

2024 Residential Parking Program Expansion and Proposed Bylaw Amendments

ISSUE

This report outlines proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 7862, Residential Parking Program Bylaw, 1999, in response to petitions for expansion of the Varsity View Residential Parking Zone. The report also outlines proposed housekeeping amendments to the Bylaw No. 7862 to better reflect current operational practices.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 7862, The Residential Parking Program Bylaw, 1999 as outlined in this report be approved; 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](#) (RPP Bylaw). Eligible residents within a RPP zone can obtain a permit to allow them to park vehicles near their home, beyond the posted time limit.

According to the RPP Bylaw, the City of Saskatoon (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; and
- Whether the area is in close proximity to a high parking generator, or in the case of a limited RPP zone, to a publicly owned hospital, special care home, secondary or post secondary educational facility or commercial property.

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 RPP Bylaw grants any member of the public the ability to submit a petition showing residents' support for creation or expansion of a RPP zone. This provision also permits members of Administration to undertake the petitioning process, either proactively or in assistance, to establish if enough support exists to warrant a zone expansion.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In response to a request to expand an RPP zone, Administration also reviewed the supporting RPP Bylaw and is proposing amendments related to the zone expansion, holiday parking restrictions and permit proration in Limited Residential Parking Program (LRPP) zones.

Zone Expansion

Administration received petitions seeking approval to expand the existing RPP zone within the Varsity View and Nutana neighbourhood for the following blocks:

- 1000 block of 13th Street East;
- 1400 block of 13th Street East;
- 700 block of University Drive; and
- 200 and 300 blocks of Albert Avenue.

A review of the petitioned areas was completed, and it was confirmed the areas met the conditions to implement expansion. A summary table of support received for each of these blocks is provided in the report (see Appendix 1)

Administration recommends that the Varsity View Residential Parking zone be expanded to include the successfully petitioned blocks (see Appendix 2). Subject to City Council's approval, the expansion of this RPP zone will become effective upon bylaw approval and the installation of street signage indicating parking time restrictions. It is expected that implementation of the expanded zone will be completed in Q3 2024.

Holiday parking restrictions

Administration is recommending revising the holiday list in the RPP Bylaw. The proposed revisions align with Traffic Bylaw amendments that were considered by City Council at the April 24, 2024 City Council meeting. Approval of the proposed amendments in both bylaws will ensure parking restrictions related to holidays are consistent, providing clarity on when parking restrictions are in place during holidays.

It is recommended the terms "public or civic holiday" be repealed as they are ambiguous. Removing this and clarifying every holiday in which parking restrictions are not in effect helps avoid confusion, as well as any dispute that parking restrictions are not in effect on additional days.

Permit Proration in LRPP Zones

Prorated parking permit fees are offered six months into each RPP zones' permit year. However, the RPP Bylaw does not address prorated permit fees for limited residential permits, which are available to residents that reside within LRPP zones. Pro-rating LRPP

residential permit fees in the RPP Bylaw by fifty percent to \$7.50 six months into an LRPP permit year is recommended to align with existing and future operational practices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue from increased permit sales in the proposed expanded RPP zones is anticipated to be approximately \$1,100 per year. This projection is based on historical permit sales in the Varsity View RPP in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This new revenue will be recognized in the 2024/2025 budget actuals, with adjustments made in with the 2026/2027 multi-year budget.

To implement expansion, the one-time cost to supply and install street signage is estimated at \$5,000. Implementation costs for expanded RPP zones, including enforcement, will occur over time within existing financial resources. Proration of LRPP permits will have minimal financial implications, and the proposed bylaw amendment aligns with existing operational practices.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Information regarding potential expansion of the Varsity View Residential Parking zone was provided to the Varsity View and Nutana Community Associations.

Should the requested expansion areas be approved, notices will be sent to the petitioners and residents of these blocks. These notices 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 the Varsity View and Nutana Community Associations.

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 warnings to ensure drivers parked in contravention are made aware of new restrictions.

Updates will also be made to the RPP webpage on the City website.

Prorating of the LRPP permit fees will be communicated internally to the Corporate Revenue team as well as externally on the City website.

Holiday parking restrictions are communicated through timely public service announcements, social media advertising and updates on the City's website.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

A full evaluation of the RPP fee structure and enforcement objectives will occur following the conclusion of the Parking Technology capital project. This review will help ensure an appropriate fee structure and enforcement levels exist as RPP zones change. As the Parking Technology project is now underway, and given existing enforcement capacities in the zone, any subsequent expansions of the Varsity View RPP zone will be deferred until such a review has taken place.

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.

APPENDICES

1. Residential Parking Program Zone Petition Summary
2. Residential Parking Program Zone Expansion Map

REPORT APPROVAL

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Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

SP/2024/CS/SPC on Trans/2024 Residential Parking Program Expansion and Proposed Bylaw Amendments/sk/gs