

## **Audit of Parks Branch Operations - Phase 1: Citywide Parks Listing and Classification**

**Date:** November 12, 2024

**To:** City Council

**From:** General Manager, Parks Forestry & Recreation

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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On October 7, 2024, the Auditor General released a report entitled "*Audit of Parks Branch Operations - Phase 1: Improving Oversight of Day-to-Day Maintenance Helps to Ensure City Parks are Beautiful, Clean and Safe*", which was considered at the Audit Committee meeting on October 15, 2024.

The Auditor General's report included recommendations aimed at improving how Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) performs maintenance operations to keep parks clean, safe and beautiful.

The purpose of this report is to provide a current list of parks broken down by zone and by classification, as requested by the Audit Committee on October 15, 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts as a result of the recommendations within this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the Financial Impact section.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on October 15, 2024, Audit Committee considered the Auditor General's audit "AU6.1 - Audit of Parks Branch Operations - Phase 1: Improving Oversight of Day-to-Day Maintenance Helps to Ensure City Parks are Beautiful, Clean and Safe".  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.AU6.1>

## COMMENTS

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On October 7, 2024, the Auditor General released a report entitled "*Audit of Parks Branch Operations - Phase 1: Improving Oversight of Day-to-Day Maintenance Helps to Ensure City Parks are Beautiful, Clean and Safe*", which was considered at the Audit Committee meeting on October 15, 2024. The Auditor General's report included recommendations aimed at improving how Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) performs maintenance operations to keep parks clean, safe and beautiful.

The purpose of this report is to provide a current list of parks broken down by zone and by classification, as requested by the Audit Committee on October 15, 2024.

The Auditor General's recommendations included creating and maintaining a standardized service level for each park classification. PFR has committed to undertake and complete this work by Q2 2026. Once completed, in conjunction with the review of service level standards, and the development of key performance indicators, this work will support improved measurement and reporting performance.

In the interim, PFR continues to utilize the classifications as outlined within the Council approved [2013-2017 Parks Plan](#). This framework is generally based on the size and type of usage of the park. Within the current Parks Classification System, there are five park classifications: Parkette, Neighbourhood Park, Community Park, District Park and City Park.

Attachment 1 of this report provides a list of City of Toronto Parks by ward, operational district and classification. The table below summarizes the five park types as outlined within the 2013-2017 Parks Plan.

Table 1: Parks Classification System

| Description   |
|---|
| Parkette primarily used by local residents. They are generally less than 0.5 hectares. Primarily used for passive recreation.   |
| Neighbourhood Park primarily used by local residents. They are generally not less than 0.5 hectares. Primarily used for passive recreation.                             |
| Community Park primarily used by several neighbourhoods. They are generally not less than 3 hectares. May feature opportunities for both passive and active recreation. |

| Description  |
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| District Park primarily used by several communities. They are generally not less than 5 hectares. They may act as a recreational hub. They typically feature opportunities for both passive and active recreation. |
| City Park typically attract users from across the City. They are generally not less than 15 hectares, and/or include unique and specialized features, like horticultural gardens.                                  |

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Howie Dayton  
 General Manager, Parks Forestry & Recreation

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. Citywide Parks List and Classification