



The Hidden Gem Southland Park

Winter 2019

Executive Committee

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Welcome to the first newsletter for Southland Park!

How the Southland Park Residents Association (SPRA) got restarted...

In 2017, the city councillor responsible for Southland Park at the time was Matt Allard. Matt called a community meeting at Shamrock School. Southland Park residents attended the meeting to discuss concerns surrounding geese deterrents, pathway upkeep, traffic, and park and playground improvements. At this meeting Matt suggested that we team-up and form a residents association. He informed us that we could accomplish more as a group and make a real difference in our community. As a result, we revived the Southland Park Residents Association.

I am proud of the initiatives the committee has undertaken in the last two years and we are just getting started. We know that volunteering to be part of a committee is a lofty time commitment; so thank you to all current and past committee members.



Michelle Friesen
President of SPRA

2019 AGM

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on April 24, 2019 at the Winakwa Community Centre. Over 50 residents were in attendance including our city councilor, Shawn Nason and member of parliament Dan Vandal.

A review of the past year included the association's finances, actions taken by the committee, events organized, and the results of the community survey (sent out in March 2019).

The two largest community concerns were Pond & Pathway. We discussed the proposal from the City of Winnipeg for a partial-pond naturalization, options surrounding the pathway and expected costs.

We recruited new committee members, offered thanks to past members and held an open forum for the residents to share their comments and concerns.

SHAWN NASON

City Councillor - Transcona Ward

**Committed
to our
Community!**



Dan Vandal

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Dose of the Funnies

- 1) Why do Dasher and Dancer love Coffee?
- 2) Which rock group has four guys who can't sing or play instruments?
- 3) What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
- 3) Frost bite
- 2) Mount Rushmore
- 1) Because they're Santa's star bucks!

Southland Park Community Survey

In March, we reached out to the residents with a mail flyer asking everyone to logon to Survey Monkey (a free online survey system). We wanted to know who are the residents and what were their priorities for our Community. A total of 80 residents participated in this survey. Here are some of the results.

Who lives in Southland Park?

It was a fairly even split between Families and Adult-only:

- ◆ Family with children (various ages) = 43
- ◆ Empty Nesters, Adult-only, Retired = 37

We asked everyone to weigh-in on what their priorities would be for area improvements:

First Priority - Pond Naturalization (goose deterrent)


Work on the pond naturalization has already started. Please refer to article on the next page.

Second Priority - Paved Pathways

Paving the pathway is very costly. With the feedback from canvassing, the committee decided to focus on working with the City of Winnipeg to maintain it more regularly instead.

Thank you to residents that completed the survey.

Tom Suver - Media



How to address a concern?

Best way to address any issues in the area is to contact the City of Winnipeg.

call 311
www.winnipeg.ca
@cityofwinnipeg



Pond Naturalization

At the September 11, 2018 Standing Policy Committee meeting surrounding protection, community services and parks, former city councilor for Transcona, Russ Wyatt moved a motion to develop a plan to deter the geese and clean-up the pathway by implementing pond naturalization.

A standard pond naturalization process includes planting vegetation at various levels within the pond outskirts to create a barrier that deters the geese. Since their line-of-sight is obstructed by the tall vegetation of naturalized ponds, geese will move to another location where their line-of-sight is unobstructed. However, given the depth and shape of the Southland Park retention pond, the City of Winnipeg determined that standard pond naturalization would be too costly and take many years to reshape the pond to be suitable for this.

Alternatively, the City of Winnipeg proposed a plan for partial-pond naturalization. This includes seeding native species of vegetation, up to 70' deep in some places, around the side of the retention pond owned by the City of Winnipeg. It is expected that within a timeframe of two to three years, the vegetation will be established as a goose deterrent. As an example, the same method of partial-pond naturalization was implemented behind Samuel Burland School it is serving as an effective goose deterrent.

Further to this, the City of Winnipeg has confirmed that they are tracking the numbers of geese at naturalized ponds vs. conventional ponds and there are fewer geese using the naturalized ponds.

During Spring 2019, the crew from the City of Winnipeg began seeding the native vegetation and grass species around the portion of the Southland Park retention pond nearest to the pathway. Unfortunately, a dry Spring hindered the germination process of the native grasses.

