

2023 Residential Parking Program Expansion

ISSUE

This report outlines proposed amendments to City of Saskatoon (City) Bylaw No. 7862, Residential Parking Program Bylaw, 1999, in response to petitions for expansion of the Varsity View Residential Parking Program and South Caswell Hill Limited Residential Parking Program zones.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That Residential Parking Program zones be expanded, as outlined in this report; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 7862, The Residential Parking Program Bylaw, 1999.

BACKGROUND

Residential Parking Program (RPP) zones have been created to increase on-street parking opportunities for residents in areas with high on-street parking demand. Zones of the RPP are enabled through [Bylaw No. 7862, Residential Parking Program Bylaw, 1999](#) (Residential Parking Program Bylaw). Eligible residents within a RPP zone can obtain a permit to allow them to park their vehicles near their home, beyond the posted time limit.

According to the Residential Parking Program Bylaw, the City shall conduct a review to determine whether designation of a RPP zone is appropriate, by considering the following factors:

- Whether the area is predominantly residential;
- Whether the area has a shortage of on-street parking;
- Whether the area is supported by no less than 70% of households on each block (50% support in the case of a limited RPP zone); and
- Whether the area is in close proximity to a high parking generator.

Creation or expansion of RPP zones is primarily a community-led initiative, which includes the following process:

- Residents request a RPP zone, or expansion of an existing RPP zone, by submitting a petition with 70%, or 50% in the case of Limited RPP zones, of households per block, supporting the designation;
- Administration verifies results of the petition and conducts a parking review to confirm an on-street parking shortage in the area; and
- Administration submits a report to City Council, seeking approval for the new or expanded RPP zone, through a proposed bylaw amendment.

The Residential Parking Program Bylaw grants the ability to any member of the public to submit a petition showing residents' support for creation or expansion of a RPP zone. Aside from the different level of support required for a RPP zone versus a Limited RPP zone, the main differences between the two zone types are size, source and scale of the parking generator and frequency of enforcement. Zones of the RPP are at least ten city block faces in size and are established in proximity to larger parking generators, such as hospitals and post-secondary institutions, whereas Limited RPPs are generally established in proximity to secondary schools. Enforcement frequency also differs, where RPP zones are enforced proactively; Limited RPPs are enforced primarily on a complaint basis.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The City received petitions seeking approval to expand existing RPP zones (see Appendix 1 for summary), within the Varsity View, Nutana and Caswell Hill neighbourhoods, for the following blocks:

- 1300 Block of 13th Street East;
- 800 Block of University Drive (east side);
- 600 Block Bedford Road (Limited RPP); and
- 400 Block of Ave G N (Limited RPP).

A review of the petitioned areas was completed by Administration and the areas were confirmed to meet the required conditions to implement expansion.

In the case of 600 block of Bedford Road and 400 block of Avenue G North, the expansion of the South Caswell Hill Limited RPP zone will replace the existing “no parking” restrictions. During review of parking restrictions for these blocks, it was found most of the blocks' residents supported having some type of parking restrictions remain. When the residential permitting option was proposed, over 50% of block residents supported substitution of restrictions with a limited residential permitting option. This level of support meets the required support for a Limited RPP Permitting zone, outlined in the Residential Parking Program Bylaw.

Administration recommends the RPP zones be expanded to include the petitioned blocks (see Appendix 2). Subject to City Council's approval, these RPP zones will become effective upon bylaw approval and the installation of street signage indicating parking time restrictions for vehicles not displaying an appropriate parking program permit. Implementation of the expanded zones is expected in Q2 2023.

The proposed expansions omit some blocks, which may seem logical for future inclusion within the RPP zone; however, in the interest of ensuring enforcement levels remain appropriate for size of the zone in the short-term, such areas will be reviewed following the Program fee review.

Inclusion of flankage streets

Proposed expansion of the RPP zones include flankage streets, as it allows residents to fully utilize visitor permits, as per Subsection 7(5) of the Residential Parking Program Bylaw (see Appendix 3 for diagram).

The Residential Parking Program Bylaw permits vehicles with a valid visitor permit to park on the flankage on either side of the applicable residence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue from increased permit sales in the proposed expanded RPP zones is anticipated to be approximately \$650 per year. This projection is based on historical permit sales in the Varsity View RPP and South Caswell Hill Limited RPP zones in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The 2020 sales data was not considered due to COVID-19. The 2022/2023 Multi-Year Budget accounted for increased revenue, resulting from expanded RPP areas.

To implement expansion, the cost to supply and install street signage is estimated at a one-time cost of \$3,000.

Implementation costs for expanded RPP zones, including enforcement, will occur over time within existing financial resources. An evaluation of the RPP fee structure and enforcement objectives will occur following the conclusion of the Parking Technology capital project anticipated in late 2023. This review will help ensure an appropriate fee structure and enforcement levels exist as RPP zones change.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Proposed requests for expansion of RPP zones were initiated through petitions from the community. Information regarding potential expansion of RPP zones was provided to Nutana, Varsity View and Caswell Community Associations. Bedford Road High School was also informed of the proposed amendments due to its proximity to the South Caswell Hill zone.

Should the requested expansion areas be approved, notices will be sent to residents of these blocks, which will provide a brief overview of the RPP and, pending implementation, procedures required to purchase a permit. Notification of approval will also be provided to respective Community Associations and Bedford Road High School.

Street signs placed on each block will notify drivers of parking restrictions. In addition, during the initial implementation phase, enforcement officers will make use of warning tickets, which carry no fines, to ensure drivers parked in contravention are made aware of new restrictions.

Updates will also be made to the Residential Parking Program webpage on the City website.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other policy, environmental, private or CPTED implications or considerations.

NEXT STEPS

Should City Council approve the proposed recommendations, the City Solicitor's office will draft the necessary bylaw amendment to be tabled at a future City Council meeting.

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In late 2023, an evaluation of the RPP fee structure and enforcement objectives will occur following conclusion of the Parking Technology capital project. This review will help ensure an appropriate fee structure and enforcement levels exist as RPP zones change.

Following the Program fee review, Administration will also undertake a review of the overall areas covered within each RPP zone and determine if additional blocks should be added to the zones.

APPENDICES

1. Residential Parking Program Zone Petition Summary
2. Residential Parking Program Zone Expansion Maps
3. Residential Parking Program Bylaw Visitor Permit Diagram

REPORT APPROVAL

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SP/2023/CS/Transportation/2023 Residential Parking Program Expansion/cm