



# DRAFT POLICY

## OFF-LEASH DOG PARK POLICY

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Municipal Services	<b>Effective Date:</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Community Services	<b>Approval Level:</b>	Council
<b>Division:</b>	Recreation	<b>Policy #:</b>	
<b>Section/Facility:</b>		<b>Revision #:</b>	N/A

### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** The City is committed to encouraging and supporting diverse user groups and activities on City owned land within the City's Open Space System that contribute to the health, well-being, and quality of life of Peterborough residents. The City recognizes that:
- .1 There is a need to balance opportunities for all citizens to participate fully and safely in our community, and that not all activities need to be of interest to all residents.
  - .2 The increased presence of positive social and recreational activities within the City owned Open Space System diminishes the likelihood of anti-social activities occurring within the Open Space System.
- 1.2** The City of Peterborough recognizes that establishing Dog Parks on City owned land contributes to the physical and social well-being of City residents and visitors, and creates increased positive presence within the City's Open Space System.
- 1.3** This Policy and its related Procedure provides a framework for the development and operation of Dog Parks within the City's Open Space System.
- 1.4** This Policy will work in conjunction with the Municipal Act, the Dog Owners' Liability Act, the Occupiers' Liability Act, and City by-laws respecting noise control, and the control and/or licensing of animals on public lands.



# DRAFT POLICY

## OFF-LEASH DOG PARK POLICY

### 2.0 APPLICATION

- 2.1** This Policy and the related Procedure applies to the City and to individuals and groups who establish, operate, administer, or oversee Dog Parks on City owned land, and those individuals or groups who conduct or participate in off-leash dog park activity on City owned land.
- 2.2** This Policy does not apply to off-leash activity on privately owned land including privately owned Dog Parks.
- 2.3** The Community Services Department develops and approves the necessary City procedures to implement this policy, in consultation with other City Departments and with input from Operators or other community stakeholders as appropriate.

### 3.0 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS (As Required)

**City** - The Corporation of the City of Peterborough, its employees, elected and appointed officials, agencies, boards, and commissions.

**Dog Park** - A fenced space on City owned land where the public is provided with the opportunity to exercise their dogs off-leash within a controlled environment without being in contravention of City by-laws.

**Dwelling** - A building containing one or more units where people live.

**Open Space System** - As discussed in the City's Official Plan, City owned lands designated as the framework upon which the provision of a linked system of open space and public parkland throughout the City is to be based.

**Operator** - An established Dog Owner Association with lead responsibility for managing and operating a dog park on City owned land.

**Use Agreement** - An agreement, between the City and an Operator, that sets out the rights and responsibilities of both parties pertaining to the use of City-owned land for the purpose of a Dog Park.



# DRAFT POLICY

## OFF-LEASH DOG PARK POLICY

### 4.0 POLICY STATEMENT(S)

- 4.1** The City supports the establishment of Dog Parks on City owned land where consideration has been given to the needs and interest of the community, the impact on the natural environment, and the sustainability of the Dog Park Operator's proposal.
- 4.2** All Dog Parks on City owned land shall require approval by Council and shall be available to all members of the public for the intended use.
- 4.3** Potential sites for Dog Parks shall be in accordance with the following Site Selection Criteria:
- .1 Must be able to accommodate a fenced area with a preferred minimum enclosure of 8040 square metres (2.0 acres), with segregated areas for large and small dogs.
  - .2 Are preferred to be 15 metres outside the boundaries of playgrounds, splash pads or wading pools, artificial or natural ice rinks or toboggan hills, skateboard bowls or parks, tennis courts or other sport facilities and horticultural displays. Consideration can be given to reducing the 15 meter boundary if a natural barrier is present (e.g. heavy tree line, a wall, etc.).
  - .3 Shall not be established on designated beaches, campgrounds, and in high traffic tourist areas or high traffic parks.
  - .4 May be established in environmentally sensitive areas subject to an environmental study.
  - .5 Shall not be established immediately next to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, or within 15 metres of a Dwelling. The location of dog parks will give due consideration to all neighbouring land uses.
  - .6 Must include adequate parking provisions and/or access to transit, within a suitable walking distance (e.g. 800 metres).



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## OFF-LEASH DOG PARK POLICY

### 4.0 POLICY STATEMENT(S)

#### **4.4 Dog Parks are to be operated in a safe, respectful, and self-sufficient manner, therefore the City requires:**

- .1 That each Dog Park be operated by an Operator, and that each Operator enter into a Use Agreement with the City.
- .2 That each Dog Park be operated in accordance with relevant legislation, applicable City by-laws, the City's Dog Park Procedure, Dog Park Rules and Regulations, and the Use Agreement.
- .3 That neighbours have an opportunity to provide input when a new Dog Park is being proposed.
- .4 That each Operator assume responsibility for the funding of startup costs and ongoing operating expenses unless otherwise approved by Council.
- .5 That each Operator post Rules and Regulations at the entrance of the Dog Park as outlined in the Dog Park Procedure.
- .6 That all individuals attending Dog Parks comply with this Policy, the Dog Park Procedure, and the related Rules and Regulations of the Dog Park.

#### **4.5 Individuals attending Dog Parks or Operators who fail to comply with this Policy, the Dog Park Procedure, or the Dog Park Rules and Regulations at any Dog Park, may be removed from the Dog Park.**



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### 5.0 APPENDIX, RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & LINKS

#### 5.1 Pertinent Resources

Dog Owners' Liability Act

Municipal Act, 2001

Occupiers' Liability Act

Bylaw 90-273 To Prohibit or Regulate Noise

Bylaw 90-330 Identification, Licensing and Keeping of Dogs

Bylaw 11-133 Bylaw to Amend Chapter 192 of the City of Peterborough Municipal Code - Licensing - Regulation - and to Rescind Bylaw 07-110 with Respect to Dog Licensing

#### 5.2 Related Policies

#### 5.3 Related Procedures

#### 5.4 Related Forms

#### 5.5 Miscellaneous

Report CSRS12-003 Off Leash Dog Park Policy and Possible Sites

### 6.0 AMENDMENTS/ REVIEWS

Next Review Date

Date  
(yyyy-mm-dd)

Section(s) Amended

Comments