
2018 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Litter Picking in Ravines

Issue/Background:

- At its meeting on October 2, 3 and 4, 2017, City Council adopted the Toronto Ravine Strategy and directed the General Manager, Solid Waste Management to coordinate with the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to develop a regular maintenance and litter strategy for Toronto's ravine system and to report back through the 2018 Budget Process on the budgetary requirements for such a program. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX27.8>)
- The City has approximately 4,000ha of ravine parkland. The topography of these parks can be challenging as there are many steep embankments and natural forests, presenting unique litter management challenges.
- The City does not have a program for litter picking in ravines; some work is done on waste management in the ravine system as follows:
 - In natural parklands, such as ravines, where no mowing or maintenance occurs, litter pickup is completed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation on a complaint basis only, or if staff observe significant litter or illegal dumping.
 - Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff work closely with Toronto Water on a cost recovery basis to remove debris and infrastructure blockages from the rivers, as well as deal with illegal dump sites, encampments and other large debris in ravines.
 - Solid Waste Management Services currently collects garbage and recycling bins in City parks, based on seasonal schedules and undertakes no litter picking in parks.
 - Solid Waste litter picking services are currently restricted to areas in the street allowance such as sidewalks and boulevards.
 - Transportation Services works with Parks, Forestry and Recreation as well as Solid Waste Management Services on intensive annual or one-time clean-up projects in ravines adjacent to roads and under bridges.
 - On occasions where there is a large amount of debris or large volume of work, Solid Waste Management Services, Transportations Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation will work together to "blitz" in areas of concern typically to remove large debris, illegal dumping and encroachment activity.

Key Points:

- City Council requested that the General Managers of Solid Waste Management, Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back through the 2018 Budget Process on the budgetary requirements for regular maintenance and litter strategy for Toronto's ravine system.
- Due to the complexity of the ravine system, the interdivisional regular maintenance and litter strategy could not be completed in time for the 2018 Budget process.
- Based on Solid Waste Management Services, Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation's experience, a comprehensive review is required to determine how much of the ravine system could be reached in a season and what resources, staffing and equipment would be required to develop safe, operational procedures and strategies on how to deal with physically challenging environments.
 - A more detailed analysis of the service level that can be achieved through time and productivity studies would be necessary to determine the staffing structure and required funding for the future years' level of service. Once this analysis is completed, the results will inform the interdivisional litter strategy for Toronto's ravine system that will be reported on as part of the 2019 Budget process.
 - Therefore, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation together with Transportation Services and Solid Waste Management Services will report back as part of the 2019 Budget process on the required resources and funding for the strategy.

Prepared by: Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks, Parks, Forestry & Recreation, (416) 392-7911, Richard.Ubbens@toronto.ca

Further information: Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation, (416) 392-8182, Janie.Romoff@toronto.ca

Date: January 15, 2017