

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Decision

Date: February 24, 2025	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: R. Baggio, FireSmart Coordinator & T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
Re: TNRD - Municipal Yard Waste Fee Waiver Event	
<u>Recommendation:</u> <i>That staff be directed to organize a free residential yard waste collection event with the TNRD on, or around, May 24, 2025 with a maximum budget of up to \$4,000 and for staff to include this amount in the 2025 budget.</i>	

Purpose

To introduce a new TNRD program available that waives the commercial collection tipping fees for municipal yard waste once per calendar year and discuss the District of Barriere's possible participation in the program this year which will support the local government's community FireSmart program initiatives.

Background

On August 12, 2024, Council was introduced to the TNRD's new "yard waste clean-up" program that waives commercial disposal fees to municipal governments once per calendar year (see *attached staff report dated August 12, 2024 that outlined the program and its potential costs*).

At that time, Council deemed the program most beneficial to take place in the spring in order to maximize the District's new FireSmart program that would be underway at that time.

Discussion

The TNRD defines "yard waste" as:

*organic materials originating from yard and garden management, maintenance or repair including but not limited to: grass, lawn and hedge clippings, flowers, weeds, pine needles, pinecones, leaves, shrubs, and shrub and tree branches (less than 8 inches in diameter), but **does not include:** tree stumps, branches greater than 8 inches in diameter, Noxious Weeds, Infested Vegetation, rocks, sand, soil, sod, or fruit or vegetable material.*

If approved to move forward, residents (residential properties within the District of Barriere only) will first be asked to pre-register to participate in the program. This step will help staff prepare for an expected level of material and the coordination of its collection. This pre-registration requirement will be included in the significant promotion of the event through the FireSmart program. Included in this registration process, there will be an option for residents to request a free, 15 min on-site, verbal consult from a Fire Department member in order to take as much advantage of the free yard-waste collection event as possible. It will be communicated that this on-site consult will be subject to personnel availability and coordinated through the FireSmart program.

This pre-registration requirement will also give staff the opportunity to remind participating residents of the eligibility parameters leading up to the event day(s).

Registered participants will be reminded to place all eligible yard-waste material into containers, compostable yard-waste bags, or neatly bundled and place them curbside for collection on the date(s) specified. Any material not placed in containers, compostable bags or bundled neatly, will not be collected. A maximum amount of material may be imposed as well.

Residents will be informed that any loose material that falls out of bundles or is blown out of containers, will not be collected and will be their responsibility to retrieve and remove from any boulevards, roadways, and/or neighbouring properties. In addition, it will be clearly communicated that any material placed curbside shown to contain *any* non-compliant material, will not be sorted curbside to remove the non-compliant material; the entire container/bundle/compostable bag will be refused for collection.

Should Council choose to schedule this event as outlined in this report, the FireSmart Coordinator will include this event's promotion in its upcoming FireSmart Awareness event scheduled on May 3, 2025 in Fadear Park.

Benefits or Impact

General

Staff personnel, municipal fleet and optional subcontractor scheduling for this event will be coordinated to maximize the benefit and convenience for residents while keeping the cost to provide the service as low as possible.

Finances

Promotional material (i.e. posters, press release, advertising, etc.) can be produced in-house with minimal material costs. Staff scheduling for the collection may result in additional solid-waste hours with some possible over-time (which management will strive to minimize). Extra fuel costs for community collection would also be an additional expense. Depending on the participation and material level, a subcontractor may need to be coordinated. It is expected that these costs could be kept under \$4,000.00.

Strategic Impact

A community-wide, yard waste specific event encourages and motivates residents to take advantage of convenience which will support the DoB's goals of FireSmart / Wildfire Risk Reduction while also encouraging community beautification.

Risk Assessment

Compliance: Adheres to TNRD Solid Waste disposal regulations

Risk Impact: Low

If Approved, Next Steps / Communication

- Communicate and promote the free yard waste collection event to the general public as outlined in the District's Communication Policy

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to organize a free residential yard waste collection event with the TNRD on, or around, May 24, 2025 with a maximum budget of up to \$4,000 and for staff to include this amount in the 2025 budget.

Alternative Option

1. Council could choose to not participate in the program at this time and consider it again for the fall of 2025 or spring of 2026.

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
R. Baggio, FireSmart Coordinator

Reviewed by: D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer