

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	5	Contact	Helen Smith, Manager
Meeting Date	Wednesday, June 6, 2007	Phone	416-392-0146
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	hlsmith@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

Attendance

Members of the Parks and Environment Committee were present for some or all of the time periods indicated under the section headed, "Meeting Sessions," which appears at the end of the Minutes.

Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair)	X
Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice-Chair - Parks)	X
Councillor Gord Perks (Vice-Chair - Environment)	X
Councillor Pam McConnell	X
Councillor Ron Moeser	R
Councillor Michael Walker	X

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Frances Nunziata	
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Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee held on May 8, 2007, were confirmed.

PE5.1	Information	Amended		Ward: All
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United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development: Memorandum of Understanding

(May 23, 2007) report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

The Deputy City Manager recommends that:

1. the Toronto Environment Office represent the City of Toronto on the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Steering Committee;
2. for a period of two years, the Toronto Environment Office provide office space and staff support for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Secretariat; and
3. the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Toronto, sign the Memorandum of Understanding formally committing the City to the obligations listed above, provided such Memorandum of Understanding is in the form attached or if amended to the satisfaction of the Director of the Toronto Environment Office in consultation with the City Solicitor.

Financial Impact

The Toronto RCE will make use of existing resources within the budget for the Toronto Environment Office. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact statement.

Summary

In March 2005, the Mayor wrote to the United Nations University requesting that the City of Toronto be included in an international network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (see Attachment 1). Toronto received this recognition in May 2005.

Since that time, the Toronto Environment Office has worked locally to build a network of education for sustainable development (“ESD”) stakeholders to form a Steering Committee for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (“Toronto RCE”). Toronto's RCE aims to strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among ESD stakeholders in the Toronto region.

The Toronto RCE does not constitute a separate legal entity, but instead represents an alliance of institutions and organizations committed to enhancing education to secure an inclusive, healthy, prosperous and environmentally sustainable future for Toronto. The attached Memorandum of Understanding (see Attachment 2) outlines the parameters for collaboration on Toronto RCE projects, and establishes a Steering Committee to govern the activities of the Toronto RCE.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City of Toronto sign the Memorandum of Understanding, and continue to play a leadership role in the activities of the Toronto RCE. Staff in the City Solicitor's Office have reviewed the attached Memorandum of Understanding, and do not have any concerns about the content of the document.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Perks, the Parks and Environment Committee endorsed, in principle, the City's participation in the United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise and deferred consideration of the report to the July 4, 2007 meeting with a request that staff report further providing a clearer focus and set of goals and parameters for other invitees based on goals and focus.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4047.pdf>

PE5.2	ACTION	Amended	Transactional	Ward: All
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Organizational Structure of the Toronto Environment Office

(Deferred from May 8, 2007 meeting in order that notice be given for Committee questions and debate - PE4.3)

(April 20, 2007) report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts.

Summary

This document responds to the request of the Parks and Environment Committee to report on a review of staff and policy co-ordination structures of the Toronto Environment Office to ensure better focus and co-ordination of City initiatives and one-stop shopping for the public.

The City of Toronto's new administrative structure that was implemented in 2005 assigned responsibility for the environment to the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B. An informal review of environmental activities and responsibilities across the City was undertaken in 2006, resulting in the establishment of the Toronto Environment Office.

The Toronto Environment Office's mandate is the management, co-ordination and integration of environmental issues across the City of Toronto, as well as enterprise-wide environmental planning and policy development. The Toronto Environment Office will be a central point of contact for City Councillors or the public for environmental issues or questions. Other co-ordinating mechanisms are the Executive Environment Team, project-based staff co-ordinating teams and the staff review of upcoming committee reports.

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommended that:

1. City Council request that, starting in September or after, each Division and Agency, Board and Commission make a short presentation on their green initiatives and implementation strategies; and

(Motion by Councillor McConnell)

2. City Council request all Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Divisions that report through the City's budget process to report on the implementation of environmental and climate change initiatives which are generally consistent with internal City Divisions, and that those reports be forwarded to and co-ordinated with the Toronto Environment Office.

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. requested Deputy City Manager Richard Butts to submit a further report to the September 14, 2007 Committee meeting which addresses some of the concerns of the Committee including structure; expertise needed within the office; location within the organization including an Organization Chart; co-ordination with Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments; and partnership with other governments and non-governmental organizations;

(Motion by Councillor McConnell)

2. requested Deputy City Manager Richard Butts to report on how the Toronto Environmental Office will regularly engage external stakeholders; and

(Motion by Councillor Perks)

3. requested that the Toronto Environment Office, in consultation with the Director of Purchasing, report to the Government Management Committee on the development and components of a green purchasing policy for the City of Toronto and its ABCs and divisions.

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3859.pdf>

PE5.3	Information	Referred		Ward: All
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Commercial Tree Removal, Replacement and Maintenance

(May 17, 2007) report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that an additional \$0.958 million in Operating Budget funding and \$0.445 million in Capital Budget funding for the maintenance of commercial trees be included in the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating budget submission and that this report be referred for consideration to the 2008 operating budget process.

Financial Impact

The following chart shows the additional Operating Budget requests that are planned and the Capital request to be considered within the overall 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Submission. Funding for this proposed expansion of Commercial Tree maintenance is not yet approved and must be considered during the 2008 Financial Planning process.

Expenditures	2008	2009	Total
Capital Budget	\$445,000		\$445,000
Operating Budget	\$721,517	\$236,133	\$957,649
Permanent Staff	1 Supervisor, 6 Arborist 3s	Includes the remaining ¼ of the funding for the 1 supervisor and 6 Arborist 3s	

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

Summary

This report provides information about the City's commercial street trees (trees set into the sidewalk or in a raised container) and their unique benefits and maintenance requirements. These trees are predominantly located in commercial business and restaurant areas, and with appropriate maintenance, add greatly to the aesthetic appeal of the streetscape, attracting residents, tourists and investment.

Current resources do not allow for adequate maintenance of these trees, including removal and replacement of the hundreds of trees that die each year, and the associated maintenance of tree pits and containers. As part of the 2008 budget process additional operating and capital funds are being requested to greatly enhance the maintenance of commercial trees.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Perks, the Parks and Environment Committee requested that an additional \$0.958 million in Operating Budget funding and \$0.445 million in Capital Budget funding for the maintenance of commercial trees be included in the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating budget submission and referred this report for consideration to the 2008 operating budget process.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4048.pdf>

PE5.4	Information	Amended		Ward: All
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Achieving Tree Canopy Enhancement

Presentation

(May 16, 2007) report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. funds required to complete a comprehensive study to assess the current structure, distribution, health and diversity of the urban forest and the land base availability and quality available for establishing canopy potential for the future urban forest, will be part of the 2008 capital budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation; and
2. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with the Chief Planner, the General Manager of Transportation Services and the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to develop a strategy for increasing the urban canopy and growing the urban forest across the City.

Financial Impact

Funding requirements to complete the comprehensive study of the Urban Forest will be considered within the overall 2008 capital budget request for Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The estimated cost is \$350,000. Once the study is submitted and reviewed, financial planning for its implementation will proceed.

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify the City initiatives and initiatives by other organizations, both public and private, that are required to achieve the tree canopy target of between 30% and 40%.

The existing urban forest has an estimated tree canopy of 17.5% and is comprised of approximately 3 million trees on public land and 4 million on private property. In order to determine more accurately what will be required to achieve the tree canopy target, a study is needed to:

1. quantify the structure and form of the existing urban forest;
2. evaluate potential planting area;
3. assess the vulnerability factors such as mortality, poor soil, catastrophic events such as invasive pests or severe storms; and
4. model the growth of trees and canopy over time.

The study is necessary to help develop a strategy for growing the urban forest and identifying tree canopy potential for public and private land that will achieve the objective of between 30 and 40 percent.

More than half of the existing urban forest is estimated to be on private land. The profile and nature of the future urban forest therefore will be significantly informed by the nature of development on private property. The recommended doubling of the tree canopy requires that future land use planning and development of private lands continue to contribute significantly to the urban forest and minimize losses. Parks, Forestry and Recreation must work together with City Planning, Transportation and other Divisions and Agencies to develop a strategy for growing the urban forest and determining the potential for increased tree canopy that are in concert with existing and future land use planning policies and development.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee requested that:

1. funds required to complete a comprehensive study to assess the current structure, distribution, health and diversity of the urban forest and the land base availability and quality available for establishing canopy potential for the future urban forest, will be part of the 2008 capital budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation;
2. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with the Chief Planner, the General Manager of Transportation Services and the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to develop a strategy for increasing the urban canopy and growing the urban forest across the city;

(Motion by Councillor Walker)

3. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to the Committee at its July meeting on the possibility of expediting fall 2007 tree planting;
4. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Chair, Parks and Environment Committee, the former Tree Advocate, and the Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Office, report to the Committee no later than September 2007 on amounts required to achieve the objectives relating to the maintenance and planting of trees in 2008;
5. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation establish an Urban Forest Tree Canopy staff steering committee to include staff from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), LEAF, the Clean Air Partnership, University of Toronto Department of Forestry, City of Toronto Planning, Transportation Services, and Toronto Water, to provide input into the development of an urban tree canopy strategy; and

