

19 more trash mountains

City opens temporary dump sites

By BRYN WEESE, SUN MEDIA

Last Updated: 26th June 2009, 3:01am

The strike by civic workers may have Toronto down in the dumps, but at least it's given us more of them.

City officials announced 19 temporary dump sites yesterday to help residents cope with their mounting piles of trash.

It's part of City Hall's contingency plan to deal with the five-day-old municipal strike, and officials say while some of the sites may not be popular, they were selected from more than 200 possible locations.

Joe Pennachetti, the city's top bureaucrat, said several factors were used to determine where to set up the temporary dumps, including adequate city-wide coverage, they must be on city-owned property, preference was given to paved or gravel areas, vehicle accessible, and near residents' homes.

But officials know the piles will get stinky.

'LARGE VOLUME'

"The site had to be big enough to hold a large volume of waste if necessary," Pennachetti said. "We believe these are the most suitable locations based on these factors. We will work closely with communities to resolve any concerns at these sites."

The temporary dumps are open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents are asked not to bring recyclable material.

Green bin waste, if it can't be stored or composted, should be thrown in with the regular garbage, which won't be accepted unless it's double-bagged and securely tied.

Mayor David Miller said the temporary dumps, which will likely be picketed by striking workers, allow the city to ease residents' burden during the strike by 24,000 inside and outside workers.

"We have a responsibility to Torontonians to make every effort to ensure that this city runs in a normal fashion, and that's what we're trying to do," he said. "The facilities ... announced today are an effort to assist Torontonians to dispose of their garbage -- should they find a need to -- in their neighbourhood."

The sites, which include arena parking lots, city parks, and even a strip of pavement next to the Martin Goodman Trail along the western waterfront, have all been approved by the ministry of environment, according to Geoff Rathbone, the city's general manager of solid waste.

And also, they'll all be monitored by health officials for "significant" rat and fly infestations, which could trigger their clean-up.

But Dr. David McKeown, the city's Medical Officer of Health, said residents shouldn't necessarily be concerned for their health just because of the mountains of trash.

"It may be unattractive and cause odour, which can certainly be unpleasant, but this in itself does not pose a threat to public health," he said. "If conditions warrant, we will issue an order for clean-up of a health hazard of a specific site."

TAKE MY GARBAGE, PLEASE

1. Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, 51 Beechgrove Dr.

2. Christie Pits off Crawford St. at Bloor at Christie Sts.
3. Moss Park, off Queen St. E. at Sherbourne St.
4. North York Centennial Centre, 580 Finch Ave. W.
5. George Bell Arena, 215 Ryding Ave.
6. Eglinton Flats, 101 Emmett Ave.
7. Eglinton Flats, off Jane St. at Eglinton Ave.
8. Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, south of Lake Shore Blvd., west of Sunnyside Park
9. Sunnyside Park, 1755 Lake Shore Blvd.
10. Earls Court Park, on Lansdowne Ave., north of Davenport Rd.
11. Etienne Brule Park, Old Mill Rd. at Catherine St., on Humber River
12. Caledonia Park, 1135 Caledonia Rd.
13. North Toronto Memorial Arena, off Edith Dr., near Eglinton Ave. and Oriole Parkway
14. York Mills Arena, 2539 Bayview Ave.
15. Villiers Street, between Saulter and Cherry Sts.
16. Taylor Creek Park, off Haldon Ave.
17. Ted Reeve Arena, 175 Main St.
18. Scarborough Arena, 75 Birchmount Rd.
19. Wishing Well Park, off Pharmacy Ave. and Sheppard Ave. E.

Transfer stations

- A. Disco Transfer Station, 120 Disco Rd.
- B. Dufferin Transfer Station, 35 Vanley Cres.
- C. Scarborough Transfer Station, 1 Transfer Place
- D. Victoria Park Transfer Station, 3350 Victoria Park Ave.
- E. Commissioners Transfer Station, 400 Commissioners St.
- F. Ingram Transfer Station, 50 Ingram Dr. (24 HOURS)
- G. Bermondsey Transfer Station, 188 Bermondsey Rd. (24 HOURS)