

**To:** COUNCIL

**Meeting Date:** 10/19/2021

**Subject:** Wastewater Disposal Stations – Churchill Park/Preston Auditorium

**Submitted By:** Mike Parsons, Director of Environmental Services

**Prepared By:** Jason Alexander, Manager of Wastewater Services / Chris Ziemski, Parks Operations

**Report No.:** 21-215(IFS)

**File No.:** C1101

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## Recommendation(s)

THAT the Wastewater Disposal Stations at Churchill Park and the Preston Auditorium be decommissioned.

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose

- Recognize that RV dump stations are provided by private and public campgrounds and that Cambridge no longer operates a campground.
- Acknowledge that there are 5 private disposal stations in the Region on a pay per use basis, and that the City stations are the only free for use station in a 50km radius. Please see attachment for map of dump stations in the area. The nearest pay per use station is 3.5 km away from existing station at Churchill park.
- Recognize that to operate on a pay per use cost recovery model would require additional investments beyond doing the necessary upgrades to bring the stations up to code.
- To preclude the municipality from incurring major expenditures to upgrade these stations

### Key Findings

- Private companies are using the site to avoid cost of wastewater disposal.

- The Preston disposal site is not advertised as an active site and there have been no concerns brought forward of this site being decommissioned.
- A number of RV owners still use the Churchill park station;
  - City Staff posted a sign of potential closure in August and we have received 32 Inquiries as of September 23/21 where they have requested that the station at Churchhill park stay open.
  - Most users are willing to pay a fee to keep the station available at Churchill Park.
- There are currently 5 paid Wastewater Disposal Facilities within the Region of Waterloo, please see attached map. The nearest disposal station is 3.5 km away from Churchill park.
- Both stations are in poor locations, the Churchill Park station is in a busy park and is located on a hill which is not a safe area to have trailers dump at. The Preston location is in the arena parking lot which does not provide sufficient clearance for RV maneuverability.
- RV campground fees include wastewater dumping services. The free Cambridge dump station is being used as a convenience rather than of necessity.

## Financial Implications

- The current financial impact to the city is the unaccounted Inflow and Infiltration.
- To bring the Churchill Park station up to an acceptable and safe standard the cost would be approximately \$30,000 to purchase and install a new pay-as-you-go disposal station.
- Annual operating costs would be approximately \$5,000 per station.
- The investment needed to make this a pay-per-use station would exceed projected revenues.

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## Background

Council approved decommissioning the Churchill Park Campground in 2015. The wastewater disposal station there was intended to service campers using the park and was co-funded through the now defunct local chapter of The Wandering Canadians.

It is recommended that council approves the decommissioning of two wastewater disposal stations intended for use by private Recreational Vehicle Owners; one at Churchill Park and the other at the rear side of the Preston Auditorium.

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## Analysis

### Strategic Alignment

PLACE: To take care of, celebrate and share the great features in Cambridge that we love and mean the most to us.

Goal #4 - Environment and Rivers

Objective 4.4 Manage city resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering future needs for resiliency and community adaptation.

- The stations are not built with containment curbs to preclude overland overflows and or surface contamination and Infiltration.
- Churchill station is poorly located on a hill and overland flows could run to a creek.
- Volumes that are dumped cannot be tracked and are a cause for unaccounted Inflow.
- Both are unsupervised and located close to high traffic areas where children can access them.

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## Comments

- Option 1: Decommission the sites as approved by council in 2015
  - **Pros:** Unaccounted for wastewater Inflow from the site will be eliminated; Maintenance will no longer be required; Safety Concerns with RV's and Trailers driving through Churchill Park will no longer be an issue;
  - **Cons** – Reduced level of existing service to the RV owners in the City of Cambridge and surrounding area.
- Option 2: Upgrade Churchill Park station to provide a paid station
  - **Pros:** RV owners in the City of Cambridge and surrounding area will receive a similar level of service;
  - **Cons:** Initial \$30,000 capital to upgrade Churchill Park sites, as well as increased annual operating and maintenance costs that would exceed anticipated revenues;
  - Upgrade would have to occur in 2022 or 2023.

