
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 14
Meeting Date Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

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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 - January 16 and January 22, 2008

Communications/Reports

PE14.1	Presentation			Ward: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations – Utilities and Infrastructure

Summary

Presentations from Toronto Hydro, Enwave and Facilities and Real Estate Division

PE14.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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Parks, Forestry and Recreation Shade Audit Strategy for Playground and Waterplay Facilities

(Staff Presentation)

(January 29, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff work with Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee to adopt standards for shade provision and confirm a Shade Audit Process to guide the preparation of shade audits by staff and consultants;
2. 'Pilot' shade audits and shade plans be developed for priority playgrounds and waterplay facilities and that staff report back on the plans, including their capital and operating costs. The knowledge gained from the 'pilot' is to serve as a basis for conducting shade audits for the entire system of playgrounds and waterplay facilities; and
3. The Policy for the Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites will be incorporated into existing playground and waterplay projects where possible and worked into planning and design already being carried out at specific sites.

Financial Impact

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

implications may result from consultant or staff resources needed to conduct shade audits and future Capital work required to implement improvements to facilities.

Summary

The purpose of this report to present a strategy for conducting shade audits at Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) playground and waterplay facilities (wading pools and splash pads). Shade audits will assess existing shade provision and patterns of use at these facilities and make recommendations for the provision of adequate shade and Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) protection.

Playgrounds, splash pads, and wading pools are areas that can be of high risk for UVR exposure to vulnerable segments of the population such as children, whose exposure to UVR during the early years of life is a major determinant of lifetime risk of skin cancer. Shade is beneficial as well for the comfort of all park and facility users (e.g. provide relief from heat).

The provision of shade, either natural (trees) or constructed (overhead structures), should be an essential element in the planning of new and retrofitted playground and waterplay facilities. These facilities are primarily used during summer when UVR levels are at their highest, users typically wear minimal clothing and there may be high levels of indirect UVR reflected from surfaces.

A preliminary assessment of PF&R playgrounds and waterplay facilities indicates that most of the facilities need significant improvements in the level of shade provided.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10539.pdf>

Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites Attachment

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10540.pdf>

PE14.3	ACTION			Ward: All
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Waste Audit of City Parks - Supplementary Report

(February 5, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

Recommendations

The General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Solid Waste Management Services recommend that:

1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Solid Waste Management Services work together on the implementation of the green bin program in recreation facilities following final implementation of the residential multi-unit and school green bin program;

2. Parks, Forestry and Recreation issue a request for proposal to study alternate methods to divert dog waste from the Parks litter stream; and
3. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services, report back on methods to divert dog waste from the Parks litter stream, pending the outcome of questions about the feasibility of collecting and processing large quantities of dog waste in parks.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact resulting from this report.

Summary

This report outlines Parks, Forestry and Recreation's (PF&R) and Solid Waste Management Services' (SWMS) efforts to increase recycling and dog waste diversion in parks. It also provides information on the effectiveness of PF&R By-law Enforcement in curbing household illegal dumping and disposal of wastes. In 2007, PF&R launched a public education campaign on waste diversion, including hiring 6 seasonal waste diversion education staff and implementing a TTC advertising campaign on park recycling. Other efforts to increase park recycling have included the purchase of new park recycling bins, the development of new waste and recycling standards and the application of new recycling basket labels. SWMS will also be adding new items to the recycling stream in the near future, to increase material capture rates.

In addressing dog waste in park litter bins, PF&R initiated 3 dog waste pilots based on research on dog waste management in other cities around the world. The pilots included a carry-in, carry-out pilot, a septic waste pilot and a green bin pilot.

PF&R has further reduced household illegal dumping in parks through the actions of its By-law Enforcement Unit. Since the start of 2007, the Unit has issued over 500 tickets or summons for illegal dumping of household waste.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10541.pdf>)