

DATE OF MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2024

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**SUBJECT RDN MANDATORY SOURCE SEPARATION BYLAW
 IMPLEMENTATION COMPLIANCE - PARKS AND FACILITIES**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To summarize the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Mandatory Waste Source Separation (MWSS) Bylaw and introduce a phased implementation plan to bring City Parks and Facilities into compliance.

BACKGROUND

The Province of BC's Environmental Management Act gives Regional Districts the mandate to plan and control how waste is managed within the region. Under this mandate, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has some authority in the City of Nanaimo with respect to the management of solid waste which is planned for as part of the RDN's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The plan sets out the region's ambitious target of 90% waste diversion by 2029.

Recent updates to the SWMP incorporate a new Mandatory Waste Source Separation MWSS Bylaw. This bylaw will require all waste generators (non-single family residential categories including: multifamily residential, business, institutional and industrial properties) within the RDN, to separate recyclables and organics from their waste streams. This can be achieved through post-collection sorting of garbage (if available from a processor) or, more commonly, through source separation using three-stream receptacles on site. The RDN's Bylaw goes into effect January 2025 with a six-month grace period for generators to comply.

DISCUSSION

The City of Nanaimo (City) falls into the institutional category and is required to comply with the new bylaw in the locations that can be classified as generators of waste. Most City facilities and most of the City's larger destination parks are classified as waste generators and will therefore need to comply with the new bylaw in these locations. This is a considerable change from the City's present service level. Currently all parks and most City facilities, do not offer consistent source separation except occasionally for beverage containers. It is to be noted that the changes are required in both public facing areas of facilities and back of house, in staff only areas.

Phased Implementation Plan

Staff have discussed the large-scale nature of MWSS implementation with RDN staff and agreed on a phased approach given the very large number and diversity of parks, facilities and receptacles serviced by the City.

At this time it is proposed that the City would undertake a two stage implementation plan in order to comply with the bylaw (see Table 1).

Table 1. Waste Management Implementation Plan

	Park Locations	Facility Locations	Services provided	Timing
Phase 1 Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westwood Lake Park- first beach Stadium District Maffeo Sutton Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanaimo Ice Centre Service and Resource Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organics collection Beverage containers Potentially mixed recycling (in facilities only) Waste 	Begin June 2025
Phase 2	All other waste generating Parks	All other waste generating Facilities	To be determined following the pilot	Begin summer 2026

Phase 1 locations were chosen as high-profile sites to promote the change to users and residents. Phase 1 will launch three-stream service beginning June 2025 and will serve as a pilot for remaining locations. Significant learning undertaken following the implementation of Phase 1 will allow staff to better develop Phase 2, including implications which will constitute the full scale roll out.

What Will Be Collected

Collection in public spaces will target materials likely to be generated at those locations. In parks, this typically means on-the-go food service items and packaging. Most waste should therefore be compostable, especially as more restaurants and cafes phase out single-use plastic items. Common recyclable items such as to-go cups are likely to be contaminated with food and unacceptable for recycling. To reduce contamination and confusion garbage and organics collection will match at-home curbside service while recycling will only accept refundable beverage containers. Separation of these containers is well established and habitual for many residents outside of the home. Beverage containers also hold a high value and are sought in unofficial recycling channels. Staff will explore options to partner with local organizations to fully utilize the material value. In facilities, and dependant upon the type of facility and the service delivery of our waste contractor, it may be possible to also collect mixed recycling similar to residential collection. As the program matures, and residents become more accustomed to separating waste in public spaces staff will look to expand the accepted recyclables list.

How It Is Collected

Waste collection and hauling services in parks and facilities are provided by contractors. In parks waste receptacles are emptied and hauled using small pick-up trucks to facilitate access to difficult to reach areas. The waste is transferred to a large front load bins located in several locations across the City. These are emptied and hauled by a separate contractor. For the Phase 1 Pilot project organics service and receptacles will need to be added to the central locations. Recycling beverage containers will require the addition of some receptacles and collection may be handled by the City potentially in conjunction with a community group.

In facilities, waste is collected by custodial staff who empty it into the large front load bins located at facilities. The implementation plan will require that some additional recycling and organics bins will be added to the front load collection service at facilities and custodial staff will consolidate recycling and organics for removal. In many facilities, cardboard is already separated. A small number of facilities also separate out organics.

Communication

Communication will be integral for the success of the waste separation project in parks and facilities. Before launch, the new collection service will be promoted on social media, the City's website and through alerts on the ReCollect app in the upcoming Activity Guide to highlight the selected facilities. Signage on three-stream receptacles and stations will be consistent with current branding of the City's curbside and other municipalities' similar streetscape collection: green for organics, blue for recycling and black for garbage. Public Works summer staff, typically tasked with education on the residential program, will be deployed as Waste Ambassadors at waste stations in busy parks will also be used to monitor and educate users. Radio advertisements and a segment on the City's podcast will also be considered for promotion.

Financial Implications

For 2025 staff estimate changes from implementation will lead to a slight increase in collection costs which was included in the budget planning cycle. Existing project funding will be utilised to pay for any new receptacles required in parks. It is not anticipated that new receptacles will be required for the phase 1 implementation in facilities.

Staff will prepare a report detailing the results of the Phase 1 pilot and a detailed draft of the phase two implementation program to include costings for the phase two roll out for consideration for the 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

The MWSS Bylaw is an important tool to advance landfill diversion from non-residential sources in the City. A lead-by-example approach to implementation from the City and strong buy-in from residents will help promote compliance among other institutions and businesses. By adding three-stream collection service to parks and facilities in a phased approach the City will be able to improve the service while adding locations and help establish source separation as regular behaviour in users. Compliance with the MWSS Bylaw will help the City and region work towards its Zero Waste goal.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City will be working to comply with the RDNs new Mandatory Waste Source Separation Bylaw by undertaking a phased implementation plan across parks and facilities known to generate waste.
- This will mean adding three-stream waste collection capacity to specified parks and buildings.
- Organics collection will be the same as the curbside residential service, recycling will be limited at launch to familiar beverage containers; some mixed recycling may be collected at facilities where possible.
- With a successful Phase 1 the City will expand three-stream collection and keep even more out of landfill as the program matures.

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