
2013 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Additional Information on PF&R Service Efficiency Study - Contract-out Some Specialty Waterfront Parks Maintenance

Issues:

At its December 3, 2012 meeting, Budget Committee directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation to provide a briefing note on which waterfront Parks are being considered for contracting out of maintenance work.

The Service Efficiency Study for Parks, Forestry and Recreation (Recommendation #32) also recommended that *Specialty waterfront parks maintenance could be contracted out due to its relatively compact geographic location, and highly specialized and labour intensive nature*. Examples include Sugar Beach and Sherbourne Commons – they have higher costs due to more individual technologies (i.e. no economies of scale). Parks such as Kew Gardens and Toronto Islands should not be contracted out.

Background:

Two parks, Sherbourne Common and Sugar Beach, have been identified as being close in proximity, and having unique amenities with technical requirements beyond typical City of Toronto parkland. Maintenance requirements have been identified and will be reviewed in terms of service and financial impacts.

Sherbourne Common Park includes an extensive storm water treatment infrastructure system jointly operated with Toronto Water (includes a tiered concrete channel running the full length of the park, stainless steel cladding, bio-filtration planting bed and interactive public art components), a stainless steel clad park pavilion building with washrooms and potential vending space, 200 trees of various species, water connections, irrigation system, granite tree collar and structural soil cells, play area with numerous unique European structures, various pavers and surface materials, large water feature with 40 in-ground jets, stainless steel bollards with electrical outlets, drinking fountain/pet fountain, various ground, pedestrian and spot lighting, various benches, large turf area, horticultural areas, fountain pump and ice system rooms, and electrical panels.

- Daily plumbing maintenance is required to clean and replace damaged and or plugged jets in the water feature; and seasonally start up and shut down water feature and changeover of this space into an artificial ice rink for winter season.
- Regular electrical maintenance is required to monitor: 30 solenoids panels, sequencing programmer controls, rink lighting, ice compressor; two booster pumps and motorized valve controls.
- Remove algae from splash pad, twice a week in spring/summer season.

Sugar Beach includes an urban beach, 50 trees of various species, water connections, irrigation system, granite tree collar and structural soil cells, custom urban beach umbrellas with integrated LED lighting (5 per umbrella), 150 custom beach chairs, various pavers (with complex inlaid maple leaf motif in granite), computer-controlled water feature with 27 niche nozzle ground jets with integrated LED lights, stainless steel bollards with electrical outlets, drinking fountain/pet fountain, promenade lighting and spot lighting, custom wood benches (backless & standard), fountain pump room recirculation the water feature, and electrical panel with computer controls.

- Due to the fine nature of the sand, daily plumbing maintenance is required to backwash, clean and/or replace damaged and/or plugged jets in the water feature; check chlorine levels; start up and shut down of water feature in the summer season.
- Regular electrical maintenance is required to change LED lights on deck and monitor: 30 lamp poles with 100 watts metal halide, UV lighting for filtration, sensor for salt solution, flow rate, frequency controls, 2 sump pumps, radio controller for irrigation system, programmer controller for lighting, heater/exhaust and 30 solenoids panels.
- Clean sand off splash pad daily in spring and summer.

Key Points:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation will study two specialty waterfront parks, specifically, Sherbourne Common and Sugar Beach, for contracting out of the maintenance, including the specialty water features and systems. The process will enable PF&R to compare bids with the actual operating costs for possible cost savings as recommended by the Service Efficiency Study.

The Service Efficiency Study identified that overall, staff of Parks, Forestry and Recreation provide efficient services that are well within industry standards.

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

Further information: Richard Ubbens, Director of Parks, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
416-392-7911, rubbens@toronto.ca

Date: December 6, 2012