



R-Zone Policy

Department:	Community Services
Division:	Recreation and Parks Services
Section/Function:	Health and Safety
Approval Level:	City Council
Effective Date:	yyyy-mm-dd - (May be different than the Approval Date)
Revision #:	Changes each time Policy is amended and re-approved

1.0 Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Policy and the related Procedure is to:

- a) Establish and promote guidelines and standards for appropriate behaviour at City Facilities and Events.
- b) Establish and communicate measures to address and enforce incidents of inappropriate behaviour or violence at City Facilities and Events.
- c) Provide a proactive approach for City Staff, City Representatives, and User Groups to promote appropriate behaviour while enforcing a zero-tolerance approach to violence, abuse, and other inappropriate behaviours at City Facilities and Events.

1.2. This Policy and the related Procedure contribute to the City's Community and Well-Being Strategic Pillar of the City's Strategic Plan by supporting the following strategic priorities:

- a) Enhancing and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of residents in our City.
- b) Providing robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness, the arts, and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.
- c) Enhancing the natural, recreational, sports, the arts, and cultural aspects of our community.

1.3. Implementation of the of the R-Zone Policy and the related Procedure promote and support the following objectives:

- a) City Facilities and Events that are free from violence, disrespect, racism, discrimination, and other inappropriate behaviours.

- b) The safety, security, well-being, and dignity of Patrons, City Staff, and City Representatives at City Facilities and Events.
- c) An environment of respect for others and responsibility for actions by all Patrons, City Staff, and City Representatives.
- d) Reduced vandalism, violence, and other inappropriate behaviours at City Facilities and Events through education, promotion, proactive measures, and enforcement.
- e) Positive individual and community benefits of recreation for City residents and visitors.

2.0 Application

2.1. This Policy applies to:

- a) City Staff, Representatives, and Officials.
- b) Patrons and User Groups.
- c) City Facilities and Events as defined within this Policy and the related Procedure.

2.2. Actions taken by the City under this Policy and the related Procedure will be strictly in response to complaints raised.

3.0 Definitions/Acronyms

Ban – The prohibition of an individual from entering or attending specific City Facilities or Events for a specific duration.

CAO – The Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Peterborough.

City – The Corporation of the City of Peterborough.

City Event – Any planned public or private event, activity, or program that is conducted at a City Facility.

City Facility – Any space or property owned, occupied, or permitted by the City. Examples include, but are not limited to: City buildings, community centres, parks, trails, beaches.

City Officials – Appointed or elected representatives of Peterborough's City Council or its Advisory Committees.

City Representative – Contracted parties and volunteers who provide services to or on behalf of the City.

City Staff – Paid staff of the City including, but not limited to full-time, part-time, and temporary employees.

Harassment – As defined in the Ontario Human Rights Code, means engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.

Patron – Any individual or group that attends a City Facility or Event. This includes, but is not limited to: User Groups, coaches, officials, community organizations, volunteers, group and team representatives, members, facility users, event and program participants, users, players, guests, clients, visitors, spectators, and parents and family members.

R-Zone – The R-Zone is an initiative that was developed by the Town of Oakville to promote respectful and responsible behaviour at City Facilities, and that has since been adopted by several other Ontario municipalities. The “R” in R-Zone stands for Respect and Responsibility: Respect for yourself, Respect for others, and Responsibility for your actions.

Sexual Harassment – Engaging in a course of vexatious comments or conduct because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, where the course of comment or conduct is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.

Strategic Pillars – The (4) strategic priority areas of the City’s Strategic Plan which include:

- Growth and Economic Development Pillar
- Infrastructure Pillar
- Community and Well-Being Pillar
- Governance and Fiscal Sustainability Pillar

Strategic Plan - A Plan approved by City Council April 24, 2023, that sets out the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Pillars for the City.

Trespass Notice – A written notice authorized under the Trespass to Property Act R.S.O. 1990 C. T. 21 prohibiting an individual from entering specific City facilities for a specific duration and is issued to an individual for the purpose of imposing a Ban.

User Groups – Individuals, leagues, or organizations that utilize City Facilities.

Vandalism –The malicious, willful, and deliberate destruction, damage, or defacing of property.

4.0 Policy Statement(s)

4.1. General

1. In alignment with the Community and Well-Being Strategic Pillar of the City's Strategic Plan, the City is committed to fostering community well-being and enhancing and protecting the health and safety of City staff, residents, and visitors.
2. City Facilities and Events promote learning, leisure, and wellness for City residents and visitors, contribute to a positive quality of life, and help support a healthy and resilient community. As such, City Staff, City Representatives, User Groups, and Patrons have:
 - a) A right to feel safe and be safe while attending City Facilities and Events.
 - b) A responsibility to help ensure that City Facilities and Events are safe and positive environments to attend.
3. To ensure a positive and safe environment for City Staff, City Representatives, User Groups, and Patrons of City Facilities and Events, the City will:
 - a) Observe and enforce the R-Zone Core Principles of Respect and Responsibility:
 - i. Respect – Respect for yourself, respect for others, and respect for the Facility.
 - ii. Responsibility – Responsibility for all actions and behaviours while attending City Facilities and Events.
 - b) Undertake a promotional and educational campaign aimed at raising awareness among Patrons, User Groups, and the public of the R-Zone standards and expectations for appropriate behaviour, and of their role and responsibility in creating a positive and safe atmosphere for all to enjoy.
 - c) Maintain cooperative relationships with outside organizations and User Groups to engage their support in promoting and enforcing the R-Zone.
 - d) Incorporate R-Zone compliance clauses in contracts and permits for the use of City Facilities and for City Events.

