

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Nelms, Cheryl" <Cheryl.Nelms@vancouver.ca>

Date: 11/7/2019 2:26:16 PM

Subject: Memo - Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Parks and Streets (RTS# 13237)

Attachments: Memo - Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Parks and Streets (RTS# 13237).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Cheryl Nelms, Acting GM of Engineering, regarding Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Parks and Streets (RTS# 13237) –

- The memo addresses the Council motion on dog waste collection.
- Staff issued an RFP for dog waste processing capacity and there was only one respondent, the current contractor. He has limited capacity and staff recommend expanding the existing program by an additional 10 off leash parks to use up available capacity.
- An RFEI was subsequently issued to identify other processing alternatives. None of the respondents have a system that has been proven for processing dog waste.
- Staff will continue to investigate options for processing in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Nelms at 604.873.7348 or Cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

November 5, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Cheryl Nelms
Acting General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Parks and Streets (RTS# 13237)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this memo is to address Council's May 14th 2019 Motion entitled "Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Parks and Streets" (RTS 013237) requesting staff report back on costs and barriers to expanding dog waste collection services throughout the City.

Background

The dog population in Vancouver is estimated between 32,000 and 55,000 (2017 City Dog Strategy) and it is estimated that up to 6,900 tonnes of dog waste every year is managed through various City waste programs. Dog waste is primarily collected mixed in with garbage from single and multi-family homes, sidewalk and park litter receptacles.

In 2016, the City of Vancouver began a pilot project to collect and process dog waste in four City off-leash parks through the addition of dedicated red bins and bag dispensers. The pilot has since expanded to 23 red bins in eight off-leash dog parks, resulting in approximately 25 tonnes of dog waste collected annually.

The dog waste is collected directly from the red bins by a contractor, who then deals with the processing of the collected waste. Plastic bags are manually cut open and emptied, the plastic bags are thrown in the garbage and the contents of the bags are eventually disposed as liquid waste at a Metro Vancouver operated wastewater treatment plant.

To date there has been only one contractor in the lower mainland that collects and processes dog waste, who provides services to the City, to Metro Vancouver and a number of other municipalities. In order to assess additional processing opportunities, the City issued a request for proposal (RFP) in early summer to continue the existing pilot project (collection and processing) from 8 City parks and requested responders to indicate their ability to expand to additional parks. There was only 1 respondent to the RFP and that was the existing contractor.

While our long term goal remains to cover all parks, the current contractor has indicated they can expand collection and processing services in Vancouver up to the range of 100 tonnes per year. Since there is approximately 25 tonnes per year collected now, this allows us to grow the program by up to 75 tonnes of collected material.

The fact that there is currently only one contractor, and that contractor has limited capacity to absorb additional material, means that we are not in a position to expand the dog waste program to all City parks right away.

Volume Estimates

There are 240 parks in the City including 37 off-leash dog parks. Each red container in off-leash dog parks collects between 0.5 and 2.5 tonnes/year, depending on park location. Off-leash dog parks located in high density neighbourhoods would generate an average of 2.5 tonnes/year/red bin, whereas smaller neighbourhood parks may only generate 0.5 tonnes/year/red bin. On average there are 3 red containers deployed per Dog Park, some larger parks may have more while other smaller parks may have less.

Given the limited capacity of the current contractor to process material, our focus is on serving first the off-leash dog parks. Staff estimate that adding an additional 10 off-leash parks will generate in the range of 75 tonnes of dog waste per year, using up the available capacity of the contractor and more than doubling the existing program. It may be possible to add a few more parks depending on volumes generated.

Future Requirements

Staff estimate that expanding the program to include all parks and the seawall would add an additional 600 tonnes of material to the program and, in order to accommodate a full deployment to all City parks, a suitably sized processing system will be needed.

Since additional capacity is quite limited for the current supplier, a request for information (RFI) was undertaken to seek out potential suppliers of higher volume processing systems. There were numerous responses proposing mechanical separation, in vessel composting and anaerobic digestion. Capital costs for the various systems ranged between several hundred thousand to \$2.5M, with the higher cost proponents proposing more complete systems that included odour management. None of the respondents have systems in place at this time nor are the systems proposed proven for managing the volumes of dog waste anticipated through a City wide program.

Summary and Next Steps

Options for expanding the dog waste pilot into all citywide parks do not readily exist and will take some time to develop. There are a wide variety of potential systems, a wide range of potential costs associated with each option and uncertainty with how each will perform.

In order to continue with program, development staff have proposed an additional investment in the 2020 budget directed to expanding the program gradually, adding an additional 10 off leash parks and providing funding to further investigate processing alternatives. We will continue to investigate opportunities to address the processing capacity needs in order to expand our programs in the future, as well as to discuss partnership opportunities with our parks department, other municipalities and Metro Vancouver. This includes working with our current contractor to identify any additional opportunities to grow our programs in future years.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at 604-873-7348 or cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca.



Cheryl Nelms, P.Eng., PhD
Acting General Manager, Engineering Services

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