

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: March 18, 2021</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works</p>	<p>Meeting date: March 31, 2021</p>

Subject

Construction Pest Control Program for City of Mississauga Projects

Recommendations

1. That Council endorse the Construction Pest Control Program as outlined in the report dated March 18, 2021 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works and that the Program be implemented for the 2021 construction season for all recommended Community Services and Transportation and Works Department construction projects to address rat concerns raised by Mississauga residents; and
2. That all necessary By-laws be enacted.

Executive Summary

- The Applewood Hills and Heights Resident Association have raised concerns about rats in their neighbourhood and have requested the City of Mississauga to implement pest control measures as part of the City's construction projects.
- Representatives from the Corporate Services, Community Services, and Transportation and Works Departments worked together to develop a common and consistent *Construction Pest Control Program Checklist* for the City of Mississauga.
- Staff will review and assess all construction projects on a project-by-project basis using the *Construction Pest Control Program Checklist* to determine which projects require pest control measures.
- The Facilities & Property Management Division has already been incorporating pest control measures as part of their building construction and renovation projects. No additional pest control measures are recommended for these projects.
- Implementation of pest control measures is being recommended for medium and large construction projects adjacent to homes and businesses. These projects generally involve removal, installation, and/or rehabilitation of storm sewers, underground site servicing, major excavation, tree and shrub removal, and clearing and grubbing of dense vegetation.

- Pest control measures are not recommended for:
 - small projects generally involving re-development of surface amenities and footing structures such as playground structures, shade structures, concrete pads, pathways/walkways, and tennis courts;
 - projects located within the road allowance that do not include new underground construction. These projects include hard surface construction only, such as asphalt resurfacing, road repairs, concrete sidewalk, curb installation/repairs, multi-use trail installation/repairs, intersection improvements, and bridge rehabilitation/repairs.
- Implementation of pest control measures beyond construction timelines is not recommended as the impact of bait stations over extended periods of time will have a direct impact on other natural wildlife and on pets. Baiting three to four weeks before commencement of construction activities is recommended.

Background

In response to concerns raised by the Applewood Hills and Heights Resident Association regarding rats being a significant problem in their area, the Region of Peel conducted an initial study to develop a framework for a residential rodent control rebate program. The Region's initial findings are outlined in the Region of Peel Report from the Interim Commissioner of Public Works and the Acting Commissioner of Health Services dated October 8, 2020, and entitled Pest Control Subsidy Framework and Study. Since then the Region has implemented Phase 1 of their Residential Rat Control Subsidy Pilot Program, with Phase 2 starting shortly.

As part of the Region's Integrated Pest Management approach, which started in June 2020, the Region retained pest control vendors to install outdoor bait traps for construction projects within Wards 1, 3, 9, and 11. Additionally, the Region of Peel has started to implement pest control measures for all of their water and wastewater construction projects.

In response to the Region of Peel's actions taken regarding pest abatement on Regional capital construction projects, City of Mississauga staff have undertaken a review and have developed a proposed Construction Pest Control Program to address the concerns raised by Mississauga residents about rat sightings that may be exacerbated by construction activities in the area.

Comments

In an effort to develop a common and consistent Pest Control Program for City of Mississauga construction projects, a team of staff comprised of representatives from the Facilities & Property Management, Parks, Forestry & Environment, Infrastructure Planning & Engineering Services, Traffic Management & Municipal Parking and Works Operations & Maintenance Divisions was established.

The team developed a *Construction Pest Control Program Checklist* to serve as a guideline to City staff to determine for which projects pest control measures are warranted. Staff will review and assess all construction projects on a project-by-project basis using the following *Construction Pest Control Program Checklist* to determine which projects require pest control measures.

Construction Pest Control Checklist
Projects Recommended for Implementation of Pest Control Measures
<p>Implementation of pest control measures are recommended for medium and large construction projects. Projects that fall under these criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation/Rehabilitation of storm sewers and underground services • Demolition of stormwater infrastructure (including storm sewer headwalls and pipes, shoreline/creek erosion infrastructure i.e. gabion baskets, retaining walls, boardwalks) • Dredging of stormwater management ponds and water ways next to storm sewer infrastructure and potential food sources in urban settings • Tree and shrub removal (woodlots, open spaces) - where removal may promote displacement of pests to adjacent residential and business areas • Topsoil stripping and grading on City properties (excluding boulevard) - where removal may promote displacement to adjacent residential and business areas • Excavation and removal of earth material - where removal may promote displacement to adjacent residential and business areas
List of Construction Projects by Division
Infrastructure Planning and Engineering Services Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction and/or Rehabilitation of Storm Sewers - Creek Erosion Control Projects - Construction of Stormwater Management Facilities - Dredging and Cleaning of Stormwater Management Ponds
Traffic Management and Municipal Parking Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipal Parking Lots– construction of new or reconstruction of existing parking lots/multi-level parking structures.
Works Operations & Maintenance Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium to large scale creek erosion control projects including embankment restoration, in the vicinity of homes and businesses. - Medium to large scale rehabilitation of stormwater management ponds, in the vicinity of homes and businesses. - Construction and/or Rehabilitation of Storm Sewers

Parks, Forestry and Environment Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New park development - Redevelopment of existing parks and amenities
Facilities & Property Management Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pest control measures have already been incorporated into the Division's building renovation and construction projects - No further pest control measures are required for building construction projects managed by Facilities & Property Management Division.
Projects <u>Not</u> Recommended for Implementation of Pest Control Measures
Construction projects not recommended for implementation of pest control measures include small projects generally involving re-development of surface amenities and footing structures such as playground structures, shade structures, concrete pads, pathways/walkways, and tennis courts as well as projects located within the road allowance that do not include new underground construction.
List of Construction Projects by Division
Infrastructure Planning and Engineering Services Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road Resurfacing (Residential and Industrial) - Sidewalk and Multi-Use Trail construction - Bridge Rehabilitation - Intersection Improvements - Other similar types of projects
Traffic Management and Municipal Parking Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic Operations - installation of regulatory and warning signs - Road Safety - speed humps, PXOs, speed awareness - Traffic Signals – construction of new or rebuild of existing traffic control signals, maintenance of existing traffic control signals
Works Operations & Maintenance Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sidewalk and curb repairs and construction, including sidewalk jacking. - Roadway repairs including patching, resurfacing, and associated restoration of boulevards - Multi-Use Trail repairs - Bridge Rehabilitation - Service contracts such as catch basin cleaning, sewer flushing, street sweeping and waste bin collection
Parks, Forestry and Environment Division:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smaller projects for re/development of surface amenities and footing structures will not affect rat habitats (i.e., playground structures, shade structures, concrete pads, pathways/walkways, parking lots, tennis courts).

Based on discussions with pest control vendors, implementation of pest control measures beyond construction timelines is not recommended as the impact of bait stations over extended periods of time will have a direct impact on other natural wildlife and on pets. Baiting three to four weeks before the commencement of construction is recommended.

Financial Impact

The cost associated with the pest control measures will not exceed \$10,000 per construction site. Starting with the 2021 construction season, the cost will be charged to the project number associated with the capital projects.

Conclusion

The City of Mississauga can effectively control pests and pest migration into residential and business areas from construction project sites identified in the checklist developed by staff and in consultation with pest control experts. The Pest Control Program will be implemented on those City of Mississauga construction projects outlined in the *Construction Pest Control Program Checklist*. Implementation of the Program will begin with the start of the 2021 construction season. This report is seeking Council endorsement of the proposed Pest Control Program.



Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

Prepared by: Kenneth Truong, P.Eng., Capital Project Manager