

LANDSCAPES PAYSAGES

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
IN CANADA

L'ARCHITECTURE
DE PAYSAGE
AU CANADA

Fall | Automne 2018
vol.20-no.3 | 8.00\$

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
L'ASSOCIATION DES ARCHITECTES PAYSAGISTES DU CANADA

democracy la démocratie

www.csla-aapc.ca

02 TREEMOCRACY: GIVING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

BY ANNA THURMAYR

EN_

An Electoral Program for Winnipeg's Trees

Winnipeg, Manitoba's Metropolitan Area, is home to almost 800,000 people. The City of Winnipeg is also home to approximately eight-million trees. As a landscape architect, this sharp contrast makes me wonder what would happen if the trees ran for office in the 2018 civic election, what kind of electoral program would they pitch?

The deep crisis of global tree diseases, missing regulations to protect significant and healthy trees on private properties and municipal policies that push massive expansion calls for extreme reform. My fictional franchise outlines a holistic notion of "treemocracy" that seeks to influence current policies to give voice to Winnipeg's green heritage.

FR_LP+_ARBOROCRATIE :
DONNER UNE VOIX AUX SANS-VOIX

Request for every lost public tree
a 100% replacement guarantee.



1



2

1 TICKET TO THE DEATH 2 HOPEFUL PUPILS
PHOTOS COURTESY DIETMAR STRAUB

Winnipeg's Treemocracy Election Program

We, the trees:

1. Demand equal protection rights for private and public trees.
2. Advocate for short- and long-term funding for a citywide healthcare system prioritizing quality of care.
3. Demand that for a building permit to be granted, a site survey must clearly depict current conditions of existing trees and topography related to the proposed design. Trees must be identified by species, health, height, size of trunk and canopy.
4. Claim protection from mechanical damage. Our Critical Root Zone has to be brought into a common awareness. Determining the dimension must not only protect us during construction but also from the fairly high and unnoticed damage from snowplows.
5. Request for every lost public tree a 100% replacement guarantee. Public education on how to adopt, plant and maintain young trees on public and private properties must be provided. The annual Golden Tree Planting Award will be given to humans successfully executing sustainable planting measures from current and preceding years celebrating commitment to nursing and care.
6. Require all to take all necessary actions to increase standards for better nursery stock, appropriate planting space, suitable tree stakes and effective drainage concepts.
7. Call for sustainable, affordable and accessible water services. Irrigation is crucial for our establishment especially in times of drought or in areas of high salt contamination.
8. Insist on the right to thrive below ground and to root beyond the planting pit. A minimum volume of suitable soil for all street trees based on the targeted mature tree size must become citywide standard. Structural soils in larger volumes will not only be required, they will be tested, certified and delivered as a locally developed ready-mix for street or parking lot planting. This will allow us to mature and live longer at a reasonable price.
9. Commit to the American elm as one of Winnipeg's inalienable shade trees and question the notion toward greater biodiversity. Despite the deep crisis of the global Dutch Elm Disease that has meant near elimination in other cities, we need to continue planting so the distinctive, declining resource can potentially build up resistance over time. Surrounded by agriculture, Winnipeg is an ideal laboratory and final opportunity to test this theory so that other cities could benefit from the research done here.
10. Advocate for Winnipeg's largest urban population of elm trees in North America to be included to the UNESCO world heritage list as a necessary way to strengthen the social status and autonomy of all trees.

Anna Thurmayr, Diplom-Ingenieur Univ. Landschaftsarchitektin, CSLA/MALA, BYAK, is Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Manitoba. She is a co-founder of the award-winning landscape design practice Straub Thurmayr Landscape Architects.

anna.thurmayr@umanitoba.ca