

City announces temporary dumps

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Nineteen temporary locations where Toronto residents can drop off of their garbage during the strike are opening immediately across the city.

The temporary locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Residents are asked to mix their organic bin contents with garbage, and ensure that it is double-bagged.

City manager Joe Pennachetti said at a briefing this afternoon the locations had to meet specific criteria, including being on city-owned property, preferably on paved or gravel areas, and accessible by car. They also must be big enough to hold a large amount of garbage because the city won't be emptying the sites during the strike. These 19 were chosen from among 200 possible spots.

"We believe these are the most suitable locations," Pennachetti said. "We will work closely with the community to resolve any concerns."

Residents must place all waste in the fenced area only. The sites will have 24-hour security and will be monitored by city staff.

Dr. David McKeown also reassured the public he doesn't see any evidence of a health hazard at this time.

"A well-managed temporary garbage site, even if it's a large one, does not necessarily create a health hazard. It may be unattractive and cause odours," McKeown said. "Illegal dump sites are more likely to lead to potential health problems."

Officials in the city's solid waste management department say the sites will be "safe, and controlled" and require Ontario Environment Ministry permits.

But that isn't sitting well with residents who live near to these sites.

Green 13, a volunteer community organization, is urging the city not to use Sunnyside.

"While respecting the difficult choices facing the city as it prepares for a potential garbage crisis, designating a public park - on our waterfront no less - should absolutely not be one of them," the group said in a statement released today.



Striking municipal worker and picket captain, Bill Steele, stood on the line and praised the rain at the Commissioners Street Transfer Station during Thursday afternoon's deluge. (June 25, 2009)

Lucas Oleniuk/Toronto Star

"At a time of great economic uncertainty, with many city services currently unavailable, we need our great public parks more than ever," said Christopher Holcroft, chair of Green 13.

The dump poses "unknown environmental risks to the surrounding parkland and lake and it undermines the very idea of shared public spaces," the group said.

A better choice would be a city-owned parking lot removed from the waterfront or a park, the group says.

Earlier this week the city's deputy mayor Joe Pantalone argued that Christie Pits should also be a "no-go zone" for a temporary dump because it is heavily used by residents.

Christie Pits as used as a temporary dump during the city workers' strike of 2002. A group known as the Friends of Christie Pits has been fighting to have the popular park spared this time with no success.

The locations are:

Ted Reeve Arena - Northeast corner of Main St. & Gerrard St. E.

Villiers St. - Paved roadway between Saulter St. and Cherry St.

Sunnyside Park - Parking area south of Lake Shore Blvd. W., between Ellis Ave. and Colborne Lodge Dr. (must be east-bound on Lake Shore to access)

Sir Casimir Gzowski Park Parking area south of Lake Shore Blvd. W., west of Sunnyside Park (must be east-bound on Lake Shore to access)

Eglinton Flats (1) - Enter off Eglinton Ave., east of Jane St.

Eglinton Flats (2) - Enter off Emmett Ave., west of Jane St.

Etienne Brule Park - Old Mill Rd. at Catherine St., east of Humber River

George Bell Arena - 215 Ryding Ave., south of St. Clair Ave. W., east of Runnymede Rd.

Christie Pits - Enter off Crawford St., north of Bloor

North Toronto Memorial Arena - North of Eglinton Ave., east of Oriole Pkwy., enter off Edith Dr.

Moss Park - South of Shuter St., north of Queen St. E., west of Sherbourne St.

North York Centennial Centre - 580 Finch Ave. W., in parking lot

Caledonia Park - 1135 Caledonia Rd., in parking lot

Earlscourt Park - West side of Lansdowne Ave., north of Davenport Rd.

Taylor Creek Park - Enter off Haldon Ave., in parking lot at end of roadway

Scarborough Arena - 75 Birchmount Rd., in parking lot

Wishing Well Park - In parking lot, north of 401, west side of Pharmacy Ave. (south of Sheppard Ave. E.)

York Mills Arena - 2539 Bayview Ave., enter off York Mills Rd., east of Bayview

Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant - 51 Beechgrove Dr., in parking lot at end of Beechgrove Dr.