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From: Martha Epstein

Sent: Saturday, May 07, 2011 9:42 AM

To: Kiernan, John; Havixbeck, Paula; Gerbasi, Jenny; Gameiro, Carlos; Browaty, Jeff; Pagtakhan, Mike; Wyatt, Russ

Subject: West Blanchard Park

As I cannot attend the meeting of the Special Policy Committee for Property and Planning Development on Tuesday, May 10th, I wish to express my concern that the public property at the end of Blanchard on West Gate remain public space. Unlike other cities in Canada (Edmonton for example) Winnipeg allowed most of its river property to be bought and developed as private property. It is important that we not lose any more public access to the rivers.

This undeveloped and natural plot of land is a lovely contrast to the developed lands all around it, and to the passive park developed at the other end of Blanchard. Many people use Armstrong's Point for walking, jogging and biking. I see people pushing their elderly family members from Misericordia Place through here so that they can enjoy the peace and quiet of the lovely trees and flowers. I observe the wheelchair-bound person pointing to things and stopping to look closer at certain plants.

Public access to the river, whether it be in an open park-like setting such as East Blanchard Park or via a stroll through the original riverbank trees that are at West Blanchard, should be protected and maintained in perpetuity as public land.

I hope that this committee agrees and votes accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Martha Epstein