

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM35.6	ACTION			Ward: 24
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Pilot Project to Remove Cow Parsnip from Guild Inn Park Gardens Pathways - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to implement a pilot project in the Guild Inn Park and Gardens to address the cow parsnip infestation by removing the invasive plant in the space three metres from all public pathways, as opposed to the current one metre removal undertaken by Forestry staff.

Summary

The trails located in the Guild Inn Parks and Gardens is a popular location with a high level of daily pedestrian traffic. Recently, the wooded areas adjacent to the trails have seen an explosive growth of cow parsnip. This type of plant is a safety hazard for the public. (Details are included in Attachment 3) The City of Toronto website lists it as an invasive species, “that is dangerous to human health and pets, as well as the plant ecosystem”.

If one is exposed to the sap from cow parsnip, and then exposed to sunlight, it can cause blistering, burning, and irritation, in some cases requiring medical attention.

Currently, Forestry staff will remove cow parsnip from within one metre of public pathways. Removing it from the space within three metres from public trails will provide a safer pedestrian experience for visitors to the park.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM35.6

Attachment 1: Toronto Star News Article - Beware, Scarborough hikers. The dangerous cow parsnip is flourishing in a Bluffs woodlot in the Guild Inn Park and Gardens
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-169199.pdf>)

Attachment 2: Hazardous Vegetation Control - Public Fact Sheet
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-169200.pdf>)

Attachment 3: Invasive plants in City parks and ravines

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-169201.pdf>)