SUBJECT: Recycling Collection in Parks (PW07030) - (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That staff be directed to implement the Parks Recycling Collection pilot project in designated parks for the 2007 summer season to facilitate the completion of a program implementation plan and associated budget requirements for consideration by Council during 2008 budget deliberations and that one time funding in the total amount of $34,200 be provided for the implementation of the pilot project in 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is provided pursuant to a recommendation of the Solid Waste Management Steering Committee to effect the implementation of a recycling collection program servicing municipal parks to enhance the current waste collection program and further support the corporation’s waste diversion objective of 65%. As requested, at the July 5, 2006, meeting of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP) Committee, staff presented a variety of program options outlined in a memorandum titled “Waste and Recycling Collection Program Alternatives for Municipal Parks and Open Space Properties”. The SWMS Committee recommended the “phased” implementation of a Parks Recycling program and requested that staff pursue requisite council approvals for the program (service levels and resources). This report supplements the “Parks Recycling Collection” program enhancement request with program service level recommendations and resource estimates.
BACKGROUND:

The information/recommendation contained within this report has city wide implications.

The Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP) calls for an aggressive 65% waste diversion rate to be reached through expanded recycling and large scale composting. Accordingly the SWMMP Committee (July 5, 2006, meeting), recommended the introduction of recycling collection in parks (i.e. parks with “permitted facilities” and during summer months only). The Operations & Maintenance Division in partnership with the Waste Management Division undertook a one year pilot project (2006) for the collection of recyclable materials within municipal parks that have permanently assigned staff.

The intent of the pilot project was to implement a partial temporary collection program to assess the potential benefits and associated costs and issues as a basis for planning a full program for consideration by Council as a future program enhancement. The pilot (commenced in 2005 and remaining in place through 2006) provided service at the following park locations that have dedicated maintenance staff assigned through the summer season:

- Churchill Park, Ward 1
- Victoria Park 1
- Eastwood Park, Ward 2
- Gage Park, Ward 3
- Woodlands Park, Ward 3
- Mahoney Park, Ward 4
- Sam Manson Park, Ward 5
- Mohawk Sports Complex, Ward 6
- Sackville Hill Park, Ward 7
- Turner Park, Ward 7
- Heritage Green Park, Ward 9
- Joe Sams Leisure Park, Ward 15
- HAAA, Ward 1
- Bayfront Park, Ward 2
- Pier 4 Park, Ward 2
- Powell Park, Ward 3
- Globe Park, Ward 4
- Montgomery Park, Ward 4
- Macassa Park, Ward 6
- Bruce Park, Ward 7
- T.B. McQuesten Park, Ward 7
- Battlefield Park, Ward 9
- Dundas Driving Park, Ward 13
- Memorial Waterdown Park, Ward 15

The tracked seasonal costs for the pilot project totals $34,195.07. As supplementary program funding was not available the pilot project was delivered within existing budgets at the expense of the performance of other parks maintenance programs including:

- General grounds maintenance
- Turf maintenance
- Garbage and ground litter removal
- Sport field maintenance

The service level standard for the collection of recycled goods during the pilot project was three times per week during the summer season (April to September 4th).

The pilot project facilitated the following:

- Increased public awareness and participation in recycling programs
- Increased program visibility in the public sphere (to encourage positive public perception)
- Demonstration of leadership in program delivery and environmental initiatives
• Identification of “Logistical” and “operational” challenges to be addressed in the planning of a full program implementation
• Confirmation of program unit “in field” costs for program budget planning

Still unconfirmed is definitive information relating to cross contamination of recyclables and financial impacts of recycling revenues and potential impacts on tipping fees. It is anticipated that an additional season of pilot project experience would be useful in confirming these outstanding program metrics hence enabling confirmation of a comprehensive program enhancement submission to the 2008 budget process respecting the full or phased implementation of a city wide program for the collection of recyclable materials in municipal parks

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**
The benefits of a fully funded and fully implemented recycling program in all municipal parks and trail locations in the City of Hamilton include:

- Potentially significant reduction in the amount of waste and debris being sent to landfills and/or incinerated
- Significant contributions to the Waste Management Master Plan goals
- Reduces the consumption of new raw materials

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**
(a) Direct staff to prepare program budget estimates and impact or benefit statements supporting a 2008 budget program enhancement based on available information and rely on assumptions where necessary, or
(b) Maintain status quo, of a single stream parks waste collection program and encourage recycling by other means (i.e. promotional campaign as part of a future Clean City Strategy to encourage responsible disposal of personal refuse such as in use of in home recycling) or
(c) Conduct the pilot program again in 2007 as previously utilizing resources from other parks maintenance program activities to fund the activity.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**
Financial implications associated with the recommended one year extension of the pilot program requires additional one time funding in the amount of $34,200 to avoid negative impact to the delivery of other parks maintenance programs

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**
This proposal is supportive of the Solid Waste Master Plan objectives.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**
Staff consulted with the Finance and Administration Division, the Waste Management Division and the Solid Waste Master Plan Steering Committee in the drafting of this report.
CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes  ☐ No
Waste is reduced and recycled.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes  ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes  ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes  ☑ No