
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 9
Meeting Date Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Linda Reid, Acting Administrator
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Parks and Environment Committee		
Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair) Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice Chair-Parks)	Councillor Gord Perks (Vice Chair-Environment) Councillor Pam McConnell	Councillor Ron Moeser Councillor Michael Walker

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Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

Speakers/Presentations: A complete list will be distributed at the meeting

Confirmation of Minutes – September 14, 2007

Communications/Reports

PE9.1	Presentation			Ward: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations on Green Initiatives

Summary

Presentations from Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO), Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), Exhibition Place and Toronto Zoo

PE9.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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Annual Report (2005) on Toronto's Reported Submissions to the National Pollutant Release Inventory and Related Obligations

(September 26, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

The Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, recommends that:

1. Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment be requested to provide all written comments requested and received from all reporting facilities located in Toronto regarding requested clarifications in respect to apparent anomalies and significant changes from year to year in Toronto to the City of Toronto's Environment Office in order to permit for accurate analysis and understanding of changing emissions in Toronto;
2. Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment be requested to provide date stamps to all changes to their annual databases, following initial approved web-based publication, to facilitate the recognition of adopted changes over time;
3. the Toronto Environment Office continue to work with Toronto Public Health to assess the magnitude of "unreported" emission sources and the best way to address the issue; and
4. the Toronto Environment Office continue to assess and report on the dispersion and transformation of all emissions to air in Toronto and to provide Toronto Public Health with information as to the resultant ambient concentrations in order to enable an assessment of the impact on human health in Toronto.

Financial Impact

There are no known financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget that result from this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

This report presents the analysis of the data reported for 2005 to the National Pollution Release Inventory (the "NPRI"), administered by Environment Canada and the additional inventory requirements of Ontario Regulation 127/01, administered by the Ministry of Environment (the "MOE").

Three hundred and thirty four facilities from Toronto reported data to the NPRI as to their estimated emissions for 2005. Four of these are the City's wastewater treatment plants.

The analysis indicates that the "releases" to land are zero and the reported "disposals" to land are minor. The "discharges" to water are more than four times as significant by amount as releases to the land, and they are predominantly comprised of releases from the City's wastewater (sewage) treatment plants. Discharges from those plants are at concentrations better than required by the applicable standards, but because of the very high volumes of effluent to be treated, this results in large overall discharges offshore into Lake Ontario during the course of the year.

Emissions to air are approximately two-thirds the amount released to water and are of two types: Criteria Air Contaminants ("CACs"), including ozone, oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter, ammonia and total volatile organic compounds, and Other Reported Substances (or "non-CACs"), such as toluene, benzene and the heavy metals. Though the amount is less, the significance to health is considered to be potentially greater.

The data that were reported to NPRI and Ontario Regulation 127/01 for 2005 by the community and the City in respect to CACs do not indicate significant changes from previous years, but NPRI reports do not include all industrial emitters or all emissions. The CAC contribution from residential and commercial buildings and vehicles in the City are considered to be far greater than the emissions from other "unreported" sources. However, the unreported and "unknown" CAC emissions and especially the impact of non-CAC emissions is of considerable concern.

Emphasis should always be placed on exposure to the concentrations in the surrounding air rather than simply toward emissions into the air, but reduced emissions remain as a key to improvements when needed.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7257.pdf>

Figure 1 - Figure 6

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7258.pdf>

PE9.3	ACTION			Ward: All
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Mandate of the Toronto Environment Office

(October 1, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B:

1. report back to Parks and Environment Committee in January of 2008 and identify the Toronto Environment Office's achievables for 2008 and associated performance measures.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts in 2007 beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget that result from this report. Additional staff positions will be deferred for consideration during the 2008 Operating Budgeting process. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

This report provides a description of the mandate, organizational structure, development plans, and collaborative partnership building orientation of the City of Toronto's Environment Office ("TEO").

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7303.pdf>

Appendix A

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7304.pdf>

PE9.4	Information			Ward: All
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Marketing the City's Destination Parks

(Deferred from September 14, 2007 in order that Notice be given for Committee questions and debate - 2007.PE8.3)

(Presentation)

(August 23, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

This report provides information on current and future marketing initiatives for the City's Destination Parks. Destination Parks have one or more significant attractions, settings or features that would make it appealing and worthwhile visiting on its own. Tourist-oriented promotional material usually lists these parks. Only a small percentage of Toronto parks – out of a total of 1,470 – are Destination Parks. Appendix A lists frequently promoted City parks.

At present, the City's Parks Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) has no comprehensive marketing plan for the City's Destination Parks. PFR currently prints a limited number of brochures, some annually and some on an irregular basis, for a few key tourist Destination Parks such as Toronto Island, Allan Gardens, golf courses and the Toronto Music Garden. The Fun Guide, PFR's definitive listing of seasonal recreation programs, contains incidental and limited promotional information on Destination Parks.

Other organizations and agencies, such as the City's Tourism Unit and Tourism Toronto, and private travel web sites relay and dispense limited Destination Park information as part of their own initiatives, responsibilities and web design content.

Two ambitious projects currently under development will enhance marketing of Destination Parks. First, PFR's Park Treasures Project will categorize outstanding park features such as flora, fauna, earth science, historical, cultural, natural phenomenon, and sensory experiences. This information will become part of a proposed innovative and interactive website marketed to residents and tourists alike. Second, the City's Tourism Unit is presently spearheading the Premier Ranked Tourist Destination Project. This project summarizes information about all of Toronto's tourist attractions in order to inform an assessment of Toronto's strengths and weaknesses as a tourist destination. The audit includes parks.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7176.pdf>

PE9.5	Information			Ward: All
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City Owned Tree Pruning and Maintenance Strategy

(September 19, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information about how the urban forestry work order system is managed and the approaches being taken to reduce the urban forestry tree maintenance backlog. This report also identifies and summarizes information that has been presented to document Urban Forestry's efforts towards improving key aspects of its service delivery over the past few years.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7187.pdf>