



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Extension of Four Outdoor Pools' Operation for the Month of September

<b>Date:</b>	April 13, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\CD12-051816-AFS#22918

#### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to a request from the Community Development and Recreation Committee that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to the May 18, 2016 Community Development and Recreation Committee meeting on the cost and operating model required to maintain a minimum of one outdoor pool per district during the month of September, when the Medical Officer of Health or his designate declares a Heat Alert or Extreme Heat Alert.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation operates 58 outdoor pools during the summer months from late June through to Labour Day weekend. Ten outdoor pools open one week earlier in June each year.

The purpose of this report is to provide the financial and operating impact to keep four outdoor pools open for the month of September in order to respond to a declared Heat Alert or Extreme Heat Alert.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:**

1. the Community Development and Recreation Committee receive this report for information.

## **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact related to receiving this report.

Extending the operation of four outdoor pools through the month of September (28 days) will require additional funding of \$0.280 million, based on the average per diem cost of an outdoor pool of \$2,500. Costs associated with the extension of operating season at 4 district outdoor pools are related to facility maintenance, program supervision, security monitoring, utilities, as well as additional chemicals, supplies and equipment and are not included in the Council Approved 2016 Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The decision to extend the operation of four outdoor pools is subject to City Council's consideration and, if approved, will require a funding source for an in-year budget adjustment in 2016 or will be included as part of the 2017 Operating Budget submission for consideration during the 2017 Budget process.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting on March 7, 2016, the Community Development and Recreation Committee requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back on the cost and operating model required to maintain a minimum of one outdoor pool per district during the month of September, when the Medical Officer of Health or his designate declares a Heat Alert or Extreme Heat Alert.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD10.3>

At its meeting on September 17, 2015, the Community Development and Recreation Committee requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back on the availability of programs, services and public facilities designed to provide relief for residents in the event of heat alerts during the month of September, particularly the use of the City's outdoor pools; and communication tools used to inform the public about such programs.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD6.7>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division operates programs and services at 65 indoor pools year-round, and 58 outdoor pools and 104 wading pools during summer months. In addition the Division operates approximately 100 splash pads across the city to assist residents cool off in the summer.

Outdoor pools are open from late-June until Labour Day weekend for 72 operating days with 10 sites that open one week earlier in June and remain open for Monday of the Labour Day long weekend. Once the end of season is reached, pools are emptied and safeguarded for their off-season period.

In order for the Division to maintain four outdoor pools in a state of readiness for public's use in the event of a Heat / Extreme Heat Alert, selected locations must be operated in accordance with the Regulation 565 of the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act ("Regulation") for the entire duration of the extension. This Regulation governs the operation of all Class A (public) swimming pools, in relation to water filtration and chemistry, facility cleanliness, staffing requirements, lifeguard supervision and all other aspects of aquatic facility operation.

## **COMMENTS**

An outdoor swimming pool is not the type of facility that can be made available in a reactive manner, such as in response to a Heat/Extreme Heat Alert. A decision to maintain four pools (one per district) for the month of September, in case of a Heat / Extreme heat alert, would require that these pools be operated and fully maintained for an additional month (28 days). Doing so ensures they are in a state of readiness for bathers and to deter trespassers and vandalism, as well as to mitigate personal injury or damage to the asset.

Costs associated with the extension of operating season at 4 district outdoor pools are related to facility maintenance, program supervision, security monitoring, utilities, as well as additional chemicals, supplies and equipment.

Based on 2016 operating costs, the average per diem cost of an outdoor pool is \$2,500 and \$280,000 for four sites for the duration of the 28 day extension. Based on expected low utilization of outdoor pools in an extended season, the cost per swimmer would be considerably higher than it is during the normal operating season.

Other considerations in changing the service level of 4 outdoor pools include the availability of sufficient and trained staff resources. The Division would be required to conduct an assessment of trained staff's availability given the majority of outdoor pool staff returning to school and indoor operations after Labor Day. Staff must be trained and scheduled for the duration of the extension, otherwise the Division will face significant staffing challenges responding to a heat event.

A program schedule would be developed to optimize these pools, however a needs assessment would be required to ensure adequate usage, as most families and children (primary users) are returning to Fall schedules and school.

## **CONCLUSION**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation operates 58 outdoor pools and 104 wading pools during the summer months from late June through to Labour Day weekend. Ten outdoor pools open one week earlier each year and remain open on Labour Day. The Division also operates nearly 100 splash pads across the City that are available to residents between mid-May through late September.

The operating model for the extension of 4 outdoor pools for the month of September in the event of a Heat Alert/Extreme Heat Alert would require that these pools be fully operational and maintained for each of the 28 extended days. This increased service level would require additional funding of \$0.280 million.

Alternative services, with no financial impact, that respond to heat events include the availability of indoor pools, cooling centres and splash pads. These services are effective in providing relief to residents.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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