in these areas typically include a variety of planted and remnant trees suitable to these multi-use park locations.



#### **Natural Area Urban Forestry**

Natural areas include those City-owned properties that offer opportunities to immerse residents and visitors in nature and include forested, creek-side, hill-side, and other areas of ecological and topographic interest. Urban forestry assets in these areas mainly consist of native species, supplemented by later plantings.



#### **Public Road Right-of-Way Urban Forestry**

Public road right-of-way areas typically include the portion of the legal road cross-section from curb to public sidewalk [or to private property line where no sidewalk]. Urban forestry assets in these areas include a variety of planted and remnant trees that are distinguished by the locational context [e.g. downtown, highway, residential neighbourhood] and by the site characteristics [boulevard with or without sidewalk, park, hardscape].



#### **Private Property Urban Forestry**

Private properties mainly include developed residential and commercial development sites. In addition, this category includes school yards and a variety of institutional developments such as churches, health care facilities, and federal/provincial sites. Urban forestry assets in these areas typically include a variety of planted and remnant trees suited to sites characterized by large unbuilt spaces. Finally, this category includes undeveloped properties such as agricultural fields, brownfields, woodlots, and riparian areas.



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#### What the Plan is

Fundamentally, the master plan is a scheme of action that links principles to scheduled & funded actions to achieve desired outcomes. Unlike the vision-inspired, strategic plan-based planning approach popular since the late-1970s, this plan is outcomes-based. It's a bold attempt to integrate the plan design with the municipal decision-making context. Outcomes-based planning has been in use in Scotland, South Africa, and—to a lesser degree — Western Canada for close to a decade. It is an approach designed to produce results.

Since this is not yet a commonplace approach to preparing and structuring a parks & urban forestry plan in Canada, a few more points are warranted in the way of operating instructions:

- The outcomes-based approach emphasizes the difference an organization or group makes rather than what it delivers in terms of outputs and processes;
- It involves planning backward from the intended outcome and how best to go about achieving it—starting with what you want to achieve increases the chance that programs will be designed and activities will be delivered in a way more aligned with shared outcomes;
- Clarity about outcomes is essential for any purposeful activity—outcomes mean clearly stated results for the people and organizations who are supposed to benefit;
- Enhances service delivery practices and stakeholder communications;
- Clarifies service delivery intentions for stakeholders not directly involved at ground level [e.g. funders, external agencies, users, interest groups]—whose support and understanding are needed; and
- Benefits of more explicitly focusing on outcomes drive better thought-out solutions, better use of resources, and better cooperation between partners.



- Introduction to the Plan -

#### **Successful Plan**



#### **Description**

Morden's parks and urban forest assets are part of an coordinated and connected whole, rather than independent and isolated parts. These parks and forestry assets together will:

- provide a range of experiences for residents and visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities;
- be cohesive and legible, composed of an inter-connected network of parks & urban forest assets;
- realize efforts to maintain, enhance, and expand the collective assets consistent with the 5 guiding principles;
- be scaled to Morden's size, in terms of geographic area and population, as it grows over the next 25 years;
- be planned as part of a broader parkland region that extends beyond Morden's municipal boundaries;

- be achieved in partnership with local stakeholders, community members, senior government departments, and special interest agencies;
- be considered part of a natural infrastructure asset class that contributes to climate change resiliency; and recognize and quantify the value of natural infrastructure assets owned by the City of Morden. In city service delivery, natural infrastructure can enhance and buffer the costs of built infrastructure while providing benefits to the residents. These assets should be an integral part of the overall asset management plan.
- be maintained and protected in order to ensure public safety and to provide benefits from full natural life and manufactured product service life expectancy.



- The Parks & Urban Forestry system as illustrated on the All Parks Map will be achieved
- Morden will add 150 acres of parks and open space [based on Trees Canada 17.3 acres per 1000 residents metric, factoring in Morden's additional 7 766 new residents by 2046]
- Morden will achieve 20% urban canopy cover [from Morden's current 14% urban canopy cover].

These results will not be achieved without action. Underpinning multiple actions by a number of agents will require shared commitments, including:

• Annual parks & urban forestry current [i.e. operations and maintenance] budget allocation decisions will be guided by the master plan—ensure the staffing resources are sufficiently allocated to accommodate current and future needs for skilled and trained workforce; ensure equipment resources are available; through the preparation and maintenance of up-to-date a park amenity condition inventory; through the preparation and maintenance of up-to-date a tree inventory; by having relevant policies, procedures, and practices in place.

- Annual and 5-year [or term of Council] capital budget allocation decisions are guided by the master plan advance identified parks and urban forestry priorities through advance project planning; be in a position to seek out funding opportunities that would offset municipal capital project expenditures; routine reporting on master plan progress;
- Partner organizations are guided by the master plan [user group, developer, philanthropic organization, business community, senior government responsibility]
- Increase the capacity for education and training in all sectors of Urban Forestry to a broader audience. (PUF Staff, contractors, school division); support the creation of volunteer groups, non-profit organizations, contributing to urban forestry activities, policies and events; maintain and grow industry connections with educational institutions, non profit advocacy groups, provincial and federal agencies; accommodate community volunteer and community group interests in park stewardship activities; etc
- Industry standards for parks and urban forestry activities, maintenance and enhancements are the foundation for decision making. Urban Forestry decisions are guided through ANSI A300 Standards and ISA BMP's. Parks and park amenities are guided through CAN/CSA-Z614 and the Accessibility for Manitoban's Act.

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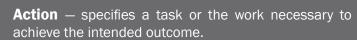
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#### Introduction

To succeed, the master plan's recommended actions must be implemented once the plan is adopted. Accordingly, the Implementation Strategy is at the core of the plan and represents the chief deliverable for City Council, stakeholders, civic administration, and the community. In this section, therefore, all implementation actions are captured in tabular format and organized according to the plan's park classifications and urban forestry categories. [In the Outcomes section, the master plan identifies and details outcomes for each park classification—i.e. City-wide, Neighbourhood, Feature, Natural, Linear—and for each urban forestry category.]

For each outcome, the implementation table includes:



**Principle** – where the action item is associated with one or more of the 5 principals.

**Priority** — is indicated by: immediate [upon plan adoption]; near-term [1-5 years]; medium-term [6-10 years]; long-term [11+ years]; ongoing [includes routine monitoring & periodic review].

**Responsibility** — identifies the relevant delivery agent; where more than one agent is responsible, the lead agent will be listed first.

**Implementation Tool** — specifies the tool best matched for the action [e.g. legislative tool; regulatory tool; education & information-sharing tools; financial incentive; new delivery agent/partnership].

**Funding Source** — indicates potential general or specific sources suited to the action and responsible agent[s] [e.g. City current budget; City capital budget; Capital Lot Levy disbursement; Developer-financed; Senior government cost-share program; Volunteer contribution (e.g. donation, sweat equity); Donation/bequest; External agency budget]. This item does NOT include a cost-estimate of the action.



### **IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

ACTION	PRINCIPLES	PRIORITY	PRIMARY (P) /SECONDARY (S) RESPONSIBILITIES	TOOL EXAMPLES	FUNDING SOURCE		
CITY WIDE PARK CLASSIFICATION							
Identify cost/timing of major redeveloments of existing parks [to 2046]	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager		Current budget		
Identify cost/timing of park acquisitions & new developments [to 2046]	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Ongoing	P – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner	Morden city plan; neighbourhood outline plans	Current budget		
Determine portion of city-wide park acquisitions / improvements payable by new land development	Enhance Sustain	Near-term	P – city planner	Capital lot levy	Developer; Capital budget; Senior government cost-share program		
Establish new financing options for city-wide park improvements	Enhance Sustain	Near-term	P – city planner; S – finance director; community services director; business community; philanthropists	Tax increment financing; sponsorships; senior government grants; capital lot levies; donations	Current budget		
Develop marketing package & criteria for corporate contributions to park enhancements	Enhance Engage	Near-term	P – communications officer; community services director; S – parks and urban forestry manager		Current budget; Naming rights		
Monitor senior government & other external cost-sharing programs	Enhance Sustain	Ongoing	P – parks and urban forestry manager		Current budget		
Initiate major redevelopment of existing parks	Enhance Sustain	Ongoing	P – parks and urban forestry manager		Capital budget; new financing tools; local improvement		
Initiate development of new parks	Coordinate Enhance	Ongoing	P – parks and urban forestry manager; developers		Capital budget; new financing tools; local improvement; developers		
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS CLASSIFICATION							
Determine sequencing of enhancements to current parks	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – community services director; city manager	Tailored ranking, criteria	Current budget		

Establish criteria for new park locations & cash-in-lieu option	Coordinate  Enhance Sustain  Near-term P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – city planner		Neighbourhood outline plans	Current budget	
Formalize joint use/enhancement for non-City properties [e.g. school, courthouse, 3M]	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Medium-term	P – community services director; school division; Crown lands; businesses S – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner	Joint use agreement policy & agreements	Current budget
Establish baseline land value for cash-in-lieu contributions	Enhance Engage	Near-term	P – city planner; city manager S – finance director	Development agreement	Current budget
Distinguish minimum park portion from overall public reserve dedication; determine apportioning formula when park shares area with municipal utility	Coordinate Engage	Near-term	P – city planner; parks and urban forestry manager; S – city engineer	Development agreement	Current budget
Establish baseline developer-funded improvements for new parks	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – city planner; developers; city manager	Development agreement	Developer; Current budget
Determine basis for accommodating unique, developer-proposed improvements to parks	Enhance Engage	Medium-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – developers; community services director; city planner	Development agreement; Home-owner association agreement	Current budget; Home-owner association
Establish criteria for determining whether public reserve lands acquired via land dedication should be sold/traded	Coordinate	Medium-term	P – city planner; parks and urban forestry manager; S – community services director	Surplus public reserve lands policy	Current budget
Establish dedicated account for cash-in-lieu contributions & public reserve land sale proceeds	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Near-term	P – finance director; S – city manager		Current budget
FEATURE PARKS CLASSIFICATION					
Determine sequencing of enhancements to current parks	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Medium-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – community services director		Current budget
Establish baseline park portion of budget for new / refurbished civic institutions	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Medium-term	P – city manager; community services director; S – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner	Civic institution public space policy	Current budget

NATURAL AREAS CLASSIFICATION	•				
Investigate alternative acquisition options for natural areas [other than purchase]	Sustain	Near-term	P – city planner; S – parks and urban forestry manager; finance director	Sensitive environmental lands legislative tools; conservation easements; income tax relief for donations; bequests; development agreement	Current budget
Determine method to capture value of natural assets hat will not be conserved in new neighbourhoods equivalent to cash-in-lieu]	Coordinate Sustain	Medium-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner; parks manager; S – Finance director	Development agreement	Current budget
dentify areas of ecological / topographical significance	Coordinate Sustain	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner; S – environmental agencies; Manitoba historical resources	Natural areas inventory	Capital budget; Environmental funding programs; Senior government grants
LINEAR PARKS CLASSIFICATION	•				
repare trail system plan	Coordinate Enhance Connect Engage	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; trail group; city planner	Topic plan	Current budget; Capital budget; In-kind contributions
Review existing parks for suitability as part of connected rail system; funsuitable, declare surplus and market	Coordinate Connect Engage	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner; S – city engineer	Surplus public reserve / off-street right-of-way lands policy	Current budget
Determine sequencing of enhancements to current parks	Coordinate Enhance	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – community services director		Current budget
Determine sequencing of improvements to undeveloped edicated lands that should be utilized for connected system improvements	Coordinate Enhance Connect	Near-term	P – parks manager; S – community services director; city manager		Current budget
dentify utility corridors that may be used as part of onnected trail system	Coordinate Connect Engage	Near-term	P – parks manager; city planner; utility company representatives; S – city engineer	Joint use agreement; neighbourhood outline plans	Current budget
Remove "PR – Parks & Recreation" district label from ands acquired via public reserve & public road dedications that are not suitable for trail purposes	Coordinate	Medium-term	P – city planner; parks manager; S – city engineer	Zoning amendment from "PR" to "PW – Public Works" district	Current budget

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URBAN FORESTRY PARKS AREAS CATEGORY					
Introduce budget line for trees in capital project planning	Coordinate	Completed 2018; annual updates	P – parks and urban forestry manager; citizens; GIS technician	Internal Capital Budget Planning Process	Current budget [annual updates]
Enhance parks through introduction of native species with consideration for wildlife use [food and habitat]	Enhance	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S - developers	Acceptable Tree spp and diversity guidelines ANSI Standards and ISA BMP's	Current budget
Plan and design plantings with consideration for public safety, sightlines, and lighting. (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)	Coordinate	Medium-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	CPTED Guiding Principals	Current budget
Establish an annual Park Tree Planting Program	Sustain Enhance	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Acceptable Tree spp and diversity guidelines ANSI Standards and ISA BMP's	Current budget
Establish a tree dedication program	Enhance Engage	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – citizens; home-owners associations; philanthropic organizations	Review existing examples from other jurisdictions	Current budget, Donations
Establish community tree-planting educational sessions	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Community Forest Agreement, existing programs from other jurisdictions	Current budget
Develop training program for introduction of preferred contractor list for tree-planting	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Medium-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Review existing examples from other jurisdictions	Current budget
Integrate 'tree island' concept in new parks, where clusters of trees are planted to form a natural feature within the park	Coordinate Enhance	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	ISA BMP's	Current budget
Plan tree-related events and celebrations in parks [e.g. Arbor Day, National Forestry Week]	Enhance Engage	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager S- events coordinator, volunteers, school groups	Coordinate with National/ Provincial Events Information from existing events in Province CUFN	Current budget, donations, grants
Introduce tree risk assessment protocols and procedures in park asset inspections	Sustain	Immediate →	P – parks and urban forestry manager	ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification procedures	Current budget

URBAN FORESTRY NATURAL AREAS CATEGORY					
Complete detailed survey of naturally-forested areas for vegetation types, tree species, condition, unique features, environmentally-sensitive areas, and protected habitats as part of a natural areas management plan	Coordinate	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Ecological Natural Area Lands Strategy (City of Wpg) Habitat Heritage Corporation	Current budget
Assess tree loss within natural areas and replace those lost due to accident/disease/other factors as high priority	Sustain Enhance	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Internal tree inventory and assessment tools	Current budget
Develop tree protection policy & implementation criteria	Coordinate Sustain Engage	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager	ISA Collaboration of existing Tree Protection	Current budget
Plant trees on slopes and along creek banks for soil erosion protection	Coordinate Enhance Sustain	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager; environmental agencies;	ISA BMP's ANSI Standards	Current budget, Watershed District
Introduce wildlife tree program	Enhance Sustain	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – environmental agencies	ISA BMP's	Current budget
URBAN FORESTRY PUBLIC ROAD R.O.W. CATEGORY				•	
Develop boulevard tree policy [e.g. locations, setbacks, trees-per-frontage, who pays/plants]	Coordinate Enhance Sustain Engage	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager; S – city planner; city engineer	Landscape standards & specifications	Current budget
Determine tree installation responsibility and timing	Coordinate Enhance Engage	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; city planner; S - developers	Development agreement	Current budget
Assess tree loss within road ROWs and replace those lost due to accident/disease/ other factors as high priority		Immediate →	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Internal tree inventory and assessment tools	Current budget
Develop tree protection policy & implementation criteria	Coordinate Sustain Engage	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager S – city planner	ISA Collaboration of existing Tree Protection	Current budget

Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan

Develop pruning cycle for mature & juvenile trees [i.e. 10 zones; 10-year cycle]	Coordinate	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	GIS, existing UFMP	Current budget
	Sustain	<b>→</b>			
Revise tree control policy and boulevard by-law to reflect	Coordinate	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Internal expertise	Current budget
contemporary standards and up-to-date information	Sustain	<b>→</b>			
Introduce soil conservation strategy to ensure soils are	Coordinate	Medium-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Landscape standards &	Current budget
suitable growth media by identifying planting installa- tions prior to construction proceeding [i.e. compaction mitigation]	Enhance Engage	<b>→</b>		specifications	
Develop standards for soil volume & quality	Coordinate Enhance	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Landscape standards & specifications	Current budget
Develop tree removal implementation criteria	Sustain	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	ISA Collaboration of eviating Tree	Current budget
	Enhance	<b>→</b>		Collaboration of existing Tree Removal Policies	
Develop detailed website and hand-out information on UF topics, procedures & requests	Coordinate Enhance	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; marketing and communications coordi-	Internal expertise	Current budget
or topics, procedures a requests	Sustain Engage	<b>→</b>	nator		
URBAN FORESTRY PRIVATE PROPERTY CATEGORY					•
Complete city-wide private property tree inventory [i.e.	Coordinate	Near-term	P – parks manager;	Survey 123	Current budget
baseline data]	Sustain Engage	$\rightarrow$	S – GIS technician; citizens; home-owners associations	ArcGIS OnLine	
Develop tree protection policy & implementation criteria	Coordinate	Immediate	P – parks and urban forestry manager;	ISA Collaboration of evicting Tree	Current budget
[e.g. private tree protection services/incentives]	Sustain Engage	+	S – city planner	Collaboration of existing Tree Protection Policies	
Investigate private tree protection by-law options	Coordinate	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager;	Internal expertise and external	Current budget
	Sustain	$\rightarrow$	city planner	review of existing programs	
Establish tree density requirements in civic by-laws [e.g. new plantings, incentives for retaining established trees]	Coordinate Enhance	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager;	Zoning by-law performance standards	Current budget
new plandings, incentives for retaining established trees	Sustain	$\rightarrow$	city planner	stantialus	

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Enable protection/conservation of natural woodlands located on private property—in addition to parklands acquired for conventional parks—prior to considering new subdivisions	Coordinate Sustain Engage	Immediate	forestry manager; developers	Development agreement; conservation easement agreement; municipal property tax incentives; senior government income tax incentives/grants	Current budget, land dedication, donation, conservation easements
Develop detailed website and hand-out information	Sustain Engage Coordinate	Near-Term	P – parks and urban forestry manager; marketing & communications coordinator	Internal expertise	Current budget
Adopt-a-tree planting and maintenance program that includes property-owner access to subsidized tree stock	Sustain Engage Enhance	Near-term	P – parks and urban forestry manager	Internal expertise and external review of existing programs	Current budget

Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan



### Introduction

outcomes Mordenites want to achieve by 2046 or sooner, when possible and where of park classifications and urban forestry categories.

The outcomes represent a combination of:

- local knowledge and capability of assigned civic administration;
- expertise and external experiences of the consultant team;
- know-how and input of local stakeholders who contributed to the Early Ideas sessions;
- feedback from community members at-large through the Community-wide Online Survey.

#### PARKS CLASSIFICATION OUTCOMES

#### **CITY - WIDE PARKS** classification outcomes

#### **Description**

City-wide parks are expected to draw users and visitors from the entire city and beyond. These parks are typically large in area [10+ acres] and varied in activity opportunities.

Morden Park, Access Event Centre grounds, Colert Beach/campground, 40-acre [future].

