

## **Refreshing Food and Beverage Offerings in Park and Recreation Spaces**

**Date:** March 24, 2026

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** General Manager, Parks and Recreation

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to City Council's direction in item [2025.MM29.8](#) to provide options for expanding food and beverage services in parks, where appropriate, including an assessment of existing physical structures and operating models.

It outlines improvements for the 2026 season and sets out four key principles that will guide development of a comprehensive four-year food and beverage strategy for Toronto's parks and recreation system, to be brought forward for Council consideration in 2027.

This report approach will be organized into four sections:

- **Review of Current Food and Beverage Offerings:** An overview of existing services, including mobile vending, concessions, and restaurants, along with an assessment of their benefits and challenges.
- **Immediate Options to Increase Food and Beverage Availability:** Actions that can be implemented quickly to improve access and respond to public demand, while leveraging existing assets and partnerships.
- **A Simplified Concession Program Application Process:** A new process to make it easier for community-based non-profits and small operators to access concession spaces.
- **Introduction of Four Guiding Principles for the 2027 Food and Beverage Strategy:** A set of principles and a public engagement plan that will shape long-term planning and inform future decisions related to investment, operating models, and infrastructure across the parks and recreation system.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Parks and Recreation recommend that:

1. Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Further information on financial impacts will be outlined in the forthcoming supplementary report.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on December 16 and 17, 2025, City Council adopted [EC25.10](#) entitled "Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks - Update" responding to [2025.MM29.8](#) requesting a review of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks, to remove outdated, burdensome, or unnecessary provisions. The report recommended 25 immediate updates to the Parks By-Law and identified areas that may result in by-law amendments in the near future (e.g., Food and Beverage Strategy for Parks)  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC25.10>

At its meeting on April 23 and 24, 2025, City Council adopted [MM29.8](#) entitled "Time for Outdated Park Rules to Touch Grass" requesting the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to review Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, and report back with recommendations to remove any provisions that are archaic, burdensome, or unnecessary and options to provide more food and beverage offerings in parks, where appropriate, including an assessment of physical structures and operating models.  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MM29.8>

At its meeting on June 11, 12, 13, 2013, City Council adopted [GM22.13](#) entitled "Additional Strategies to Support Community-Based Non-Profit Groups to Operate Food Concessions in Parks, Forestry and Recreation Facilities" authorizing the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into new agreements with any interested community-based non-profit groups for a maximum period of five years, provided that the community based non-profit group pays negotiated market rent and meet the service level requirements.  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2013.GM22.13>

## **COMMENTS**

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## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Terry Ricketts  
General Manager, Parks and Recreation

## ATTACHMENTS

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