6. the City Forester make the presentation on the Urban Tree Canopy at other relevant Committees, such as the Planning and Growth Management Committee and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

(The following motion by Councillor Cho was ruled out of order)

That the Executive Committee determine if this matter falls within the mandate of both the Parks and Environment Committee and the Planning and Growth Management Committee, as required by Municipal Code Chapter 27, Section 134, to permit a joint meeting to be held sometime in September to further discuss achieving tree canopy enhancement in order to help develop a comprehensive environmentally-friendly development policy for the City of Toronto.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4049.pdf>

Attachment 1

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4050.pdf>

PE5.5	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: 13
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Donation Towards Playground Improvements in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park

(May 16, 2007) report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. City Council accept with thanks the contribution of \$80,000, via the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”, for playground improvements in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park; and
2. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, be directed to include a subproject to the 2008 Capital Budget submission to make improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for \$80,000.00 gross, funded by the \$80,000 donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”.

Financial Impact

The recommendations will have no financial impact on the 2007 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget and no net financial impact on the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget.

The proposed subproject to make improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for \$80,000.00 gross, and funded by the \$80,000 donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e,” will have no net financial impact on the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget submission.

The donation will be primarily directed towards replacing the existing playground equipment in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for which the annual maintenance costs will be included in the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget submission. Maintenance costs related to any additional playground equipment will be nominal. Thus, no additional Operating Budget funding will be required to service this facility.

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

Summary

“Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” has committed to make an \$80,000 donation to the City of Toronto in January of 2008 to be directed towards improvements to the Sir Casimir Gzowski Park playground.

Committee Recommendations

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Parks and Environment Committee recommended that:

1. City Council accept with thanks the contribution of \$80,000, via the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”, for playground improvements in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park; and
2. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, be directed to include a subproject to the 2008 Capital Budget submission to make improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for \$80,000.00 gross, funded by the \$80,000 donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4051.pdf>

PE5.6	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: 11
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Donation to Build an Outdoor Court in Woolner Park

(May 16, 2007) memo from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. City Council accepts with thanks the contribution of \$75,000, via the Toronto Parks and

Trees Foundation, from the Raptors Foundation, for an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park; and

2. the 2007 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget be amended to add a subproject to construct an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park, for \$75,000 gross, funded by the \$75,000 donation from the Raptor Foundation.

Financial Impact

The recommendations will have no net financial impact on the 2007 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget.

The proposed sports court is valued at \$75,000.00 and will be built in Woolner Park, located on a segment of an Ontario Hydro Corridor leased to the City of Toronto for park and recreational purposes.

A donation equal to the City's construction costs for the proposed sports court will be made by the Toronto Raptors Foundation and directed to the City of Toronto by the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation.

Operating costs for day-to-day maintenance and supervision of this facility will be nominal, as the facility will be included as part of the existing park monitoring routes. No additional programming costs are anticipated, as this facility will be incorporated in the Division's normal spring-summer programming for young people. Any sweeping/cleaning necessary for the courts would be included in the normal work of parks maintenance crews who routinely service the park. Thus, no additional Operating Budget funding will be required to service this facility.

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

Summary

The Raptors Foundation, the charitable arm of the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club, has committed to donate the complete funds required for the City of Toronto to build a new outdoor sports court in Woolner Park. The court is to be built before August 2007 and is valued at approximately \$75,000.

Committee Recommendations

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Parks and Environment Committee recommended that:

1. City Council accept with thanks the contribution of \$75,000, via the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, from the Raptors Foundation, for an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park; and
2. the 2007 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget be amended to add a subproject to construct an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park, for \$75,000 gross, funded by the \$75,000 donation from the Raptor Foundation.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-4052.pdf>)

PE5.7	Information	Received	Transactional	
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Update on Implementation of Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

(Deferred from May 8, 2007 meeting in order that notice be given for Committee questions and debate – PE4.4)

(April 17, 2007) report from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the Executive Director, Policy, Planning, Finance and Administration.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (November 2001).

In 2001, Toronto City Council successfully advocated for protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Its recommendations to the Province influenced the form and content of Bill 122, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. At the time, Toronto City Council also recommended that the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan address the strategic management of how and where growth occurs in the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding region. This recommendation and Toronto's study, entitled "City and Regional Strategies for Growth that Protect Countryside and Air Quality", influenced the Province's subsequent Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan.

Efforts are well underway to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine. The City has and continues to contribute directly to these efforts through funding of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The City also contributes indirectly through its leadership actions in protection and enhancement of the natural heritage system and implementation of the Green Development Standard.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received this item.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3860.pdf>)

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2007-06-06	Morning	9:40 AM	12:25 PM	Public

Chair