

Management Directive



Management Directive No.:	
Management Directive Name:	Off-Leash Dog Park Management Directive
Date Approved by CAO or Designated Person:	
Date revision approved by CAO or Designated Person:	
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Forms	

Directive Statement and Rationale:

The City of Kawartha Lakes recognizes the benefit that dogs and their owners experience in off-leash parks. The City further recognizes the requirement for responsible pet ownership within our parkland system.

This management directive pertains to the provision of off-leash areas for dogs in City-owned or operated parks, greenspaces and open spaces (“City Parks”).

Dogs must be kept on leash at all times in all Parks unless otherwise posted.

Scope:

The *Off-Leash Dog Park* management directive relates to all city-owned and city-maintained parks, greenspaces and open spaces.

Definitions:

In reading and interpreting the *Off-Leash Dog Park* management directive, the following definitions shall apply:

“**City Park**” is any City-owned or operated park, greenspace or open space.

“**Off-Leash Dog Park**” is a recognized and posted City Park where pet owners are permitted to allow their dogs to run freely.

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1.0 Off-Leash Dog Park Program

1.01 The purpose of creating Off-Leash Dog Parks is to provide for, and develop the following behaviours :

- I. An ideal place for socializing dogs

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- II. Dogs prone to wandering can play off-leash safely
- III. Improved owner responsibility for dog waste pick up due to self policing

2.0 Rules and Responsibilities

2.01 People enjoying the Off-Leash Dog Park experience shall ensure and recognize that:

- a) Stoop and Scoop rule is in effect
- b) People food is prohibited in the park
- c) Dogs must wear a current license tag
- d) Aggressive dogs are not permitted within the park
- e) All dogs within the park must be off-leash
- f) Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the park
- g) Children must be under the supervisor of an Adult
- h) Owners are responsible in all cases for their dogs actions
- i) Dogs and people enter the Dog Park at their own risk, The City of Kawartha Lakes is not responsible for any injuries sustained within the Park
- j) There is no park personnel on duty within the Dog Park
- k) Adhere to the park hours of 6 am – 11 pm

2.02 The following dogs will be excluded from the use of Off-Leash Dog Parks:

- a) Dogs that have not been altered
- b) Dogs identified under the Dog Owner's Liability Act (DOLA)
- c) Dogs not licensed with the City's Licensing Division or with the municipality where the dog resides

2.03 Signage will be posted by the municipality to designate all Off-Leash Dog Parks and the rules and responsibilities will be clearly signed and consistent.

3.0 Off-Leash Dog Park Location and Criteria

3.01 The following criteria will be considered in determining where Off-Leash Dog Parks are to be situated:

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- I. Size and location of the area
- II. Fencing and natural barriers
- III. Amenities (lighting, seating, parking, waste receptacles)

Proximity to any of the following areas may preclude Dog Park location:

- a) Horticultural displays
- b) Playgrounds or splash pads
- c) Skateboard parks, tennis courts or other outdoor sport courts
- d) Natural outdoor ice rinks or toboggan hills
- e) Sportsfields
- f) Trailer parks and municipal beaches
- g) Natural or environmentally sensitive areas

All areas chosen for Off-Leash Dog Parks must be fenced and may be seasonally adjusted.

3.02 In addition to the criteria noted above, other City Parks will be considered on an individual basis for Off-Leash areas based on amenities and opportunities available.

3.03 Pilot projects and new locations will be assessed on regular intervals to monitor their success and any complaints raised to determine if the locations continuation or cancellation is required.

4.0 Application Procedure for Off-Leash Dog Park Location

4.01 Dog owners interested in establishing an Off-Leash Dog Park in a City Park must identify their desire in writing to the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Division.

4.02 Parks, Recreation & Culture staff will meet with the proponents on-site and with other appropriate Departments/Agencies to review the proposal and assess the site against the above noted criteria.

4.03 If the proposal does not meet the criteria, Parks, Recreation & Culture staff will advise the proponent in writing of the reasons why the location has not been deemed appropriate.

4.04 Where the proposed site is deemed suitable, staff will author a staff report for Council identifying the proposal and site to gain Council endorsement for the site to be identified as an Off-Leash Dog Park.

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5.0 Funding for the Set-Up of Off-Leash Dog Parks

5.01 The cost for the set-up/development of the Off-Leash Dog Parks, including the fencing, signage and amenity requirements are to be funded through one of two sources:

- a) Future City Capital Budget Program
- b) External funding sources identified and secured via the proponent

6.0 Monitoring and Dispute Resolution Process

6.01 City staff will track issues as they arise and liaise with the appropriate agencies, Departments and other park users in an effort to resolve any complaints raised.

6.02 Should unresolved issues continue, staff will report to Council on the matter to determine if the cancellation of the designation of an Off-Leash Dog Park area is required.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
0.0	[Date]	Initial Release	