
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 11
Meeting Date Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 2, City Hall

Contact Dela Ting, 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 - November 6, 2007

Communications/Reports

PE11.1	Presentation			Ward: All
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City Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations

Summary

Presentations from Toronto Police Service, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services and Municipal Licensing and Standards.

PE11.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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National Pollutant Release Inventory: Toronto's 2005 Annual Report

(November 14, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

Deputy City Manager Richard Butts recommends that:

1. the City Manager be requested to direct all City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions to provide their submitted reports to the National Pollutant Release Inventory, Ontario Ministry of the Environment (Ontario Regulation 127/01) and Statistics Canada (respecting Greenhouse Gas Emissions), as applicable, or all relevant equivalent data if they are below reporting thresholds to the Toronto Environment Office for summary and inclusion in subsequent annual reports; and
2. the Director of the Toronto Environment Office be directed to:
 - i. establish a liaison process with all City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions in connection with the provision of reports and data cited in Recommendation No. 1, including a template to provide for consistent provision of information;
 - ii. collaborate with Toronto Public Health to complete the development process for a National Pollutant Release Inventory annual report template with the group of experts who have been engaged to provide comment and feedback on the annual reporting process and utilize the template for the design of Toronto's 2006 Annual National Pollutant Release Inventory Report;
 - iii. collaborate with Toronto Public Health in a joint reporting process for future annual reports; and
 - iv. proceed to issue an "executive summary" of Toronto's Annual Report in connection with the National Pollutant Release Inventory for 2005, which will

be designed for the general public.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact, the estimated cost to produce the annual report is \$13,500 and funding can be accommodated within 2007 Toronto Environment Office (TEO) Operating Budget and requested 2008 TEO Base Operating Budget as per the details provided in the table below.

Cost Centre	Description	2007	2008
WT0059	Air Quality, Data Collection and Modelling	\$3,500	\$10,000

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The National Pollution Release Inventory (“NPRI”) is Canada’s national database containing information on annually collected data of releases of substances to the air, land and water by major industrial facilities, such as chemical plants, and public works facilities, such as the City of Toronto’s Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. It is Canada’s only national, legislated, publicly accessible emissions inventory. Data specific to certain industries and communities can be identified and collated from the inventory.

The NPRI inventory is a major starting point for identifying and monitoring sources of pollution and for the management of risks to the environment and human health, as well as monitoring indicators for the quality of our air, land and water. It is also emerging as an indicator for corporate environmental performance and as a tool to encourage and promote pollution reduction.

Environment Canada makes the information available to Canadians in a detailed inventory that can be accessed and searched through its on-line database.

This report focuses on those industrial and public works facilities that are located in Toronto and submitted emissions data to Environment Canada in 2005. The year 2005 is the most recent year for which a complete and verified set of inventory data is available.

In addition to identifying quantities of emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources and City corporate sources for 2005, this report provides comparative analysis with prior years to show trends, and identifies emission increases and decreases for specific substances found within the reported emissions.

Background Information

Staff Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9072.pdf>

Map 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9073.pdf>)

Map 2

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9074.pdf>)

Map 3

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9075.pdf>)

Map 4

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9076.pdf>)

Map 5

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-9077.pdf>)

2a Assessing Health Impacts of Pollution Emissions

(November 14, 2007) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Parks and Environment Committee request that any new resources for modelling studies and emissions reporting include funding for Toronto Public Health to undertake the health assessment component of these initiatives.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of this report.

Summary

This report responds to the request of the Medical Officer of Health to advise on reporting and assessment of pollution emissions by the Toronto Environment Office (TEO) to enable Toronto Public Health (TPH) to assess the health effects of emissions.

TPH uses modelling studies to assess the health impacts of pollutants from specific sources. Most recently, TPH used modelling data on vehicle emissions from TEO to quantify the health impacts of traffic pollution. In response to a request from the Board of Health in July 2005, TEO is planning to model the cumulative impacts of air releases in South Riverdale and the Beach. TPH could use the results of this modelling activity to assess health implications if TEO provides resources to conduct the study.

To get the most value from modelling activities and emissions inventories, it is necessary to include a health assessment component. It is recommended that any new resources for modelling studies, include funding for TPH to undertake the health assessment component.

TEO reports on the amount of specific pollutants released to air, water, and soil as reported by the federal National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). Currently about 11,000 businesses in Toronto may be using toxic chemicals but only about 300 report to the federal NPRI, resulting in large gaps in the city's emissions inventory. The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report in the spring of 2008 on a mandatory environmental reporting

program, including development of a draft bylaw. If a reporting bylaw comes into effect, TPH should take a leading role in the compilation of pollution release data from point sources in Toronto, as well as assess the implications for human health.