#### **Existing City Wide Parks - Amenities**

	Morden Park	Access Event	Campground/
	(22.6ac)	Center (33.5ac)	Colert Beach (22ac)
Skate Park		/	
Off-Street Parking	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Paved Walkway	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Non-Paved Walkway	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Lighting	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
Identification Signage	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>
Interpretive	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
Playground	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>
Preschool Playground	✓	√ (indoor)	/
Washroom	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>
Shelter	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓
Picnic Tables	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>
Rest Area/Benches	✓	✓	✓
Splash Pad	<b>√</b>		
Ball Diamonds	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	
Basketball	<b>√</b>	✓	
Skating	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Swimming			<b>√</b>
Floral Displays	<b>√</b>	✓	✓
Open Space	<b>√</b>	/	<b>√</b>
Treed/Parkland	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
Natural Areas	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
Professional Company C			









Morden's parks and urban forestry system will need to be maintained, improved, and expanded in order to meet citizen, user group, and visitor needs and desires as the city grows in the next 25 years and beyond. This section details the warranted. Outcomes are organized on the basis





#### Did you know...

City Parks serve the entire City and surrounding community. These parks are accessed for organized sports, camping (at the lake), picnicking, active play, gathering and other activities.

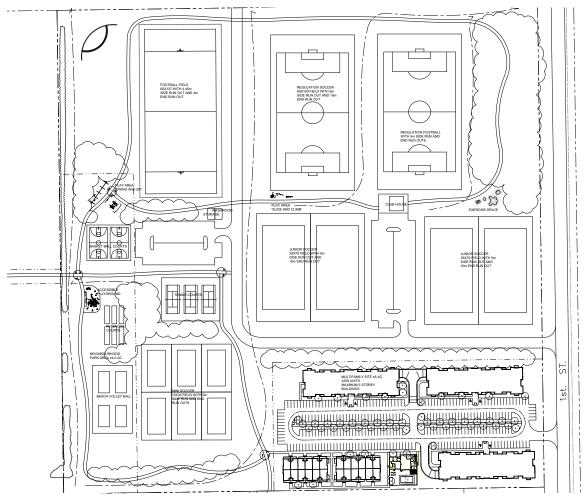
#### Metric:

**58.12**% of survey respondents thought that an outdoor pool was missing from city-wide parks.

#### Comments:

"It's great to have a park where children of all abilities can play."

"I don't think we can have too many parks."



**Conceptual Future City-Wide Park Plan 40-Acre Site** 

#### Outcomes

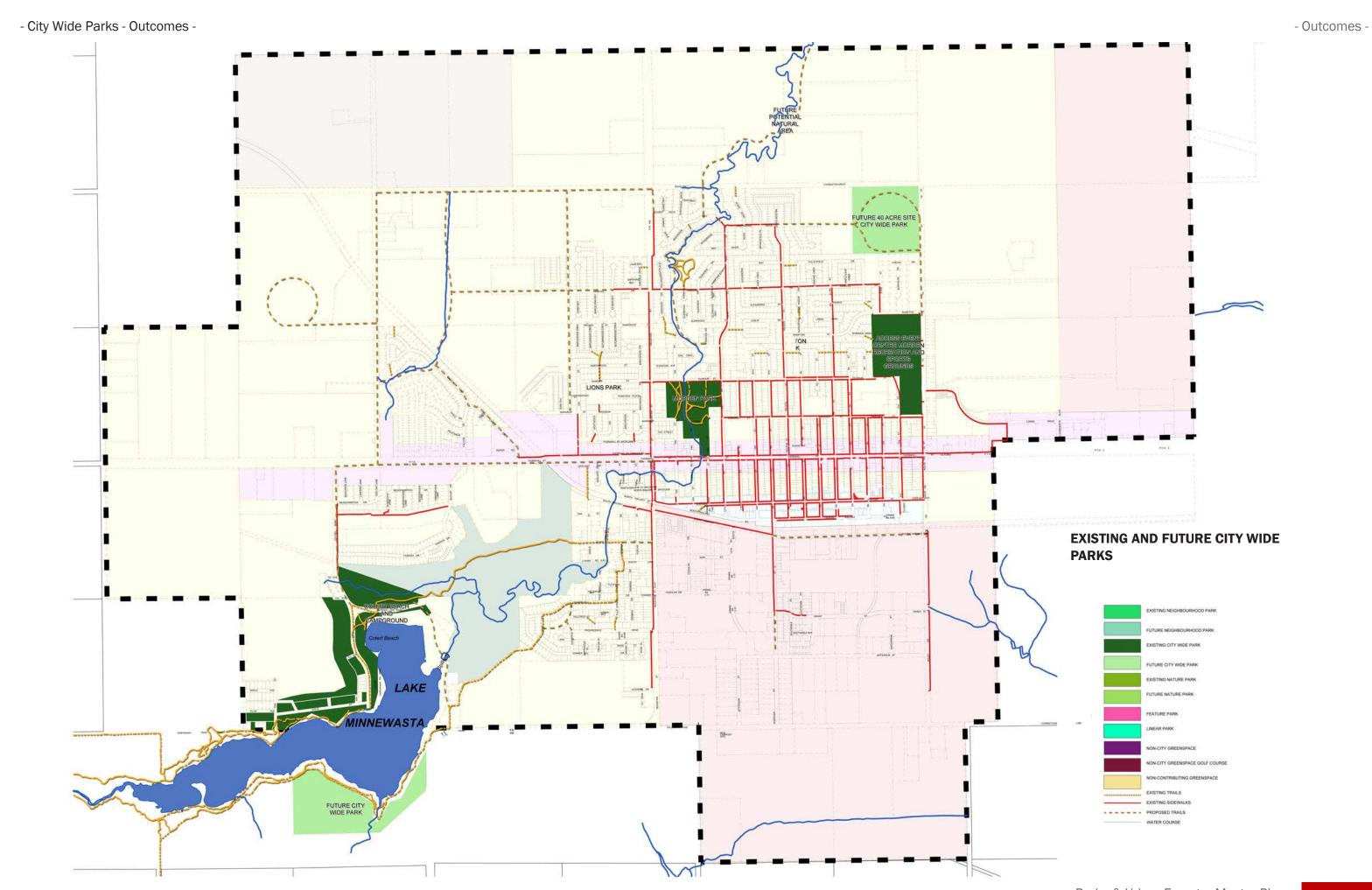
- current city-wide parks are developed with a mix of amenities (p.29) and new city-wide parks will be acquired in order to ensure [mix of types] and 9.9 acres of parkland per 1000 residents.
- are maintained by municipal staff, with additional contributions from user groups, to specified standards
- are enhanced and developed through a combination of municipal capital allocations and external partner contributions
- will be accessible by multiple modes of transportation and will generally be located along a collector or an arterial road, with frontage typically on at least two roads
- will be developed with a mix of amenities (Appendix C, p93) and may include a focus on a specific activity or sport



Photo Contest / Staff Images City of Morden

- City Wide Parks - Outcomes -







accessible

enhance

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS classification outcomes**

#### **Description**

Neighbourhood parks are intended to serve a more immediate catchment area, similar to that of an elementary school. These parks are typically smaller in area [0.5-10 acres] and are easily accessible by neighbourhood residents on foot or on bicycle. Amenities include open turf area, play equipment, and paths.

#### Examples

Rampton Park, Elks Park, Lions Park, Steppler Park, Conner Hill Park, Falcon Drive Park [future], Hanover Park [future]

#### **Existing Neighbourhood Parks - Amenities**

	Rampton Park (1.1 ac)	Steppler Park (2.9 ac)	Lions Park (6.2 ac)	Elks Park (4.2 ac)
Off-Street Parking		/		
Identification Signage		<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Interpretive Sign		<b>√</b>		
Playground	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Preschool Playground			✓	
Shelter		✓		
Picnic Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rest Area/Benches	✓	✓		✓
Dog Park		✓		
Ball Diamonds			$\checkmark$	
Soccer			✓	
Basketball	<b>√</b>			<b>√</b>
Tennis				<b>√</b>
Skating			✓	✓
Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treed/Parkland	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural Areas				✓









# **Outcomes** current neighbourhood parks in established neighbourhoods are developed with a mix of amenities (p.34) and new neighbourhood parks will be acquired in order to ensure a minimum 1-acre park is located within 500m of 80% of neighbourhood dwellings and within 500m of safe, convenient trail providing connections to neighbourhood parks for all neighbourhood dwellings; where neighbourhood housing is located beyond the 500m distance from the central neighbourhood park, additional park opportunities will be made available in closer proximity will be developed with a mix of amenities (Appendix C, p.93) and are maintained by municipal staff, with additional contributions from residents and community groups, to specified standards where a local school is or is projected to be located in a neighbourhood, parks will be co-located where doing so maximizes the benefits of combined outdoor opportunities



#### Did you know...

Neighbourhood parks serve an area around the park of 500 to 750m of walking distance where users do not need to cross major roads or railways.

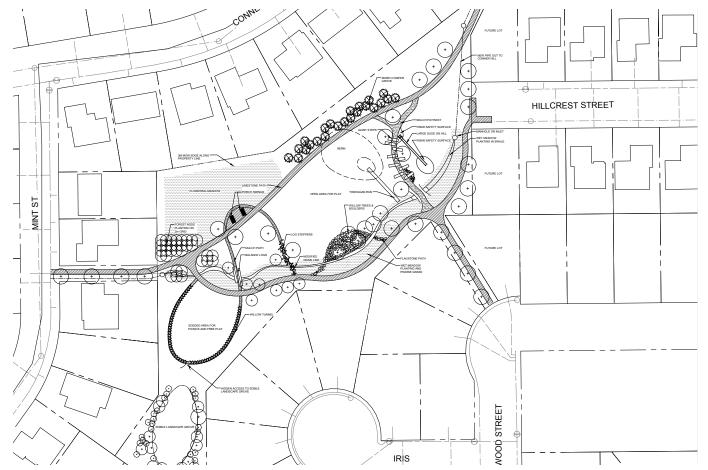
#### Metric:

**76.6**% of all survey respondents believed that it was important or very important to be able to walk to a neighbourhood park from home.

#### Comments:

"Parks and green spaces are key to creating a family and active neighbourhood feel"

"I like the idea of being able to walk to a park close to my residence"

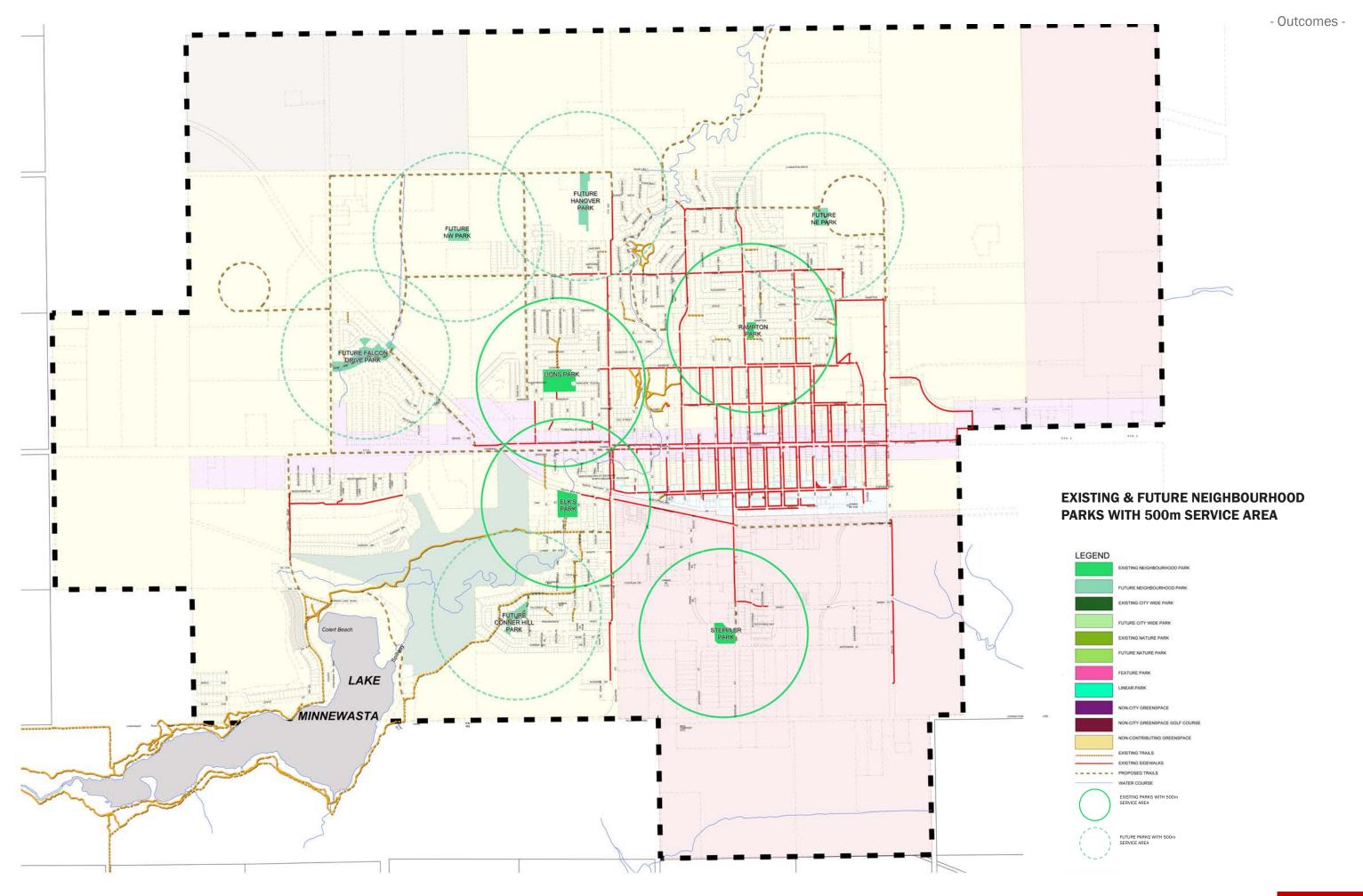


**Conceptual Future Neighbourhood Park** 

**Plan - Conner Hill Park** 



Photo Contest / Staff Images City of Morden





#### **FEATURE PARKS** classification outcomes

#### **Description**

Feature parks are expected to draw users and visitors from the entire city and beyond. These parks may have specific ceremonial or civic purposes and are often established as part of a culturally-significant site or facility.

#### Examples

Confederation Park, Suncatch Park, Milne Park, Civic Centre Courtyard, Morden entrance gateways, Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre [future site], City Square [future], Falcon Outlook [future].

#### **Existing Feature Park - Amenities**

	Confederation Park ( 0.6 ac)	Suncatch Park (0.06 ac)	Milne Park (1.0 ac)	Civic Centre Park (0.2 ac)	Morden Entrance Sign East (0.49 ac)	Hillside Cemetary (11 ac)
Off-Street Parking						<b>✓</b>
Paved Walkway	✓	✓		✓		
Non-Paved Walkway			<b>√</b>		<b>✓</b>	
Lighting	✓	✓		✓		
Identification Signage	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>✓</b>	✓
Monuments	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Interpretive	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>	
Picnic Tables	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓		<b>✓</b>	
Rest Areas/Benches	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		
Floral Display	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
Shrub Beds	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		
Treed/Parkland	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>			<b>√</b>
Heritage Tree	<b>√</b>					









accessible





#### History of Milne Park

Charles C Milne was a member of the Morden Horticultural Society and life member of the Manitoba Horticulture Society. Planting trees on Thornhill Street and the development of this park were two of his interests.

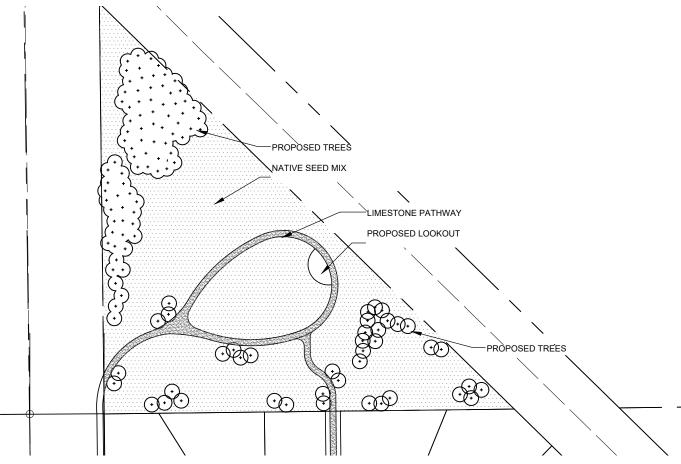
#### Metric:

When survey respondents were asked what amenities would make feature parks more attractive to use, **25.41**% said to increase shade, and **21.61**% wanted benches.

#### Comments:

"I don't think we can have too many parks."

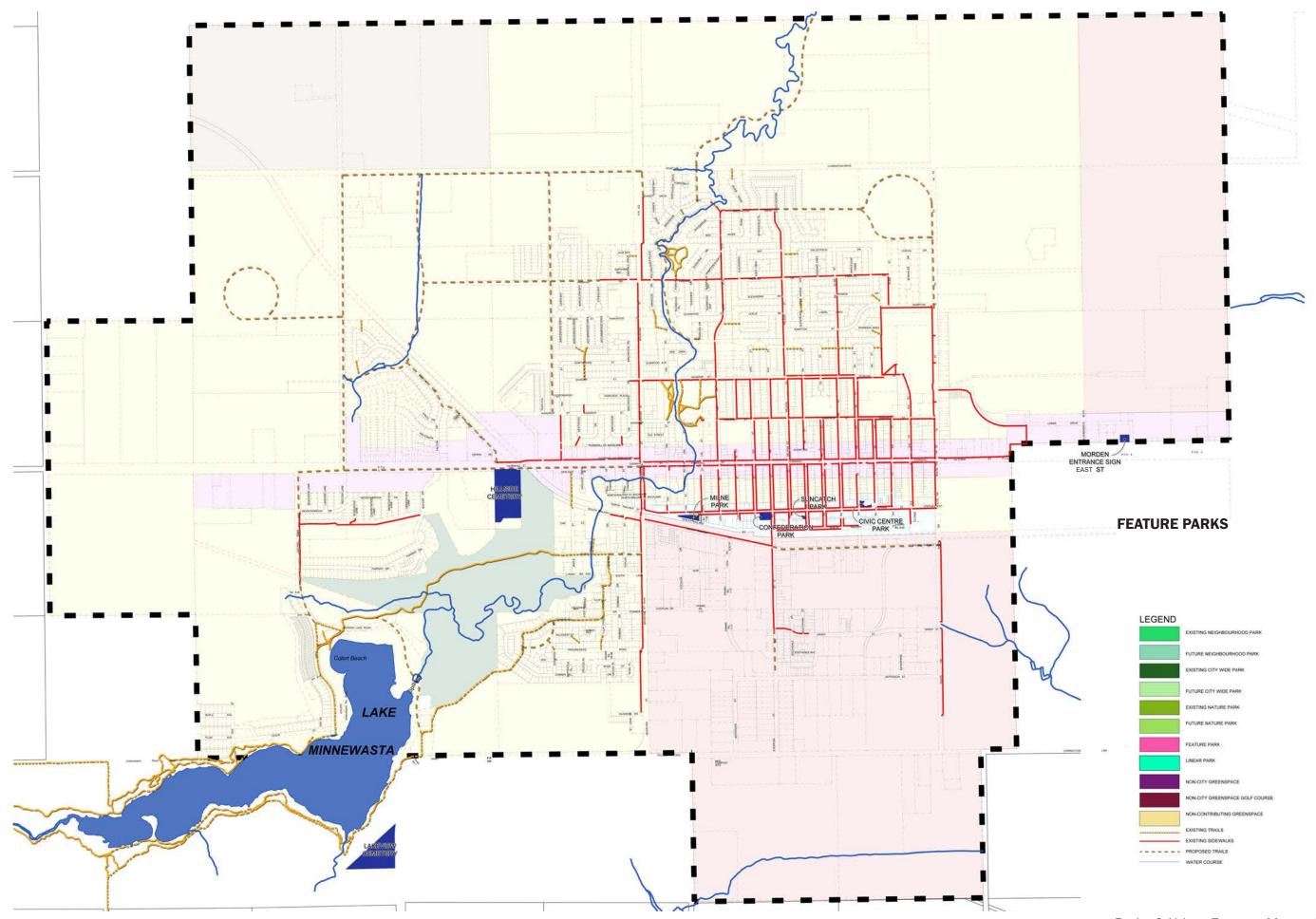
"Green Space is critical to mental well-being."



