
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.10	ACTION			Ward: All
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Providing Access to Public Water Fountains and Bathrooms - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to report to the July 7, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee with answers to the following questions:

- a. is there a Service Standard, or target date, for when all City water fountains and bathrooms (excluding those under major capital repair) are scheduled to be open;
- b. what is the average date by which all City water fountains and bathrooms have been opened in the last 10 years;
- c. what is the cost, per water fountain and bathroom, to decommission in the winter and bring back online in the spring;
- d. what is the total City Budget for '3'; and
- e. how many Staff are dedicated to performing '3'?

Summary

This Motion seeks information regarding the operation of City water fountains and bathrooms. It should go without saying that hydrating and the use of bathroom facilities are basic human requirements. Yet, according to City of Toronto communications, 30 percent of water fountains and bathrooms were still closed as of June 6, 2022.

The lack of access to water and bathrooms in public parks limits all Torontonians' enjoyment of our parks and beaches but has a disproportionate effect on seniors, children, people experiencing homelessness, and those with certain health issues. For many, the lack of a bathroom equates to a lack of access. It is unfair and unacceptable that our public spaces are essentially not available for far too many residents.

This Motion requests the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the July 7, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee with answers as to why these basic facilities are not yet open. Although it is already late in the season, this information is necessary to act on so that this is never repeated.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.10