



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Allocation Criteria and Implementation Strategy for Bicycle Parking at Parks and Community Centres

Date:	September 29, 2016
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation Division
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\PE14-101916-AFS#23496

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to describe the allocation criteria and implementation strategy that are being used to distribute bike racks at various locations within parks and community centres across the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. the Parks and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

Financial Impact

This report presents the criteria and implementation strategy to provide bike racks within City Parks and at Community Centres. It requests that \$200,000 from the Public Realm Reserve Fund (XR1410) be applied to fund the installation of bike racks per this report and that the project be included in the Parks Forestry and Recreation 2017 Capital Budget and 2018-2026 Capital Plan. This funding was originally requested by Council in 2015 and is available in the Reserve Fund. The project would be phased over 2017 and 2018 to install up to 137 bike racks with an estimated useful life of 10 years or more.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on July 7, 2015 as part of MM8.48, directed that:

1. City Council direct that an equivalent number of bicycle parking spaces / rings be created in parks and community centres across the City, with funding in the amount of \$200,000 provided from the Public Realm Reserve Fund.

2. City Council request the General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and Transportation Services to report to the Parks and Environment Committee on a recommended set of allocation criteria and implementation strategy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.MM8.48>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

As part of the Pan Am Legacy, City Council approved the donation and delivery of bicycle racks that were purchased by the City of Toronto for use at Pan Am and Para Pan Am event venues, to the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

City Council then directed an equivalent number of bicycle parking spaces be created in parks and community centres across the City as part of the Pan Am Legacy.

COMMENTS

On June 9, 2016 City Council adopted a Cycling Network Ten Year Plan, which aims to connect, grow and renew the City's Cycling Network.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW13.11>

Keeping in line with these objectives, as well as the objectives of the Toronto Bike Plan, the implementation of new bike racks across the City's parks and community centres will play an important part in the development of a cycling network for the City. The installation of new bike racks in key destinations will encourage and support cycling as a recreational activity and as a mode of transportation.

Allocation Criteria

To ensure that the new bike racks will be installed in key parks and community centres, four criteria were created in consultation with Parks Managers and Transportation Cycling Infrastructure to help select the most suitable locations. The criteria also supports the Toronto Bike Plan by ensuring the installation of bike racks on appropriate surfaces and at major cycling destinations to support cycling. They are as follows:

1. **Parks and Community Centres that are connected to existing bike and trails systems.** This would assist with the City's goal to make the trails more useable and encourage trail system usage with a focus on the Pan Am Path as part of the Pam Am Legacy.

2. **Parks and Community Centres that provide amenities and features that attract many people.** For example, locations with outdoor pools/wading pools/splash pads, stadiums, sports fields, arenas/dry pads, beaches, etc, and locations where bike racks are currently consistently full or where requests have been received.
3. **Parks and Community Centres that are on a TTC route to encourage people to take transit to and from the park.**
4. **Parks and Community Centres that have an existing hard surface (asphalt, concrete, and interlock) to secure mounting of a bike rack.** These bike racks need to be installed onto a hard surface for ease of access by users and ease of maintenance by staff. If no existing hard surface is available, a concrete pad would have to be poured, which would in turn reduce the total number of bike racks to be installed as part of this project.

Park managers and supervisors have been asked to use these criteria when advising site locations. A final list of chosen site locations for the bike racks will be compiled in the fall of 2016. Installation of the new bike racks will commence in the fall of 2017, once Council approves the 2017 Recommended Capital Budget in February and a request for quotation is sent out in March. Installation will continue until its completion in the winter of 2018.

Design, and Allocation

The bike racks to be implemented are the same as the ones used at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games. They are a mounted, stackable rack that can hold up to 8 bikes. They are presently in use by Transportation Cycling Infrastructure in right-of-ways, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation is currently working on incorporating and expanding these new bike racks into parks and trails across the City. See the image below.



The budget of \$200,000 will allow for the installation of approximately 137 bike racks, as pictured above, throughout the City, provided they can be installed on existing concrete pads.

If a park or community centre require a bike rack, but the site location **does not** have an existing hard surface, a concrete pad would have to be poured. This will, in turn reduce the total number of bike racks.

Based on estimated costs, if no concrete pads are required, approximately 33 bike racks could be allocated per district. To ensure an equitable distribution, each Ward will receive a minimum of one bike rack.

Transportation Services was consulted in the preparation of this report and concurs with its content.

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SIGNATURE

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