

**From:** Julia Adamson <friendsafforestation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:36 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



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Submitted values are:

Date Friday, November 22, 2019  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name Julia  
Last Name Adamson  
Email friendsafforestation@gmail.com  
Address [redacted] Appleby Court  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [redacted]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.  
Subject Environmental Health and two year budget  
Meeting (if known) 020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget on November 25 at 1:00 pm  
Comments  
The 2020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget on November 25, 26,27, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

Agenda Item 6.6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH [Budget Book pages 55-78]

City Council meeting. Your Worship Charlie Clark, Councillors, Members of the Public

The City of Saskatoon is experiencing a continuing decline in environmental quality and upon examining the next budget for two years 2020-2021 and comparing the proposed budget to previous budgets, well, it does not seem like there is any increase of financial commitment to be placed into the environment to reverse the trend of environmental decline. If anything, the proposed upcoming budget for environmental health seems to be lower?!?! Environmental Health on the CoS budget was at 5% in 2017 and 4% in 2018 and 0.4% proposed for 2021. 0.4%?

Additionally, YXE Green Strategy, is currently under development, and is drafting their proposal of emerging priorities to bring forward in early 2020. But should not a TWO YEAR City of Saskatoon budget provide some assistance to this corporate and community initiative? Where is YXE Green Strategy mentioned in the budget book and upcoming agenda? How will YXE Green Strategy function under a two-year budget when YXE Green Strategy is only mentioned in passing in Appendix one of the 2020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget on November 25, 26,27, 2019.

The public engagement meetings of the YXE Green Strategy sound like the city is heading in the right direction in regards to the environment, and re-embracing the Green City, City Beautiful, and Garden City concept which

thrived under W.W. Ashley of the city Parks Board, City Manager Bert Wellman City Manager and Director of Planning and Development who envisioned Saskatoon's green belt, Saskatoon's Richard St. Barbe Baker the first global environmentalist, Christopher Yorath City of Saskatoon commissioner who was a national figure in town planning and Garden City planning, and developed Saskatoon's first urban 'Plan for Greater Saskatoon', and also invited international experts like Henry Vivian and Thomas Mawson to bolster the Garden City and City Beautiful plans for Saskatoon which placed Saskatoon on the maps, Alfred Henry Browne CoS city parks superintendent who was honoured in making the 'City Beautiful'. The visions of these notable Saskatoon persons appear to be abandoned for all intents and purposes in this contemporary age when international climate change and global afforestation protocols seek to revisit and embrace the protocols of yore. City boulevards have shrunk in size, city tree plantings have diminished to only neighbourhood entranceways as there is absolutely and positively no room for trees and their root systems with underground utilities on the new teensy-weensy boulevards.

So, a TWO-YEAR budget should, indeed, provide some assistance to this fledgling corporate and community initiative under the name of YXE Green Strategy, which is currently under development! How will YXE Green Strategy, be able to ascertain any of its emerging priorities, if supporting the YXE Green Strategy is not considered in the 2020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget on November 25, 26,27, 2019. Its a two-year budget, and yet nothing is supporting the YXE Green Strategy.

In a time when the City of Saskatoon is adopting the triple bottom line policy - which seeks engagement on environmental, social and financial sustainability- the YXE Green Strategy sounds like a programme of the city which will provide much needed direction. The 'City Beautiful' urban planning concept has disappeared in favor of those albeit wonderful environmental policies and programs related to solid waste management, technological energy efficiency, watershed improvement, air quality, and the management of toxins and contaminants in soils. Public Works division is responsible for Waste Handling, the Parks division delivers Pest Management and Urban Forestry services and the Environmental & Corporate Initiatives division is responsible for the Environmental Program and components of the Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery program.

Does not a Green City supporting environmental health create safety, physical beauty, less crime, and a greater place to live? YXE Green Strategy is a part of the Environmental & Corporate Initiatives division. Re-embracing a green city, and Saskatoon's environmental health means Improved access to ecological systems and spaces, both natural and naturalized throughout the city and not just green on the South Saskatchewan river bank. Saskatoon must again embrace the 'City Beautiful' concept across city planning for climate change, for a safe and high quality of life, to be an enjoyable city in the midst of exponential planned growth.

How will YXE Green Strategy, be able to ascertain any of its emerging priorities if the budget for Saskatoon's 'environmental health where a large segment of the 2020/2021 budget is attending to the Cottony Ash Psyllid (thank you very, very kindly, but then what are the financial left-overs going to YXE Green Strategy)? How will YXE green strategy ever be able to take part in Climate change mitigation and preservation of natural areas and systems? How will Urban Forestry Management ever ever be able to meet their mandate to double the tree canopy of Saskatoon especially in the newer built areas, and new areas being planned and envisioned with their itty-bits boulevards devoted to utilities and not green trees?

It is shocking and quite dismal that the proposed capital investment by business line (Value in thousands) is planning to allocate 3.1% to Environmental Health 12,271 in 2020 and a pathetic 0.4% or \$1,099 in 2021, when Saskatoon's planning is growing and expanding to 500,000 by 2023. This is not acceptable.

The strategic plan for the city 2013-2023 set aside seven strategic goals 1/ continuous improvement 2/ asset and financial sustainability 3/ quality of life 4/ environmental leadership 5/ sustainable growth 6/moving around 7/ economic diversity and prosperity. But as can be seen from the proposed 2020/2021 budget the "Strategic Goal of Environmental Leadership" has all but disappeared from the City of Saskatoon's vision and mission.



(Arrrggghhh, what's up with that?)

Saskatoon's regional population could reach one million by 2063 and it is expected that there will be 450,000 people by around 2032! Should not the YXE Green Strategy help build a booming city, and reinforce environmental initiatives such as "City Beautiful", CPTED, local adaptation plans, climate change plan, environmental education, wildlife and wetlands corridors? The budget is definitely priority driven and reflects those services that Saskatoon delivers to residents, and what the City of Saskatoon will invest in. How does 0.4% or \$1,099 in 2021 for environmental health support either the YXE Green Strategy, Saskatoon's Environmental Health, or Saskatoon's Strategic Goal of Environmental Leadership?

Should not the 2020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget prioritize the City's Strategic Goal of Environmental Leadership and show how the CoS has the potential to make significant strides and show leadership in this area of environmental sustainability?

Why has Environmental Health shrunk from 4.0% 2018 and 5.0% 2017 to 0.4% in 2021 for a city priority? A Two Year budget needs more intense scrutiny and thought than a one year budget.

Julia Adamson  
Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.

cc The Honourable Councillor Gersher  
cc The Honourable Councillor Loewen

Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/350164>