



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee  
**From:** Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services

**Date:** October 13, 2023  
**File:** 11-7200-20-01/2023-  
Vol 01

**Re:** **Liquor Consumption in Public Parks Pilot Program Results**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Liquor Consumption in Public Parks Pilot Program Results," dated October 13, 2023, from the Director of Parks Services, be received for information.

Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services  
(604-247-4942)

Att. 4

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Safety Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>

## Staff Report

### Origin

On July 24, 2023, Council endorsed the following recommendations per the staff report titled “Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program Bylaw No.10483,” dated, June 30, 2023:

1. That Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program Bylaw No. 10483 be introduced and given first, second and third reading;
2. That Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 10482, be introduced and given first, second and third reading;
3. That Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321, Amendment Bylaw No. 10481, be introduced and given first, second and third reading; and
4. That staff report back to Council upon completion of the pilot program to provide a status update regarding the implementation of the Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program.

With the passage of these bylaws, the Liquor Consumption in the Parks Pilot Program (the Pilot Program) commenced in the three designated park locations on July 25, 2023, and concluded on September 30, 2023. The purpose of this report is to report back to Council with a summary of the Pilot Program including the results of the public consultation process.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

*3.4 Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

*Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.*

*6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.*

*6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.*

## **Findings of Fact**

### **Background**

Over the approximately nine week period of the Pilot Program, Richmond residents and park users were permitted to responsibly consume alcohol in designated areas within Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park, Garry Point Park and King George/Cambie Community Park. In each of these three parks, site signage was installed indicating the designated liquor consumption zones, program information, contact information for Bylaw Services and RCMP (should unlawful behaviour be observed) as well as the various means to provide feedback on the Pilot Program (Let's Talk Richmond survey website address, Pilot Program-specific email address and phone number). Copies of each of the three signs are included in this report (Attachment 1, 2 and 3). With the conclusion of the Pilot Program, the bylaws endorsed by Council for the purposes of conducting the Pilot Program are no longer in effect.

### **Pilot Program Results**

Staff actively monitored the Pilot Program through regular site visits and reviews of the Let's Talk Richmond portal for responses and specific feedback over the course of the program. Additionally, staff responded to emails and phone calls from residents as well as conducted in-person, intercept surveys of residents and park users at each of the Pilot Program locations.

Throughout the Pilot Program, Bylaw Services, RCMP and Environmental Programs monitored their respective systems for service calls which could be directly attributed to the Pilot Program. For the duration of the Pilot Program, no calls for service which could be specifically attributed to the Pilot Program were received. Additionally, Environmental Programs staff did not observe a marked increase in refuse which would require additional clean-up efforts nor the need to deploy additional trash or recycling receptacles at the three park sites.

### ***Summary of Resident Feedback***

The following is a summary of feedback received on the Pilot Program:

1. **Let's Talk Richmond**: From July 25 through October 7, 2023, the Let's Talk Richmond public opinion portal was available to accept feedback. Residents were made aware of the survey through direct email notifications via Let's Talk Richmond, site signage at the three park locations, the City's website and various social media platforms, notifications to local media, and posters at local community facilities. Park users were also made aware of the survey by direct staff contact. Overall, 607 survey responses were received, with 385 responses providing additional comments. A summary of the survey responses is provided in Attachment 4.

Overall, 52 per cent of respondents supported the program, 43 per cent indicated opposition and 5 per cent responded as neutral. Of the 385 written comments, 150 comments supported the program, 173 comments did not support the program and 62 comments were neutral, providing only general feedback about the program.

For those who supported the program, the following is a summary of comments received:

- Park users have been and will continue to drink in park spaces regardless of a bylaw or any municipal regulation;
- Regulation is important to ensure public drinking does not get out of hand;
- This has been occurring in other cities and open spaces (examples from Europe and elsewhere in Canada including Metro Vancouver were cited), so why not Richmond;
- If people are being responsible, then why not permit it;
- Residents enjoy an alcoholic refreshment when picnicking, barbequing or simply relaxing in the park;
- Support expansion to other parks including those with barbeque, picnic and other similar park facilities; and
- Individuals noted smaller living quarters as a driver for a need to access open space to recreate with friends and family.

