
City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM25.50	ACTION			Ward:All
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Extending Hours of Operation at City of Toronto Wading Pools – by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

- * This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*
- * This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.*
- * This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to review opportunities to extend the hours of operation of the City's wading pools for the remainder of the 2012 summer season, within the existing Operating Budget.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of implementing this strategy in future years.
3. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of adding the spray feature to higher traffic wading pools where appropriate.

Summary

Toronto Public Health and Environment Canada reported that heat is estimated to contribute an average of 120 deaths in our City each year.

It is imperative that during the two hottest summer months, the City of Toronto play an active role to help its residents stay cool and healthy. Parks, Forestry and Recreation does a great job to meet most needs but more can be done to meet the growing needs of younger residents that are unable to find alternative means to stay hydrated and cool during these unbearable weather conditions. Poorer families and those that do not have the financial resources to go on vacation, a cottage or even avail themselves of air conditioning must be given extended access to the few resources that are available to them.

Wading pools and splash pads are crucial amenities to children and young families across the City. These facilities are vital to thousands of residents who cannot afford nor find any other form of relief during these hot periods. However, as these facilities close relatively early in the daytime, the City limits their usage during periods in which they are needed the most. Currently, wading pools open at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. or noon and close at 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. and may or may not be equipped with added spray features.

By extending and standardising the hours at our local wading pools for the two hottest months of the year, families, children and those most vulnerable will be able to utilize these local outdoor facilities to keep cool and stay safe.

(Submitted to City Council on July 11 and 12, 2012 as MM25.50)