

## **Regulating of Kite Flying in City Parks – Supplementary Report**

<b>Date:</b>	June 3, 2011
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\CC09-061411-AFS#14105

### **SUMMARY**

This report responds to a request from the Parks and Environment Committee for the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report directly to City Council on June 14, 2011, on the number of parks that have significant bird activity.

This information is relevant for the processing of permit applications for competitive kite flying.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no additional financial or staffing impacts resulting from this report.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of May 31, 2011, Parks and Environment Committee amended and adopted Item PE4.2, titled "Regulating of Kite Flying in City Parks".

Parks and Environment Committee Decision Document:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.PE4.2>

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Regulating of Kite Flying in City Parks report recommends that City Council prohibit competitive kite flying in parks that have significant bird activity. The list of identified parks and individual site assessments will assist staff in ensuring that these parks are not permitted for competitive kite flying. The August, 2009 final report, titled "Migratory Birds in the City of Toronto" prepared for City Planning by Dougan and Associates Ecological Consulting and Design and North-South Environmental Inc. Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning was used as a reference for this report. [http://www.toronto.ca/planning/environment/pdf/migratory\\_birds\\_15aug09\\_small.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/planning/environment/pdf/migratory_birds_15aug09_small.pdf)

## **COMMENTS**

### **Migratory Birds**

The City of Toronto is an annual stopover location for thousands of migratory birds. Seasonal migration is a critical component of many birds' life cycles in North America. The diversity and abundance of birds that continue to migrate through Toronto means that the City has both an opportunity and responsibility to support the safe passage of these birds. The City's proximity to Lake Ontario makes it a logical resting place for birds who have just crossed the lake from the south, as well as those about to cross (or fly around) the lake on their way down from further north.

### **Migration**

Most birds in eastern North America migrate annually from their wintering grounds in the south to their breeding grounds in the north during the spring, and then back to their wintering grounds in the fall. Some species prefer to cross Lake Ontario during migration, while others avoid the lake and follow the shoreline. Habitat close to Lake Ontario is important after a long flight over water for resting and feeding purposes.

Spring Migration: mid-March to the beginning of June

Fall Migration: mid-August to the beginning of November

### **Habitat Use by Migrant Birds in Toronto**

Many of the natural areas, particularly those along or close to the lake, are known to host concentrations of migratory birds. Known locations include High Park, Sam Smith Park, Sunnybrook Park, Scarborough Bluffs, East Point Park, Toronto Islands, Tommy Thompson Park, as well as major valley systems leading inland such as those associated with Humber, Don Valley, Highland Creek and Rouge River watersheds.

The detailed level of ornithological\* inventory for all park sites is not sufficient to make decisions on where to allow permitting of competitive kite flying without first conducting individual assessments of potential sites.

\*(ornithology - a branch of zoology dealing with birds)

### **Conclusion**

All requests for competitive kite flying permit locations will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure there is no impact on known bird activity or migratory birds.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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