

## **Non-Motorized Water Craft Storage and Launch Locations**

**Date:** March 9, 2021

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Parkdale-High Park, Spadina-Fort York, Toronto-Danforth, Beaches-East York, Scarborough Southwest, Scarborough-Guildwood, Scarborough-Rouge Park

### **SUMMARY**

---

The purpose of this report is to respond to the January 11, 2021 Infrastructure and Environment committee request that the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR), in collaboration with other divisions and agencies such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Ports Toronto, identify any potential new locations across the Toronto waterfront where storage for non-motorized crafts like canoes and kayaks and paddle boards could be accommodated and operationalized in the short-term, and report back on their findings and recommendations at the March 23, 2021 meeting of Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation recognizes the growth in waterfront recreation and increase in use of non-motorized water craft at the City's beaches and waterfront parks. This report provides a summary of current launch and storage options, as well as short term and long term strategies for improving access, rental and storage solutions for residents who enjoy these spaces and activities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

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

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the Financial Impact section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

At its meeting on January 11, 2021, The Infrastructure and Environment Committee requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in collaboration with other divisions and agencies such the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Ports Toronto, to identify any potential new locations across the Toronto waterfront where storage for non-motorized crafts like canoes and kayaks and paddle boards could be accommodated and operationalized in the short-term, and to report back on their findings and recommendations at the March 23, 2021 meeting of Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE19.13>

At its meeting on February 7, 2017, The Parks and Environment Committee adopted the Encouraging a Paddling and Fishing Friendly City report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation which outlines how Toronto can become a paddle friendly city and provides information on the locations and benefits of waterfront recreational nodes that have been selected by Parks, Forestry and Recreation in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PE17.1>

## **COMMENTS**

---

In 2017, PFR installed four waterfront recreational nodes to improve access to the waterfront for residents and visitors and provide opportunities to engage in recreational water activities such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding. The nodes serve as ideal launch locations that feature access to parking and good proximity to the waterfront. As the use of these locations continues to grow, and the use of non-motorized water craft rises, the City has received requests from residents for storage solutions for canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.

PFR has determined there are limited opportunities and locations to construct permanent, year-round storage facilities for personal non-motorized water craft. To address increased requests for storage of non-motorized water craft, PFR is working with third-party boat clubs, yacht clubs and marinas who have agreements with the City of Toronto to operate on waterfront property. Additionally, to further enhance recreational opportunities and user experience, PFR will review opportunities to expand vendor-operated stand-up paddle board rental services and explore market interest to include storage services as part of future Requests for Proposals.

The City of Toronto currently has agreements with 28 boat clubs, marinas and yacht clubs, several of whom already offer storage services. PFR will continue to work with Corporate Real Estate Management and the third party agreement holders to determine where storage opportunities can be expanded and offered to non-members. For the 2021 paddling season, storage for an additional 60 water craft will be provided by Sunnyside Paddle at the Sunnyside Park location.

In an effort to support opportunities for non-motorized water craft recreation, PFR has agreements with four vendors who provide stand-up paddle board rentals in the Eastern Beaches (Kew Gardens and Balmy Beach), at Sunnyside Park, and on the Humber River. PFR is also exploring service provider interest in the addition of storage services to existing rental business opportunities. Locations of these rental and storage operations could be strategically placed across the City's waterfront at the established recreational nodes and launch locations.

The 2020 Marine Use Strategy, undertaken by a partnership of Waterfront Toronto, Ports Toronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and the City, addresses the growing interest in water-related recreation, including non-motorized water craft. Stakeholder consultation during the study process identified the need for recreational boat storage and launch facilities. The direction of this report is therefore consistent with the findings of the 2020 Marine Use Strategy. Future waterfront improvement projects implemented by the City and its partners (such as the TRCA), will be coordinated to incorporate storage options and launch/recreational nodes as part of planning and design.

## **CONTACT**

---

Kevin Carr, Interim Director, Client and Business Services,  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Tel: 416-397-7470  
[Kevin.Carr@toronto.ca](mailto:Kevin.Carr@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Sandra Cuff  
For Janie Romoff  
General Manager  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---