For those who indicated they did not support the program, the following is a summary of comments received:

- Citing of World Health Organization (WHO), Health Canada and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) studies and recommendations on limiting alcohol consumption for health, addictions and public security reasons;
- Questioning why City resources were being directed to this program;
- There are no limits on consumption, that is, what is the definition of “responsible” consumption thus open to potential abuse;
- Park spaces are for children and families and public consumption of liquor is seen as an incompatible activity in this shared space;
- Concerns about drinking and driving;
- Public liquor consumption sets a bad example to children and young adults; and
- Concerns regarding waste management and litter including the use of glass beverage containers.

2. Direct Email Feedback: Staff received 21 emails, three responses in favour and 18 not supportive of the Pilot Program. It should be noted that two of the negative responses indicated specific feedback for the Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park and one for Garry Point Park, noting concerns regarding alleged underage drinking, an increase in refuse and louder than normal activities in the evening. Staff did not receive official calls for service which would substantiate this feedback.
3. Direct Phone Calls to Staff: Staff took two calls from residents indicating their lack of support for the Pilot Program. Feedback regarding the concerns cited at Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park were registered with staff.
4. In-Person Intercept Surveys: Over the course of two weekends (August 26–27 and September 2–3, 2023), staff conducted in-person consultations at each of the Pilot Program sites. Residents were provided a general overview of the program and were asked to provide their opinion through the Let’s Talk Richmond platform. Staff also

handed out business cards with the Pilot Program's email address and phone number, the link to the survey, and a QR code linking to the Pilot Program's web page.

Residents were also given the option of filling out the online survey on a City iPad. Staff made a concerted effort to engage with a cross section of park users regardless of the activity they were engaged in. Over the course of the four days, staff engaged with a total of 141 park users (either individuals or groups) over an approximately 16 hour period at each of the three Pilot Program sites. Staff observed a variety of park user recreating in a typical fashion at the sites during the engagement process. Respondents were amenable to providing feedback and appreciated the direct interaction with staff. Staff noted that following each engagement, traffic to the Let's Talk Richmond survey increased.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The City conducted a Pilot Program for the Consumption of Liquor in three public parks from July 25, 2023, and concluded on September 30, 2023. Throughout the process, staff received feedback from the community and park users through a variety of means including a very robust response to a Let's Talk Richmond survey. The results of the pilot program have been provided to Council for their consideration.



Alex Kurnicki  
Manager, Parks Programs  
(604-276-4099)

- Att. 1: Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park Pilot Program Site Signage
- 2: Garry Point Park Pilot Program Site Signage
- 3: King George/Cambie Community Park Pilot Program Site Signage
- 4: Let's Talk Richmond Liquor Consumption in Parks Survey Summary of Results

# Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park

## LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN PARKS PILOT PROGRAM

Liquor consumption is permitted in the highlighted area shown below from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily, until September 30, 2023.

**PLEASE ENJOY RESPONSIBLY**



The City has implemented a bylaw permitting residents to consume liquor in this park, on a temporary basis, as part of a pilot program. The pilot program will run until September 30, 2023 in Aberdeen, King George/Cambie and Garry Point parks. Liquor consumption is only permitted in the yellow highlighted area shown on the map. Please drink responsibly and respect fellow park users.

### We Want To Hear From You!

In order to assess this program, the City would like your feedback. Please provide your input by October 7, 2023 using one of the following options:

1. Visit [LetsTalkRichmond.ca](https://LetsTalkRichmond.ca) and complete the online survey
2. Email: [liquorpilotprogram@richmond.ca](mailto:liquorpilotprogram@richmond.ca)
3. Call: (604) 244-1208



To learn more about the Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program, please scan the QR code or visit [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca).

Please report any bylaw violations to [bylawrequest@richmond.ca](mailto:bylawrequest@richmond.ca) or 604-276-4345. Police can be contacted for non-emergencies at 604-278-1212 or 911 if you need help in case of emergency.



After enjoying your beverage, please dispose your waste appropriately in any of the trash or recycling receptacles provided.

**Public Parks & Schools Grounds Bylaws 8771 - Section 2.7.4**  
**Violators may be subject to fines and/or legal action.**





# Garry Point Park

## LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN PARKS PILOT PROGRAM

Liquor consumption is permitted in the highlighted area shown below from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily, until September 30, 2023.

### PLEASE ENJOY RESPONSIBLY



The City has implemented a bylaw permitting residents to consume liquor in this park, on a temporary basis, as part of a pilot program. The pilot program will run until September 30, 2023 in Garry Point, Aberdeen and King George/Cambie parks. Liquor consumption is only permitted in the yellow highlighted area shown on the map. Please drink responsibly and respect fellow park users.

#### We Want To Hear From You!

In order to assess this program, the City would like your feedback. Please provide your input by October 7, 2023 using one of the following options:

1. Visit [LetsTalkRichmond.ca](https://www.lets-talk-richmond.ca) and complete the online survey
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**Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program Bylaw No. 10483**  
Violators may be subject to fines and/or legal action.





# King George / Cambie Community Park

## LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN PARKS PILOT PROGRAM

Liquor consumption is permitted in the highlighted area shown below from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily, until September 30, 2023.

### PLEASE ENJOY RESPONSIBLY



The City has implemented a bylaw permitting residents to consume liquor in this park, on a temporary basis, as part of a pilot program. The pilot program will run until September 30, 2023 in King George/Cambie, Aberdeen and Garry Point parks. Liquor consumption is only permitted in the yellow highlighted area shown on the map. Please drink responsibly and respect fellow park users.

#### We Want To Hear From You!

In order to assess this program, the City would like your feedback. Please provide your input by October 7, 2023 using one of the following options:

1. Visit [LetsTalkRichmond.ca](https://www.lets-talk-richmond.ca) and complete the online survey
2. Email: [liquorpilotprogram@richmond.ca](mailto:liquorpilotprogram@richmond.ca)
3. Call: (604) 244-1208



To learn more about the Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program, please scan the QR code or visit [www.richmond.ca](https://www.richmond.ca).

Please report any bylaw violations to [bylawrequest@richmond.ca](mailto:bylawrequest@richmond.ca) or 604-276-4345. Police can be contacted for non-emergencies at 604-278-1212 or 911 if you need help in case of emergency.

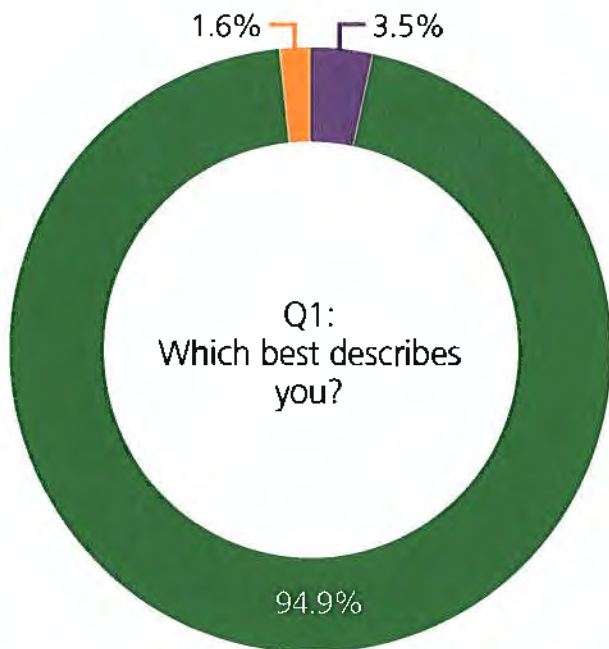


After enjoying your beverage, please dispose your waste appropriately in any of the trash or recycling receptacles provided.

