
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 22, 2006
File No.: 6130 - 01

To: Ron Mattiussi, City Manager

From: Joe Creron, Parks Manager

Subject: On-Leash Dogs Between City and Waterfront Parks

RECOMMENDATION:

That the current pilot project allowing dogs on-leash between City Park and Waterfront Park be extended to February 2007 to allow more opportunity to gather sufficient public input and monitor the Parks during the summer months when park usage is at its highest.

BACKGROUND:

On November 4, 2005 City Council approved allowing dogs on-leash between City and Waterfront Parks (Sunset Drive) from November 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006. On April 24, 2006 Council extended the trial period to June 30, 2006 to gather input from park users.

A survey was conducted in City and Waterfront Parks between May 16 and June 2, 2006 to determine if on-leash dogs should be permitted on designated pathways between City and Waterfront Parks. The goal was to complete 400 surveys; however, due to inclement weather only 143 surveys were completed. In addition to inclement weather only 1/3 of respondents were aware of the trial period which may have also impacted the number of dogs in City and Waterfront Parks during this time.

Preliminary research results indicate that 80 % of respondents (2/3 non-dog owners, 1/3 dog owners) support allowing dogs on leash between City and Waterfront Parks; 75% of respondents did not see a need to limit access times. These numbers differ from the 2005 Citizens Survey which indicated only 53% of respondents supported allowing dogs on-leash.

Preliminary results also indicate that education and enforcement is key to minimizing conflict between dog owners and non dog owners; only 38 % of respondents were satisfied that bylaws were actually being enforced. If the trial period is successful staff will request additional funding for 2007 to ensure adequate resources are available to educate park users and to enforce park bylaws to ensure all park visitors have an enjoyable experience.

City and Waterfront Parks are Kelowna's two most visited parks. Extending the trial period will allow additional surveys to be conducted during the summer when park usage is at its highest. Staff will advertise to increase awareness of the trial period and install additional doggie bag dispensers to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Joe Creron, Parks Manager

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

