

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Janie Romoff, General Manager

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September 15, 2022

Dear Ms. Jutta Mason,

Thank you for your letter of September 1 regarding bake ovens in Dufferin Grove Park and other Toronto park locations. I have been referred this letter from Kelly Murphy and I apologize for our delayed response. I understand that staff have also been in touch with you directly to discuss the Dufferin Grove oven.

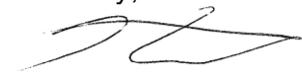
As you know, the state-of-good repair work at Dufferin Grove Park has resulted in the temporary loss of access to the clubhouse kitchen, previously used by staff for food preparation to support the pizza and bread-making programs that used the oven. In an effort to provide the community with continued access to the oven until the programs can be reinstated as previously operated, staff made this bake oven available for booking through a permit process. We have heard from you and other members of the community that this temporary option does not meet your needs.

Based on this feedback, I understand staff have discussed with you a proposed alternative arrangement that will allow an adjusted food program with staff-facilitated access to the bake oven. I'm pleased that a potential resolution is underway for the fall, and we look forward to reinstating the programs fully when construction is complete.

The City recognizes the social benefits of outdoor ovens in parks as amenities that support community building and the simple enjoyment of park spaces. Although as City staff we are obliged to work within food and fire safety requirements, resource availability, liability, and bylaws, and this is why the Council-approved permit option is in place for these amenities, we also aim to increase and facilitate community access. In addition to the food programs involving the outdoor oven at Dufferin Grove Park, similar staff-supported programs or permit-based opportunities are available to the local community at several other outdoor oven locations in Toronto, including Edithvale and Regent Park.

Thank you for your work to support and advocate for Toronto communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howie Dayton", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Howie Dayton
Director, Community Recreation
Parks, Forestry and Recreation