

Report to Council

Report Title: Proposed Off-Leash Dog Park Project Update

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: October 23, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-19 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2020-19 - Proposed Off-Leash Dog Park Project Update, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

At the meeting on July 14, 2020, Council requested that Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, bring forward a report about the status of considering a potential Off Leash Dog Park in Walkerton.

The Recreation Committee as part of its September 23, 2020 agenda reviewed the deliberations and work files to date since 2017 with the Director of Community Services.

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, further met with representatives from the Recreation Committee onsite of possible locations for a Dog Park on October 19, 2020. The two locations that were discussed were Riverbend Park and an area near the entrance to Lobies Campground and Park.

<https://goo.gl/maps/5Pmpbo7z3wukLoMz8>

Analysis:

While there are many factors to be considered when identifying which of these locations would be best, there is an additional steps that must be determined prior to moving the project forward. As both selected sites are on the floodplain, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority may object to any structures, including fencing, being installed in these areas.

Provided the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority does not object to fencing and other support structures (such as park benches, etc.), then the next steps would be to outline the benefits and drawbacks of each location with additional community input, begin to develop a design and obtain pricing.

While there is currently \$10,000.00 in reserves for this project, it is expected that the total fencing and developments costs will exceed this amount.

Reviews of best practices for site selection in other municipalities have determined the following:

- A minimum of two hectares is recommended to establish an off-leash dog park.
- A minimum requirement of 0.4 hectares for a large dog off-leash area and a minimum requirement of 0.4 hectares for a small dog off-leash area.
- A minimum requirement of 0.2 to 0.4 hectares may be considered for each off-leash area in high density, urban neighbourhoods.
- Where feasible, a 50 to 100 metre setback from residential properties is recommended to mitigate noise concerns. Topography or landscaping can reduce the distance of the setback.
- Where applicable, a 50 to 100 metre setback is recommended from the following:
 - Playgrounds and Splash Pads
 - Play fields, sports courts and other high intensity park uses
 - Elementary schools and Day Cares
 - Places of worship
- The property should be well drained and have a minimal slope.
- Off-leash dog parks should not be located in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Ground surfaces should be durable and easily maintained. Surfaces may include natural turf or hard surfacing.
- The property should have room for sufficient off-road parking.
- The property should have proximity to arterial roads and proper site planning to prevent the creation of traffic bottle necks.
- For safety and security, locations should be reviewed for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Sites should be able to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements and best practices for outdoor spaces.

Reviews of best practices design requirements in other municipalities have determined the following:

- Fencing should be at least four-feet (1.2 metres) in height and at least six-feet (1.8 metres) in height where the property borders arterial roads.
- Double gated entrances to open run areas are preferred.
- Separate entrances or open run areas are highly recommended for large and for small dogs.
- Dependent on natural ground cover, wood chips or crusher dust may be considered with an antimicrobial option to reduce the spread of disease.
- Signs displaying regulations and policies of the off-leash dog park are required.
- Sufficient waste receptacles are required in the open run areas.
- Mutt mitts/waste receptacles outside the open run areas are desirable.
- Benches and picnic tables are highly recommended as well as shade structures if natural shade is unavailable.
- Potable water stations are desirable dependent on available funding and water services.

- Dog play equipment, including agility structures, are desirable dependent on funding.

We will continue with next steps and report back.

Sustainability Checklist:

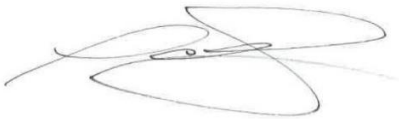
What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mark Coleman

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer