

Frequently Asked Questions: Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program

1. Q: What is a pilot program?

A: A pilot program is a test or trial of limited duration that helps an organization learn how a program might work in practice. In this case, the City is 'trialing' liquor consumption in public park spaces to see if this program is suitable (or not) in Richmond.

2. Q: What is the difference between alcohol and liquor?

A: Liquor is defined as beer, wine or spirits, or any other product intended for human consumption that contains more than 1% alcohol by volume. For the purposes of this pilot program, the City of Richmond will be using the term 'liquor.'

3. Q: How long will the pilot program last?

A: The pilot program will be in effect starting July 25 and conclude on September 30, 2023.

4. Q: Why is the City allowing liquor to be consumed in public parks?

A: Council has passed a bylaw to permit this pilot program to proceed. As our community densifies, privately owned green space is increasingly limited. This pilot program allows the public to responsibly enjoy an alcoholic beverage outdoors at three designated parks. These social activities were previously restricted to private outdoor spaces such as backyards, patios or decks.

5. Q: Does having a temporary pilot program mean it will become a permanent program?

A: No. This trial period will determine whether such a program can function successfully in Richmond parks. Pending the results of public consultation, staff evaluation and, ultimately, Council consideration, the program may or may not remain in place.

6. Q: What are the "next steps" once the pilot program concludes on September 30, 2023?

A: Following its conclusion, staff will review outcomes of the pilot program, including feedback provided by residents. Staff will then report back to Council on the results of the public consultation process which will inform recommendations for next steps.

7. Q: How is this pilot program being regulated?

A: The City of Richmond is implementing Bylaw 10483 to regulate the consumption of liquor in City parks. This bylaw will be enforced by both the RCMP and City bylaw officers using a call response model to address public complaints. The bylaw will only be enforceable for the duration of the pilot program.

8. Q: Can I consume liquor in any Richmond park?

A: No. During the pilot program, liquor consumption is restricted to the "Liquor Permitted Consumption Zones" at the following three designated parks:

- Garry Point Park
- King George/Cambie Community Park
- Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park

9. Q: How do I know where the "Liquor Permitted Consumption Zones" are located?

A: The maps on the signage at each park site indicate where liquor can be consumed. These maps are posted in multiple locations at each park. While there will not be a physical delineation indicating the permitted consumption zone in each park, residents will be able to interpret the location of the zones by viewing the maps on site.



Example of signage with map

If your questions or concerns were not addressed by these FAQs, you may contact staff at liquorpilotprogram@richmond.ca or 604-244-1208.

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10. Q: Are there restrictions on time of day that liquor can be consumed at the designated parks?

A: The consumption of liquor is permitted between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the “Liquor Permitted Consumption Zones” at each designated park.

11. Q: Why are we only doing a pilot program in three parks?

A: Council approved the pilot program in order to gauge the potential for future programs related to liquor consumption in public spaces. The City will be seeking public feedback during and upon completion of the pilot program which will inform decisions around future programs.

12. Q: How were the three parks selected?

A: The parks were selected based on multiple criteria, including but not limited to:

- **Geographic Location:** Locate at limited sites throughout the City in neighbourhoods representative of various densities and park uses
- **Minimize Impacts to Other Park and Park-Adjacent Uses:** Locate away from school grounds and active play areas
- **Proximity to Publicly Accessible Washrooms:** Either within the park or nearby at a public facility
- **Proximity to Food and Beverage Businesses:** Either within the park itself or nearby
- **Proximity to Multi-Family Housing:** There is greater need for public greenspace for local residents with limited access to private outdoor spaces
- **Accessibility of Transit:** Ease of access to designated pilot program sites, and to provide alternative means of safe transportation
- **Walkability:** Ease of access to designated pilot program sites and to provide alternative means of safe transportation
- **Visible, Non-Remote Locations:** Promote social activities and provide safe access for bylaw enforcement personnel, staff and maintenance vehicles for waste and recyclable materials management
- **Park Amenities:** Provide a mix of soft and hard landscapes, picnic tables, benches, waste and recycling receptacles and shelters.

13. Q: Will additional locations be added to this pilot program?

A: No. Garry Point Park, King George/Cambie Community Park and Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park will be the only three designated parks for the duration of the pilot program.

14. Q: How can I provide feedback to the City?

A: The City will collect input through the Let's Talk Richmond platform at www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca/parks-pilot-2023 during and upon completion of the pilot program.

15. Q: Who do I call to report an incident related to liquor consumption on public property?

A: Depending on the nature of the incident, refer to the following instructions:

- Please report any bylaw violations to bylawrequest@richmond.ca or 604-276-4345.
- Police can be contacted for non-emergencies at 604-278-1212
- 9-1-1 for emergencies (someone's health or safety is at immediate risk)

16. Q: Can I buy liquor on-site?

A: No. Liquor sales are currently not permitted in public spaces and will not be a component of this pilot program. Residents will need to purchase liquor at off-site, licensed liquor distributors and bring it to the designated park spaces.