Conceptual Future Feature Park Plan Falcon Outlook Park



42 City of Morden Photo Contest / Staff Images





#### **NATURAL AREAS** classification outcomes

#### **Description**

Depending on their scale and location, these areas may invite users and visitors from their immediate vicinity or from the broader region. These areas are intended to offer opportunities to immerse residents and visitors in nature and include forested, creek-side, hill-side, and other areas of ecological and topographic interest.

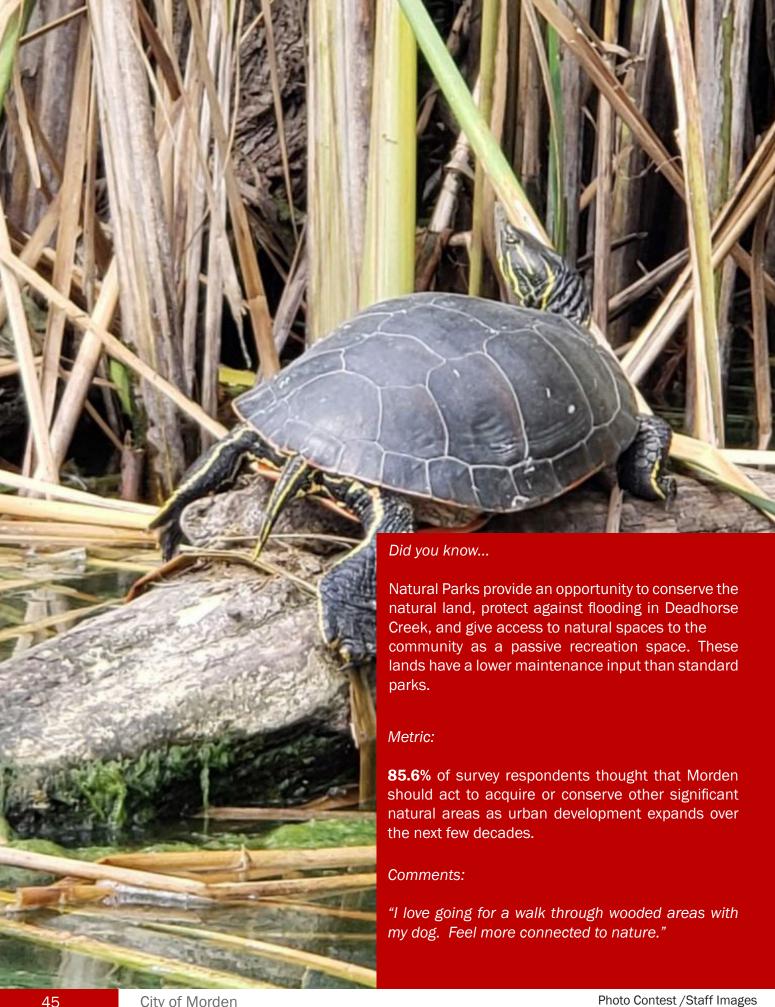
#### Examples

Livingston Nature Park, creek-side areas north and south of Livingston Nature Park, Minnewasta/Dead Horse gorge [slopes north and south of golf course], new cemetery-adjacent lands, Deadhorse Creek north [future], north west quadrant poplar grove [future], portion of south Willcocks lands [future], west PR30W [future].



enhance

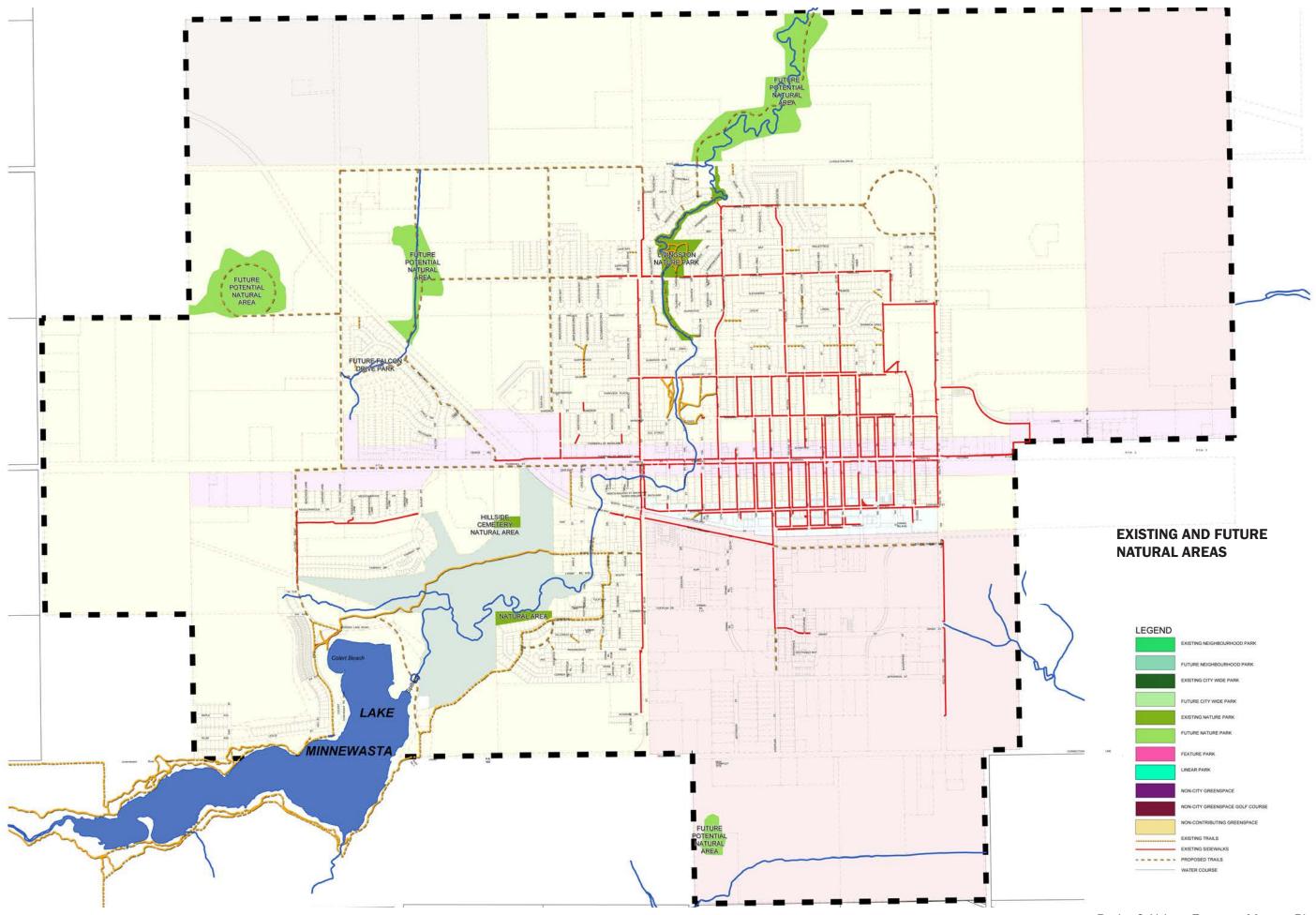
46





**Livingston Nature Park** 







#### **LINEAR PARKS** classification outcomes

#### Description

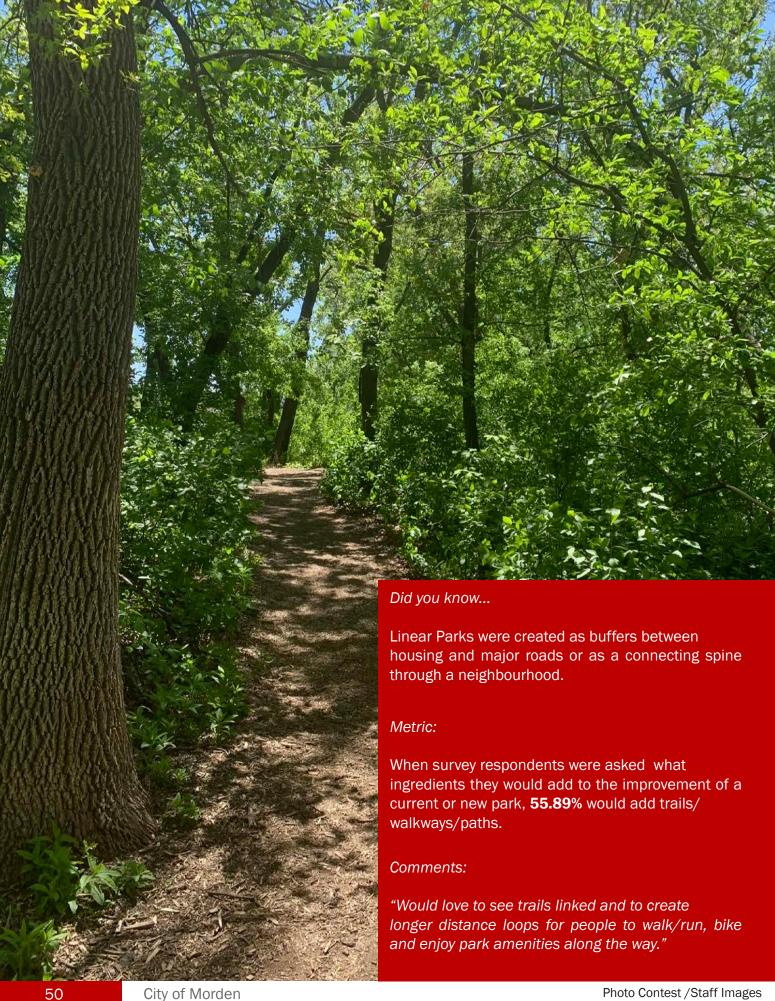
Linear parks are typically composed of a narrow open space that is in linear format and often contains a trail connecting parks, schools, and other community focal points.

#### Examples

North side of Country Club Lane, areas paralleling Mountain Street, areas paralleling Mountain Street South, areas paralleling Parkhill Drive, Falcon railway crossing north and south [future], select utility corridors [future].

# **Outcomes** coordinate current linear areas are developed and maintained according to trail and other amenity standards appropriate to the trail classification and new linear areas will be acquired for key segments of the connected system and prior to new neighbourhoods being approved for development accessible interim trail street-side connections are identified to enable continuity between linear area segments, until such time as permanent connections are acquired or where street-side connections are redesigned as greenways are maintained and enhanced by municipal staff, with additional contributions from user groups and citizens where suitable, compatible amenities are introduced, such as community gardens, rest areas, look-out points, interpretive materials sustain enhance





Trail & Path Examples - City of Morden







Lake Trail

Livingston Nature Park Trail

Milne Path







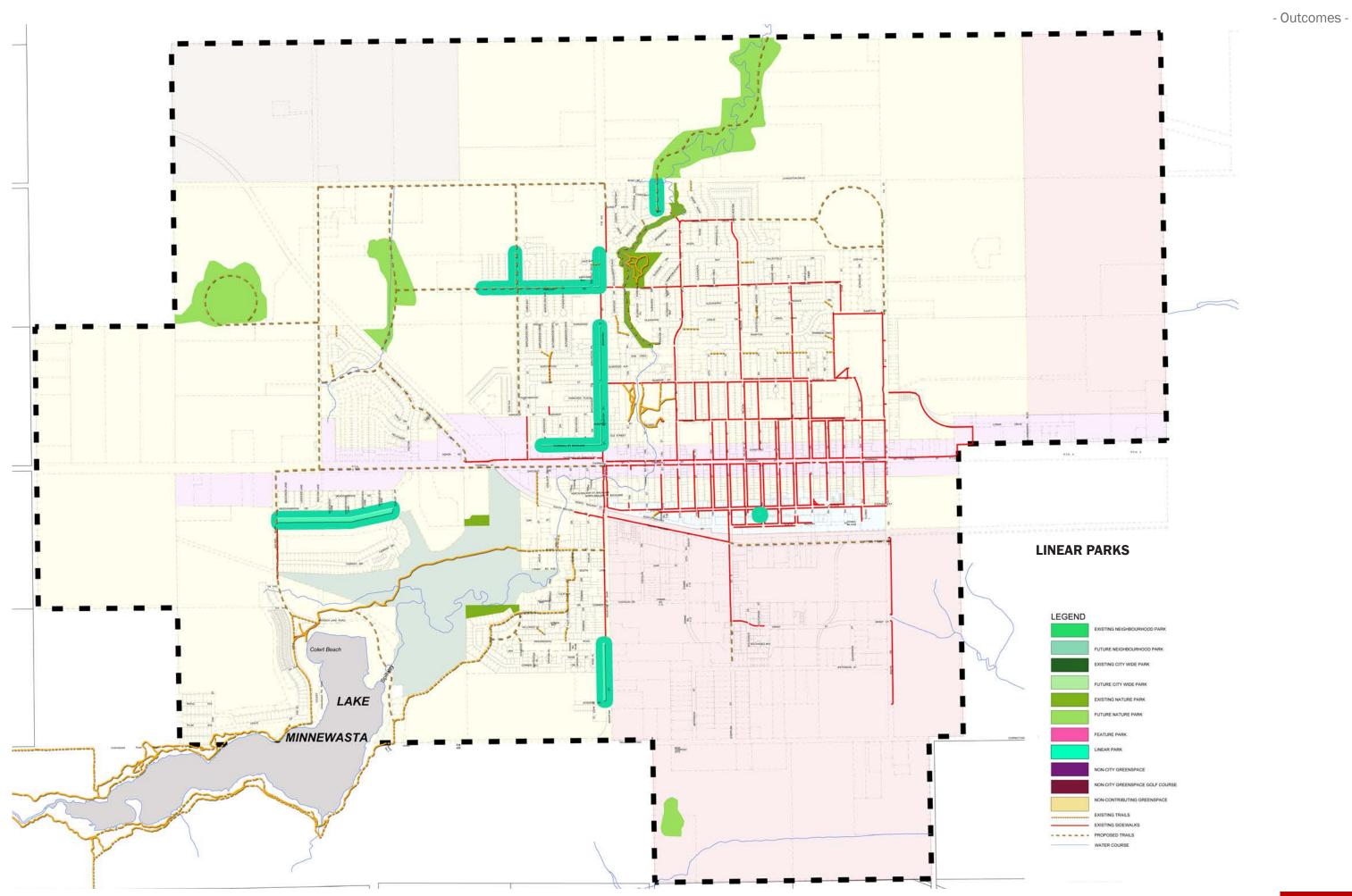
Morden Park

Mountain Street South

Penner's Lane

51





#### **URBAN FORESTRY CATEGORY OUTCOMES**



coordinate

accessible

enhance

#### **URBAN FORESTRY PARKS** category outcomes

#### **Description**

Parks include Morden's collection of city-wide, neighbourhood, and feature parks that are described and identified in the parks system section. Urban forestry assets in these areas typically include a variety of planted and remnant trees suitable to these multi-use park locations.

# **Outcomes** trees are recognized as assets in the maintenance and enhancement of current parks and new parks [i.e. natural infrastructure] trees located within current parks are the 'right tree in the right location', considering factors such as diversity, size, site conditions, and climate adaptability park trees and forested areas will support wildlife use and potential habitat, where safe and viable [e.g. constructed wildlife trees, built nesting structures] within current or new parks, contributions (financial or in-kind) from community groups, grants, or donations may contribute to the establishment and maintenance of park trees canopy cover density targets for park use areas are higher (30%). Native species will be promoted in these areas along tree species beneficial to wildlife. Age class distribution in parks will assist in recruitment ensuring maintained canopy cover over time 6 tree risk assessments will accompany park inspections to ensure public safety

- Urban Forestry Parks - Outcomes -

#### **City of Morden Approved Species List and Diversification Guidelines**

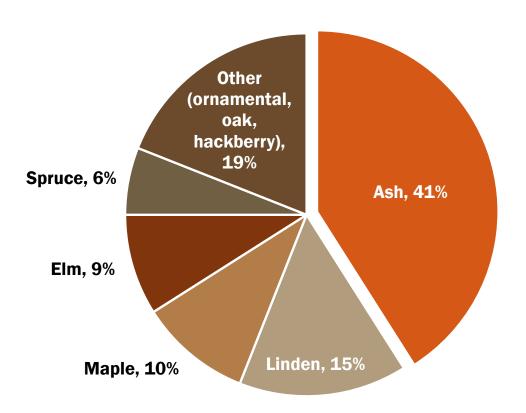
Parks and Urban Forestry have developed the acceptable tree species list categorized by size at maturity, minimum spacing and planting location (Boulevard -BLVD, Park, Natural Area – Nat Area). The list may be updated as trial species are tested, new material becomes available, and climatic trends change.

It is the intention of the City to first plant from the Large Sized Tree list knowing that larger trees at maturity provide larger benefits to the community and the area in proximity to the tree.

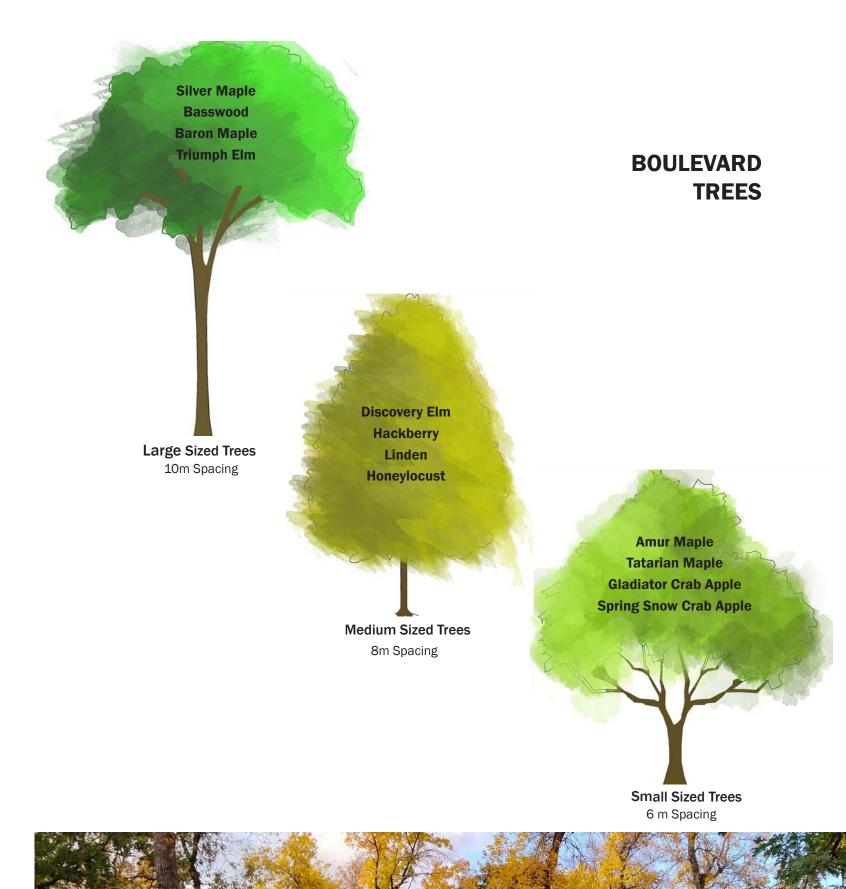
#### **Tree Diversity Guidelines**

For all planting on City Property genus and species diversity shall consist of no more than 20% of a single genus within a planting project. A single genus shall not be planted adjacent and at a minimum of 1 out every 5 trees planted.

For example: Linden, Elm, Maple, Hackberry, Oak are acceptable and could be planted in the order as listed.

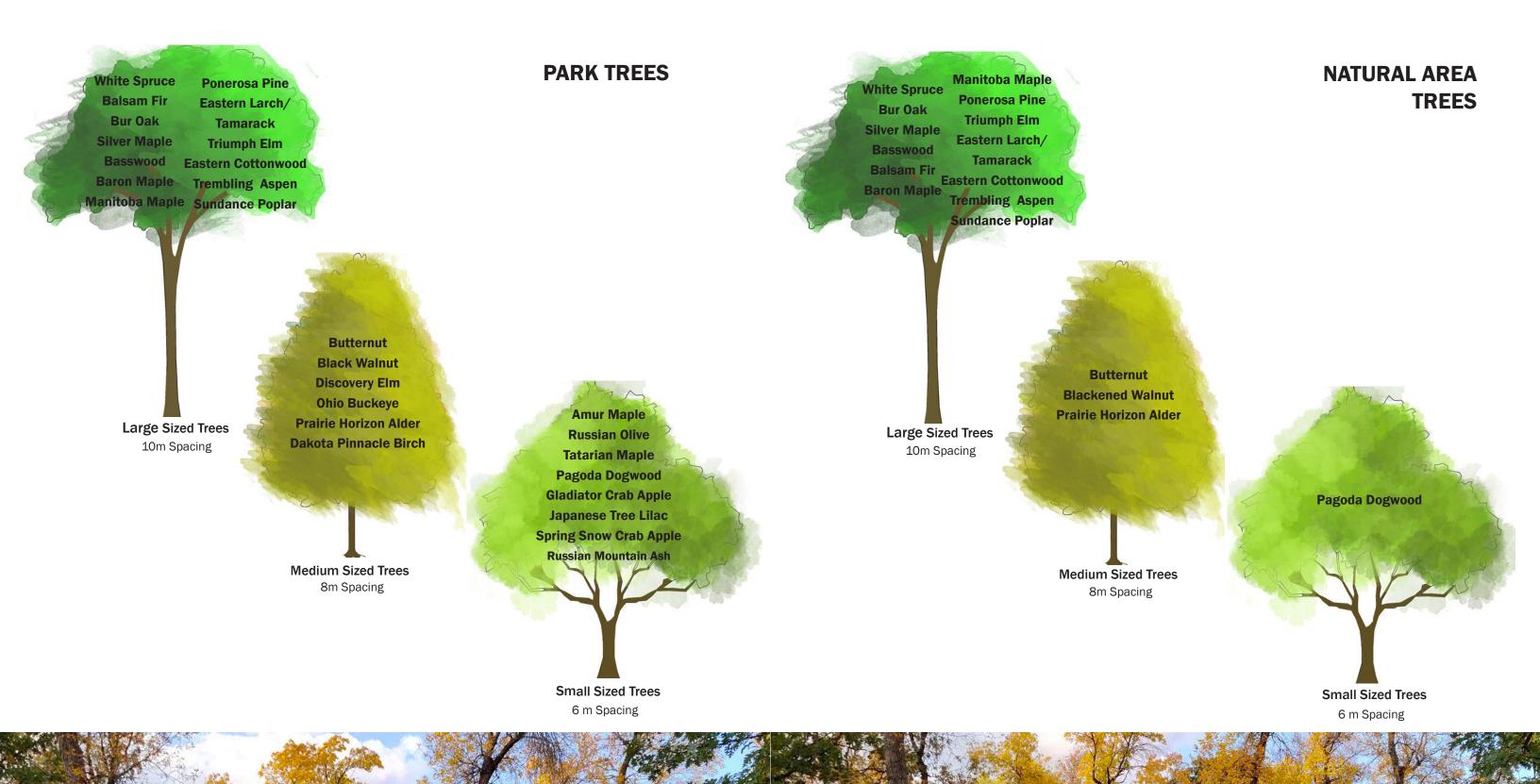


Tree genera pie chart as per the 2017 city wide tree inventory.

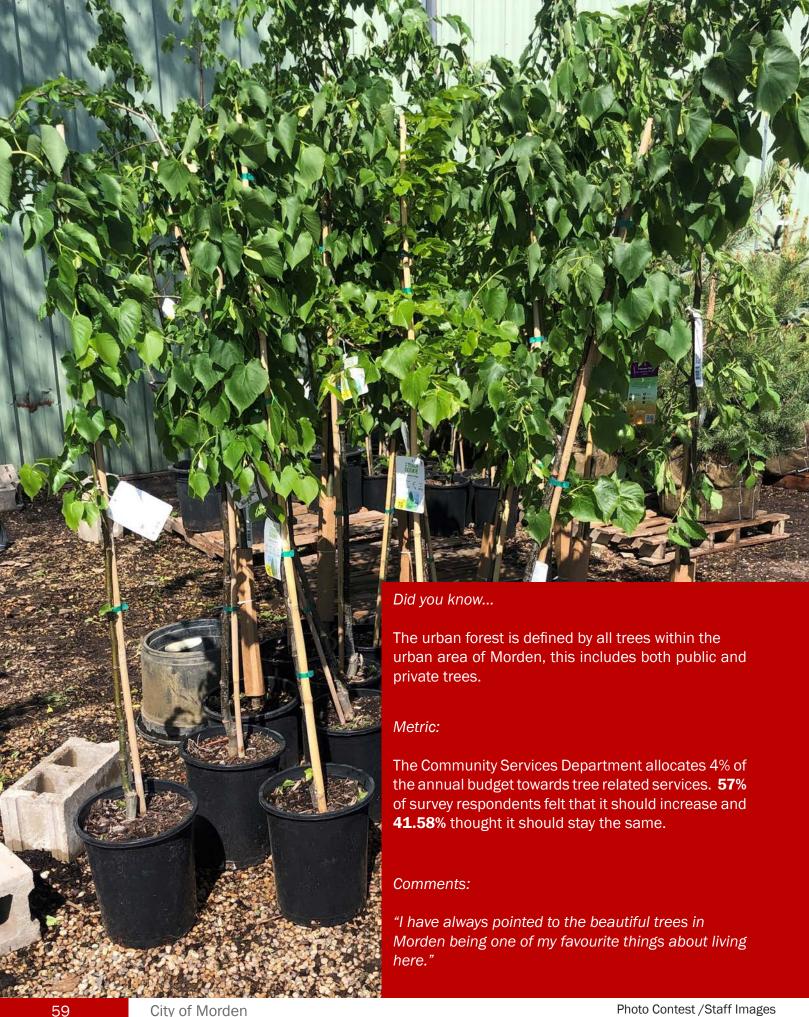


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- Urban Forestry Parks - Outcomes -



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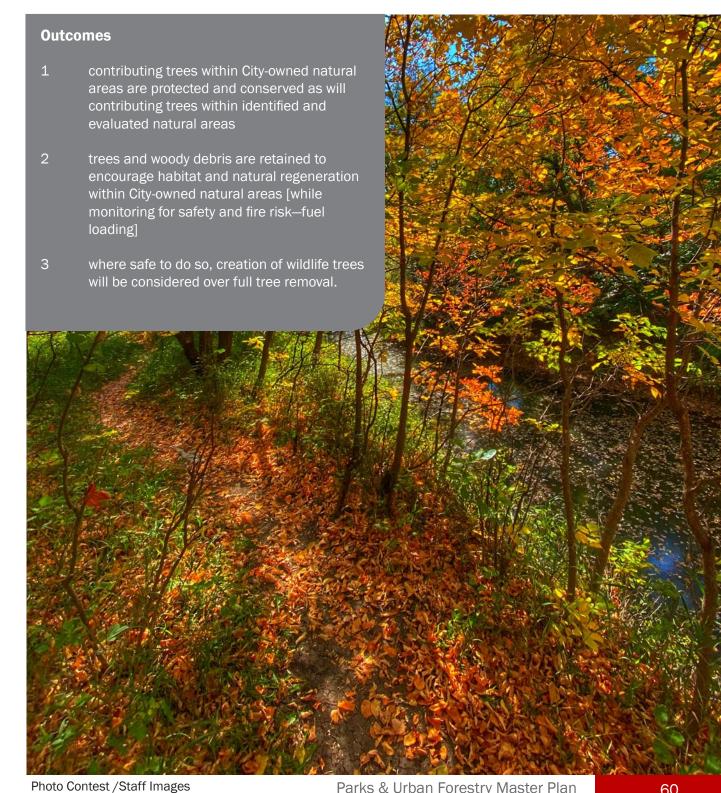


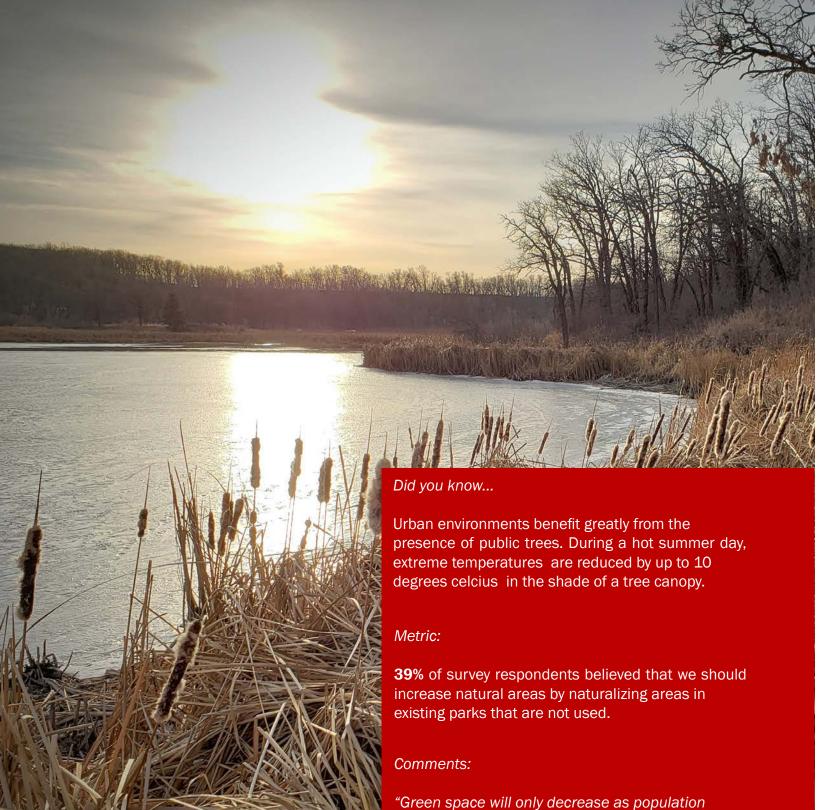


#### **URBAN FORESTRY NATURAL AREAS category outcomes**

#### **Description**

Natural areas include those City-owned properties that offer opportunities to immerse residents and visitors in nature and include forested, creek-side, hill-side, and other areas of ecological and topographic interest. Urban forestry assets in these areas mainly consist of old growth trees, supplemented by later plantings.





escapes."

increases unless concerted efforts are made to include green spaces in planning. Natural areas can provide people with much needed mental health

"Given our current climate state of affairs and the

challenges faced by people and wildlife, maintaining

Photo Contest /Staff Images

a healthy urban forest ecosystem is vital."



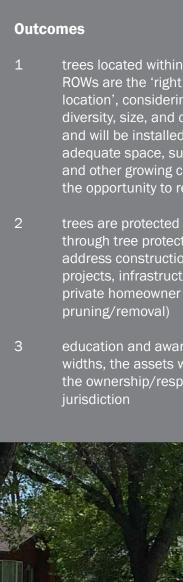
accessible

enhance

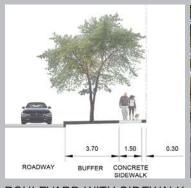
#### **URBAN FORESTRY PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY category outcomes**

#### **Description**

Public road right-of-way areas typically include the portion of the legal road cross-section from curb to public sidewalk, or to the private property line where there is no sidewalk. Urban forestry assets in these areas include a variety of planted and remnant trees that are distinguished by the locational context [e.g. downtown, highway, residential neighbourhood] and by the site characteristics [hardscaped, boulevard with sidewalk, boulevard without sidewalk].

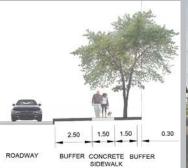


- trees located within current public road ROWs are the 'right tree in the right location', considering factors such as diversity, size, and climate adaptability and will be installed where there is adequate space, suitable soil volume. and other growing conditions that provide the opportunity to reach maturity
- trees are protected from damage, through tree protection policies that address construction and utilities projects, infrastructure maintenance, private homeowner actions (tree lighting,
- education and awareness of the ROW widths, the assets within the ROW and the ownership/responsibility and



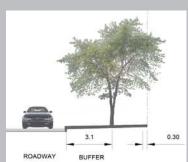


**BOULEVARD WITH SIDEWALK** 



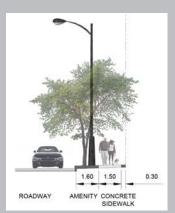


**BOULEVARD WITH BUFFER & SIDEWALK** 



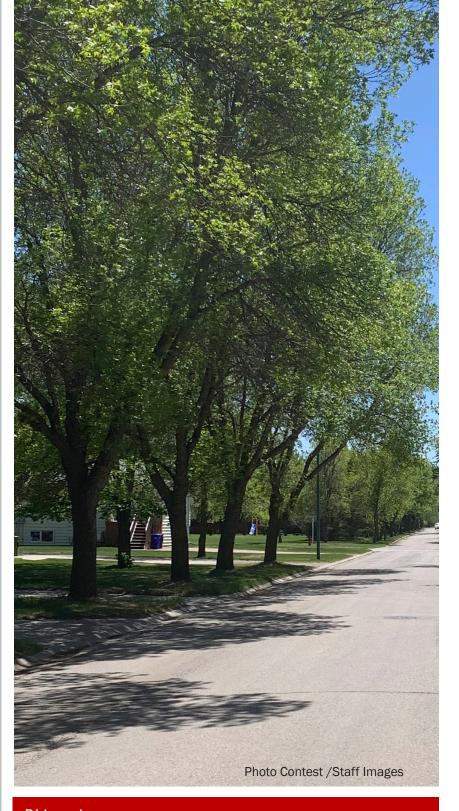


**BOULEVARD WITH NO SIDEWALK** 





**BOULEVARD HARDSCAPED WITH SIDEWALK** 

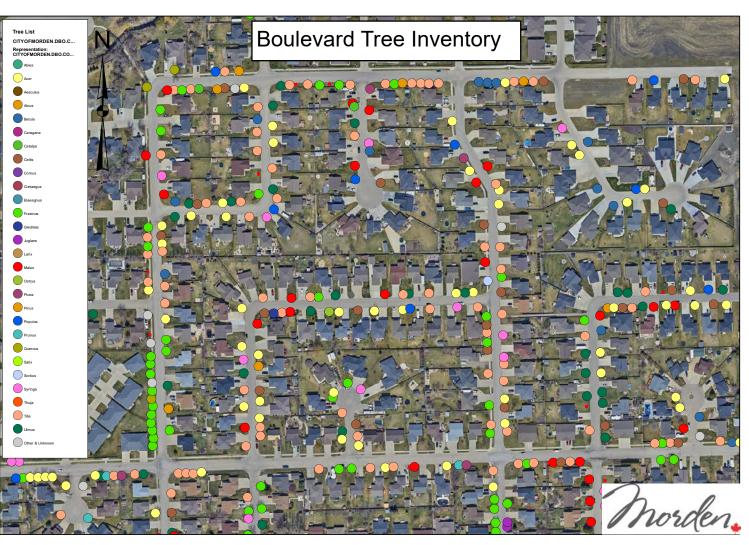


Did you know...

That Morden's street tree resource intercepts 22,471 cubic meters of storm water annually.

#### Metric:

**91**% of survey respondents would be concerned if the urban forest canopy were to decrease.



Boulevard Trees - Residential Neighbourhood Example

"I believe trees are valuable assets to any community. They are like family. They are rather high maintenance when they are young, needing care and protection but once established they offer us a lifetime of service."

64



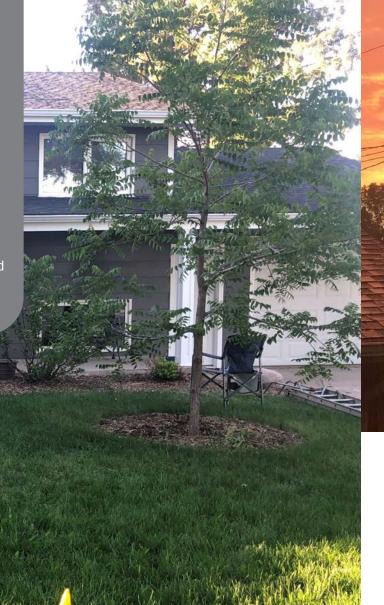
#### **URBAN FORESTRY PRIVATE PROPERTY category outcomes**

#### **Description**

Private properties mainly include developed residential and commercial development sites. In addition, this category includes school yards and a variety of institutional sites [e.g. churches, health care facilities, and federal/provincial], portions of industrial areas with existing forested components, and a variety of undeveloped sites [e.g. agricultural fields, brownfields, woodlots, and riparian areas]. Urban forestry assets in these areas typically include a variety of planted and remnant trees suited to sites characterized by large unbuilt spaces.

#### **Outcomes**

- trees located on private property are recognized as contributing to the overall city canopy cover
- private property owners are aware of the value of trees on their property and are equipped with an awareness and knowledge of tree benefits related to property values and neighbourhood livability
- 3 contributing trees on private property proposed for development will be assessed to determine whether tree protection measures are required



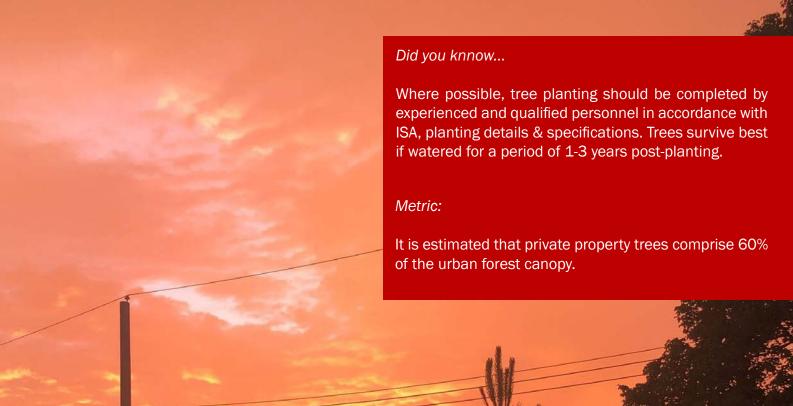


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66

"I think, in general, trees are a very important part of the city and continue to be part of what gives our city its beauty and charm."

City of Morden Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan

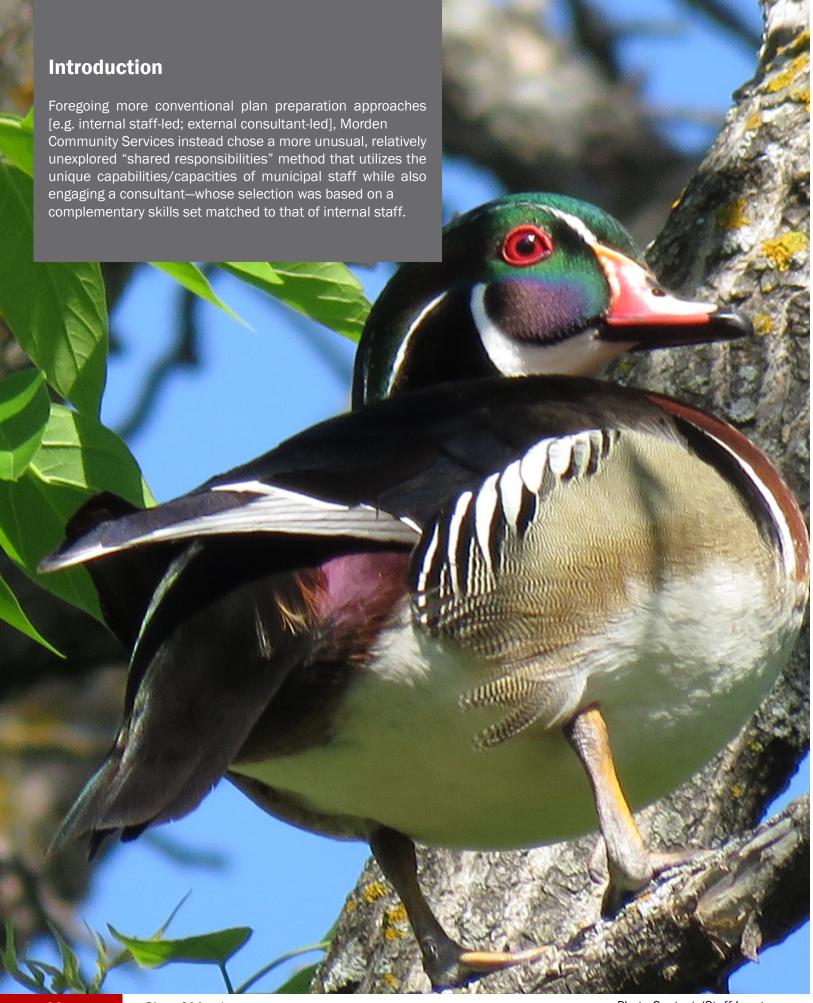


Private Tree Canopy: Contribution to the Urban Forest Canopy

#### **Private Property**

Private tree contribution to established neighborhood where 100% of these trees were planted not remnant or original forest along the 400 block of 10th Street. These trees contribute to noise reduction, cooling homes and backyards, shading turfgrass, habitat for songbirds and other wildlife. Private trees contribute to the overall urban forest canopy, and therefore support a livable green city.







#### **Early Ideas stakeholder sessions**

In February 2021, a cross-section of local stakeholders and the project oversight committee participated in a series of sessions designed to provoke reactions to 7 "Early Ideas". The early ideas were presented as future possibilities for Morden's parks and urban forestry system and required participants to make choices about what directions the City should pursue in providing services.

#### Significant results include:

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS**

- Stakeholders agree improvements to existing neighbourhood parks are warranted and that improving one park per year is do-able;
- Considerable support from stakeholders to require a fully improved neighbourhood park in every new neighbourhood, with lands dedicated by developers and park amenities funded by a combination of developer, taxpayer, and philanthropic contributions.

#### **URBAN FOREST**

- Strong agreement among stakeholders that trees are an integral and essential part of Morden's identity and they contribute to community health and well-being;
- Stakeholders also support programs and initiatives to both preserve and expand the urban forest.

#### **LINEAR PARKS & PATHWAYS**

- All participating stakeholders agree that safe, convenient, and attractive connections are an important piece of the parks system;
- Stakeholders identified a number of key destinations and routes—existing and potential—such as Deadhorse Creek, Lake Minnewasta, Morden Park, and the downtown.

#### **DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS**

- While stakeholders generally agree downtown is the heart and soul of the city, there is less agreement on how to build on this community asset;
- Ways to improve the downtown include improving connections from other areas, upgrading universal accessibility, encouraging streetscape enhancements, increasing casual congregation opportunities, and expanding off-season entertainment programming.

#### **CITY WIDE-PARKS**

- Stakeholders pointed out that some conflicts exist in programmed areas [e.g. soccer/baseball], but don't feel current city-wide parks are over-programmed;
- A variety of new offerings were suggested [e.g. tennis, basketball, football, cross-country, etc], but stakeholders see an immediate need to add new soccer fields particularly for younger participants.

#### **LOOKING BEYOND**

- Stakeholders agree a master plan is necessary in order to capitalize on Morden's potential as the gateway to the Pembina Valley's regional recreation offerings;
- The master plan is seen as a valuable tool to look forward and to avoid past mistakes in parks and urban forestry development.

69 City of Morden Photo Contest / Staff Images Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan

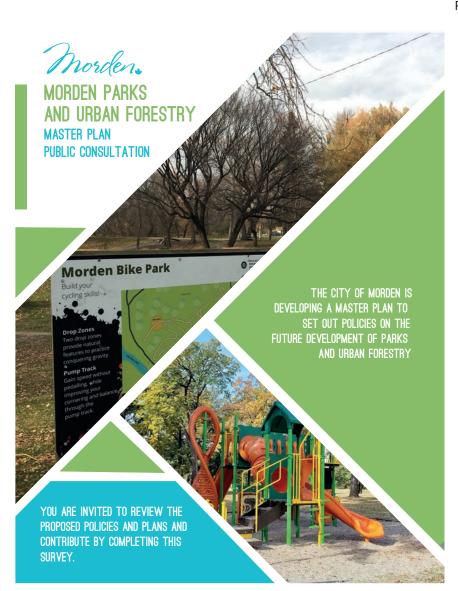
- Engagement Process -- Engagement Process -

#### **Community-wide online survey**

In June 2021, residents of Morden were asked to participate in an interactive online survey to share their thoughts and feelings concerning Morden's parks and urban forest-almost 500 surveys were completed and submitted. Each of the 14 survey questions was framed by brief videos and a series of images to help situate participants and prompt candid replies to questions concerning the state of Morden's park and forestry assets and contribute their opinions of future service delivery.



Photo Contest / Staff Images



Morden 2021 Survey

individuals participated in completing the survey

#### **Significant Survey Results include:**

98% Have positive thoughts concerning Morden's trees and overall urban forest;



**91%** Concerned about any loss of tree canopy cover;





**57%** When asked if the tree-related service budget should be altered, the majority feel it should be increased from its current 4% of the Community Services budget.

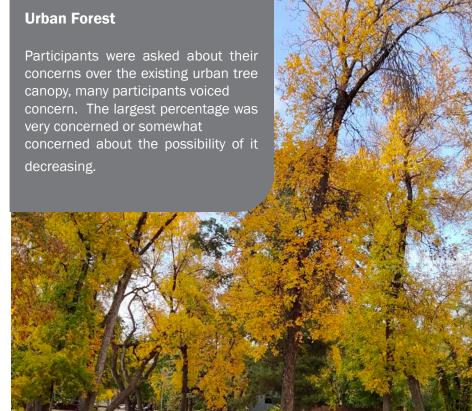


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Shared their desire for the City to acquire natural areas or endeavour to protect areas of natural significance as urban development expands in the future.

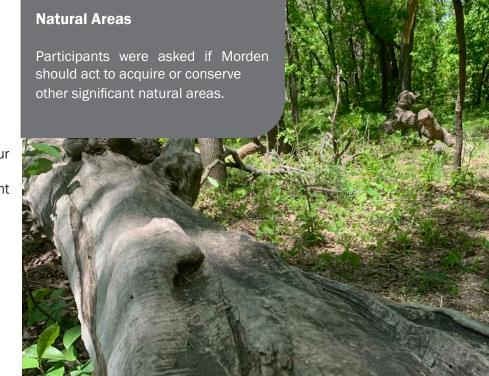


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71 City of Morden Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan - Engagement Process -

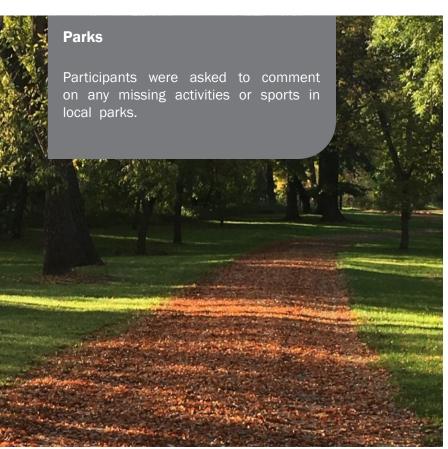


Photo Contest / Staff Images

86% Nearly all participants feel it's important that a park be within walking distance of their home.



52% Over ha



Over half feel that a neighbourhood park should be available for use within two years of houses being built in the neighbourhood;

**34**%

Many participants would like to be involved in planning improvements to their neighbourhood park;

**58**%



Most participants would like to see an outdoor pool added to one of Morden's city-wide park sites, significantly more than recognize a shortage of organized sports fields [14%]; **42** %

Apart from physical attributes [e.g. width of trail, pavement], participants are enthusiastic about adding to the trails system through completing the lake loop.

**34** %

Participants desire better connections between parks, neighbourhoods, and focal points.



Photo Contest / Staff Images

Top 5

Participants identified the Top 5 ingredients to be added to parks:

1

Paths



2

Washrooms



3

Outdoor pool



4

Refuse containers



5

Nature playgrounds



**35**%



Over one-third of participants are interested in being involved in future parks and forestry initiatives;



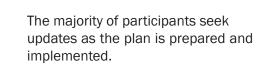




Photo Contest /Staff Images

73 City of Morden



#### - Appendix -

# **APPENDIX A**

#### **LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY CONTEXT**

#### **LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY CONTEXT**

#### **Legislation—The Planning Act and Provincial Planning Regulation** [aka PLUPs]

- Part 4 Division 1 Development Plans requires that the board of a planning district prepare a development plan for entire district, consistent with the provincial land use policies
- The development plan must:
  - "set out the plans and policies of the planning district respecting its physical, social, environmental and economic objectives"
  - "through maps and statements of objectives, direct sustainable land use and development in the planning district or municipality"
  - "set out measures for implementing the plan"
  - Part 5 Zoning By-Laws section 81, Part 8 Subdivision Control section 135, and Part 9 Development Requirements section 150 provide municipalities with the authority to have land dedicated to the municipality for public reserve purposes or collect cash-in-lieu of land
  - Part 8 Subdivision Control section 143 provides municipalities with the authority to collect capital lot levies for a range of city-wide/network services [including city-wide parks]
  - · Provincial Land Use Policies include the goal of ensuring existing and future recreational use is appropriately planned and accessible to the public
  - Policy Area 4 includes policies concerning recreational use:
    - "identify areas suitable for outdoor recreational use";
    - "consider areas identified by the Canada Land Inventory as having a high recreation capability";
    - "outdoor recreational areas must preserve the natural and/or recreational character of the resources that it relies upon and not exceed the carrying capacity of those resources";
    - "where a recreational use has a significant local or regional impact, it must be designated in the development plan";
    - "development plans should provide for adequate land to accommodate anticipated and arising recreational uses and ensure public access to recreational use areas and facilities";
    - "recreational uses must be planned to minimize and mitigate any negative impacts on the natural environment and may include provisions to limit: the density of development; location of buildings; proximity of development to shorelines; clearing of land and construction"

#### Development Plan-Morden Stanley Thompson Winkler Planning District Development Plan

- Morden is member of the MSTW Planning District
- Planning district development plan approved in September 2015, includes Part 3 Urban Areas policy section 3.8 "Urban Parks & Open Space Areas" and Part 10 "Lake Minnewasta Area":
  - Part 3 section 3.8 policy intent: "To provide land in Urban Areas for active and passive recreational facilities for the health and enjoyment of the region's residents and visitors";
  - Map 4: City of Morden shows Minnewasta Golf & Country Club as "Urban Parks & Open Space Area":
  - Part 10 policy intent: "To address the existing and potential recreational and residential uses and development pressures upon lands near and immediately adjacent to the lake as it is the domestic water supply for Morden":
  - Map 24: Lake Minnewasta Area shows lands subject to the lake carrying capacity study setbacks

#### Morden City Plan [future]

- · as a member of the planning district, Morden is not required to prepare a municipal development plan of its own—the MSTW plan meets the legislative requirement
- despite this, there are benefits to preparing and adopting a Morden's-own plan:
  - establishes outcomes the City of Morden and its citizens hope to achieve;
  - captures a number of related services and initiatives that have the potential to positively influence property development in Morden;
  - · provides policy direction for all regulations, significant capital improvements, guidelines, and incentives/implementation tools [e.g. land dedication guidelines, business incentive grants, affordable housing tax credit programs, etc];

- Appendix -

• introduces the framework for more specific geographic plans [aka outline plans] and topic plans [aka municipal service plans, including parks & urban forestry]

#### Other topic/municipal service plans—e.g. transportation, facilities, drainage, piped services [future]

- Currently, no other municipal service plans have been produced and implemented
- Attention to joint servicing requirements where a parks and/or urban forestry asset shares physical space with another municipal service [e.g. land drainage facility]

#### **Geographic plans—e.g. NW quadrant outline plan** [future]

- Currently, no outline or redevelopment plans have been produced and implemented
- When a new outline or redevelopment plan is initiated, ensure its preparation aligns with parks & urban forestry aims

#### **Morden Zoning By-Law**

- "Park" is a permitted use in all zoning districts
- There are no built form requirements [e.g. minimum lot size, minimum setbacks to property, maximum building height, etc] in the "PR Parks & Recreation" district

#### Parks- & Urban Forestry-related By-Laws & Policies

- Park Use By-Law 12-2017—restricts hours of park use; prohibits overnight camping
- Weed Control Policy C/S-001—guidelines and procedures for controlling weeds on City-owned property
- Rates & Charges Policy C/S-003—fee rates for use of municipal leisure facilities and services
- Tree Control Policy C/S-004—guidelines for planting, maintaining, protecting, and/or removing trees and shrubs on City-owned property; includes diversity guidelines and acceptable species list
- Benches Policy C/S-009—procedures for citizen memorial benches on City-owned property
- Public Reserve Policy C/S-010—restrictions on use of public reserve lands by neighbouring property owner [primarily concerning creek-side properties]
- Lake Minnewasta Campground Procedure Policy C/S-013—procedures for overnight campers at the lake.
- Lake Minnewasta Boating & Watercraft Procedure Policy C/S-014—procedures for safe boat operations at the lake.
- Landscape Specification Standards Policy C/S-016—standards for landscape installation and maintenance on City-owned property.
- City of Morden Ash Strategy 10 year strategy to raise awareness of, monitor, and implement actions to buffer the potential impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer.
- City of Morden Urban Forestry Management Plan record and analysis of the 2017 city wide tree inventory data set along with a set of recommended action items related to all urban forest activities.
- Tree Protection Policy guidelines for the establishment of a tree and root protection areas surrounding city owned trees.
- Boulevard Maintenance By-law By-Law 17-2017 addresses the planting and maintenance of grass, flowers, trees, or shrubs within the area of city owned road right-of-way.
- Integrated Pest Management Plan [future] a knowledge-based approach and will act as a guide for the prevention, identification, monitoring, treatment and evaluation of pests within the City; will guide the City's approach and treatment of pests through a systematic decision-making process that aims to prevent pests from becoming problems and to determine what actions to take if pest problems occur.

### **APPENDIX B**

#### **BACKGROUND & CURRENT STATUS**

#### - Appendix -

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#### **BACKGROUND & CURRENT STATUS**

#### **Morden History Narrative**

The City of Morden was founded as an unincorporated village in 1882, originally due to the routing of a CPR line that took advantage of the Dead Horse Creek as a water supply source. By 1903 Morden achieved town status. City status was achieved by 2012.

A centre for trade, commerce, industry, education, worship, recreation, entertainment, and celebration in south west Manitoba, Morden is best known for being the gateway to the Pembina Valley region and for its strong ties to agricultural research—and for its annual Corn & Apple Festival, held in August of every year since 1967.

#### **Evolving Demographics Breakdown & Comparison to Province-wide**

Morden's 2016 Statistics Canada population was 8668. Morden's growth rate has outpaced Manitoba's as a whole—recent population growth projects an anticipated 2021 population exceeding 9500, based on growth pace from 1996 through 2016. This pace and signs of increasing youth population are primarily the results of immigration growth.

The Morden Community Driven Immigration Initiative has contributed to Morden's 2.99% annual population growth rate since the program's inception in 2012 [compared to Manitoba's 1.13% annual growth rate over this same period].

Should this growth rate continue throughout the 25-year master plan horizon [from 2021 through 2046], Morden's population is anticipated to be 16 434—an increase of 7766 residents.

Note that Manitoba Health estimates Morden's 2021 population at 11 595, based on growth pace from 2011 through 2021. By 2046, Morden's projected population would be 25 517—an increase of 13 922 residents.

#### **Parks & Urban Forestry in Morden Narrative**

By the time the Morden Parks & Recreation Commission was created in 1968, Morden had already accumulated a range of park and recreational amenities and benefited from a number of volunteer and partner contributions. These include:

- Fairgrounds established c.1890 [became municipal property in 1940...developed into Access Event Centre starting in the early-1970s];
- Dominion Experimental Farm established c.1915 [now Morden Research & Development Station];
- Horticultural Society formed c.1916;
- Confederation Park pre-1919 [jointly established with Rural Municipality of Stanley];
- Morden Travellers/Tourist Park established c.1925[now Morden Park];
- Colert Beach & Campground established c.1954;
- Minnewasta Golf & Country Club formed c.1960.

Historically, neighbourhood parks were added through service club contributions, citizen donations, and land purchases. Although the legislation allowed municipalities to acquire land dedication through the subdivision process since the late-19th century, this practice wasn't commonplace in Morden until the 1960s and early-1970s. Typically, for parks acquired through the subdivision process, developers have dedicated the land and improvements have been funded through a combination of at-large property taxes and private contributions. Notably, there is evidence some lands acquired for neighbourhood parks purposes were later deemed surplus and sold or swapped for city-wide parkland expansions.

Feature parks...Confederation Park expanded in 1967 and further improvements in the early-1980s; Suncatch Park created as part of 1980s downtown streetscape improvements; Civic Centre built in 1982, includes civic plaza; east entrance sign/sculpture area created in 2016.

Apart from the district development plan, Morden has commissioned a variety of park, lake, and creek-side studies to provide direction concerning park acquisitions and improvements.

Pre-settlement, Morden's urban forest was likely concentrated along and in close proximity to Dead Horse Creek. This changed with the arrival of eastern Canadian, European, and northern American settlers—though it wasn't until the early 20th century that the efforts of local enthusiasts and government agricultural programs really took hold beyond the creek and local food production.

In the then-sparsely treed prairie region, settlers began tree-planting for a variety of reasons including aesthetic enhancement, wind protection, and psychological security. Between 1870 and 1930, the rapid development of horticulture supported the establishment of a new middle-class society in Western Canada. Governments, agricultural colleges, horticultural societies, and community farm organizations promoted vegetable, flower, and tree culture as important adjuncts to the dominant cereal grain economy established in this period.

Tree culture also enabled the creation of farmstead microclimates within which gardens could flourish. Among the earliest groups to plant trees were Mennonites from Ukraine who settled in southern Manitoba after 1874. These newcomers established agricultural street villages, which they lined with cottonwoods transplanted from nearby river banks. In, so doing they demonstrated the viability of tree culture in areas of open prairie.

To expand its promotion of farmstead shelterbelts, the federal government in 1903 established a separate Dominion Tree Nursery at Indian Head, Saskatchewan as the basis for a large-scale distribution program primarily to assist in the establishment of field shelterbelts and farmstead windbreaks. In 1915 the Dominion government established the first prairie research station devoted primarily to horticulture, at Morden, Manitoba. Its staff carried out extensive trials in small fruits, trees, vegetables, and ornamentals, and disseminated the results to the farm community. The federally-funded tree supply supported the distribution of American elm, contributing to today's mature elm-lined streets in Morden. Upon the arrival of Dutch elm disease in Winnipeg in 1975 the monoculture distribution shifted to green ash, another hardy and well-suited prairie landscape tree.

Today, Morden is home to over 6,000 planted street and park trees, private property trees, and remnant trees in naturally-forested areas surrounding the Deadhorse Creek and within steeper escarpment slopes. These trees comprise Morden's Urban Forest.

Beyond the initial intent of shelter and food production, today's urban forest hosts wildlife, helps to reduce noise and air pollution, provides shade to cool our neighborhoods and parks in the summer, and reduces the wind through the winter. In addition, the leaf canopy slows heavy rains and assists with stormwater infiltration.

Combined, Morden's well-treed forest canopy affords Morden an attractive backdrop to our streets, downtown, parks, pathways, schools, businesses, and neighborhoods. This healthy, safe, and diverse Urban Forest makes Morden a truly green and livable city.

[with excerpts from The Greening of the West: Horticulture on the Canadian Prairies, 1870-1930, Lyle Dick, Parks Canada, Victoria, BC Manitoba History, Number 31, Spring 1996]

#### **Current reciprocal/joint use arrangements & restrictive bequests**

Over the years, Morden has benefited from the generosity and cooperation of citizens, benevolent groups, the school division, senior government departments, special interest agencies, and business owners who have added to the city's parks and urban forest. Examples include:

- Elks Park:
- Colert beach & campground;
- Steppler Park;
- 3M soccer fields;
- · Kinsmen Trail through Minnewasta golf course;
- Crown lands at the beach & campground;
- Western School Division schoolyards;
- Courthouse outdoor hockey rink (ODR)

81 City of Morden Parks & Urban Forestry Master Plan

*Urban Forestry* – The City of Morden Urban Forestry service area currently includes the planning, planting, and maintenance of city owned trees to ensure a healthy, safe, and protected tree canopy in our parks, boulevards, and natural areas. In addition, this section aims to educate and promote the benefits of the city's natural assets. Staff are trained and qualified through the International Society of Arboriculture and follow ANSI A300 Standards along with ISA Best Management Practices.

	URBAN FORESTRY (0)	•
Sector	Activity	Outline
	Urban Forest Management Plan	Strategic Plan
	Ash Strategy Parks, & Urban Forestry Master Plan	10 year plan Start in 2020
Strategic Planning  Dutch Elm Disease Program  Tree Inventory  Tree Work  Tree Planting	Parks, & Orban Forestry Master Plan	
		provide training for tree/shrub installation to
Strategic Planning	Preferred Contractor List	become approved  Preferred contractor list - planting and tree work
	Policy and By-laws	(grinding)
	Policy and By-laws	Tree Dedication Policy
	Policy and By-laws	Planting Standards - Diversification Guidelines
	Policy and By-laws	Tree Protection Policy
	Sanitation Admin	Add new trees to DED List
	Private Tree Incentive	Develop program for 2021 budget
	Sanitation Removals	contracted annually
	Utilization	milling of saw logs
Dutch Elm Disease Program	Injections	300 trees total (100 annually) in-house
	Basal Spraying	2,600 Elm Trees
	Pruning	August - March
	Monitoring	Ongoing
	Community Forest Agreement	Admin and Reporting
	Administration Field Work	6,000 trees inventoried to date
Trac Inventory		ongoing -complete Morden Park
Tree inventory	Mapping	ongoing
	Appraisal	ongoing
	Updating	ongoing FULL RE-INVENTORY in 2022
	Tree Pruning	Mature - in house and contract (7 Zone Pruning P
	Tree Pruning	Juvenile - in house
Tree Work	Tree Risk Assessment	As required
	Administration	Develop guidelines for pruning zones
	Tree Removals	As Required
	Stump Grinding	Grind, topsoil, grass seed
	Administration	site assessment/stock procurement/communica
	Planning	site establishement and staking
	Downtown Tree wells	vacant wells, scheduled removals
Tree Planting	Tree Selection	stock selection and pick up
	Tree Installation	Target 200 potted stock
	Tree Watering	gator bags installation and filling
	Maintenance	mulch/stake/trunk protection
	EAB Traps	5 traps
Insect and Disease	Branch Sampling	50 Trees
misect and bisease	Injections	As required
	Tree Spraying	AS required
	Open House Meetings	EAB Awareness, Tree Value
	Educational signage/bands	EAB Bands, signage
Public Outreach	School	Outdoor education
	Media Relations	Newspaper, Pvonline, TV,
	Public Speaking Engagements	CiB, Landscape MB, Steinbach,
	Administration	project planning
Tree Protection Plan	Tree Resource Assessment	any public tree within 6m of construction
	On-site works	signage, pruning, measuring, root pruning
Tree District	Field Work	fill out TRA forms
Tree Risk Assessment	Adminisration	file and track forms and follow up
		Leading a provincial initiative with a strategic
	MB Urban Forest Council	planning group
Other	MB Hydro Forest Enhancement	Technical Advisory Committee member
	,	
	Pruning/Removals	New Lift
	Stump Grinding	replacement teeth, hoses etc
	Chainsaws	- conditions teeting modes etc
	Pole Saws	
Equipment	Grapple Bucket	
Equipment	1	!

Parks and Greenspace – The City of Morden Parks and Greenspace service area currently includes the improvement and maintenance of natural assets within our City Parks. More recently, the department has been involved in the land dedication process in new developments and the administration of the improvements made by developers on city property.

PARKS AND GREENSPACE (0760)			
Strategic Planning	Parks and Urban Forestry		
	Master Plan	Start in 2020 - RFP in November	
		Dirt Jump Track, Splash Pad, Shelters, Ball	
	Morden Park	Diamond, Walk/Bike Trails	
	Lions Park	Outdoor Rink, sports fields, playground	
	Elks Park	Outdoor Rink, courts, playground	
<b>Community Parks</b>	Livingston Nature Park	Walk/Bike Trails	
	Nelson Park	Playground	
	Steppler Park	Off- Leash Dog Area	
	Milne Park		
	Confederation Park	War Memorial Downtown Park	
	Internment Locates		
		TBD - not clear direction - headstone leveling,	
Hill Side Cemetery	Other Activities	move columbarium,	
	Maintenance	Shrub beds and Turf	
	Conceptual		
	Rock Mining	Site visit with Horizon - Estimated cost	
	GPRScan		
	Drainage Plan		
	Road Construction	300meters	
	Landscaping		
Lakeview Cemetery	Fencing	Est 2,000ft	
	Signage		
	Concrete work - HS and Colum		
	Tree Installation		
	Walking Paths		
	Falcon Drive	Conceptual Plan	
	Conner Hill	Conceptual Plan	
Greenspace/Pulic Reserve	Country Club Lane	Requires Final Acceptance Certificate	
	40 acres	Conceptual Plan	
	Stablization Projects	On-going partnership with PVCD	
Creek Bank	Clean up	trees and woody debris	

Pest Management – The City of Morden Pest Management service area deals with pests in all categories and across several sectors within the department. Guided by an Integrated Pest Management Plan and regulated through Pesticide Use Permits. Staff are licensed through the provincial government with Pesticide Applicator License(s).

PEST MANAGEMENT (0730)		
Administration	Annual Pesticide Use Permit	Provincial Requirement -prep and report
	West Nile Virus CSA	CSA with MB Health
	Weed Inspector	Appointed by council resolution annually
	Integrated Pest Mgmnt Plan	Guidelines for Pest Management
	Communications	Media, Public Notices
	Larvacide Program	monitor and treat standing water
	Adult Trapping	2 CO2 light Traps
D.A. convite	Adult Factor Analysis	decision matrix for Fogging
iviosquito	Mosquito Follow Weekly Provi	Follow Weekly Provinicial reports on
	Provincial Reports	numbers/positive pools/human cases
	ULV Fogging	When required
	Broadleaf Weeds	Selective Fiesta - iron - twice annually
Vegetation	Systemic Herbicides	Round-up, PAR 3, (approved areas only)
Mantahuata	Rodent Control	gopher - sports, cemetery, campground
Vertebrate		

Turf – The City of Morden Turf program has 110 acres of finished cut, 190 acres of rough cut and 6 kilometers of ditches maintained through maintenance contracts administered by the department. In addition, turf maintenance activities are carried out more intensively on sports fields and to a lesser extent in the parks and boulevards.

TURF (0720)		
Sector	Activity	Outline
	Mowing Contracts	mapping, communication, issues/concerns
Administration	Standard Operating Procedure	s completed in 2019 and to be reviewed annually w contract
	Landscaping	Contract Supervision/Capital Projects/Excavation repairs
	Operations	utilities site digs/public works construction
	Invoicing	Monthly May-Sept
Rough Cut	Communication	with contractor
Nough cut	Ditch Mowing	Based on Drainage requirements- with PW's
	Inspections	weekly (ongoing during travel)
	Invoicing	Monthly May-Sept
Finished Cut	Communication	with contractor and public
	Inspections	weekly (ongoing during travel)
	Aerating	spring and fall
	Grass Seed	spring and fall
	Fertilizer	spring and fall
Maintenace	Topsoil	All projects, stumps, excavations, etc
Maintenace	Overseeding	spring and fall
	Top Dressing	as required
	Trimming/Whipping	weekly
	Gopher Control	sports turf, campground, cemetery (see pesticides)
Wood Control	Fiesta	Not currently carried out
Weed Control	Par3	Diamonds every 3 years (last done in 2019)
	New construction	sidewalks and road projects
Landscaping	Utilities	Excavation Sites
	Maintenance	Establishment
	Start up and shut down	annual spring start up and fall shut down
Irrigation	Maintenance	lines and sprinkler heads
<b>G</b>	Electrical Controls	monitor wx and turf conditions
	40 acre Sports Fields	TBD
Other	weed control	see Pest Management
Equipment	String Trimmers	2 new in 2020
	Mowers	gas zero turn John Deer
	Mowers	diesel front deck Kubota
	Mower Attachment	3 point deck mower for tractor
	Tractor	
	Aerator	
	Irrigation	
	Spreader	
	Sprayers (boom and truck)	

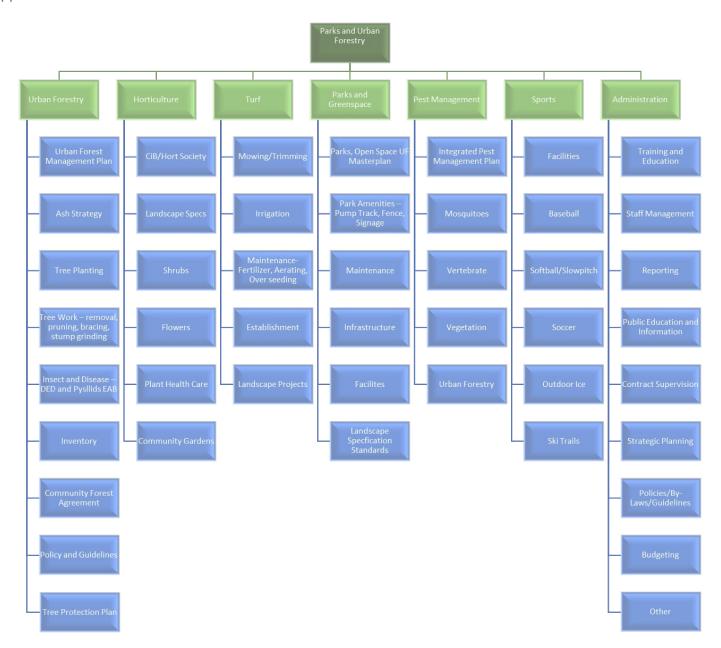
#### - Appendix -

Sports Fields – This sector includes the planning, maintenance and administration of soccer and ball diamond facilities. In addition, the department builds and maintains outdoor rinks, cross country ski trails and snow clearing pathways in the parks.

SPORTS FIELDS (0740)		
	Tournaments	Staffing, logistics, event set up
		Morden Minor Ball, Adult Slo-Pitch, Morden
Admin		Minor Soccer, Rec Programmer, CoM Scheduler,
	Communication	Tournaments, Playoffs etc
	Scheduling	Field Scheduling and Logistics
	Morden Minor Soccer	Size and Frequency of Fields, Layout and Paint
	Spring Soccer	Size and Frequency of Fields, Layout and Paint
Soccer	Turf	See Turf(0720)
	Paint	share with diamonds
	Lions Park	yes in 2020
	Elks Park	yes in 2020
Outdoor Rinks	AEC	yes in 2020
	Morden Park	yes in 2020
Cross Country Ski Trails	5km Golf Course	yes in 2020
Cross Country Ski Trails	SOP's	
	SUPS	see SOP Ball Diamonds Doc.
	Infield Maintenance	edging, weeding, grooming, leveling, Pitching
	Infield Maintenance	Mound, Batters Box, Bases
	Paint	share with soccer
	Diamond Dry	all diamonds as needed (mostly tournys)
	Bagged Clay	maintenance for buhler and 3
	MVP conditioner	apply as needed or planned reconditioning
	Sand	mix Shakopee with Elias red local
Pasaball/Softball/Sla Ditch	Lime Cama Bran	foul line marking
Baseball/Softball/Slo-Pitch	Game Prep	Foul line painting, chalking, watering,
	Dugouts Outfield	Establishment, maintenance, cleaning
		See Turf(0720)
	Fence	Replacement
	Batting Cages	Netting, maintenance, new
	Field Lighting	Buhler Diamond
	Irrigation Score Clock	See Turf(0720) Bulher Diamond
	Equipment Storage Bleachers	Bases, portable mound, Viewing structures
		viewing structures
	diamond groomer	
	super soper	
	portable fencing snowmobile	
Equipment	ginsu groomer zamkuboni	
	bases	replace as peeded
	pitching rubber	replace as needed replace as needed
	·	
	home plates	replace as needed
	base anchors and plugs	replace as needed

Administration – This service area is outlining the department staff, training, and both short term and long term planning. Administration is mainly delivered by the department manager.

	ADMINISTRATION (0770)		
	Parks Manager	FT Salary	
Personnel	Parks Lead	FT Hourly	
	Parks Lead	FT Hourly	
	Seasonal Staff	2 Ball Diamond, 4 Parks (17 weeks)	
	ISA	membership, staff training, Continuing Education Units	
	Pesticide Applicators	renew every 5 years	
Tueining and Education	Aerial Lift Training	competed in 2018	
Training and Education	First Aid	as expires	
	Professional Development	attend conferences, agm's, events	
	Safe work Practices		
	Annual Work Plans	through current actions and new projects	
	5 -year Budget Plans	listing potential capital projects and priorities	
Strategic Planning	Policy and By-laws	review current, propose new or amendments	
	Department Planning	staffing, gaps, furture growth	
	Future Development	Park concept plans, feasibility assessments	
	Operating Budget	planning activities and submit annually	
Pudgoting	Capital Budget	obtian quotes and cost estimates, submit annually	
Budgeting	Purcahsing	capial and operating in year purchases, coding, PO's	
	RFQ/RFB	prepare documents, post, review, write reports to council	
	Seasonal Staff training/orientation		
	Performance Evaluations	annually for FT - end of season for seasonal staff	
Staffing	Timesheets		
	Supervsion		
	Safety Meetings		
Contracts	Contract Bid Document Prep		
Contracts	Supervision of Contractors		
Reporting	Monthly Reports	Department Activities per month	
Keporting	Council Reports	Presentations (Ash Strategy) and Special Reports	
Communication	Public Inquiries	respond to calls/emails	
Communication	Public Liase	on site visits	
Grants	Urban Forestry/Tree Planting Grants		



#### Parks & Urban Forestry benchmarks

The City of Morden currently has no service benchmarks for its parks and urban forestry services. In order to provide suitable targets and a sense of value-for-service, several reputable industry service analyses have been reviewed for relevance and applicability to the Morden context. The following benchmarks are intended at this time as considerations for Morden as the city develops its own measures for these services.

