



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PR2023-006
Meeting Date: June 6, 2023
Title: Off Leash Dog Park Update
Description: Update on potential properties and amenities for off leash dog parks.
Author and Title: Jenn Johnson, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation(s):

That Report PR2023-006, **Off Leash Dog Park Update**, be received; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of September 27, 2022, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2022-329

That the correspondence from Peter Sanderson, Chair of the Parks Advisory Committee, **Relating to Off Leash Dog Parks**, be received; and

That the correspondence (see Appendix A) be referred to staff for review and report back in Q2, 2023 on the existing off-leash dog park policy, any updates that are required and any options that are available for future consideration.

This report addresses that direction.

Rationale:

The Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory is a Committee of Council to assist staff and make high level recommendations regarding the City's Parks system;

The mandate of the Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee is to advise on significant park developments across the municipality, as well as trail system development. This includes the development of park policy, and promoting and maintaining communication with the public on park property needs and projects.

This specific recommendation asked staff to review our Off Leash Dog Park practices and the Committee is aware of the current potentials being reviewed and this report coming forward to Council.

Staff report CS2009-039 Off Leash Dog Park Policy included the initial policy related to the development of off leash dog parks on municipal property. In 2018 the policy was updated to MD2018-009 Off Leash Dog Park Management Directive (see Appendix B). The Management Directive includes information on the off leash dog park program details and criteria, rules and regulations, and the application procedure.

Recently staff have recognized a slight increase in requests for off leash dog park opportunities on municipal property. Areas that have generated an interest in having a location include Fenelon Falls, Norland, and Lindsay.

Fenelon Falls – an appropriate location has not been determined. Staff continue to consider locations as ideas and requests are presented by the community.

Norland – staff are working with the community on the possibility and funding model for an off leash dog park located at Ward Park.

Lindsay – staff have reviewed several potential locations, as identified by the community. Currently two locations are being investigated further to determine the feasibility of developing an off leash dog park on site – Dormer Park and Pioneer Park. A design process is underway for the redevelopment of Pioneer Park. This process includes community engagement where feedback will be generated regarding the interest in this area hosting an off leash dog park. Based on the feedback and the criteria outlined in the MD2018-009, an off leash dog park could be included in the redevelopment design. Further investigation related to Dormer Park is on hold until the feasibility of Pioneer Park is identified.

As per the management directive, staff will address community interest for the development of future off leash dog park locations as they are presented.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives are being suggested at this time.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

This report aligns with the following strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

1. An Exceptional Quality of Life
2. A Vibrant and Growing Economy
3. Good Government

[Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#)

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The recommendations related to this report have no associated direct impact to the current budget. Future park development can be identified and requested through the appropriate process.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee

Attachments:

Appendix A – Letter from Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Appendix B – MD2018-009 Off Leash Dog Park Management Directive



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Department Head email: cshanks@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Craig Shanks