

Health and Safety

OURWINNIPEG REVIEW – STARTING THE CONVERSATION

City Services related to this topic could include:

City planning

Transportation

Parks and open space

Street maintenance

Water and waste

Recreation services

Community by-law enforcement

Insect control

Emergency response and prevention

Traffic Safety

Disaster Preparedness

Overview

A healthy and safe community is one that accommodates and supports the physical, social, mental, and spiritual well being of its members. It meets the basic needs of food, water, shelter, income, safety, and employment; but also provides access to a wide variety of experiences and resources. In addition, a healthy and safe community encourages connections with residents' cultural heritage, and with other individuals and groups.

Over the past 30 years in Canada, obesity levels and chronic disease have been climbing steadily, and these rates have been directly linked to a lack of physical activity. Supportive environments for physical activity and access to nutritious food can provide a solution to address this in our city.

Cities can promote health and safety through the layout, design, and maintenance of neighbourhoods and transportation networks. Other aspects that play a significant role in a community's health and safety involve access to natural environments, positive social connections, affordable quality housing, and nutritious food.

There are critical decisions to be made by the City with respect to strategic investments, competing service priorities and sustainable funding sources to pay for services. For example, the City faces ongoing and increasing spending pressures to restore, maintain and grow its transportation, recreation, and underground service infrastructure. However, its mandated responsibilities for crime prevention and policing continue to be important quality of life contributions according to Winnipeg citizens. As a result, since 2007, spending levels for Emergency Response services have increased by a larger percentage than spending for other City departments.

Considering this topic area, picture your ideal Winnipeg 25 years from today.

What is it like?

How close are we to this vision?

To further achieve your vision, what are the most important things the city and/or the community needs to:

Start doing?

Stop doing?

Keep doing?

Do Differently?

What do you know that would help us understand this topic better?

According to the City's most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey, Crime/Policing is the second most common area for suggested improvement to quality of life.

City Context and Initiatives

- The existing Complete Communities policy direction in *OurWinnipeg* aims to support and/or provide for all elements of safe and healthy communities.
- According to the [2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#), 90 per cent of citizens who participated in the City's 2017 recreation programs were satisfied with the programs offered.
- Paramedics exist to provide quick, proficient primary response to all medical emergency situations, including pre-hospital patient care, patient transport and transfers, and standby at police and fire rescue incidents, and special events.
- The Winnipeg Police Service practices Smart Policing Initiatives (SPI). These include Special Attention (to events or potentially problematic activities), Compliance Checks, Walking Beat, Park and Walk, and Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPTSD) interventions.
- The City dispatches paramedic-staffed fire trucks to moderate the medical incident volume assigned to ambulance units. From the time an emergency call is placed, a fire unit arrives at the scene in seven minutes or less, 90% of the time.

Emerging Trends

- According to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's 2014 Community Health Assessment Report, nearly 60 per cent of residents aged 12 and older reported very good or excellent self-perceived health, but only 38 per cent reported a high score on mental health.
- 54 per cent of residents over 18 are overweight or obese, and 62 per cent consume less than the daily recommended fruit and vegetables.
- While overall mortality rates have been decreasing and life expectancy has been increasing within the city, residents of lower income households are more likely die at an earlier age.
- Lower income households are more likely to be diagnosed and treated for chronic diseases, have higher mental disorder and substance abuse prevalence, and experience higher rates of intentional and unintentional injury rates.
- According to the City's [2017 Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#), Crime/Policing is the second most common area for suggested improvement to quality of life.
- After decreased crime rates over the past decade, rates are leveling out, or showing a slight increase. This trend is apparent in several other major Canadian cities. Domestic disturbance remains the most reported event to the Winnipeg Police Service. Citizen satisfaction with Police 911 Response (based on respondents who used 911) has been dropping since 2014.