
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2006
File No.: 6130-02
To: Ron Born, City Manager
From: Joe Creron, Parks Manager
Subject: Dog Parks
Prepared by: Mark Tompkins

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council amends Council Policy No. 258 - Dog Walking and Dog Off-Leash Parks by allowing on-leash dogs in the following parks:

1. Gopher Creek Linear Park
2. Powerline Linear Park
3. Selkirk Park
4. Quarry Park
5. Southridge Park and Open Space

THAT the current pilot project which allows dogs on leash between City Park and Waterfront Park be extended to the end of June of this year,

AND THAT public input be sought from residents bordering Highland Drive S, Vineland Street and Bernard Avenue regarding allowing Small Dogs Off-leash within Duggan Park.

BACKGROUND

Thirty-three (33) parks currently allow dogs on-leash. These new parks which are illustrated by the attachments have suitable trails that can accommodate dogs on-leash. Adding these parks would be consistent with other parks that allow dogs on leash. Signs will be placed in the park to make the general public aware that dogs are permissible on the trail, that dogs are not permitted within 10 metres of any playground and the leash should not be greater than 2 metres (6 feet). Dog bag dispensers will also be installed at each park. The City has acquired a portion of parkland adjacent to Gopher Creek and the land transfer is expected to take place later this year. In the meantime, the Kirschner's who own the portion of Gopher Creek have given us permission to allow the general public to walk their dogs on leash. With respect to Selkirk Park, it is currently owned by Emil Anderson Construction CO. LTD. and we expect that ownership of this property will also be transferred to the City this year but in the meantime the owners have also allowed dogs on leash.

At the recent meeting of the Regional Dog Advisory Committee meeting it was suggested that the current pilot project within the downtown waterfront parks allowing dogs on leash be extended from the end of April to the end of May. This was recommended in order to assess this initiative during times when the park is busier. At the same meeting it was stated that Duggan Park was underutilized and subjected to an on-going graffiti problem. It was recommended that the subject site be considered as an off leash dog park and that the local neighbourhood be surveyed to gain feedback on this proposal.

With respect to extending the current deadline for the pilot project we have no problem and suggest that it be extended to the end of June. With respect to Duggan Park we have requested that the Graffiti Eradication and Prevention Coordinator include in her neighbourhood survey questions regarding allowing small dogs off leash in Duggan Park. We would not support large dogs as we believe the turf would be torn up as what happened at Sutherland Park. We will work with the Regional Dog Advisory Committee on defining a small dog.

Joe Creron
Parks Manager

Attachments

Cc David Graham, Director, Recreation, Parks and Culture
Mark Tompkins, Parks Division
Al Dixon, Bylaw Enforcement