

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 8, 2016
FROM:	JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE
SUBJECT:	REVIEW AND ACTION AT SELECTED GARBAGE CAN, NEEDLE BINS AND SIGNAGE AREAS - DOWNTOWN LONDON

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Director, Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

None

2015 – 19 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of providing convenient and appropriate infrastructure for disposal of general waste and potentially hazardous items in public areas in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)). With respect to this CWC Report 3 of the 4 Areas of Focus address providing convenient and appropriate infrastructure for disposal of waste and potentially hazardous items in public spaces.

Building a Sustainable City

- Strong and healthy environment
- Beautiful places and spaces

Leading in Public Service

- Excellent service delivery

Strengthening our Community

- Caring and compassionate services
- Healthy, safe and accessible city

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to summarize the collaborative review and action taken (or to be taken) at eleven (11) proposed locations for the installation additional litter/garbage bins, used needle containers and signage.

CONTEXT:

At the May 10, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, a delegation (Tom Cull from the Thames River Rally) was received requesting installation of additional litter/garbage bins, used needle containers and signage at eleven (11) discrete locations along the Thames River in the downtown area (Appendix A). At Municipal Council on May 17, 2016, City Staff were directed as follows:

That the following actions be taken with respect to a request to provide garbage cans, needle bins and signage in Downtown London:

- a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to analyze, in coordination with London CArES and other groups or organizations (where applicable), the map prepared by Thames River Rally and give consideration to all the locations identified as hot spots for possible garbage bins, needle bins and signage;
- b) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to organize a day to go out with members of Thames River Rally to the identified hot spots to analyze the situation on the ground;
- c) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back to the Civic Works Committee by Wednesday, June 8, 2016 after having visited to the locations identified on the map, with their recommendations of which locations along the river should receive additional garbage and needle bins and signage as per the recommendations made in the map;

DISCUSSION

The review of the eleven (11) locations was undertaken by City staff from Environmental & Engineering Services (Solid Waste Collection), Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services (Homeless Prevention), and Parks & Recreation (Parks and Community Sports). Staff from London CArES were contacted as part of this review.

Due to the short turnaround time requested by Council, it was not possible to have a single day when all staff would be available.

Stationary Needle Collection Bins

The City of London continues to work with community partners, business and neighborhood associations and City Service Reviews to identify issues and solutions related to the safe recovery of discarded syringes and drug using equipment. Strategic locations for the installation of needle bins continue to be identified in consultation with key groups.

Used needles have been found in parks, discarded on streets, and on private property. The stationary needle collection bins and collection of drug using equipment is one part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving the health outcomes of individuals experiencing homelessness and street involved individuals, and improving the safe disposal of needles and drug using equipment.

Seventeen stationary needle collection bins have been installed at strategic locations in priority areas to assist with the collection of discarded drug using equipment.

Each bin costs approximately \$1,800. The cost of the pick-up and disposal of the syringes from the existing stationary needle collection bins is approximately \$30,000 per year. In 2015, 507,124 syringes were collected.

The installation of new collection bins has a number of required steps:

- Cost of the purchase of new bins, along with any maintenance are considered on an annual basis
- A letter of approval or agreement from the community association and/or business improvement is required. The proposed additional bins (identified on the table on the next page) will involve contact with four community/business associations.
- Location of the bin and installation is dependent on terrain, winter clearance of pathways, ease of emptying and maintaining the bins and consideration of the safe disposal of this biohazard.

City staff have had several discussions with Thames River Rally (TRR) volunteers and will continue the dialogue. City staff are grateful of the work undertaken by this volunteer organization. The table below summarizes the action taken and/or to be taken for the locations provided by TRR.

Map #	Description (as provided by TRR)	Action Requested by TRR	Action Taken and/or to be Taken
1	East side of foot bridge that spans the small stream	Garbage Can, Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June
2	South side of path at base of hill north of HMCS Prevost	Garbage Can, Signage, Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June • Needle Bin - pathway not cleared in the winter • Proposed Needle Bin: to be placed at the top of the hill by the foot bridge
3	Beside bike path between York Street and Horton Street bridge	Garbage Can, Signage, Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June • Needle Bin - pathway not cleared in the winter. Location too far from a parking area; not safe to transport biohazard for this distance
4	Beside bench where bike path meets sidewalk on Horton Street	Garbage Can, Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June
5	Under the south end of Ridout Street bridge at Thames Park	Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needle Bin - pathway not cleared in the winter • Current needle bin located in Harris Park by bandshell and at the Forks of the Thames
6	Near London Hydro's Gate 8	Garbage Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed
7	Near bench behind Labatt's Brewery at Falls View Park	Garbage Can, Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June
8	Near concrete retaining wall & fencing on north side of river	Garbage Can, Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Needle Bin - current needle bins are located at Carfrae Park west and at the Carfrae Bridge (north side)
9	On the dirt path closest to the river where outdoor encampment develops	Garbage Can, Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Needle Bin - not accessible for safe disposal • Proposed Needle Bin: to be placed at the end of South St.
10	At concrete retaining wall in Richard B. Harrison Park	Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Needle Bin to be placed at entrance to the Park

Map #	Description (as provided by TRR)	Action Requested by TRR	Action Taken and/or to be Taken
11	Near edge of bicycle path loop	Garbage Can, Signage, Needle Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks garbage can installed • Signage (no illegal dumping) to be installed by end of June • Proposed Needle Bin: to be placed at the parking lot in Watson Park

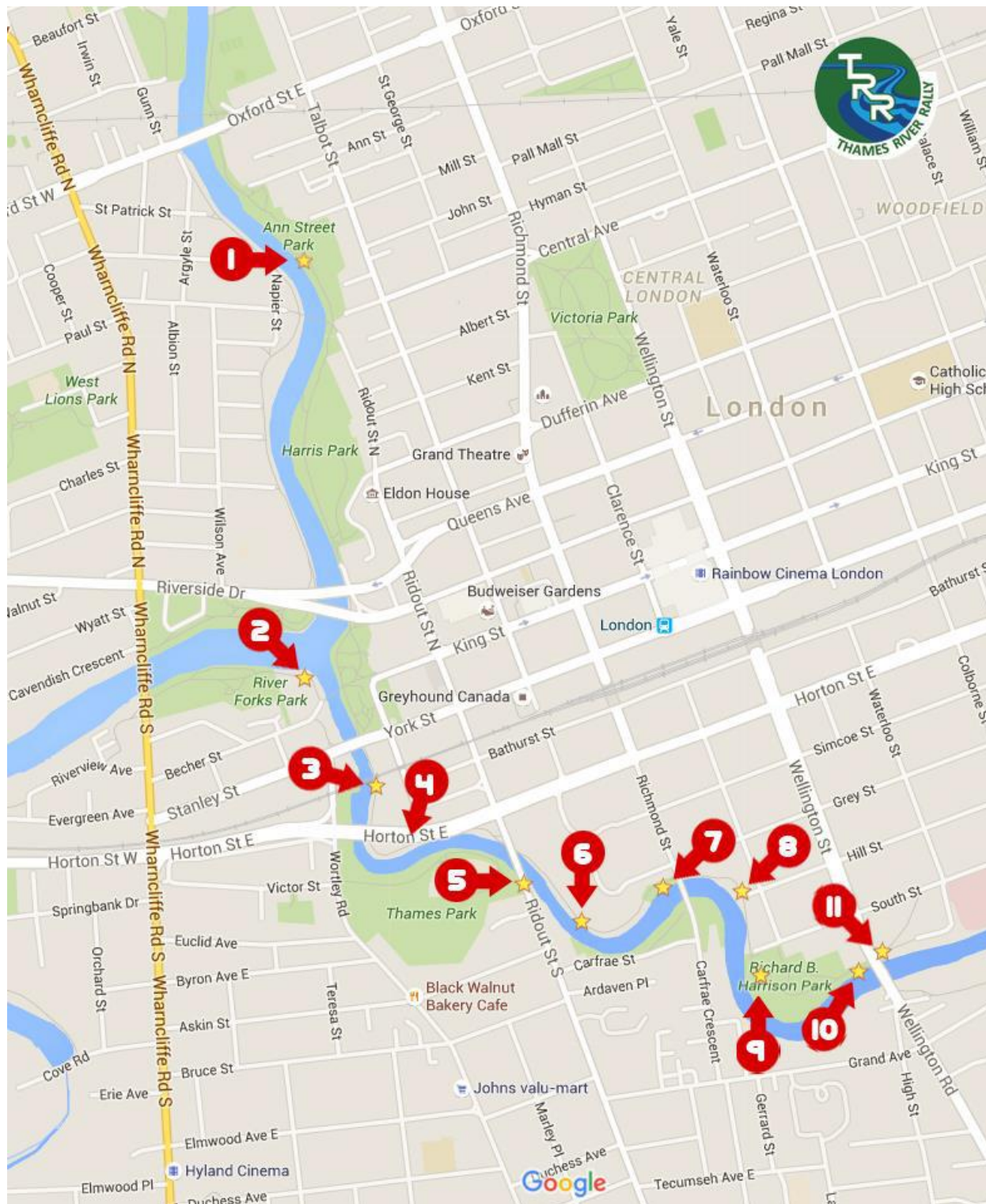
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Appendix A Suggested Locations for Garbage Cans, Signage and Needle Bins in Downtown London

- c Lynne Livingstone, Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services
 Bill Coxhead, Managing Director, Parks and Recreation
 Brandon Agnew, London CArES, Managing Director
 Tom Cull, Thames River Rally
 Angela Lukach, SoHo Community Association

APPENDIX A Suggested Locations for Garbage Cans, Signage and Needle Bins in Downtown London



Map prepared by Thames River Rally for Councillor Bill Armstrong, 2016