National Recreation and Park Association "2021 Agency Performance Review" [American study]: Acres of parkland per 1000 residents

- 9.9 acres median;
- 12.4 acres for cities under 20 000 population

Parks department FTEs per 10 000 residents

- 8.2 FTEs per 10 000 residents median;
- 10.3 FTEs per 10 000 residents for cities under 20 000 population

Annual parks operating expenditures per capita

- \$88.30 [US dollars] per capita median;
- \$114.62 [US dollars] per capita for cities under 20 000 population

Trees Canada "2015 Trends in Canada's Urban Forests":

Number of street trees per 1000 residents

• 149 per 1000 residents median

Number of park trees per 1000 residents

• 106 per 1000 residents median

Hectares of parks per 1000 residents

• 7 hectares [17.3 acres] per 1000 residents median

Hectares of natural areas per 1000 residents

• 8 hectares [19.8 acres] per 1000 residents median

Number of trees planted per 1000 residents

• 5 trees per 1000 residents median

#### **PARKS & URBAN FORESTRY MASTERPLAN -SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- 2017 Urban Forestry Master Plan 1
- City of Morden Landscape Plan & Detail Specifications 2
- City of Morden Ash Strategy 3
- Tree Protection Policy
- Public Engagmentment Community Consultation Package

## **APPENDIX C**

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ASSETS, PARK AMENITIES** & MAPS

- Appendix -- Appendix -

#### **Parks & Urban Forestry future amenities**

#### **City-Wide Parks Amenities**

Skate Park Off-street Parking Paved-Walkway Non-Paved Walkway

Lighting

Identification Signage

Interpretive Playground

Preschool Playground Nature Playground

Washroom

Shelter Tennis

Beach Volleyball Pentenque Courts

Football Soccer

Pickleball Courts Bocce Ball Club House

Adult Exercise Equipment

Zip Line

Picnic Area/Benches

Splash Pad **Ball Diamonds** Skating Swimming Floral Displays

Open Space Treed/Parkland Natural Areas

#### **Neighbourhood Park Amenities**

Off-Street Parking Identification Signage Interpretive Sign Non-Paved Walkway Playground

Preschool Playground

Shelter Picnic Tables Rest Area/Benches

Dog Park Shelter Skate Park

**Ball Diamonds** Soccer Basketball Tennis Bocce Ball Pickleball Skating Open Space

Treed/Forest Treed/Parkland Natural Areas Natural Planting

#### **Feature Parks Amenities**

Off-Street Parking Paved Walkway Non-Paved Walkway Lighting

Identification Signage Monuments

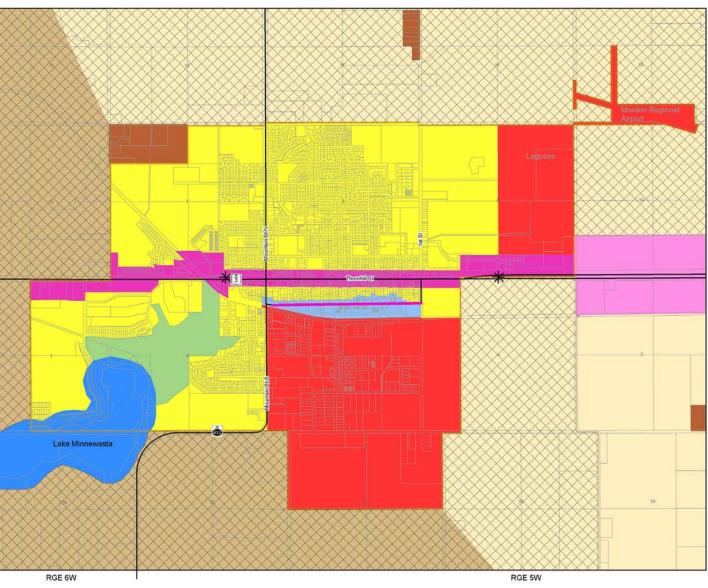
Interpretive

Picnic Tables Rest Areas/Tables Foral Displays

Shrub Beds Treed/Parkland

Heritge Tree **Natural Planting** 

Lookout

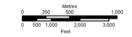


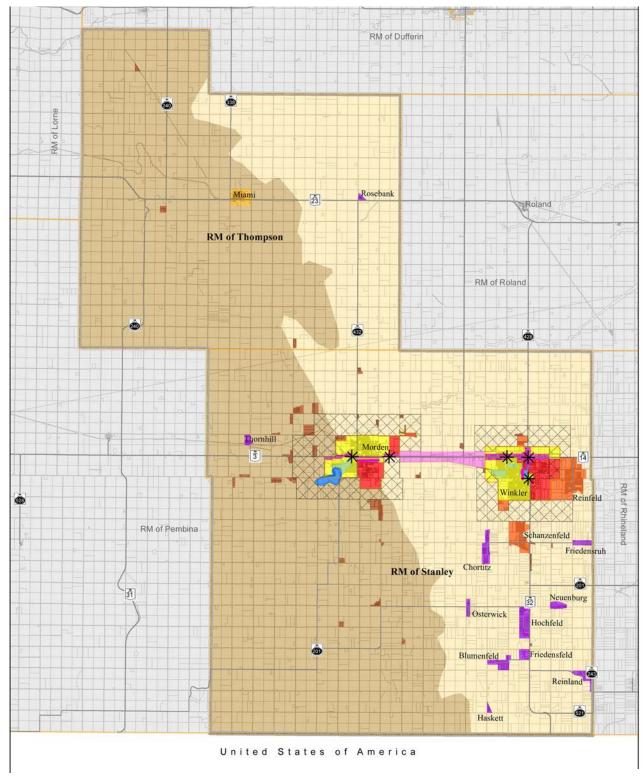
**MSTW Planning District Development Plan By-Law** 

Map 4: City of Morden







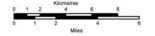


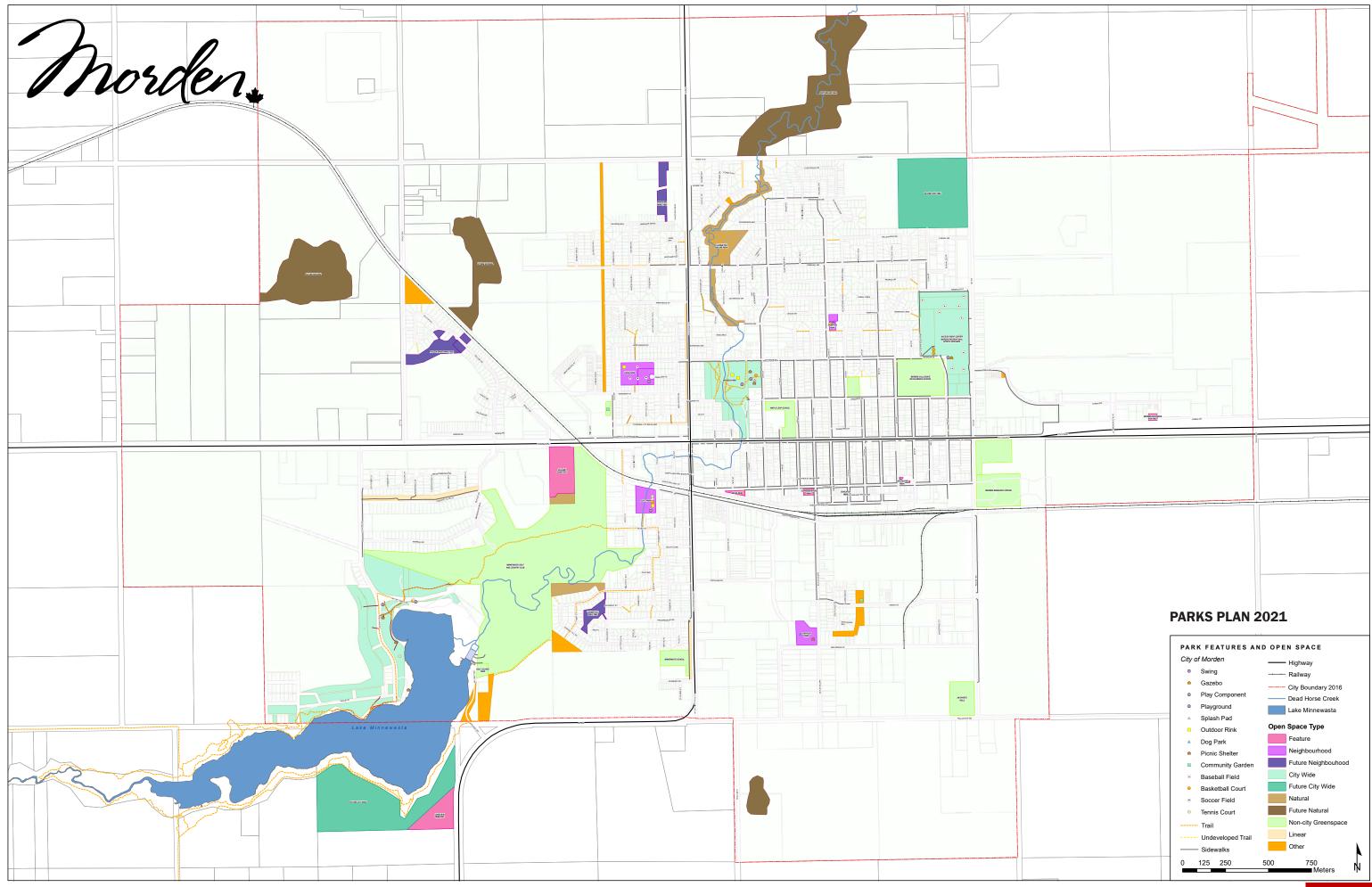
# MSTW Planning District Development Plan By-Law

Map 1: MSTW Planning Disrtrict









# **APPENDIX D**

# DETAILED STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGMENT RESULTS

December 21, 2020

# RE: MORDEN PARKS AND URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN INVITATION TO 'EARLY IDEAS' WORKSHOP

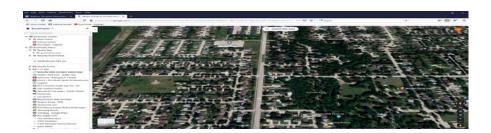
Dear Sir/Madam

McGowan Russell Group (MRG) has been retained to collaborate with the City of Morden on the preparation of the City of Morden Parks and Urban Forestry Master Plan. One of our first tasks is to consult with User Groups to share some of our 'Early Ideas' and obtain your valuable input.

The City of Morden and MRG are inviting you to participate in an 'Early Ideas' Workshop on February 4, 2021. We will be working together to form the future direction of Parks and Urban Forestry in Morden. This interactive virtual meeting will be an opportunity to share your local knowledge and vision for the future. Key directions and themes that emerge during the workshop sessions will be used to create policy recommendations in the Master Plan.

The workshop will be February 4, 2021 9am to 11am in a Zoom webinar.

To register for the webinar please send an email to jwilkie@mcgowanrussell.com to receive a link to the online registration.



Please fill out the attached Workshop WarmUp Questionnaire and return by January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to <a href="mailto:jwilkie@mcgowan-russell.com">jwilkie@mcgowan-russell.com</a> as pdf or photo. We value your input and would like to receive as much feedback as possible on your existing park use, values and concerns in advance of the workshop to provide the basis for the Early Ideas discussion.

We look forward to seeing you on February 4, 2021 to share some of our 'Early Ideas' and listen to your vision for the future of Morden's Parks and Trees. Please contact the undersigned should you require additional information or have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

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CITY OF MORDEN

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#### **DETAILED STAKEHOLDER RESULTS**

Early Idea #1 – To showcase City Council's commitment to improving its parks and urban forestry assets, the City will immediately improve Conner Hill Park and will improve at least one neighbourhood park every year.

Early Idea #1 was well received by all participants.

Participants were unanimous that it is a good idea to develop parks that have no improvements and to improve one neighbourhood park per year. One park per year was not considered overly ambitious. Improving one park at a time provides opportunity to plan ahead and collect the money required for capital costs. Neighbourhood Parks as an integral component of connected green spaces, the informal play opportunities they provide as a good lead into organized sports and local greenspace being good for mental health were discussed. Establishing priorities and preparing a plan to determine scope of improvements for each park were considered essential by most participants.

The poll questions provided the following insights:

- 79% of participants identified the condition of the park as the most important consideration in determining which parks should be improved first. The existing amenities/level of current improvements was identified as the second most important consideration.
- If a neighbourhood park site is deemed surplus, 64% of participants felt the money should be used to fund park, street tree and sidewalk/pathways in the neighbourhood. 36% felt the money should be put into City Wide parks.

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# Early Idea #2 – Starting immediately, every new residential area in Morden will be enhanced with a fully improved, easily accessed neighbourhood park

Early Idea #2 was well received by all participants.

Participants suggested that the City should acquire greenspace through the park land dedication process based on an overall Master Plan. General park areas should be identified at the start to avoid using left over land as parks. The Master Plan should identify desired park locations with a radius around it. The lots within that radius would contribute towards improvements to that park through a charge on each lot sold. To accomplish this the developer needs to know going in what is expected of them.

Participants recommended public input and transparency when preparing this Master Plan of future park locations. Some concern was expressed that a Master Plan identifying potential park locations would limit the design of subdivisions. Most agreed that unusable land should not be accepted as park land dedication.

Ideas to support the enhancement of new neighbourhood parks included:

- Improvements should not be limited to play structures. Consider a variety of facilities including basketball, tennis, etc.
- Developer should be required to provide trees, grass, and benches. Use property taxes to fund other amenities.
- If an area already has greenspace the developer should contribute to parks and greenspace already in place in lieu of developing new greenspace.
- Ensure land acquired through park land dedication is useable as greenspace, walking paths, and/or preservation of natural areas/trees.
- Potential funding sources for park improvements should include approaching businesses in town to contribute in exchange for naming rights.
- The City could set up its own non-profit trust to fund future parks and fix older parks.
- A partnership between the developer and the City with funding from naming rights would be ideal.
- Community interest groups could fundraise for specific amenities and improvements.
- Parks should include more natural areas which are less costly to maintain. Separate natural from manicured areas with a trail or road.
- Establish partnerships encouraging shared greenspace to reduce individual costs for improvements and maintenance. Examples: School/City shared greenspace, City's portion initially set up by Developer; City and Morden Research Centre.

In the poll questions, participants identified an average of 23% of park improvements to be funded by developers, an average of 50% by property tax payers and an average of 30% by other stakeholders.

Early Idea #3 – Among a range of efforts to reduce costs and improve revenue, the City of Morden may consider discontinuing Insect and disease control efforts on city trees, eliminating boulevard tree planning in new subdivisions, and selling natural areas such as Livingston Nature Park for residential development.

Participants were not supportive of Early Idea #3.

All participants strongly identified that trees are an integral and essential part of Morden's Civic Image and contribute to mental health and general wellbeing. Most live in Morden because of the extensive tree canopy. Mature trees and natural areas are extremely important beyond just aesthetic and shade value, they promote mental health and wellbeing. Programs and initiatives to preserve and expand Morden's Urban Forest should be supported.

Ideas to support and improve Morden's Urban Forest included:

- Preserve and protect natural areas such as Deadhorse Creek and Livingston Nature Park.
- Increase general interest in natural areas by making these areas more accessible. Add pathways
  including themed paths (Fairy path). Approach local artists to create sculptures in the woods.
   Easter Egg hunt, etc.
- All residents should contribute to ensure spectacular job of maintaining trees continues. "Hate to go route of other communities where trees are undervalued."
- Speak for balanced approach when it comes to maintaining mature trees on private property and maintaining trees within new developments in general.
- Developer should plant trees in boulevards in new developments.
- Important to keep investing money in trees, in particular a long term plan/program to replace trees and plant wider variety of trees.
- Consider partnership opportunities for planting and maintaining trees. Adopt a Tree Program and/or a Tree Dedication Policy.
- Morden Research and Development Centre Arboretum potential partnership opportunity between City and Research Centre to provide public access.
- In new developments take mature tree areas as park land dedication.
- Cost/benefit analysis should be completed to support investment in tree maintenance and planting new trees.

The responses to the poll questions confirmed support for mature tree care and protection and preservation of natural areas. 100% of participants felt trees contributed in a positive way to the community and that trees should be protected, maintained, and enhanced. They were in support of additional funding for trees in newly developed areas through developer contribution and an increase in overall taxes. 69% were in favour of preserving entire natural wooded areas with 31% supporting retaining the highest value treed area.

Early Idea #4 – All Morden parks are to be connected through pathways and sidewalks to provide safe access. All new developments are to be designed with connection to new and existing parks and path systems.

There was general agreement on Early Idea #4.

All participants agreed that good pathways and sidewalks are a huge benefit to the community and should be enhanced. Some caution was expressed regarding Deadhorse Creek as a spine related to potential duplication of path routes, potential impact on existing homeowners and potential bank stability issues.

Ideas to improve Morden's linear park and path/sidewalk network and establish missing connections included:

- Take advantage of existing City owned linear features, such as Deadhorse Creek, adding buffers to protect existing homeowners, to allow trail access year round to this spine with connections to neighbourhood parks and Morden Park.
- Enhance Morden Park's role as the marshalling point for access to the lake, Back 40 bike race, cyclocross in Morden parks, etc.
- Developers should be encouraged to include pathways and sidewalks in new developments and connect them to the existing system.
- Overcrowded multi-use trails should be supplemented with new trails to spread out users and potentially conflicting modes of transportation. See a need for year round walking trails separate from bike/cross-country ski trails and trails for motorized recreation vehicles.
- Trees and natural areas increase the appeal and experience and help to attract users. Assess the biodiversity, terrain, natural grassland, trees, wooded areas, views, etc. in undeveloped areas to identify potential trail use prior to development. For example, develop new trails incorporating the natural terrain along the escarpment.
- An overall plan is needed to ensure no duplication. Assess what already exists and determine priorities for missing connections.
- Consider funding trails through private donors supporting the construction of a section of a path ('buy 100m').
- As a critical link between Morden Park and the Lake the trail through the golf course requires improvements to address safety issues.
- Consider development of the following connections/trails:
  - Link Lake Trail to TransCanada Trail
  - Explore potential informal trail along the railway
  - o Connection to Downtown to relax and refresh and support Downtown businesses
  - o Commuting trails between City Centre and neighbourhoods
  - Trail to Winkler
- Make use of the All Trails App to promote and share trails in Morden and the surrounding area.
- Consider partnerships with private property owners to establish critical trail links/connections.

The responses to the poll questions indicated a modest higher priority for connections between residential and parks with minimal support for residential to business corridors. 92% identified the City to be responsible for verifying new links.

#### Early Idea #5 – As a high priority, the City of Morden intends to reinvest in downtown park spaces and in Stephen Street pedestrian improvements.

Not all participants were in agreement with Early Idea #5.

