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BLOOR WEST: Residents to protest Campbell Park dump site

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As soon as they discovered the city had designated Campbell Park as one of three new dump sites Wednesday, nearby residents Virginia Novak and Jack Fava set about organizing a protest.

"We understand the garbage has to be placed somewhere, but why always parks where our children play right next to the skating rink," Novak said.

Located in the Lansdowne Avenue and Dupont Street area, Campbell Park is one of two parks in the city where kids play soccer, Novak pointed out.

"With the stench from the garbage where are they supposed to play," she asked. "We are concerned about the rodents, the flies that will come as a result, not to mention other critters."

Novak said she hoped that Thursday evening's protest would create enough noise to convince the city that when considering a new location for a drop-off site that it would leave parks alone. She suggested the old Toronto Transit Commission Barns, Green P lots and vacant industrial lands instead.

"You can't tell me there's not another alternative. Why always a park," Novak said. "Enough is enough."

She said it's time Mayor David Miller stepped up to do some "serious negotiating" and to ask the province to initiate back-to-work legislation.

In his newsletter to constituents, Davenport Councillor Adam Giambrone said Campbell Park's temporary dump site will only stay open until it has reached a safe capacity, determined by the Medical Officer of Health.

"This site will be located on a hard concrete surface within the outdoor skating rink area at the park, which will help ensure that this site is contained and can be easily cleaned once the labour disruption has ended," he said.

Giambrone said he realized residents would be upset and that he did not want to see temporary garbage drop-off sites open in local parks.

"However, the current labour disruption has created extraordinary circumstances and these temporary sites are necessary to contain the garbage until the labour disruption is over and to ensure that proper health precautions can be taken to protect the public," he said. "The alternative would be for more and more garbage to build up in front of our homes, on our streets, in our laneways, and our other public spaces, with no possibility of ensuring pest control measures are taken, or any other public health precautions."

-Lisa Rainford