



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PR2025-003
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025
Title: Parks and Facilities By-Law Update
Description: Revisions to the existing By-Law 2006-147
Author and Title: Ryan Smith, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation(s):

That Report PR2025-003, **Parks and Facilities By-Law Update**, be received;

That By-Law 2006-147, being the By-Law to Regulate Public Parks and Facilities, be amended, as outlined in Appendix A to Report PR2025-003;

That the necessary By-Law to amend By-Law 2006-147 be brought forward to Council for adoption; 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:

The City of Kawartha Lakes has a long-standing commitment to providing safe, accessible, and well-maintained public parks and facilities for residents and visitors. By-Law 2006-147 was originally enacted to establish regulations governing the use, maintenance, and protection of these spaces. Since its implementation, the City has experienced significant demographic, environmental, and technological changes, necessitating a comprehensive review and update of the by-law.

Over the years, public parks and facilities have become increasingly integral to community life, serving as hubs for recreation, social interaction, and cultural activities. The evolving needs of residents, alongside emerging environmental challenges and advancements in municipal governance, have highlighted areas where the existing by-law requires modernization. The City recognizes the importance of ensuring that its regulatory framework remains relevant and effective in managing public spaces efficiently and equitably.

This report outlines the rationale for updating By-Law 2006-147 to reflect contemporary best practices, enhance public safety, and promote sustainability. The proposed amendments aim to align municipal regulations with current legislative requirements, incorporate community feedback, and address pressing concerns related to park usage, security, and environmental stewardship. Minor revisions were adopted in 2014, there is now a need to incorporate additional minor updates. This report identifies the updates required.

Rationale:

The City of Kawartha Lakes By-Law 2006-147 was enacted to regulate public parks and facilities, ensuring safety, accessibility, and proper usage. Updating this by-law is essential to address emerging challenges, align with current community needs, and enhance the management and enjoyment of public spaces. Trails have been incorporated in the Parks and Facilities Bylaw to support specific needs for trail systems within park boundaries. Revisions include additional definitions, and some modernization changes to existing definitions. Included are changes to the bylaw that will alleviate challenges encountered with rental agreements, maintenance functions and changing amenities. Additional revisions are to match with changes made to provincial legislation that impacts the operation and maintenance of municipal parks and recreation facilities. Recommendations contained within the Trails Master Plan Update have also been incorporated into the bylaw.

An original copy of By-Law 2006-147, A By-Law to Regulate Public Parks and Facilities with track changes highlighting the proposed revisions is attached as Appendix A.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Council could choose to reject the proposed revisions and retain the existing Parks and Facilities By-Law to Regulate Public Parks and Facilities.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The 2025 Parks and Facilities Bylaw Update report aligns with the following strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

Healthy Environment-by encouraging active recreation

An Exceptional Quality of Life-by improving the health and well-being of residents

Good Government-by ensuring municipal assets are well maintained and managed.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There is no direct financial impact because of the recommendations within this report.

Consultations:

Supervisor, Community Partnership and Programs

People Partner- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility

Supervisor, Recreation Complex Services

Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing

Attachments:

Appendix A – Original By-Law 2006-147 with track changes



2006-147 Regulate
Public Parks and Fac

Department Head email: jjohnson@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Jenn Johnson