



Release

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FLOODWAY AUTHORITY OUTLINES PARTNERSHIP PLAN TO TRANSPLANT AND REUSE FLOODWAY TREES

Over 500 Trees Transplanted Through Partnerships with Community and Government Organizations

Today, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced an Environmental Mitigation Partnership Plan with community and government organizations that has resulted in the transplanting of more than 500 trees and the reuse of a section of trees on the floodway right-of-way.

“To facilitate the expansion of the floodway, trees and bushes on a section of the floodway have to be removed to allow for construction to occur,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “However, rather than simply bulldozing all the trees on the site, we are pleased to outline a plan that saves many of the trees and provides a use for those trees that will have to be cut down. By partnering with community organizations, this initiative will leave a long-term “green” legacy for the expanded floodway that will benefit the Winnipeg Folk Festival, Buhler Recreational Park, the International Peace Gardens, the City of Winnipeg and all Manitobans.”

The Environmental Mitigation Partnership Plan announced today includes the transplanting of trees, a commitment to reuse the salvaged timber, and the planting of new trees once the floodway is expanded. Specific initiatives in the plan include:

- Partnering with the Winnipeg Folk Festival to transplant approximately 70 trees to enhance and provide more shade at the existing Folk Festival site;
- Partnering with the Buhler Recreation Park to transplant approximately 55 trees to the new park site;
- Partnering with the International Peace Gardens to transplant approximately 100 trees to the Peace Gardens;
- Partnering with Manitoba Conservation to transplant 100 trees to visitor areas and parks offices in eastern Manitoba including Birds Hill Provincial Park;
- Partnering with the City of Winnipeg to transplant 100 trees to Kildonan Park; and
- Transplanting 100 trees to the vicinity of the Inlet Control Structure;

In addition, the MFA, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation staff at Birds Hill Provincial Park, is committing to utilize wood that is salvageable from the site. The MFA also announced that it has already initiated a partnership with Scouts Canada to support the organization’s tree planting efforts and is planning to establish a tree planting initiative to complement trail development and other recreational plans once the floodway is expanded.

“We are very pleased to partner with the MFA on this initiative,” said Trudy Schroeder, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Folk Festival. “Enhancing the Festival site with additional shade trees through this initiative is one of the ways we will be marking the 35th anniversary of the Winnipeg Folk Festival. The trees we are adding to the site through this program will make a lasting contribution to a more beautiful and more comfortable environment for Festival audience members.”

“We are very pleased that the floodway authority is committed to transplanting and reusing the trees from the floodway and partnering with nearby community organizations,” said Steve Mymko, Facility Manager of Buhler Recreation Park. “The trees provided through this partnership will definitely enhance our site and provide much needed shade in the years to come. As we prepare for the grand opening of the park next spring, we are pleased to have partnered with the MFA on this worthwhile initiative.”

“The Manitoba Floodway Authority’s decision to go ahead and relocate the Ash Trees from the Floodway is a positive outcome for the Winnipeg Community and of tremendous benefit to the International Peace Gardens,” said Doug Hevenor, CEO of the International Peace Gardens. “We are pleased that these trees have now found a home in the International Peace Garden so that visitors from across Canada and the United States will be able to appreciate them.”

“The Urban Forestry Branch was pleased to find a home for trees that would otherwise be destroyed during the construction efforts to expand the floodway,” said Dave Domke, City Forester. “Up to 100 green ash will be transplanted to Kildonan Park where they will replace trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease or dying from other environmental related stresses.”

The removal of the trees and shrubs, which are located west of the PTH 59 Highway between Dunning Road and Kirkness Road, is required to facilitate the expansion of the Red River Floodway. The trees were planted by the Department of Natural Resources after the construction of the original floodway during the 1960s.

Contact:

Ronuk Modha
Manitoba Floodway Authority
(204) 945-4178

Steve Mymko
Buhler Recreation Park
(204) 781-6118

Trudy Schroeder
Executive Director, Winnipeg Folk Festival
(204) 231-0096

Doug Hevenor
CEO, International Peace Gardens
1(888) 432-6733

Dave Domke
City of Winnipeg Forester
(204) 986-3701