While we wait to see this project progress, Winnipeg Condo Corporation #462 'Lake Park Estates' reached out to the City of Winnipeg to inquire about additional options for them to assist with beautifying the landscapes surrounding the Southland Park retention pond and greenspace.

A special shout-out to Edmond Ruest and his crew for planting over 80 wildflower pods along the new grass line!

Offered through the Land Dedication Reserve Fund, Counsellor Shawn Nason recently approved the committee's application for \$1,500 worth of additional wildflowers, to be planted Spring of 2020.

Michelle Friesen - President



BBQ Fun!

This September 14th, we got a break from the rain and had a wonderful, sunny day for our Southland Park Community BBQ. We had over 220 community members stop by throughout the afternoon! It was great to have neighbours come by for a bite to eat, chat with friends, and see the kids enjoy the bouncers, glitter tattoos, police cruiser, and candy toss. It was also nice to have time to talk with our city councilor Shawn Nason, MLA Audrey Gordon, and our candidates for the recent Federal Election: Rejeanne Caron (PC), Dan Vandal (Liberal) and Ben Linneck (Green Party).

A big congratulations to our 50/50 winner Lise, and Jets raffle ticket winner John!

The board would like to thank Downtown Family Foods, Sage Creek Sobeys, Qualico, Nickels Collision Centre & Playgrounds-R-Us who all donated food and/or money to help

make our BBQ a success. I would also like to send a big thank you to the community members who volunteered their time cooking or helping supervise activities - we couldn't do it without you!

It was a great day and already looking forward to next year!



Duana Joubert -
Community Event Coordinator



SPRA email: southlandparkinfo@gmail.com
Facebook: Southland Park - The Hidden Gem
Nextdoor Southland Park

2019 Summer Canvassing

During the Summer months of August and September, the Executive committee members went door to door. We had several reasons for doing this:

- 1) We wanted to introduce ourselves - ensuring everyone knows about the Committee.
- 2) Collect feedback on residents' concerns / opinions.
- 3) Raise funds, in the form of a membership fee, to enable us to continue hosting community BBQ's and start planning for future projects.

To date, we have collected the following for membership fees / donations from the residents:

2019 Canvassing / Collection Drive:

109 houses @ \$40	4,360.00
1 house @ \$50	50.00
5 houses @ \$20	100.00
Total (115 Houses or 27.1%)	<u>\$4,510.00</u>

Thank you to all that already contributed! Weren't at home when we stopped by? No worries! If we missed you, we have attached an information page on how you can contribute.

The general feedback that was collected indicated that the vast majority of residents don't actually want to spend our money on paving the pathway. The concern is whether paved or gravel, the City of Winnipeg needs to do a better job of maintaining it.

There was also an overwhelming support for some sort of improvement to the green space / park – whether that be a basketball court or soccer field.

The Committee will be debating the merits of various small projects at our next meeting in November and will decide which project should be our first for the community! Stay tuned for more details.

Michelle Friesen - President



POLICY STATEMENT

THE HIDDEN GEM is a publication of Southland Park Residents Association and is intended to educate and inform the members. The views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of the Southland Park Residents Association, the newsletter committee reserves the right to edit for clarity or fact. Material of sexist, racist or defamatory nature will not be printed.

SPRA is Incorporating!

What is a Non-Profit Corporation?

A non-profit corporation is a legal entity separate from its members and directors, formed for purposes other than generating a profit to be distributed to its members or directors. While, a non-profit corporation can earn a profit, the profit must be used to further the goals of the corporation rather than to pay dividends to its membership. Non-profit corporations are formed pursuant to federal or provincial law.

Why is the SPRA moving forward with becoming a Non-Profit Corporation?

At the SPRA executive committee meeting held July 23, 2019, members voted to move forward with incorporation. The primary benefit of SPRA incorporating is future funding for projects. Often federal, provincial or private funding agencies require that an applicant be incorporated. The SPRA would like to apply for grants and matching programs to achieve a higher quality-of-life for residents and increase property values.

As a Non-Profit Corporation, can the SPRA issue official donation receipts?

No. Non-Profit Corporations must apply for charitable status with Canada Revenue Agency to benefit from tax-exempt status and to issue tax deductible receipts to donors. Currently, the SPRA does not intend to apply for charitable status.

Tanya Vincent - Treasurer



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