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**From:** Amy Mark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Attachments:** proposed\_dog\_park\_bylaw.pdf

Submitted on Thursday, February 13, 2020 - 10:54

Submitted by anonymous user: 207.195.65.122

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, February 13, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Amy

Last Name Mark

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Western Crescent

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7H [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) none

Subject Re: bylaw limiting number of dogs you can bring to off leash dog park

Meeting (if known)

Comments

I am not requesting to speak to council, but rather forwarding my letter of concern re: proposed bylaw amendments. Please see my attached letter.

Attachments

[proposed\\_dog\\_park\\_bylaw.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/370313>

Mayor Charlie Clark & City Council,  
Office of the Mayor  
222 Third Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5  
February 12, 2020

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council;

I'm writing to you as a dog owner and as a customer of a dog walking company in Saskatoon to express my disappointment and concern at your proposed bylaw amendment to limit the number of dogs that can go to a dog park to just four dogs. I urge you reconsider. I don't believe that the proposed amendment will improve safety in dog parks as all of the issues I observe in off-leash dog parks are not related to the number of dogs a person had with them but rather was related to the training or negligence of the dog handler. For those of us who employ dog walkers, our ability to provide proper exercise to our dogs and be responsible dog owners will be greatly reduced if you enact this bylaw.

I have been a dog owner for almost all my life and have been a consumer of off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon for many years. I walk my dog personally in an off-leash dog park weekly but also employ a professional dog walker twice a week because I work full time and am enrolled in post-secondary education. My dog is a 130lb bull mastiff so I appreciate the importance of his obedience to me at all times. I took great care to ensure he was socialized and trained correctly through multiple dog behavior classes and through the ongoing training he receives through his dog walker. I believe it's as important for me to be knowledgeable of my dogs' behavior as it is for my dog to be properly trained and obedient to me so I can be a responsible dog owner.

I know that my dog walker feels the same way and is able to control all of the dogs with him. Since I've employed my dog walker, I've observed my dogs' interactions with other dogs in dog parks to be more relaxed and playful and his obedience to me has improved. My dog is more tired and relaxed after he's been for a pack walk than when he just goes with me because he gets to interact with more dogs.

I have had mostly good experiences in off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon, but when I have had problems it has never been with a professional dog walker with multiple dogs (they're the ones who are always well behaved) – rather it has always been with humans walking their own dogs who were not properly trained and socialized. I have observed owners with single dogs not clean up after their dogs defecate, bring their small children and allow them to run into groups of dogs without regard for the child's safety or not correct their dogs when they exhibit aggressive behavior. As an example, a mother with her three small children once allowed her children to run over to our dogs while her dog was growling at my dog with aggressive posturing. I called my own dog away because I did not want my dog or her children to be bit but she was completely ignorant to the danger she allowed her children to be in and that her dog needed correction. Her lack of control of her dog and awareness of his behavior put her family, my and my dog's safety at risk! Alternatively, the dog walkers I've witnessed have always had their dogs in their control and I've even observed them assist owners in need of help and they always clean up after the dogs! In my opinion, an untrained dog owner with one dog is much more of a liability than a knowledgeable and experienced dog handler with any number of dogs who are properly trained and controlled (indeed they likely improve the overall safety of the park with the additional support they provide!)

I share your concern that dog handlers and dogs are safe when they visit off-leash dog parks, but I don't believe that a bylaw limiting the number of dogs will improve park safety. I believe that improved knowledge of dog behavior by humans bringing dogs to the dog park and proper training and socialization of dogs is the only intervention that will improve off-leash park experiences and overall safety for everyone. I don't know what I would do without my dog walker – please don't destroy his business through enacting this bylaw – I really need this service to continue my other commitments!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Mark,  
Saskatoon Resident (██████████ Western Crescent – East College Park)