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## Existing Policy/By-Law

N/A

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## Financial Impact

- The current financial impact to the city is the unaccounted Inflow and Infiltration from the RV's and other business using the site to dispose of wastewater. The dollar figure cannot be calculated at this time.
- Financial impact to decommission would be \$500 per site to remove structure and \$500 a year in maintenance cost savings.
- To upgrade Churchill Park station would cost approximately \$30,000 to purchase and install, to be funded from wastewater rates.
- An increase to annual operating budget of approximately \$5,000 per station would be required.

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## Public Input

Notifications were posted at each station in August to inform users of the proposal to close each station. As of September 23, 2021, there have been 32 inquiries received relating to the closure, also a Facebook petition has started totalling 163 signatures as of September 23, 2021 in favour of keeping the Churchill park station open.

Most respondents advised they are willing to pay disposal fees to keep the station in operation.

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## Internal/External Consultation

Consultation occurred between the Parks division and Wastewater division regarding preferred course of action.

Inquiries were made to various vendors of wastewater dumping stations for approximate station costs.

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## Conclusion

Staff recommends that Council approve the decommissioning of the two waste disposal stations intended for use by private Recreational Vehicle owners; one at Churchill Park and the other behind the Preston Auditorium.

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## Signature

### Division Approval

Reviewed by the CFO  


Reviewed by the CFO

Reviewed by Legal Services

**Name: Mike Parsons**

**Title: Director of Environmental Services**

### Departmental Approval



**Name: Yogesh Shah**

**Title: Deputy City Manager – Infrastructure Services**

### City Manager Approval



**Name: David Calder**

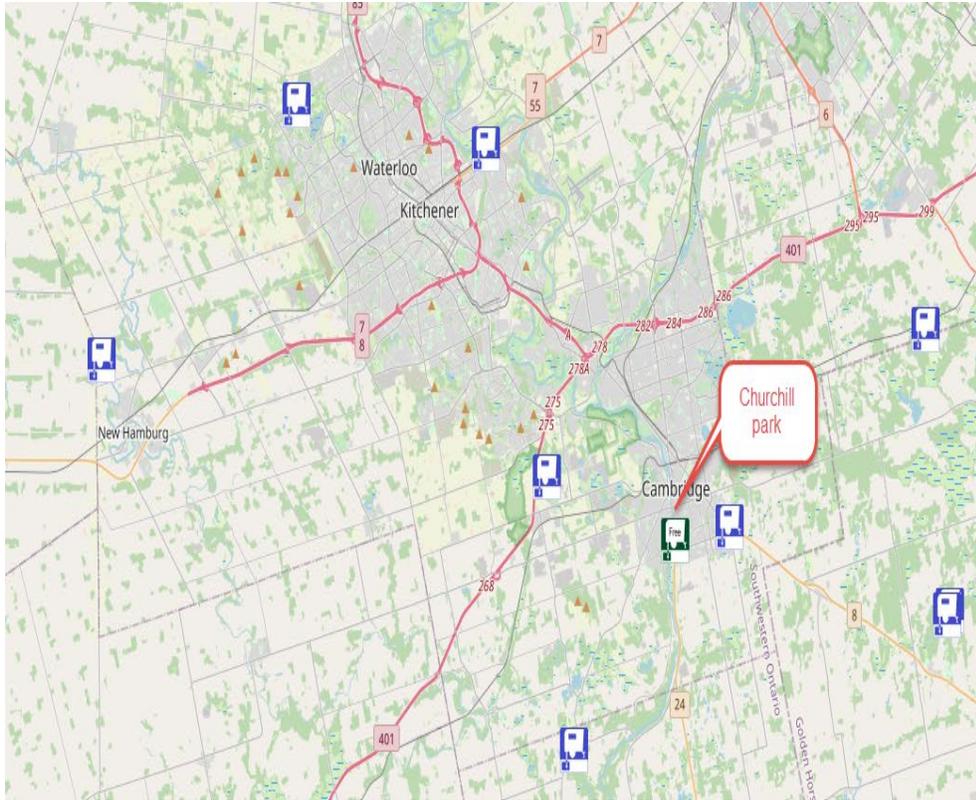
**Title: City Manager**

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## Attachments

Attachment 1 - Map of paid Dump stations within the Region of Waterloo and surrounding area

# Attachment 1



## Map Legend:

-  - Free
-  - For Registered Guests Only
-  - Mixed Prices
-  - Unknown User Fee

**Note:** Only location with GPS coordinates are shown!

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