4.2. Prohibited Behaviours

1. The R-Zone Policy prohibits inappropriate behaviour at City Facilities and Events. Prohibited behaviour includes, but is not limited to:
 - a) Violence or harassment, including:
 - i. The exercise of physical force by a person against another person that causes or could cause physical injury to the other person.
 - ii. An attempt to exercise physical force against another person that could cause physical injury to the other person.
 - iii. A statement or behaviour that is reasonable for a person to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the person that could cause physical injury to the person.
 - iv. The use of profane or abusive language and racial or ethnic slurs.
 - v. Threats and/or attempts to intimidate.
 - vi. Throwing of articles or objects in a deliberate or aggressive manner that endangers or causes injury or damage to any person or property.
 - vii. Attempts to goad or incite violence.
 - viii. Bullying, mistreatment, or teasing which intimidates, humiliates or demeans another person.
 - b) Vandalism, including vandalism to buildings, contents, or personal property.
 - c) Possession of weapons of firearms prohibited under the Criminal Code.
 - d) Possession or consumption of illegal drugs, or of alcohol except as authorized by law.
 - e) Any contravention of other Federal or Provincial laws, Regulations, City By-laws or policies that constitute inappropriate behaviour.
 - f) Refusal to follow the rules established by the City for use of its facilities.

4.3. Responsibilities

1. City Staff

City Staff are responsible for:

- a) Complying with the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- b) The implementation, promotion, and enforcement of this Policy.
- c) Conducting promotional and educational campaigns in conjunction with community sport organizations and other stakeholders with the goals of:

- i. Raising awareness of the Policy for Patrons, and appropriate City employees, contractors, or agents.
- ii. Outlining the potential consequences of non-compliance with the Policy.
- d) Educating Patrons on R-Zone requirements and standards.
- e) Responding to and addressing incidents involving Prohibited Behaviour and implementing any enforcement measures.
- f) Reporting incidents of Prohibited Behaviour to their Supervisor through the R-Zone Incident Report Form.

2. City Officials

City Officials are responsible for:

- a) Empowering City Staff through approval of this Policy to address incidents involving Prohibited Behaviours and helping to ensure a safe and positive environment at City Facilities and Events.
- b) Complying with the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- c) Supporting actions and decisions made in accordance with the reporting and enforcement measures of this Policy.

3. City Representatives

City Representatives are responsible for:

- a) Complying with the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- b) Educating Patrons on R-Zone requirements and standards.
- c) Advising Patrons when their conduct or behaviour is not in compliance with the R-Zone Policy.
- d) Responding to and addressing incidents involving Prohibited Behaviour and implementing any enforcement measures.
- e) Reporting incidents of Prohibited Behaviour to City Staff through the R-Zone Incident Report Form.

4. Patrons

Patrons at City Facilities or Events are responsible for:

- a) Complying with the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- b) Behaving in a manner that respects the rights of others and enables the enjoyment of individual and community benefits of recreation.
- c) Reporting to a City Representative or City Staff as soon as possible any instances of Prohibited Behaviour that they observe or become aware of.

5. User Groups and Other Organizations

User Groups and any other organizations making use of City Facilities are responsible for:

- a) Complying with the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- b) Educating their members, and any others attending on their behalf, about this Policy, expectations and standards for appropriate behaviour, and Prohibited Behaviours.
- c) Complying with requirements of City contracts and permits regarding this Policy.
- d) Applying the requirements of this Policy to their programs.
- e) Addressing incidents of Prohibited Behaviour involving their members or others attending on their behalf, including enforcing Policy violations.
- f) Reporting incidents of Prohibited Behaviour to a City Representative or City Staff as soon as possible upon observing or becoming aware of such incidents.

4.4. Consequences of Non-Compliance

- a) Where a finding has been made of a violation of the R-Zone Policy, possible penalties may include the following: letter of warning, short-term ban, long-term ban, or a written trespass notice. In addition, charges may be laid under the Trespass to Property Act.
- b) Decisions regarding penalties will be made in accordance with the R-Zone Procedure.
- c) Where applicable, the City may seek compensation for the cost of damages, including materials, labour and an administrative charge.

4.5. Option to Appeal

- a) If an individual wishes to appeal any action taken by the City, the Individual may present their case in writing to the appropriate Director or should the incident involve a Director to the CAO or designate, within fourteen (14) days of the decision.
- b) The appeal will be reviewed by the appropriate Commissioner or the CAO, and any decision is made final.

5.0 Appendix, Related Documents & Links

Note: All references refer to the current version, as may be amended from time to time.

5.1. Pertinent Resources:

- R-Zone Warning Letter
- R-Zone Trespassing Letter
- R-Zone Brochure
- R-Zone Logo

5.2. Related Policies:

- [Trespass to Property Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. T.21](#)

5.3. Related Procedures:

- R-Zone Enforcement Guidelines

5.4. Related Forms:

- Recreation and Parks Services – R-Zone Incident Report

6.0 Amendments/Reviews

Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Section # Amended	Comments

Next Review Date:	
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