



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Additional Litter Pick-Up and Garbage Collection in City Parks on Long Weekends

<b>Date:</b>	September 18, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Parks and Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Gary Welsh, General Manager, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### SUMMARY

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City Council at its meeting of May 26 and 27, 2008 adopted Toronto's Premier Ranked Tourist Destination Project Results – Making Toronto the Best It Can Be as a guide for strengthening Toronto's tourism sector within the context of the "Agenda for Prosperity: A Prospectus for a Great City."

As a result, the General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services were requested to report on a strategy for additional litter pick-up and garbage collection on long weekends in the downtown core and other high-volume tourist park locations.

To support strengthening Toronto as a tourism destination Parks, Forestry and Recreation will coordinate inter-divisionally with Solid Waste Management Services (SWMS) and Transportation Services to provide a seamless service to the downtown core and other high-volume tourist park locations on the five long weekends from May through to October.

Parks staff will adjust planned work schedules to accommodate additional litter picking and garbage collection crews for City Parks on long weekends from the May, Victoria Day long weekend through to the completion of the October, Thanksgiving weekend, covering the five holiday weekends to ensure parks are clean and inviting.

This change in service delivery will provide litter pick-up and garbage collection to parkland during weekends and on holidays where service has been traditionally provided the day following the holiday.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that** the strategy for additional litter pick-up and garbage collection in City Parks on long weekends during the summer season be accomplished by rescheduling existing staff and resources to cover weekends and holidays as part of their planned shift.

### Financial Impact

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

## DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 26 and 27, 2008, City Council adopted the “Premier Ranked Tourist Destination Project Research Summary and Recommendations” as a guide for strengthening Toronto’s tourism sector which includes a recommendation that the General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services report to the Parks and Environment Committee as well as the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on a strategy for additional litter pick-up and garbage collection in the downtown core and other high-volume tourist park locations.

Council Decision Document (Item ED13.3 – Toronto’s Premier Ranked Tourist Destination Project Results – Making Toronto the Best It Could Be)  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cc/decisions/2008-05-26-cc21-dd.pdf>

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

Currently litter is picked up weekly from most parks as part of the grass cutting schedule. Destination Parks (tourist destinations), including Civic centres, stadiums, premier sports fields and garden parks have daily litter pick-up. Garbage collection occurs daily at many Destination Parks, and one to three times per week at most other parks. Garbage collection requirements are impacted by the intensity of the park use. During long weekends, the intensity of use in many parks, especially in the downtown core, increases putting additional pressure on litter and garbage collection. Often parks are not serviced until the day after the long weekend, which generates complaints about overflowing garbage receptacles, and parks littered with paper and debris. Following the traditional fireworks weekends, (Victoria Day and Canada Day) spent fireworks litter in many parks is not picked up until the regularly scheduled maintenance visit.

## COMMENTS

Parks, Forestry and Recreation encourages visitors to explore more than the downtown core of the City by providing 8,000 hectares of green space, extensive ravine and trail system, destination, neighbourhood, waterfront parks and beaches.

Staff report for action on Additional Litter Pick-Up and Garbage Collection in Parks on Long Weekends

The implementation of an enhanced litter pick-up and garbage collection program for parks visited by tourists during long weekends throughout the summer season will improve maintenance and cleanliness to parks traditionally serviced the day following the holiday.

Enhanced litter pick-up will be provided to high-volume tourist park locations on a day shift to ensure parks are clean, tidy and ready for use. Garbage collection will occur on a day shift, by removing garbage from parks in a timely, efficient manner during the peak summer season which will eliminate on site bulk garbage storage during warm weather.

The program will commence on the Victoria Day, May long weekend for a period of the five holiday weekends to be completed at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend in October. Coverage will be provided to high-volume tourist park locations. This will slow the effective pick-up of garbage collection during the week following a long weekend at some site locations. This will be assessed and alternative arrangements will be made using existing staff resources.

Enhanced Litter Pick-up and Garbage Collection Strategy includes weekend scheduling of:

- three additional litter removal crews; and
- three additional garbage collection crews.

Service Level: Daily garbage collection and litter removal for high-volume tourist park locations.

Duration: Five long weekends from mid May 11, 2009 to mid October 13, 2009.

The areas abutting parks in the downtown core are maintained by both Transportation Services and Solid Waste Management Services. The mechanical sweeping of arterial roads is conducted daily, including all holidays. Streets like Lakeshore Blvd., Queens St. and Front St. are swept every night during the May through October season.

Litter picking on the abutting road allowances is conducted by Solid Waste Management Services daily during the busy tourist times and uses a combination of mechanical and manual resources to complete the tasks. This litter operation is delivered during all holidays and emphasis is placed on downtown tourist areas.

Litter receptacles are emptied by staff from SWMS on a daily basis and additional resources are used to ensure that high pedestrian traffic areas have high level of service. Majority of the downtown litter/recycling receptacles are emptied by night operations crews.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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