

Memo



Date: March 29, 2011
File: 1340-10
To: City Manager
From: Barb Davidson
Subject: Dehart Community Park - temporary off-leash dog park cost estimate

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Parks Planner dated March 29, 2011, with respect to a temporary off-leash dog park at the future Dehart Community Park site.

Purpose:

Service Request #191701: COUNCIL RESOLUTION FROM THE MARCH 28, 2011 P.M. REGULAR MEETING:

THAT Council directs staff to report back to Council with respect to the feasibility of using a portion of the Dehart Community Park site as an off-leash dog park on a temporary basis until the park is developed.

Background:

As part of a recent presentation to Council on March 28, 2011, regarding the Dehart Park Concept Plan, Council requested information from staff regarding the potential to use a part of the site for a temporary off-leash dog park.

Staff has assessed the neighbourhood surrounding Dehart Park for existing dog facilities. Dogs are permitted on-leash at nearby Mission Ridge Park (≈ 0.75 km), Mission Recreation Park (≈ 1.4 km), Belmont Park (≈ 1.7 km), Mission Creek Greenway (≈ 2 km), Quarry Park (≈ 2.75 km) and South Mission Powerline Park (≈ 3.3 km). Existing off-leash dog parks in closest proximity to this site include: Mission Recreation Park (≈ 2.3 km), and Cedar Creek Park (≈ 4.4 km). Relative to other neighbourhoods in the City, there are lots of existing opportunities to exercise dogs. In addition, there is a higher demand for dog park expenditures in other areas, i.e., Downtown and South Pandosy.

Dehart Temporary Off-leash Site

An off-leash dog area could be established on the eastern portion of the future park site adjacent to Gordon Drive (see Attachment 1). Areas would be provided for both small and large dogs.

The area would need to be re-graded to create safe and level ground plane, additional fencing with gates would be required, and a parking lot would be provided. The following cost estimate has been developed:

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ITEM	SUBTOTAL
grading	\$ 2,000
wood chips	\$ 800
Site furniture (trash cans, signage, picnic table)	\$ 3,800
Fencing and gates (optimize use of existing)	\$ 10,500
gravel parking area (16 cars)	\$ 3,100
Subtotal	\$ 20,200
staff time	\$ 2,020
Total	\$ 22,220
Annual Maintenance	\$ 8,000

This cost estimate does not include provision for a water service, drinking fountain for dogs and/or people, or an irrigation system. Consequences of not providing a water service and irrigation system could include proliferation of noxious weeds, issues of dust control, unsightly character, and a lack of ground cover for off-leash areas. Wood chips could be added to help mitigate wet muddy areas.

A temporary off-leash dog area could affect public expectations in the future when the site is developed as a community park, i.e., there may be an expectation that an off-leash dog park be provided in the final design or some other location. During the Dehart Park concept design process, there was opposition to an off-leash dog area with people citing concerns over noise, unsightly character, increased traffic, etc. Therefore, it was agreed that the park would be designed only for on-leash for dog walking. If Council wishes to proceed with an off-leash dog area, integrity to the public process would suggest the need for additional consultation.

Staff provided a prioritized list of potential dog facilities in a Council report on January 26, 2011. There are several sites that represent higher priorities than the Dehart Park site. In the next few years, corresponding with the development of Rowcliffe Community Park, a replacement off-leash park near the highway corridor is the highest priority.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

There are no existing budgets identified for this project.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- Existing Policy:
- Internal Circulation:
- Legal/Statutory Authority:
- Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
- Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:
Community & Media Relations Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



B. Davidson, Park Planner

Approved for inclusion:



R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning

cc: General Manager, Community Sustainability
Director, Civic Operations





Attachment 1 - Temporary Off-leash Dog Park Concept -March 29, 2011