



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Government Management Committee

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Date: October 24, 2016
To: Parks and Environment Committee Members
Re: Morningside Park Parking Lot Capacity

Recommendations:

The Parks and Environment Committee request the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to:

1. Explore options to increase parking at Morningside Park located at 390 Morningside Avenue, Scarborough, including the option of a partnership with the Toronto District School Board to allow Morningside Park patrons to park in the West Hill Collegiate parking lot.
2. Report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on January 5, 2017 with the findings including associated costs

Summary

This summer proved to be a landmark year for visitors in parks across the City of Toronto. With the notable warm weather a record number of residents enjoyed their community parks emphasizing that investing in our open spaces is beneficial to the City as a whole.

Morningside Park covers 416.7 acres (1.686 km²), it includes Highland Creek, hiking trails, cross country Skiing trails, fire pits, a forested corridor, eroded cliffs, the salmon run, and an abundance of wildlife. The park is frequented by a number of nature groups, enthusiast, Scouts Canada and the thousands who visit to enjoy the beautiful open space. This September, The Scarborough Hospital also hosted their first annual obstacle competition "*Brave TO*" at Morningside Park bringing hundreds of participants in one afternoon.

The parking amenities at the park are however not reflective of the park's needs. Located in a valley bound by major roads most visitors drive or take public transit. The 3 parking lots offer only 318 spaces. The entrance to the park also does not offer the turning radius required for a public transit loop into a drop off area. Currently public transit stops at the park entrance located on Morningside Avenue situated 175.94 m (577.22 ft) from the first point of entry down a steep valley. Walking can be difficult specifically in the winter months.

It would be beneficial to increase the number of parking spaces available at Morningside Park to accommodate the growing number of visitors, groups and events.

I respectfully ask the committee to support my recommendations.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto, Scarborough East Ward 43