Most agreed that downtown is Morden's heart and soul, and the City should reinvest in downtown public realm improvements. However, some suggested that investing in downtown was a challenge for three general reasons:

- Nothing to bring them downtown. "No draw." Only come downtown for the Corn and Apple Festival.
- Long way from residential areas so you have to drive.
- Not possible to have a vibrant downtown area when there are so many other more convenient retail options closer to home.

Ideas to support reinvestment in Morden's downtown included:

- Invest in connections (cycling and walking) between downtown and residential neighbourhoods and parks to make downtown more accessible without having to drive.
- Improve universal accessibility by ensuring sidewalks are accessible (ramps, no tripping hazards) and adding sitting areas.
- Promote downtown, with its patios, cafes, and ice cream shops, as a post game destination. Will need areas to congregate and sit along street or in downtown parks to support this.
- The priority should be a major improvement to create a universal draw. Some suggestions included building a stage in a town square, closing a portion of Stephen Street to create a pedestrian only section.
- It is obvious that downtown has some new life and this should be encouraged by providing incentives to attract developers.
- Incentivize and encourage downtown businesses by providing a storefront improvement program, streetscape improvement program for patios, sitting areas, plazas, etc.
- A new stage for programmed year-round entertainment.
- Make street one way only to provide space for patios and sitting areas.
- Explore and access grants and programs that are available for downtown revitalization in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

The poll questions indicated greatest support for investment in patios followed by investment in sitting areas, greenspace, bicycle racks and plazas. Participants suggested that downtown revitalization programs should be funded through combined contributions from general property taxes and the Chamber of Commerce.

Early Idea #6 – City wide parks will be enhanced by retrofitting existing assets or designing new assets to accommodate multiple uses in order to make the most efficient use of space and to avoid specialized parks and open spaces sitting idle.

Participants were somewhat supportive of Early Idea #6.

While they agreed with making the most efficient use of space and avoiding specialized parks, they were cognisant of conflicts created by fields designed for multiple uses such as soccer and baseball. No one felt the parks were overprogrammed. They supported the current balance of multiple uses (other than shared use of fields for both soccer and baseball) that contribute to vibrant parks that attract a variety of users.

Ideas to improve and enhance Morden's City Wide parks included:

- Need soccer fields. Soccer is very popular, and Morden currently lacks built facilities for programming.
- Continue with upgrades to current baseball and softball facilities and add facilities for growth of the sport especially younger ages.
- Missing activities that should be included in City Wide parks include tennis and basketball courts
  and potential cricket, lacrosse, football fields, another dog park, outdoor adult gym equipment,
  spray park, cross-country ski facilities. All City Wide parks should have a washroom.
- City staff should keep up with trends in activities to meet the needs of all demographics.
- User groups should be connected to share ideas for fundraising, find solutions to potential
  conflicts and give opportunities for new groups. The City should assist in developing a
  mechanism for this to happen.
- User groups could help fundraise for specific improvements.
- Naming rights should be encouraged to fund improvements to City Wide parks.
- Explore private/public partnerships for new City Wide parks.
- Continue existing and explore new partnerships. For example, potential partnership between the City and Morden Research Centre. Potential multi-use sites co-located with schools. Great partnership with 3M Canada.
- Encourage naturalization of areas not used for active recreation to reduce maintenance.
- Beach is a tremendous asset that should be supported with continued investment.
- A condition assessment tool is needed to prioritize park improvements.

The polling question supported the discussion regarding Naming Rights as an important option for funding City Wide park improvements. Other options prioritized by participants included Special Interest Group fundraising and City budgets.

Early Idea #7 – Looking ahead, the City of Morden will link its existing park assets with opportunities for new parks to be located in the newly annexed areas and in those areas beyond Morden's municipal boundaries.

Early idea #7 was generally supported by all participants.

All agreed that a Council adopted Parks and Urban Forestry Master Plan was necessary to identify and appropriate potential park sites on the City periphery and establish connections with the City's existing parks and path network. This Master Plan is essential to ensure proper planning development which will result in consistent and connected decisions with respect to trails, drainage, and greenspace.

Most participants agreed that Morden is the gateway to the Pembina Valley regional system of parks and recreation. However, any marketing should be done collectively with Winkler in support of the current Explore Morden Winkler joint initiative. Most identified the construction of the Morden/Winkler trail as the first step/priority in any Regional Plan.

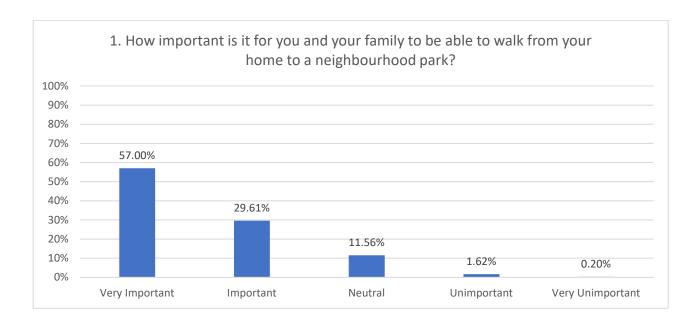
The poll results support the discussions regarding the need for a Council adopted Parks and Urban Forestry Master Plan and Morden as the gateway to the Pembina Valley regional system of parks, recreation, and urban forestry.

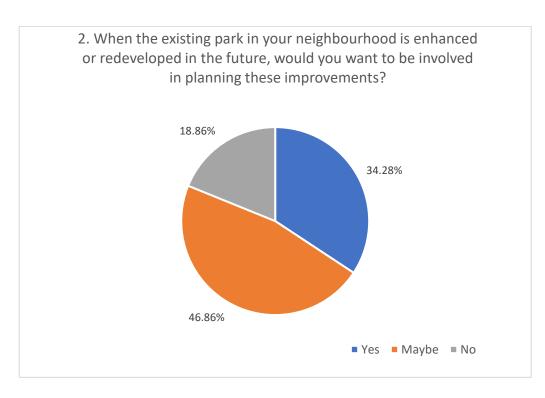
#### **DETAILED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS**

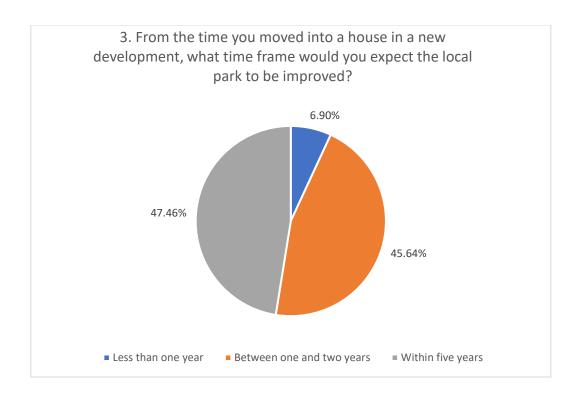
Morden Parks and Urban Forestry Survey Results

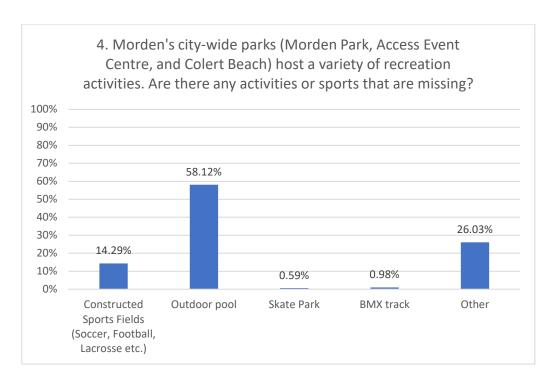
516 entries were provided in the online survey. Of these there were 24 duplicate entries, so the final number of survey results is 492.

The chartable answers to the survey are below and will be followed up with the comments which have some significant impact on the tenor of the responses.





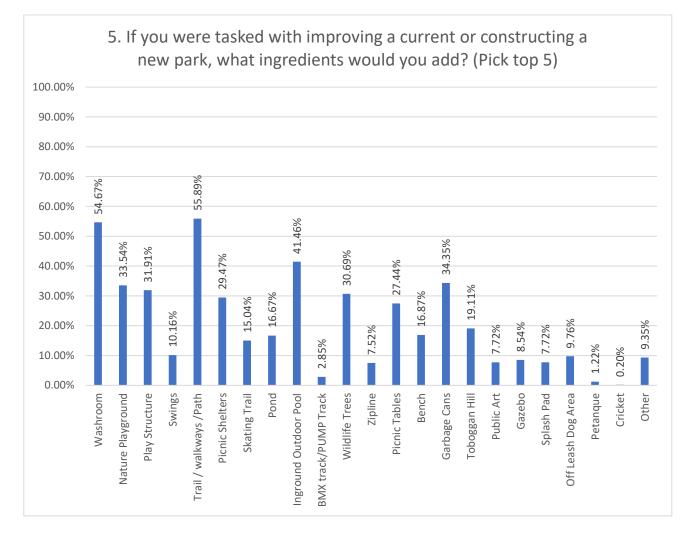




The 26.03% of responses for Other represent 116 responses some with multiple requests within their responses. Of these comments:

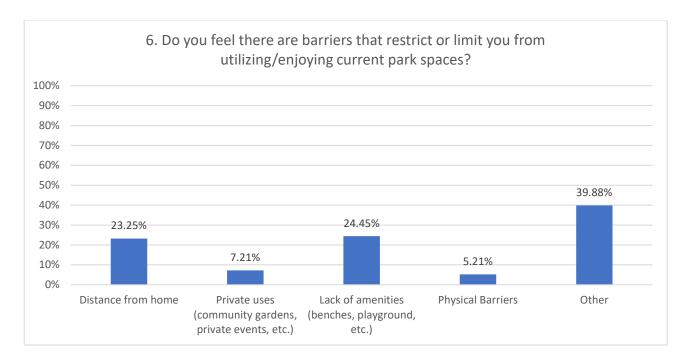
- 29 had no answer, said none or just had a comment on the survey (5.89% of overall responses)
- 22 responses were for an Indoor Pool (4.47% of overall responses)
- 12 responses were for Tennis/Pickleball courts (2.44% of overall responses)
- 12 responses were for Paths and trails (2.44% of overall responses)
- 8 responses were for indoor fitness facilities (1.63% of overall responses)
- 7 responses were for basketball courts (1.42% of overall responses)
- 2 responses were for an outdoor pool (increases above percentage to 58.53%)

- 2 responses were for constructed sports fields (increased above percentage to (14.70%)
- Other responses included dog park, climbing wall, frisbee golf, nature areas, beach volleyball,



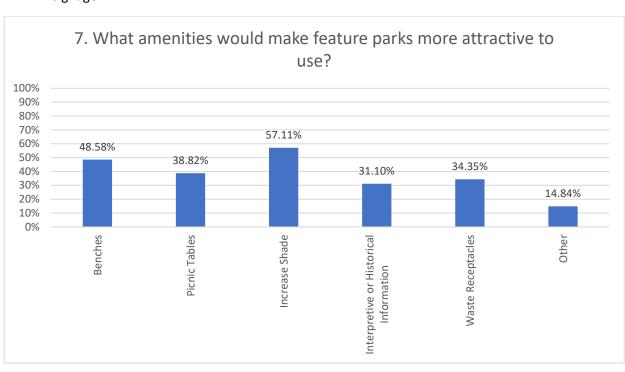
Based on the ranking above the top 5 components are:

- 1. Trail / Walkways / Path at 55.89%
- 2. Washroom at 54.67%
- 3. Inground Outdoor Pool at 41.46%
- 4. Garbage Cans at 34.35%
- 5. Nature Playground 33.54%

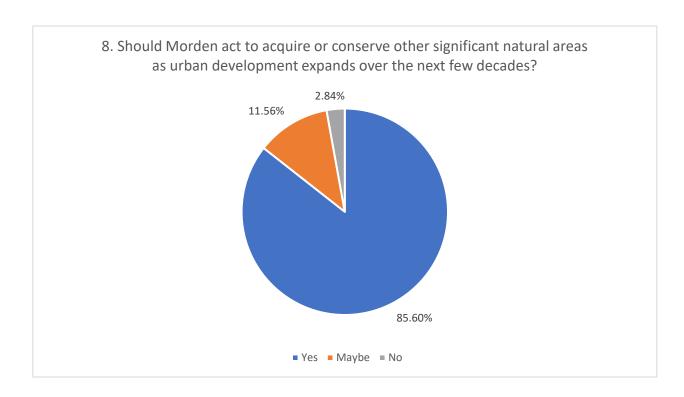


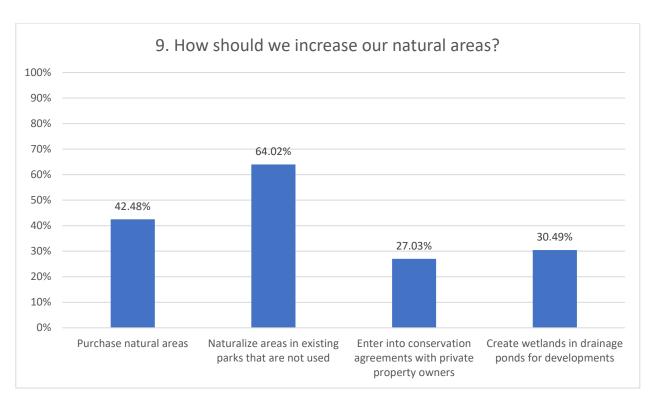
For this question Other is the dominant answer. The 39.88% represents 199 responses out of 499 (6 people responded with two answers). Of these comments:

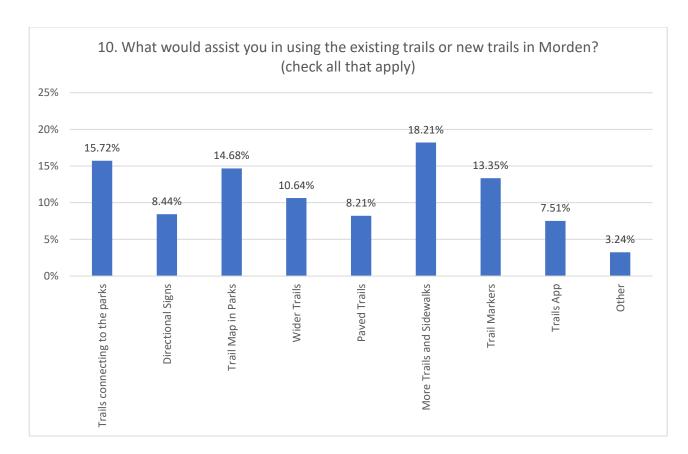
- 121 stated they had no barriers using the parks (24.25% of overall responses)
- 34 had no comment (6.81% of overall responses)
- 6 stated pathway and sidewalk connections (1.20% of overall responses)
- 4 stated parking was a barrier (0.80% of overall responses)
- 3 stated the need for a pool (0.60% of overall responses)
- 3 stated the need for a washroom (0.60% of overall responses)
- Other responses included specific parks requiring improvements, trees, fees for camping, and signage.



- Appendix -- Appendix -





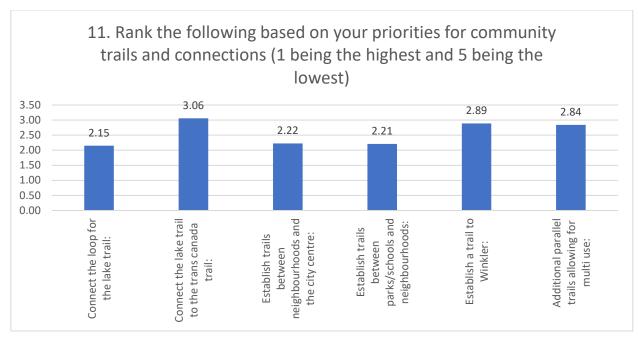


#### Question 11

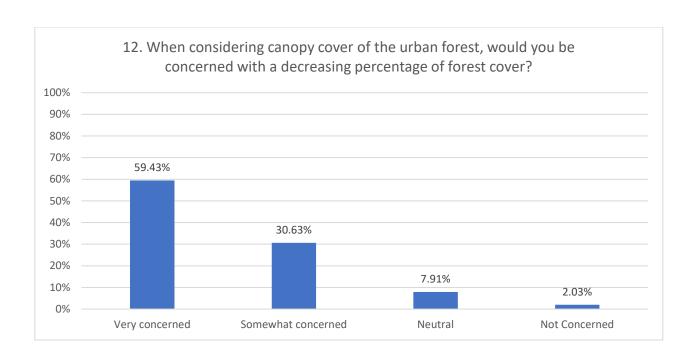
Rank the following based on your priorities for community trails and connections (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest)

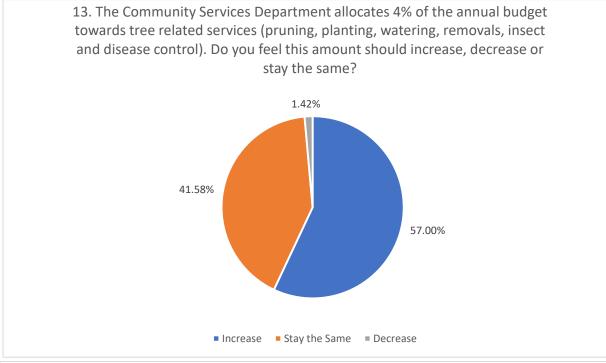
The answers to this question did not require the respondents to have a single selection ranked as number 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5. With the options open many respondents had multiple answers for each priority. To analyze this data, we tallied the total number of responses for each priority on each part of the question then weighted the answers based on the value and divided by the total number of answers. The lower the average number the higher the priority based on the overall answers. Based on the responses represented in the charts below the priorities are:

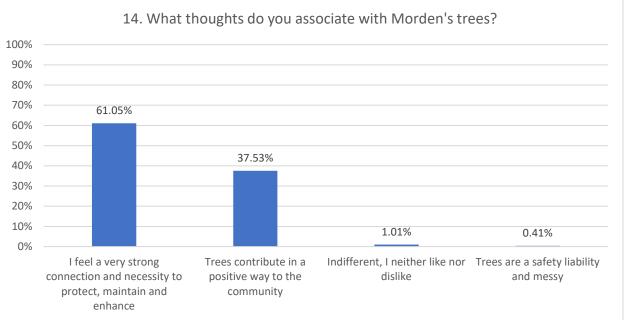


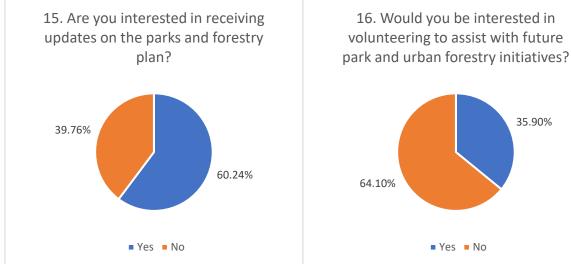


	Average	Priority
	Score	
Connect the loop for the lake trail:	2.15	1
Establish trails between parks/schools and neighbourhoods:	2.21	2
Establish trails between neighbourhoods and the city centre:	2.22	3
Additional parallel trails allowing for multi use:	2.84	4
Establish a trail to Winkler:	2.89	5
Connect the lake trail to the trans Canada trail:	3.06	6









35.90%