





Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 2, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Tim Hortons Field Food Waste and Recycling (PW24083) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rob Gatto (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5448
SUBMITTED BY:	Indra Maharjan Director, Corporate Facilities & Energy Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Angela Storey Director, Waste Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

That staff be directed to report back to the Public Works Committee with opportunities for improvements to address food waste management, safe food donations, and recycling improvements at Tim Hortons Field, including minimum food orders.

INFORMATION

At the September 30, 2024, Public Works Committee meeting a public delegation identified concerns with the lack of waste diversion and recycling at Tim Hortons Field during game days at the venue. More specifically, concerns were raised related to not separating recyclables and food waste in the private suite area of the venue and the

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

amount of leftover food going into the garbage. This report provides the current status of the waste diversion program at Tim Hortons Field, current partnerships for distribution of leftover food from the suite and club area, as well as next steps to improve waste diversion and the continuation of partnerships with local agencies for food recovery following events.

Waste Diversion Program

The current waste diversion program at Tim Hortons Field is a joint responsibility of City staff, Hamilton Sports Group, the food service concessionaire, Sodexo (Sodexo), and the contracted cleaners, Cleaning Masters. To date, waste diversion has been prioritized to the concourse, concession area, offices and room booking spaces. Recycling barrels and receptacles have been placed in the concourse to capture as many alcoholic beverage cans as possible. Following each event, the cans found in the stands are separated from other waste items by stadium staff so that they can be returned weekly for a credit from The Beer Store towards future purchases shared 50/50 between the City and Sodexo. In addition, cardboard that is collected is diverted to an onsite baler to be compacted and sent to Metro for a credit towards future purchases by the City. The City receives 100% of this credit.

Green bins are available in the main kitchen and the player cafeteria seven days a week. On event days, such as Tiger Cat football and Forge soccer games, green bins are set up inside concession booths and on each concourse for public use. Due to contamination of green bins on the concourse level, the material is disposed of with regular garbage. Green bins from the kitchen and concession booths generally yield cleaner organics and the material is taken to and stored in a large walk-in-cooler, until collection day.

Tim Hortons Field has educational signage in the public areas related to the different waste streams.

Food Recovery Program

Following the Public Works Committee delegation, staff at Tim Hortons Field confirmed with Sodexo that they in fact already partner with Fresh Niagara Mushrooms to recover unconsumed food to individuals, including those at encampments, community fridges, shelters and other families in need. What started as 20 - 30 meals per week has grown into a thriving food recovery program, now distributing over 1,000 meals weekly or 16,000 meals this this past summer. A letter detailing this community partnership is attached as Appendix "A" to Report PW24083.

Sodexo also partners with Good Shepherd by donating approximately 50,000 lbs of non-packaged food per year and a further 16,000 lbs in prepared foods to shelters in

the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area. A letter detailing this community partnership is attached as Appendix “B” to Report PW24083.

It is important to note that Sodexo, must comply with all commercially reasonable waste diversion programs implemented by the City of Hamilton and Public Health regarding the food safety legislation.

Improvements

Following the delegation to Public Works Committee, staff from Waste Management and Tim Hortons Field met to review the concerns raised and looked for opportunities to expand into the Suite and Club level at the Stadium. For the remainder of the 2024 event season, green bins were added to the suites to better improve food waste diversion. Due to space limitations in the suites larger blue recycling containers were added to common areas where the cans from the suites are disposed of following game day. Further improvements will be incorporated for the 2025 event season, such as appropriately sized multi-stream receptacles to all 30 suites and the club level area.

Food recovery partnerships will continue with Niagara Mushrooms and Good Sheppard and Sodexo will ensure they continue to offer a tailored menu to best suit the clients with minimum orders to minimize food waste.

City staff, Hamilton Sports Group and Sodexo, are committed to continuous improvement strategies for recycling and food waste management at Tim Hortons Field, to create a healthier facility and environment for the Community.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW24083 – Letter of Community Partnership Fresh Niagara Mushrooms

Appendix “B” to Report PW24083 – Letter of Community Partnership Good Shepherd