

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	10	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, November 6, 2007	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Committee's Report to City Council or to the Minutes for the official record.

How to Read the Decision Document:

- *Recommendations of the Committee to City Council appear after the item heading.*
- *Any amendments by Committee to recommendations appearing in a staff report are italicized.*
- *Other action taken by the Committee on its own authority, which does not require Council's approval, is listed in the decision document under the heading "Decision Advice and Other Information".*
- *Declarations of Interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

Minutes Confirmed – October 10, 2007.

PE10.1	Presentation	Received		Ward: All
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Presentation on Green Initiatives

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received the presentations, with thanks.

Summary

Presentations from Economic Development, Culture and Tourism (includes Yonge-Dundas Square, Hummingbird Centre, St. Lawrence Centre and Toronto Centre for the Arts), Toronto Atmospheric Fund, Toronto Community Housing Corporation and Toronto Library Board.

PE10.2	ACTION	Without Recs		Ward: All
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Revised Commercial Dog Walkers Permit Policy

(October 15, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee forwards the report (October 15, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to City Council without recommendation.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee referred the following e-mail communications to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation:

- a. (October 31, 2007) from Mary Drakich;
- b. (November 1, 2007) from Audrey Gavloski;
- c. (November 4, 2007) from Robin and John McAleer; and
- d. (November 6, 2007) from Lela Gary, Air Pollution Coalition.

Financial Impact

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

Summary

The Parks and Environment Committee, at its meeting of July 4, 2007, considered Item PE7.4 - Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy. The Committee requested that the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation provide an information report to City Council on July 16, 2007 to clarify some of the definitions (e.g. “repeat offender”), the rationale for the sliding scale fee structure and the rationale for an increase in the maximum number of dogs that a Commercial Dog Walker can bring into a park, green space or waterfront area (a “Park”) at a time.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/bgrd/pe7.4a.pdf>

The original policy recommended a range in fees from \$200.00 for an individual walker, up to \$1000.00 for five or more walkers (for larger businesses). Deputations took place at the July 4, 2007, Parks and Environment Committee meeting and those in attendance (including Commercial Dog Walkers) felt that a flat fee of \$200.00 for each individual dog walker was reasonable and that the fee structure should be the same for everyone. Consequently, staff are recommending that the Commercial Dog Walker Permit fee be amended to a flat fee rate of \$200.00.

Recommendation 1(a) of Item PE7.4, which Council adopted on July 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2007, amended the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy to require that all commercial dog walkers display a Dog Walker permit when walking more than two dogs at a time in a Park. Staff have carefully reviewed this matter and have determined that Council’s recommendation conflicts

with an existing provision of Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks, which allows an individual to bring a maximum of three dogs into a Park without a permit. As a result, this makes enforcement difficult for Parks, Forestry and Recreation By-law Enforcement Officers.

The policy, as originally proposed, would not provide staff with sufficient enforcement mechanisms to monitor and control the activities of Commercial Dog Walkers. Therefore, staff is recommending that provision 1(a) of the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy be amended to require Commercial Dog Walkers to display a Dog Walker Permit when walking from four to a maximum of six dogs in a Park at any one time, and that Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks, be amended accordingly.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7851.pdf>)

Communications

(October 31, 2007) e-mail from Mary Drakich (PE.New.PE10.2.1)

(November 1, 2007) e-mail from Audrey Gavloski (PE.New.PE10.2.2)

(November 4, 2007) e-mail from Robin and John McAleer (PE.New.PE10.2.3)

(November 6, 2007) e-mail from Lela Gary (PE.New.PE10.2.4)

PE10.3	Information	Received		Ward: All
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City Owned Tree Pruning and Maintenance Strategy

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

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received the report (September 19, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, for information.

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-7834.pdf>)

PE10.4	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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Tree Hazard Abatement in Parks and Ravines

Confidential Attachment - The receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege

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

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that City Council adopt the following key components of the preventative tree hazard management plan, as the City of Toronto's policy for tree hazard abatement in parks and ravines:

