

1. Pilot Project Summary

In May 2020, City of Brampton Council passed a resolution that City staff engage with the Region of Peel to address the risk of improper disposal (litter) and handling of sharps within Brampton and install sharps receptacles within Downtown Brampton’s high incident areas. City of Brampton staff identified 11 “hot spots” as the best sites for sharps receptacles.

The matter was also discussed at Regional Council in May 2020 where the Acting Commissioner of Health Services undertook to work with local municipal staff and community partners to understand and address the current issue and then report back to Regional Council on a broader approach to the safe disposal of sharps in the community. The Interim Commissioner of Public Works advised that the Region’s contract for sharps disposal is available for the City of Brampton to use at their discretion.

The Region received funding through the federal government’s Reaching Home program to install and service the sharp receptacles for a one-year pilot. Regional (Waste Management) staff oversaw the installation of the receptacles and track the number of sharps collected by the vendor on a monthly basis. City of Brampton staff provide data on the number of littered sharps collected by their staff.

The objective of the pilot is to determine if sharps receptacles are effective in reducing the number of littered sharps in Downtown Brampton’s high incident areas and collect data that can be used to develop a Region-wide strategy for the safe disposal of sharps.

2. Installation of Sharps Receptacles

As shown in Table 1 below, sharps receptacles were initially installed at 9 out of the 11 identified “hot spots” from June to July. In October, City Councillors requested that staff install a receptacle at a property that was not originally identified as a “hot spot” and in November, the last receptacle in a “hot spot” was installed.

Table 1: Installation of Sharps Receptacles

Installation Date	Location	Hot Spot	Receptacle Type
June 16, 2020	(1) Four Corners Library	Yes	Kiosk
	(2) Brampton Transit	Yes	Kiosk
	(3) Peel Living	Yes	Wall Mount
	(4) Market Sq Parking Garage	Yes	Wall Mount (Indoors)
	(5) Nelson Parking Garage	Yes	Wall Mount
	(6) Vivian Lane	Yes	Wall Mount
	(7) McKinney Lane	Yes	Wall Mount
July 8, 2020	(8) The Knights Table	Yes	Kiosk
	(9) Regeneration Thrift Store	Yes	Kiosk
October 23, 2020	(10) St. Andrew’s Church	No	Wall Mount
November 25, 2020	(11) Regeneration Outreach	Yes	Kiosk

**COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures
Final Sharps Update – June 2020 to July 2021**



3. Measurement

Measurement	Update (July 2020 – July 2021)
<p>Monthly service (collection) data for the sharps receptacles</p>	<p>From July 2020 to July 2021, the collection data shows that 8 out of 11 sharps receptacles were used. Three of the receptacles (Peel Living, Market Square Parking Garage and Nelson Parking Garage) were empty throughout the entire year.</p> <p>See Table 2, Receptacle Collection Data for details. Although eight of the receptacles were used at some point, none of the receptacles were collected on a consistent basis. It's important to note that receptacles are inspected monthly. If a receptacle was not collected during a particular month, it does not necessarily mean that the receptacle was not used as the vendor is only required to collect the receptacles when they are more than 50 percent full.</p> <p>Another limitation to the data is that the number of sharps collected is not an actual count; staff calculate the number of sharps based on the collected weight of the receptacle. This means that the collected weight could include contamination such as cigarettes and small pieces of garbage.</p> <p>As show in Figure 1, there isn't a consistent trend between the number of sharps littered and the number of sharps properly disposed of in a receptacle (collected by the vendor). The number of littered sharps decreases in the winter months, however this could be attributed to the targeted users seeking shelter in the cold weather or less traffic in the Downtown core.</p> <p>There was a drastic increase in sharps collected by the vendor in December 2020 and June 2021. In December, only the two receptacles located at food banks were used so this increase could be attributed to more people visiting the food banks or bulk dispose of sharps from a user or business. In June, there was an overall increase of sharps disposed in commonly used receptacles which may be the result of higher traffic in these "hot spot" areas or another bulk disposal of sharps.</p> <p>Overall, the data shows that when receptacles are strategically placed in high traffic areas where the targeted users congregate, they are used but are not the only solution to mitigating sharps litter.</p>
<p>Qualitative feedback from community organizations and businesses.</p>	<p>- <u>Regeneration Outreach and Thrift Store</u>: Since the receptacles were installed, staff haven't noticed as many sharps on the properties. Staff noted there's a decrease in activity in the winter months and less people are loitering on the properties due to COVID-19.</p> <p>- <u>Peel Living</u>: Staff have not seen any sharps on the property since the receptacles were installed.</p>
<p>Pilot costs</p>	<p>To date, \$20,695 has been spent on the pilot. This includes installation of the receptacles and 12 months of service.</p>

COVID-19 Improper Disposal of Sharps Mitigation Measures

Final Sharps Update – June 2020 to July 2021



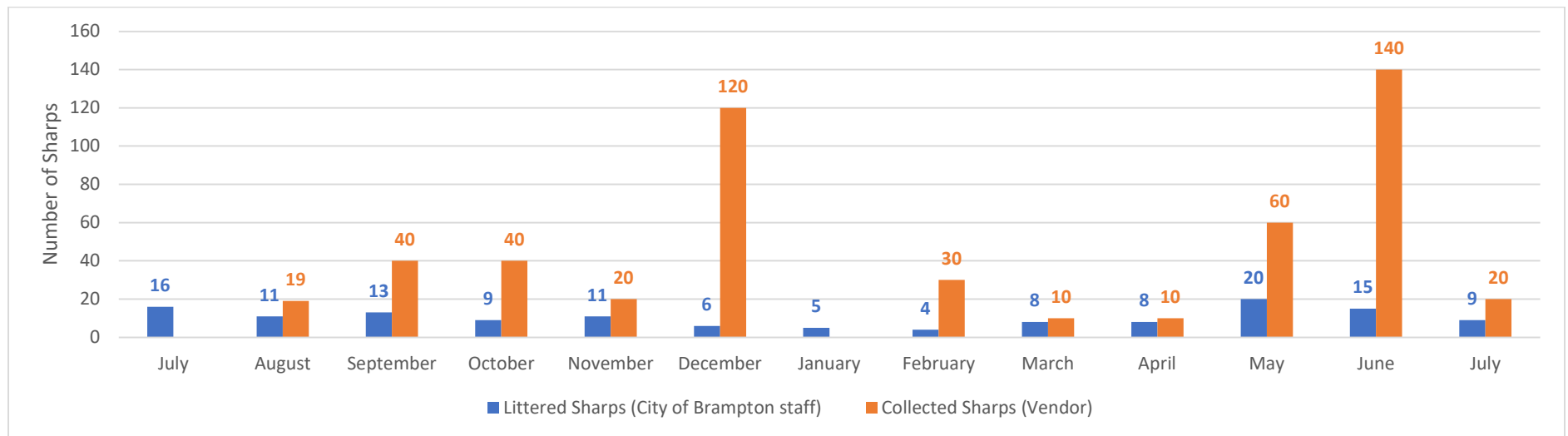
Table 2: Receptacle Collection Data

Location	Unit	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Brampton Transit	Kiosk	n/c	3	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c	20	n/c
Four Corners Library	Kiosk	n/c	3	30	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c	30	20	n/c*
McKinney Lane	Wall Mount	n/c	10	10	10	10	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	10
The Knights Table	Kiosk	n/c	3	n/c	n/c	n/c	50	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	n/c
Regeneration Thrift Store	Kiosk	n/c	n/c	n/c	30	n/c	70	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	n/c
St. Andrew's Church	Wall Mount	<i>Installed in October</i>				10	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c	10	60	10
Regeneration Outreach	Kiosk	<i>Installed in November</i>				n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c
Vivian Lane	Wall Mount	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	10	n/c	n/c
Peel Living	Wall Mount	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c
Market Sq Parking Garage	Wall Mount	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c
Nelson Parking Garage	Wall Mount	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c
Total		0	19	40	40	20	120	0	30	10	10	60	140	20

n/c = inspected monthly, but not collected (the vendor is required to empty the receptacle when it is more than 50 percent full)

*vendor did not collect due to scheduling error

Figure 1: Monthly Sharp Counts in Downtown Brampton



4. Recommendations and Next Steps

The main objective of the pilot was to determine if sharps receptacles are effective in reducing the number of littered sharps in Downtown Brampton and collect data that can be used to develop a Region-wide strategy for the safe disposal of sharps.

Data collected to date shows that there isn't a consistent trend between the number of sharps littered and the number of sharps properly disposed of in a receptacle, however when the receptacles are strategically placed in high traffic areas, they are being utilized. In addition, community agencies provided feedback that they are seeing a reduction in the number of littered sharps in Downtown Brampton but there has also been less activity in the targeted area due to COVID-19 and the closure of social support agencies.

Public Health's work on the harm reduction portfolio which includes a Region-wide strategy for the safe disposal of sharps was deferred due to reallocation of resources to COVID-19 support. As such, Public Health staff recommend that the receptacles in Downtown Brampton continue to be serviced for another year while staff develop a Region-wide drug and opioid strategy. Public Health also noted that COVID-19 may have impacted data collected over the past year and the data may not be a true representation of the sharps issue.

In addition to keeping the receptacles available, Public Health identified opportunities to better serve the community by updating the style of kiosks to a mailbox model and relocating receptacles that were not used (including Peel Living, Market Square Parking Garage and Nelson Parking Garage) to better suit demand based on the behaviour observed during the pilot. Lastly, Public Health recommends that an additional mailbox style kiosk be installed at the Region's new Nelson Street drop-in site for the homeless community.

Based on Public Health's recommendations, Regional and City staff met to discuss next steps and agreed to continue the pilot for another year ("phase two") to collect more data. Continuing to service the sharps receptacles will also support Housing Service's "Welcoming Streets" pilot program for Downtown Brampton, which will provide additional support to businesses and individuals over the next year to address loitering on private property, community safety and cleanliness. Housing Services secured additional federal funding through the Reaching Home program until March 2022. Public Health will be paying for the remainder of the program (April 2022 onward).

City staff are preparing a Fall update for Brampton Council to present the findings of the first year of the pilot and speak to the successful partnership between the Region and the City of Brampton. An update to Regional Council will be provided via the Welcoming Streets Pilot; a report is scheduled Q2 of 2022.