

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Meeting Date: July 22, 2024
Report Code: CS-24-063
Subject: Waste Receptacles – Inner Harbour 25D.13

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-063 respecting Waste Receptacles - Inner Harbour 25D.13, City Council directs staff to include the revised capital detail sheet for project 25D.13 in the 2025-2029 Multi-Year Capital Plan.

Highlights:

- The City's harbourfront is a popular public space with a continuous walkway that was improved by the City in the 1990's with support from the Federal and Provincial governments.
- Council had requested at the Special Council meeting June 24 that staff bring forward a report respecting alternative designs to reduce the budget for Project 25D.13 Inner Harbour Waste Receptacle Upgrade.
- Based on the City's Official Plan and Downtown and Harbourfront Master Plan, it is recommended that the standard waste receptacle be utilized however that the number of cans be reduced from 40 to approximately 18 cans.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Green City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by strengthening the resiliency of City infrastructure or services.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Report CR-24-073 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Summary of Committee Feedback for the 2025-2029 Multi-year Capital Plan](#)

Resolution

S-240624-007

"THAT in consideration of a presentation on the Multi-Year Capital Plan Update 2025-2029, City Council directs staff to bring forward a report on July 8, 2024 respecting alternative designs to reduce the budget for Project 25D.13 Inner Harbour Waste Receptacle Upgrade."

Capital project detail sheet 25D.13 (Attachment 1)

Background:

At its Special Meeting on June 24, 2024, to review the Committee Feedback and 2025-2029 Multi-year Capital Plan, Council requested that staff bring forward a report regarding alternative designs to reduce the budget for Project 25D.13. Council also inquired about the urban design standard applied in this harbour area and the River District.

Capital project 25D.13 – Inner Harbour Waste Receptacles, proposes to replace the waste receptacles that are at the end of their useful life with new receptacles that are consistent with the city standard waste receptacle, including a lid. An added benefit of the proposed design is that the receptacles have lids that can be locked during the winter months when there is no winter snow removal maintenance along the walls and staff can not access the cans to empty them.

The project budget is \$80,000 funded through the capital reserve.

The City's waterfront is within the East and West Harbour Planning Area of the City's Official Plan. The Official Plan encourages the development of a continuous public park along the harbour edge. In the 1990's public walkway along the east and west harbour were improved with support from

the Federal and Provincial governments. At the time, the paving detail was added, decorative lighting, benches and waste receptacles.

The walkways on the east and west side are predominantly on lands leased by the City from Transport Canada.

The Official Plan notes, that improvements in this area should reflect the design guidelines in the Plan. The policies note that the City may determine through area studies design standards such as the Owen Sound Harbour and Downtown Master Plan Strategy. That plan notes the tremendous potential of revitalization that exists in the harbourfront and downtown. This plan sets out a comprehensive plan to conceptualize the redevelopment potential and public infrastructure in this area. In part, the study built a community vision for the area and produced a master plan to guide the design and implementation of improvements over time.

The plan contains detailed guidelines and streetscape elements for the different areas including street furniture. Based on that, a standard was established for items such as waste receptacles, bike racks, bollards, and benches. A catalogue of Streetscape Furnishings, Fixtures and Materials was developed and provided to the City by Northwood and Associates Landscape Architects and this standard has been applied since.

Analysis:

Today, from the redevelopment of the harbourfront area from the 1990's there remain a variety of waste containers (see attachment 1). The Sydenham River and Georgian Bay are significant assets and residents and visitors are drawn to this special waterfront area. In the last five years, nearly all the benches have been replaced along the waterfront through the Tom Williams Harbour Reserve fund as well as through some commemorative donations.

The current waste receptacles feature mostly double cans, that do not have a liner, but fit with a plastic bag without a lid. Given the perforated nature of the cans, when it is windy the bags can be blown upright scattering trash along the public walkway and potentially into the harbour. Additionally, without lids, disposal of household trash is problematic and also the gulls and other birds pick items out of the can again creating litter along the public walkways.

The capital detail sheet for the project was generated assuming that the project would replace the existing 40 cans (a double can was counted as 2 cans). The City standard is a larger can and replacing the existing 40 cans with approximately 18 cans will not reduce capacity of the containers.

The City's Manager of Parks & Open Spaces and the undersigned conducted a site visit and recommend that the replacement cans be single receptacles and strategically located proximate to the public benches. This would require 10 receptacles on the west harbour and 8 on the east side.

Using the City standard design specification will ensure that the cans have a 20+ year life span in this area.

Given this recommendation, the project budget can be reduced to \$40,000.

Financial Implications:

The Current budget, as identified on capital detail sheet 25D.13, is \$80,000, funded from the capital reserve. The revised budget, reflecting the reduction to 18 containers, is \$40,000. The proposed surplus resulting from the quantity changes is \$40,000, which will remain in the Capital Reserve and be allocated to other projects by Council.

Communication Strategy:

No further communication required.

Communications staff are assessing the opportunity to add QR codes to trash cans in locations throughout the City that would make it easier for a resident or visitor to report a concern respecting a waste container.

Consultation:

Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Spaces

Carly McArthur, Communications Advisor

Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services

Attachments:

1. Revised Capital Detail Sheet, 25D.13
2. Photos of current waste receptacles in the East and West Harbour areas

Recommended by:

Eckard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Spaces

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1252.