

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM11.22	ACTION			Ward: All
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Extension of the Alcohol in Parks Pilot - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.*
** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*
** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council extend the time-limited Alcohol in Parks pilot program from October 9, 2023 to the later of March 31, 2024 or the date that City Council considers the Interim General Manager, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation’s forthcoming report on Alcohol in Parks evaluation.
2. City Council amend Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, subject to such stylistic or minor substantive changes as are deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Solicitor, to allow the time-limited pilot program to continue to be implemented in specified parks, as laid out in Part 1 above.
3. City Council direct the Interim General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consult with City Councillors who are part of the current Alcohol in Parks Pilot program on their interest in opting out of the extended pilot as laid out in Part 1 above.
4. City Council direct the Interim General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to City Council at its November 2023 meeting on any required further amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, to implement:
 - a. an updated pilot park list based on consultations conducted as part of Part 3; or
 - b. any additional safety restrictions required for the winter season.

Summary

The Alcohol in Parks pilot program was approved by City Council in July 2023 to run in 27 parks across Toronto from August 2, 2023 to October 9, 2023.

The pilot reduces restrictions on responsible drinking in parks and has measures in place to address concerns such as public health and safety, cleanliness and waste management, and enforcement. City staff were asked to review the pilot's success and bring forward their report to City Council in the first quarter of 2024.

With five of these parks are in my ward, I have closely monitored the feedback that residents have shared with my office. Residents have expressed their appreciation for the pilot program as they have enjoyed the ability to have a drink with their family and friends.

Since we've seen very limited issues I am asking City Council's support for an extension and to allow City Councillors who are part of the current pilot to opt out of the extension of the pilot through the Fall and Winter until a final policy is approved.

The reason this is urgent is the pilot expires October 9, 2023 and without an extension the rules will revert to their pre-pilot prohibition.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM11.XX