Background Information

Staff Report from Medical Officer of Health

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-8679.pdf>)

PE11.3	Presentation			Ward: All
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Alternative Parkland Dedication By-law

(Staff Presentation)

(November 14, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. The City Solicitor be authorized to introduce a Bill to amend Municipal Code, Chapter 415, Development of Land, to provide for the Official Plan alternative parkland dedication rate of 0.4 hectares per 300 units that will be applied to proposals for residential development and for the residential portion of mixed use development in the parkland acquisition priority areas identified in Attachment 1 to this report and in accordance with Official Plan policies.

Financial Impact

The alternative Parkland Dedication By-law will have a financial impact through cash-in-lieu parkland dedication payments through the alternative rate structure. Details of this financial impact are being assessed and will be included in a report to the Parks and Environment Committee after the first quarter of 2008.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The City of Toronto Official Plan introduced a new city-wide alternative parkland dedication policy in 2005. Although in effect, the alternative parkland dedication policy has not been applied to date in accordance with a two year transition period implemented at the time of approval to permit residential development applications in the “pipeline” ample opportunity to reach the building permit stage and to fulfil park levy obligations under the Official Plan terms of the former municipalities. The two year transition period expires at the end of 2007 and this report recommends the adoption of an Alternative Parkland Dedication By-law for January 1, 2008 to enact the Official Plan policy.

The Alternative Parkland Dedication By-law will apply to residential development in the residential portion of mixed use development in areas of the City where parkland acquisition priority areas have been identified.

Background Information

Staff Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-8852.pdf>
 Attachment 1(a) Parkland Acquisition Priority Areas
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-8925.pdf>

PE11.4	ACTION			
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People, Dogs and Parks Strategy – Off Leash Areas – Supplementary Report

(Staff Presentation)

(November 20, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that commencing in 2008, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Public Health Animal Services staff work with local community groups and dog owner associations to incorporate special “Park Days” for dog licensing as part of other community education activities related to responsible pet ownership.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report. An additional budget request to implement the “People, Dogs and Parks Strategy” has been included in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division’s 2008 Operating Budget submission.

Summary

At its meeting of July 4, 2007 the Parks and Environment Committee considered Item PE7.3 – People, Dogs and Parks Strategy – Off-Leash Areas. The committee requested that the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back to the committee on the feasibility of user fees for dog owners who use off-leash areas with the exception of senior citizens; how off-leash areas can be established where no resident associations or other organized group exists in high-rise rental areas with a highly ethnic, mobile population; developing special “Park Days” for dog licensing; and addressing the backlog of pending applications for off-leash areas.

Additionally, City Council at its meeting of July 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2007 requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the proposed budget for materials and resources with respect to the feasibility of including mechanized dog litter pick up equipment; and language appropriate materials specific to particular neighbourhoods to support the international pictogram signage.

The provision of off-leash areas for dogs within the parks system is a very contentious issue, and the Council approved People, Dogs and Parks Strategy attempts to balance the interests of

dog owners and other park users. Responsible dog-owners and dog-walkers are the key to well-run off-leash areas that are integrated into the community. The successful implementation of the strategy is critical to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and the residents we serve, if we are to balance the needs of a wide variety of park users. However, in order to ensure that dog owners fully utilize off-leash areas and comply with all applicable by-laws, including obtaining a dog licence, maintaining control and picking up after their dogs, staff are not recommending the imposition of user fees for these areas.

Staff will continue to expand their outreach efforts to work with neighbourhoods across the City to create opportunities for developing designated off-leash areas in City parks and open space areas. Particular attention will be focussed on liaising with diverse communities in high density residential areas, which may lack organized community groups or residents' associations but might welcome having these areas within their parks. The use of appropriate (e.g. pictogram signage) and the organization of special events – “Park Days” to promote dog licensing is also being recommended in this report.

The report also responds to the request on how staff will address the pending applications for designated off-leash areas across the City and targeted timelines for handling these requests. Finally, an analysis of the feasibility of using mechanized equipment for dog waste pick-up is presented. Staff are not recommending the acquisition of this type of equipment at this time and are recommending the current strategies outlined in the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy for dealing with dog waste (i.e., dog owners are responsible for picking up after their dogs, using the park green bins, where provided, etc.)

Background Information

Staff Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-8888.pdf>

PE11.5	ACTION			
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Letter from Councillor Suzan Hall Requesting Increase in Funding for Forestry Operations

(November 5, 2007) Letter from Councillor Suzan Hall, Ward 1 Etobicoke North

Summary

Residents want enhanced tree pruning to:

1. provide a clear pathway for street lighting and hydro lines to improve safety;
2. prevent dead trees from toppling over and damaging property and possibly impact personal safety;
3. improve pedestrian sidewalk mobility as well as improve vehicular sight-lines; and
4. help keep trees healthy through proper maintenance.<BR

Background Information

Letter from Councillor Suzan Hall

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-8680.pdf>