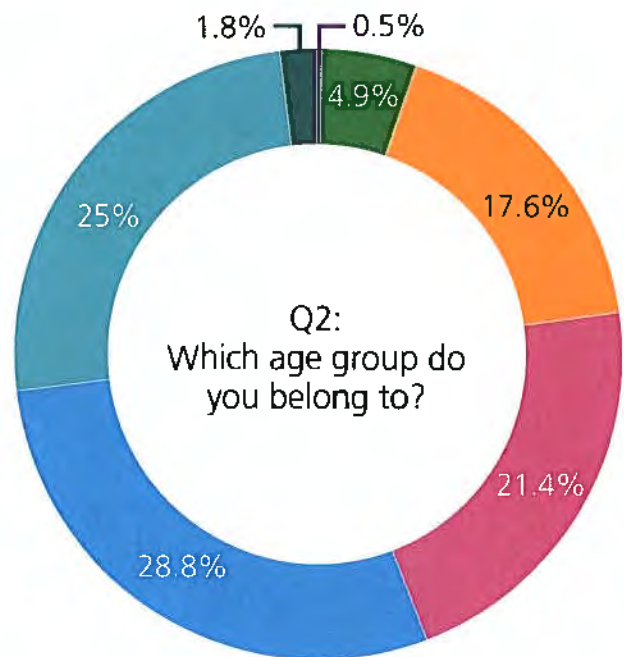
**Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program Bylaw No. 10483**  
Violators may be subject to fines and/or legal action.



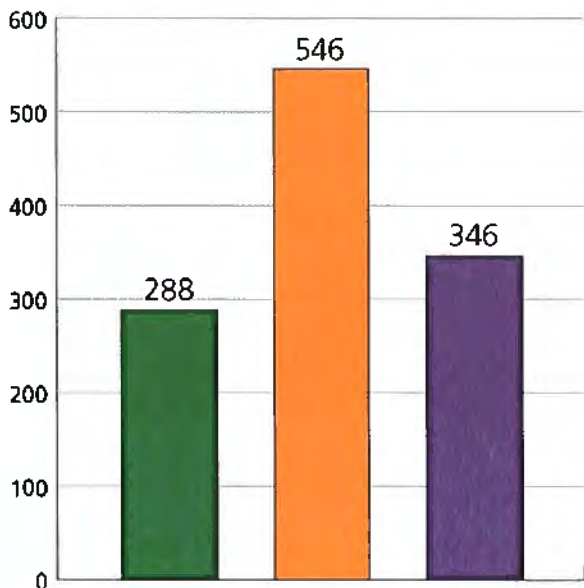




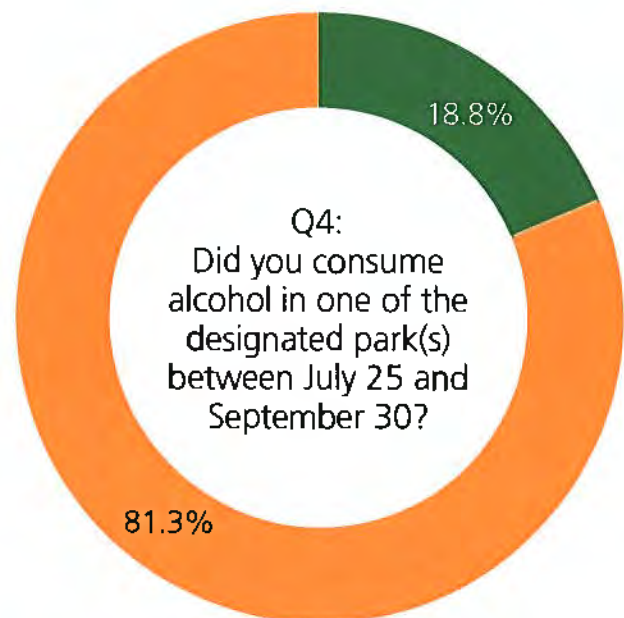
- I live in Richmond
- I work in Richmond
- I am a visitor to Richmond



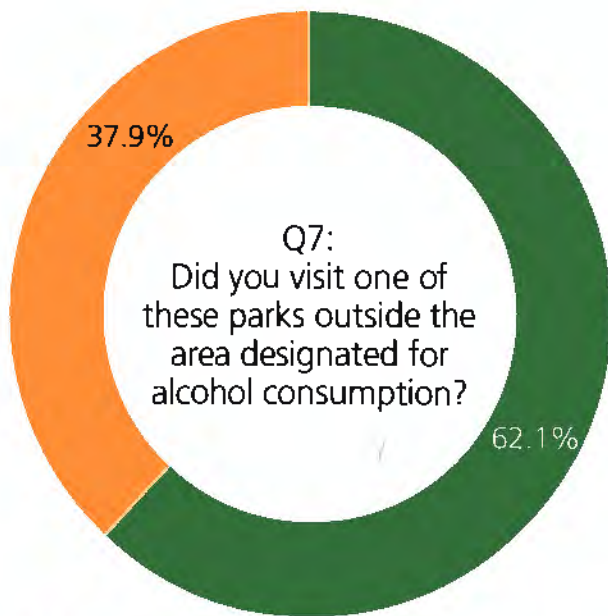
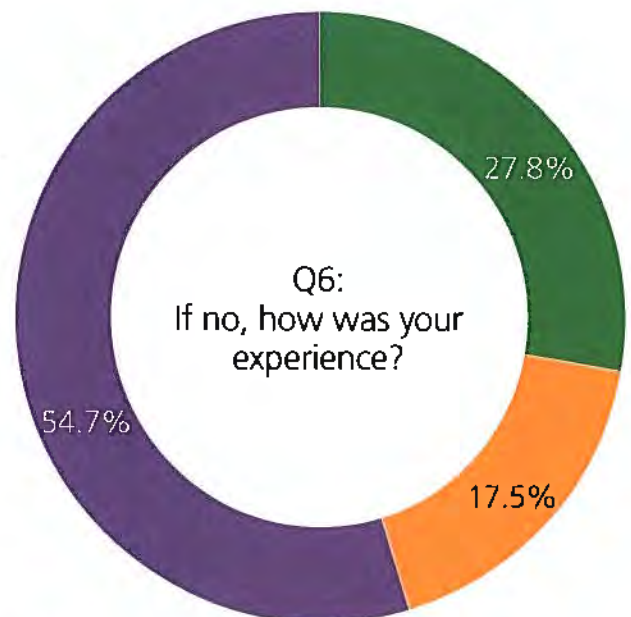
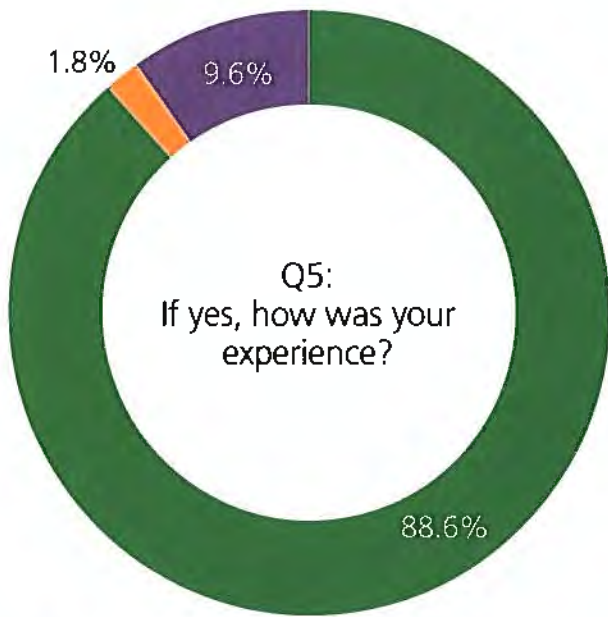
- <19
- 19-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to answer



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



- Yes
- No





- Be allowed
- Not be allowed
- Not sure