

Christie Pits rally at City Hall

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City Hall is the pits for dozens of west-end residents.

Protesters took their anger over the temporary garbage drop-off site at Christie Pits to Nathan Phillips Square yesterday to let those in charge know they aren't happy about being dumped on.

But even before the afternoon rally started, residents in the area were voicing their displeasure closer to home.

"It smells and it's ugly and I don't think our public parks are any place for this kind of thing," said Dawn Fialkowski, who lives several streets away but swears she's noticed the odour wafting into her backyard. "The city doesn't listen to us but we have long memories."

The 37-year-old mother of two said she would normally take her five-year-old son and three-year-old daughter to the park on a sunny Canada Day, but was skirting the Bloor and Christie Sts. area for another location.

"As a mother, I'm concerned about the chemicals they're using and I think we'll wait until all the garbage is gone before we go back to Christie Pits," she said.

Gary Bernson said he wasn't walking his dog anywhere near the park until after the strike is over.

"The worst part about it is the smell but you also never know what an animal will put in his mouth," Bernson said. "Better safe than sorry."

City Manager Joe Pennachetti said earlier this week that 19 temporary garbage drop-off sites were chosen and are being maintained according to strict criteria set out by the provincial environment ministry and Toronto's medical officer of health.

Some residents north of Christie Pits aren't so foul over the dump site.

"It's got to go somewhere," said Gus Morrisetti.

"Nobody wants it near their home but I think they've done their best to keep it all under control."

The city has prepared a list of alternative dump sites if the current group reach capacity, but the city's manager of solid waste, Geoff Rathbone, said Tuesday that sites were only about 20% full.