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## Parks and Environment Committee

<b>Meeting No.</b>	26	<b>Contact</b>	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday, October 15, 2009	<b>Phone</b>	416-397-7769
<b>Start Time</b>	9:30 AM	<b>E-mail</b>	pec@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Committee Room 2, City Hall	<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Paula Fletcher

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PE26.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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### Green Initiatives and Activities - Presentations and Accompanying Data

#### Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. City Council direct all corporate agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and divisions to track their green initiatives, activities, programs, policies and actions which result in environmental benefits and specifically reductions in air emissions, including greenhouse gases and air pollutants, according to standards and protocols established by the Toronto Environment Office.
2. City Council direct the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to report bi-annually on both the quantifiable and other environmental benefits of the Corporation's green initiatives and activities from all City of Toronto agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and divisions.
3. City Council forward a copy of this report to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for their information.

#### Decision Advice and Other Information

Lawson Oates, Director, Toronto Environment Office provided a Powerpoint presentation to the Parks and Environment Committee and filed a copy of his submission.

#### Origin

(September 29, 2009) Report from Director, Toronto Environment Office

#### Summary

In response to a request by the Parks and Environment Committee, all City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) engaged in environmental activities gave a presentation on their 'green initiatives and activities' (programs, policies and actions which resulted in benefits to the environment) to the Parks and Environment Committee between October 2007 and April 2009. These presentations have been compiled and are available on the City's website at:

[http://www.toronto.ca/environment/initiatives/presentations\\_pe\\_committee.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/environment/initiatives/presentations_pe_committee.htm)

The ABCCDs giving presentations were also requested to report via the Toronto Environment Office on the quantifiable environmental benefits, specifically the air emissions reductions, as a result of their green initiatives and activities to which they presented. Highlights from the presentations as well as the quantifiable environmental benefits and emission reduction/emission savings data they submitted to the Toronto Environment Office are included in this report.

The quantifiable environmental benefits provided in this report are based only on the green initiatives and activities that the ABCCDs presented on and is not a reflection of the total environmentally beneficial activities being conducted across the corporation. That information will be presented through an update of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory previously published in June 2007 (<http://www.toronto.ca/teo/pdf/ghg-aq-inventory-june2007.pdf>).

This report makes recommendations to build on the information received by the Parks and Environment Committee to develop a more comprehensive protocol for the monitoring and reporting of green initiatives and activities throughout the corporation.

**Background Information**

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23951.pdf>

Appendix A

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23952.pdf>

Appendix B

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23953.pdf>

Staff Presentation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-24270.pdf>

PE26.3	ACTION			Ward: 6, 13, 14, 28, 30, 32, 36, 44
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**Dogs on City of Toronto Swimming Beaches**

**Committee Recommendations**

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends to City Council that:

1. The City Solicitor be directed, in consultation with the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health, to amend the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks to:
  - a. except as set out in Recommendation No. 2 below, allow dogs under the control of non-commercial and commercial dog walkers to use all City swimming beaches from November 1 to March 31 while on-leash and prohibit use at all other times, and
  - b. allow working dogs providing a service to the City to use all City swimming beaches and other parklands on-or off-leash at any time

as outlined in Attachment 1 of the report, subject to any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor.

2. During the period November 1 to March 31, dogs be allowed off-leash below the snow fence line for Kew-Balmy and Woodbine Beaches only and that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to prepare a report outlining the success of this approach by November, 2010 for consideration by the Parks and Environment Committee.
3. The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to present the Beaches Action Plan when available to the Parks and Environment Committee for review and recommendations.

### **Decision Advice and Other Information**

Councillor Sandra Bussin, Ward 32 Beaches-East York addressed the Parks and Environment Committee.

Leslie Coates, Manager, Special Projects, Parks, Forestry and Recreation; Dr. Howard Shapiro; Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health and Wayne Reeves, Project Officer, Waterfront, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, provided a Powerpoint presentation to the Committee and filed a copy of their submission.

### **Origin**

(September 29, 2009) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health

### **Summary**

City Council, in considering the report, "Toronto Beaches Plan" at its meeting of February, 2009, approved an action plan to improve Toronto's swimming beaches in 2009-10. Council, among other things, requested that staff address the impacts of "Blue Flag" status on dogs, on- and off-leash, on Blue Flag designated beaches, and specifically Kew-Balmy Beach, as this became the City's seventh such swimming beach in 2009.

The Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks prohibits all dogs, year-round, on Blue Flag beaches.

Staff have considered various options to balance the issues of providing safe, clean beaches for all user groups and the interests of these various constituencies, including dog owners.

Following from our review of various options arising from the Kew-Balmy situation specifically, this report advances a broader management approach that would apply consistently to all 11 of the City's swimming beaches. This would allow dogs to use all City swimming beaches from November 1 to March 31 while on-leash and prohibit use at all other times. Allowing access to the beaches and other parklands year-round for working dogs in service to the City is also proposed.

It is noted that a companion report, "People, Dogs and Parks Strategy - Off-Leash Policy Review," is being submitted concurrently to the Parks and Environment Committee.

## **Background Information**

Staff Report with Attachment 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23817.pdf>)

Presentation to Parks and Environment Committee

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-24237.pdf>)

## **Communications**

(June 10, 2009) Letter from Chris Yaccato, Toronto Beaches Dog Association (PE.Main.PE26-3.1)

(October 13, 2009) E-mail from Dr. Christine Elser and Barry Glaspell (PE.New.PE26.3.2)

(October 15, 2009) Letter from Chris Yaccato, Chair, Toronto Beaches Dog Association (PE.New.PE26.3.4)

(October 15, 2009) E-mail from Caitlin Martin (PE.New.PE26.3.5)

## **Speakers**

(October 15, 2009) Chris Yaccato, Co-Chair, Toronto's Beaches Dogs Association (Submission Filed)

(October 15, 2009) Timolin Daniel, Member, Toronto Beaches Dog Association (Submission Filed)

Diane McConnell

Caitlin Martin (Submission Filed)

(October 15, 2009) Councillor Sandra Bussin, Ward 32 Beaches-East York

*Submitted Thursday, October 15, 2009*

*Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee*