
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.26	ACTION			Ward: All
---------	--------	--	--	-----------

Modernizing Service in City Parks - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

** 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

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in coordination with other relevant divisions to adjust and modernize park operations and procedures to conduct service improvements at City parks earlier in the spring; these activities include but are not limited to:

- a. grass cutting, particularly on sports fields, earlier and on a more frequent basis;
- b. speeding up the activation of water assets such as drinking fountains and washrooms;
- c. increasing litter pick up earlier in the spring; and
- d. making any outstanding service activations in the interim.

Summary

Toronto is home to more than 1,500 parks. We appreciate the work our Parks staff do throughout the year to make our parks safe and welcoming places.

With more and more residents getting outside to enjoy our City parks in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we continue to find opportunities to improve service and their experience at our parks. Our parks feature more than 2,000 water assets – many of which are seasonal washrooms and water fountains and have to be activated each spring and deactivated ahead of each winter. We have expanded some year round facilities and through a previous report request, staff are examining opportunities to make more of these year round. These existing seasonal facilities must be accessible as soon as possible to parkgoers following the winter.

While we recognize that frost levels and cold impact the ability to start doing some of this work, we must recognize demand for these services is beginning earlier in the year for a variety of possible reasons including increased demand and climate change. We must make a conscious

effort to modernize operations and procedures in City parks and start opening parks and turning on services earlier and faster.

This Motion asks staff to adjust and modernize park operations to conduct service improvements earlier in the spring. These activities include grass cutting of sports fields earlier in the year and on a more frequent basis, speeding up the activation of water assets such as drinking fountains and washrooms and increasing litter pick up earlier in the spring. The Motion also asks for Parks Forestry and Recreation to expedite any service activations in the interim.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.26