
Chief Whitecap Off-Leash Recreation Area Amendment to Animal Control Bylaw, 1999, Bylaw No. 7860

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that the City Solicitor be instructed to amend Bylaw No. 7860, *The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999*, to designate an Off-Leash Recreation Area in Chief Whitecap Park.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request City Council's approval to amend Bylaw No. 7860, *The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999*, to designate an Off-Leash Recreation Area of approximately 80 acres in Chief Whitecap Park.

Report Highlights

1. The Administration has standards in place for Off-Leash Recreation Areas (Dog Parks) to maintain predefined levels of service and program readiness. The Dog Park construction in Chief Whitecap Park has been completed to a level which meets these levels of service.
2. Designation of a Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park will require an amendment to Bylaw No. 7860, *The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999* (Bylaw 7860).

Strategic Goal

This report supports the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by ensuring residents have access to facilities and programs that promote active living, and enjoy the natural beauty and benefits of parks, trails, and the river valley that brings people together.

Background

At its June 14, 2010 meeting, City Council approved the Chief Whitecap Park Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan provides direction on the future design and function of this City-owned land. This plan includes an off-leash dog park; improvements to pathways and park amenities; the development of adequate parking areas for users; the naturalization of a large upland area; and an area for cultural, historical, and natural interpretation.

On April 13, 2015, the City and Meewasin (formerly Meewasin Valley Authority) entered into an agreement to fund and complete the detailed design for the Chief Whitecap Park. The design included an extension to the Meewasin Trail and development of the park space to include an Off-Leash Dog Park. Meewasin was responsible for completing the park design, seeking input from the City as the work proceeded, and preparing for development of the site in accordance with park design.

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At its March 27, 2017 meeting, City Council received an update report from the Administration on its application for Discretionary Use for Chief Whitecap Park. A highlight of this report was that subject to the Rural Municipality of Corman Park (Corman Park) Council approving the City's Discretionary Use Application, City Council would direct the amendment of Bylaw 7860 to designate a portion of Chief Whitecap Park as an Off-Leash Dog Park.

At its June 19, 2017 meeting, Corman Park Council approved the detailed design of Chief Whitecap Park. Corman Park Council also approved the recommendation that Corman Park Administration work with the City to draft the necessary bylaw amendments and agreements required to allow for enforcement, investigation, and prosecution of dangerous animal offences within Corman Park.

At its December 3, 2018 meeting, Corman Park Council approved an amendment to adjust its off-leash dog bylaw to allow Bylaw 7860 to operate on lands owned by the City located within Corman Park. Corman Park Council, thereby removed the conflict between the City's bylaw and its own, permitting the City to enforce Bylaw 7860 in the planned Off-Leash Area in Chief Whitecap Park.

Report

Off-Leash Dog Park Standards

The current standards for amenities at a city-wide Off-Leash Dog Park include the following:

- 1) parking – number of stalls determined by the space available;
- 2) fencing – perimeter and gated access points;
- 3) waste receptacles – quantity dependent on park size;
- 4) turf management – cut pathways once per month; and
- 5) signage – as per Animal Services standards.

The Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park is approximately 80 acres in size (see Attachment 1) and is identified as a city-wide destination location. The Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park has all standard amenities in place and will be maintained in conjunction with other Off-Leash Dog Parks throughout Saskatoon.

Designation of an Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park

In order to bring the Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park up to current animal bylaw enforcement standards, which includes enforcement of Bylaw 7860 by the City's appointed enforcement agency, an amendment to Bylaw 7860 to designate the proposed Off-Leash Area is needed. Amending Bylaw 7860 provides dog owners the opportunity to legally allow their dog to be off-leash within the designated Off-Leash Dog Park and would allow necessary enforcement of bylaws to support the safety and enjoyment of all users.

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Options to the Recommendation

City Council could choose to not approve the recommendation to amend Bylaw 7860; further direction would be required.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The Administration has been working with Corman Park's Administration through the implementation of the proposed enforcement strategy. Corman Park's Administration requires Animal Services to manage bylaw enforcement at the Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park, as outlined in this report.

Communication Plan

Subject to City Council approval, Animal Services will update the City's website listing a map of Off-Leash Dog Parks.

Financial Implications

There are no expected financial implications as a result of the bylaw amendment to include the addition of the Off-Leash Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park.

Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The updated Master Plan was presented to the CPTED Committee on April 7, 2016, with 13 recommendations made. Seven recommendations have been addressed through detail design and the remaining six recommendations will be addressed through the installation of signage.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, environmental, or privacy implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The target completion date for this amendment will be the spring of 2019.

Public Notice

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Dog Park in Chief Whitecap Park

Report Approval

Written by: Jeremy Probe, Open Space Consultant, Recreation and Community Development
Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Acting Director of Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services Department

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