
Off-Leash Dog Parks in RM of Corman Park (Hampton)

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Off-Leash Recreation Area north of Hampton Village neighbourhood remain open; and
2. That Capital Project No. 1639, Park Development-Hampton Village Neighbourhood, be amended in scope to include upgrades to the Off-Leash Recreation Area north of the Hampton Village neighbourhood, using existing budget allocation.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request City Council's approval to amend the scope of Capital Project No.1639, Park Development-Hampton Village Neighbourhood, to include capital upgrades to the Off-Leash Recreation Area north of the Hampton Village neighbourhood.

Report Highlights

1. The attendance volumes collected for the Hampton Village Off-Leash Recreation Area (Off-Leash Area) indicate that the site is sufficiently utilized by residents living in the northwest area of the city and should remain open.
2. The Hampton Village Off-Leash Area is identified as a city-wide destination site, and upgrades are required to meet the current standards within the Off-Leash Recreation Area Program Plan.
3. There is sufficient funding available in Capital Project No. 1639, Park Development-Hampton Village Neighbourhood (Capital Project), to support the capital upgrades to the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by ensuring neighbourhoods are complete communities that offer a range of housing options, employment opportunities, art, culture, and recreational facilities, and other amenities. Citizens have access to facilities and programs that promote active living and enjoy the natural beauty and benefits of parks and trails that bring people together.

Background

At the July 20, 2015 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services (Committee), the Administration recommended closing the Off-Leash Area located north of Hampton Village on Range Road 3060, near the airport, due to ongoing issues related to the access road being flooded, as well as the challenges of permanent bylaw enforcement in the Rural Municipality of Corman Park. The Committee requested further information about:

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“the usage of the Off-Leash Recreation Area located north of Hampton Village, including where people are coming from, traffic impacts and other related impacts, prior to considering the proposed permanent closure of this Off-Leash Recreation Area.”

At its July 23, 2015 meeting, City Council resolved:

“That the matter of the Off-Leash Recreation Area located north of Hampton Village in the Rural Municipality of Corman Park be referred back to the Administration for a further report.”

Since 2015, the City has addressed the issue with the road and improved access to the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area. Currently, the City is working with the Rural Municipality of Corman Park to allow the City to enforce Bylaw No. 7860, The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999, for any Off-Leash Areas that fall within the jurisdiction of the Rural Municipality of Corman Park.

The Capital Project was approved in 2017 with a budget of \$602,000 and was originally budgeted as a district sport field with the appropriate amenities. However, after review and based on the shape and topography of the park, it was not suitable for development of a full-sized sport field. The plan was amended for the development and construction of the Paul Mostoway Off-Leash Area. The Paul Mostoway Off-Leash Area opened in December 2017, becoming the tenth Off-Leash Area operated by the City and was completed at a cost of approximately \$350,000; \$252,000 less than the original budget. The source of funding for this project was the Parks and Recreation Levy.

Report

Hampton Village Off-Leash Area

In order to address the Committee’s request for additional usage information, counters were placed at six Off-Leash Area locations to estimate annual attendance volumes.

| Off-Leash Areas | 2018 Average Monthly Visits (estimated) | 2018 Total Annual Visits (estimated) |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Southwest | 4,150 | 49,800 |
| Sutherland Beach | 6,300 | 75,600 |
| Silverwood | 1,700 | 20,400 |
| Pierre Radisson | 2,650 | 31,800 |
| Hampton Village | 1,650 | 19,800 |
| Paul Mostoway | 850 | 10,200 |
| TOTALS | 17,300 | 207,600 |

Based on the data estimates collected for the six selected Off-Leash Areas, the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area attendance is similar to attendance at Silverwood Off-Leash Area, averaging 1,650 monthly visits and approximately 19,800 visits estimated throughout the year. For a complete listing of all Off-Leash Areas, see Attachment 1.

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In 2018, the City completed an intercept survey at the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area. The survey was conducted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for one week. The survey shows that citizens are still utilizing the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area even after the opening of the Paul Mostoway Off-Leash Area. The highest percentage of users are residents from the Hampton Village, Dundonald, and Kensington neighbourhoods. Other comments from the intercept survey indicate that licensed dog owners utilize the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area because of the vast open naturalized space, the convenient location to the neighbourhood, the space is large enough for large and small breeds to coexist, and the rural setting provides a different experience to the Paul Mostoway Off-Leash Area.

Off-Leash Area Standards

The current Off-Leash Recreation Area Program Plan includes the following designations for Off-Leash Areas:

- a) neighbourhood - within walking distance;
- b) suburban - typically driven to, however, resides in a neighbourhood location; and
- c) city-wide - a destination location identified by amenities that are natural or man-made.

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

- a) parking - amount of stalls determined by the space available;
- b) fencing - perimeter and gated access points;
- c) waste receptacles - quantity dependent on park size;
- d) turf management - cut pathways once per month; and
- e) signage - as per City's Animal Services' standards.

The Hampton Village Off-Leash Area is identified as a city-wide destination location. In order to bring Hampton Village Off-Leash Area up to current program standards, the following capital upgrades are required:

- a) replacement of the perimeter fencing;
- b) expansion of the parking lot;
- c) upgrades and addition of waste receptacles and bag dispensers;
- d) updated signage to the current standard; and
- e) upgrades to pathways to minimize standing water and drainage issues.

There is funding available in the Capital Project to support the capital upgrades to the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area. The Capital Project has \$225,000 remaining that is sufficient to fund the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area capital upgrades at an estimated cost of \$180,000, including taxes.

Options to the Recommendation

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

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The Administration has consulted current users of the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area through an intercept survey. No further involvement is planned.

Communication Plan

Site survey and design of the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area will take place in 2019, in conjunction with the Parks Division. The design will be shared through a public open house prior to an open tender process.

Financial Implications

The Capital Project received approved funding to construct the Paul Mostoway Off-Leash Area in the amount of \$602,000. The Capital Project has \$225,000 remaining that would be available to fund the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area upgrades. The Hampton Village Off-Leash Area capital upgrades have an estimated cost of \$180,000, including taxes.

There is no new operating impact with the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area upgrades as the existing Off-Leash Area is already accounted for within the Animal Services operating budget.

Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The Hampton Village Off-Leash Area design will be presented to the CPTED Review Committee upon completion of the detailed design phase.

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 upgrades to the Hampton Village Off-Leash Area will be the fall of 2019.

Public Notice

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

Attachment

1. City of Saskatoon Off-Leash Areas

Report Approval

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Manager, Recreation and Community Development

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Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, Acting General Manager, Community Services Department