
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 10
Meeting Date Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Phone 416-397-7769
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PE10.2	AMENDED			Ward: All
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Revised Commercial Dog Walkers Permit Policy

City Council Decision

City Council on November 19 and 20, 2007, adopted the following motions:

1. The Commercial Dog Walker Permit Fee be established at \$200.00 per commercial dog walker as outlined in Attachment 1 - Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy - and that the Municipal Code, Chapter 441, Fees and Charges be amended, as appropriate.
2. The City Clerk give notice of the proposed revised fee indicated in Part 1, as required under the City of Toronto Act and Municipal Code Chapter 162, Public Notice.
3. The Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy be amended, as outlined Attachment 1, to require that a commercial dog walker display a Commercial Dog Walker Permit when walking from four (4) to a maximum of six (6) dogs in a City park, green space or waterfront area (rather than two, as adopted by City Council at its meeting of July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007).
4. The City Solicitor be requested to make the necessary amendments to the Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks and Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, as appropriate.

(Public Notice given)

(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>)

Additional Background Information (City Council)

- Briefing Note (November 20, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation ([PE10.2a](#))

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)

PE10.4	AMENDED			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

City Council Decision

City Council on November 19 and 20, 2007, adopted the following motion:

- A. 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.
 8. Standardized training for forestry ravine and park inspectors.
- B. Staff involved with the tree hazard abatement management program remove tree hazards that pose a risk to the public using proper arboricultural pruning standards, and whole tree removal only take place if the tree's life cannot be extended, while keeping it safe, for a number of years (four years or more) by pruning or other reasonable measures.

Confidential Attachment 1 to the report (October 19, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, which is a communication (June 21, 2007) from the City Solicitor, addressed to the Director, Urban Forestry, remains confidential in its entirety, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Toronto Act, 2006, as it contains information 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>

Additional Background Information (City Council)

- Report (November 20, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PE10.4a)

Submitted Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee