

September 12, 2022

Alan Broadbent
Chair, Maytree
77 Bloor Street West, Suite 1600
Toronto, ON M5S 1M2

Dear Mr. Broadbent,

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2022, regarding bake ovens in Dufferin Grove Park. We appreciate the work Maytree has done and continues to do to support and strengthen Toronto communities.

The City recognizes the social benefits of outdoor ovens in parks. These amenities provide focal points for building community; for neighbours to gather, prepare and enjoy food together.

Prior to 2022, the use of bake ovens in this park was coordinated with City food programs and community programming supported by City staff. As a result of the [state-of-good-repair work](#) underway at the park, the kitchen facilities at Dufferin Grove are unavailable, and the food programs were temporarily paused. In an effort to provide the community with continued access to a bake oven in the park for the duration of the work, staff made this bake oven available for booking through a permit process. This is aligned with what is in place at other bake oven locations in Toronto parks, many of which are also programmed or have community access facilitated by staff. Once the state-of-good-repair project is complete, anticipated for early 2023, these programs will be reinstated at Dufferin Grove Park.

In the meantime, although this temporary change was implemented with the intent to provide continued access for the community in the absence of staff-supported programming, we have heard from members of the local community that this temporary solution does not meet their needs. Based on this feedback, we've proposed an alternative arrangement that will allow an adjusted food program with staff-facilitated access to the bake oven to be reinstated at Dufferin Grove Park this year, and we're working with community members to implement this.

We look forward to continuing discussions with the active, engaged and vibrant community in Dufferin Grove Park.

Sincerely,



Janie Romoff
General Manager
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

cc: John Tory, Mayor of Toronto
Tracey Cook, Interim City Manager
Denise Andrea Campbell, Executive Director, SDFA
Councillor Ana Bailao, Davenport
Councillor Gord Perks, Parkdale-High Park
Councillor Joe Mihevc, Spadina Fort-York