1. Periodic inspections and follow-up work of the parks and ravine trails to identify tree hazards that require maintenance;
2. Operational services to undertake the required tree maintenance identified through the period inspections in a timely manner;
3. Standardized forms for recording inspections and maintenance carried out with data entry into a computerized system such as the Toronto Maintenance Management System (TMMS) currently used in Urban Forestry;
4. Updating existing mapping and creating new mapping for ravines, natural area trails and parks. Identifying maintained trails vs. natural surface dirt paths that are not maintained;
5. Installing markers along the trails and in the parks to be used as reference points for inspections and maintenance work;
6. Adding trail signage to identify maintained natural area trails, and to warn of trails that are not maintained;
7. The development of educational material, to be provided to the public, via the City's website, Fun Guide and in brochures prepared by Parks, Forestry and Recreation, providing information on the risks associated with trees if they are not monitored and maintained on a regular basis; and
8. Standardized training for forestry ravine and park inspectors.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. Received for information Confidential Attachment 1 (June 21, 2007) from the City Solicitor on Tree Hazard Abatement in Parks and Ravines; and
2. Requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to City Council, for its meeting on November 19, 2007, on a set of cost estimates for proactive inspection of trees in “managed” parks and signed warnings for naturalized areas and trails.

Financial Impact

Approval of the recommendation in this report has the following additional Operating and Capital budget implications to be considered within the overall 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation budget submission.

Expenditures	2008	2009 Annualization	Total
Capital Budget	\$147,000		\$147,000
Operating Budget	\$1,049,596	\$333,615	\$1,383,211
Permanent Staff Positions	Three Forestry Foreperson 1's		

If approved in 2008, the incremental operating budget impact to Parks, Forestry and Recreation would be \$1,049,596 and \$333,615 in 2008 and 2009 respectively. The impact to the capital budget is \$147,000 funded through debt in 2008.

The capital funding requested is for the purchase of three (3) hybrid trucks with ramps and three (3) all terrain vehicles. In 2008, \$750,000 of the requested \$1,049,596 operating funds will be allocated to contracted services for undertaking the required tree work that is anticipated. The requested staff positions will require \$150,000 in operating funds in 2008 and \$50,000 in 2009.

In addition to the funding requested in the 2008 and 2009 Operating and Capital budget request, a further report requesting additional funding will be submitted in 2008, in relation to trail identification, mapping and signage. Urban Forestry will coordinate with the Parks branch of Parks, Forestry and Recreation in preparing this report and determining the funding that will be required for the mapping of existing maintained and non-maintained trails, the installation of trail markers for the purpose of identification and record keeping, and signage identifying the nature of the trails and any caution that needs to be exercised.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend a tree hazard abatement policy for parks and ravines. The recommended policy is consistent with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) policy for inspection and maintenance of hazardous trees on TRCA-owned lands and the Hamilton Royal Botanical Garden (RBG) inquest recommendations relating to tree assessment and care. A legal opinion on this matter is included as a confidential attachment.

The proposed policy will assist in the identification of hazardous trees in our parks and ravines, especially in high traffic areas including pathways, picnic areas, and exit and entrance ways, and in scheduling the required maintenance of these trees. Creating and installing appropriate signage at access points to parks and ravines is also recommended as part of the policy.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7857.pdf>

PE10.5	ACTION	Referred		
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Proposed Amendment to the Parks By-law 608-25 – Kites

(October 29, 2007) Letter from Councillor Chin Lee

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee referred the communication (October 29, 2007) from Councillor Chin Lee, Scarborough Rouge River - Ward 41, to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and requested her to report to the Parks and Environment Committee in three months.

Summary

Requesting that the Parks and Environment Committee recommend amending Parks By-law 608-25 to prohibit certain types of unsafe kite strings and to put a greater onus on kite flyers to retrieve their broken kites and strings from public property.

PE10.6	ACTION	Referred		
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Annual Report (2005) on Toronto's Reported Submissions to the National Pollutant Release Inventory and Related Obligations

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. re-opened Parks and Environment Committee's decision on Item PE9.2 - Annual Report

(2005) on Toronto's Reported Submissions to the National Pollutant Release Inventory and Related Obligations, only as it relates to the Committee's decision to defer consideration of the report (September 26, 2007) from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts until the November 6, 2007 meeting; and

2. referred the report (September 26, 2007) to Deputy City Manager Richard Butts with a request that he report to the next Parks and Environment Committee meeting on November 28, 2007.

Summary

Request by Councillor Walker to re-open and refer the report (September 26, 2007) to Deputy City Manager Richard Butts.

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2007-11-06	Morning	9:40 AM	11:55 AM	Public
2007-11-06	Afternoon	12:00 PM	12:55 PM	Closed
2007-11-06	Afternoon	1:00 PM	1:05 PM	Public