



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

From: R. Wayne Ward
Position: Manager Facilities and IT
Title / Subject: Dog Park Proposal
Date of Report: March 20, 2023
Date of Meeting: March 27, 2023
Report No: 2023-PRF-008

1.0 Issue / Origin

During the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 27th the results of the dog park survey were provided to Committee for review.

This report is as per the motion by committee to provide possible location based on size of 2 acres and pricing for the construction.

2.0 Background

The topic of a dog park has been ongoing for several years.

The last report spoke to the results of the public survey

3.0 Analysis

A dog park of approximately 2 acres or less is possible to locate in an area of MacLeod Park where it is away from the residential area and still accessible.

The area to the east of the skateboard park is unutilized currently and was previously a location of a campground area. This area currently has several utility poles and overhead wires which are beginning to decay and will need to be removed.

After consultation with other surrounding areas who have dog parks the type of fencing most use is a paige wire and wood post configuration. Using this type of fence is both cost effective and can be easily repaired if necessary. The use of chain link entrance and gates is preferred to keep the stability of the gates and to provide a smaller opening area to reduce the likelihood of animals exiting through the gate area.

This area will require some trees to be planted and will also require waste receptacles to be installed and monitored frequently. Benches will be installed to provide seating areas for users.

There will not be lighting at this location as the utility service is being removed due to the condition of the poles and equipment.

There will not be water or washrooms on site.

Signage for this area will also need to be created and staff will reach out to our insurance pool for suggested wordings.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

Procurement policy will be followed with respect to any construction of the dog park.

Staff advise that an amendment to the existing Animal Control By-law 2446-2012-PP will be required to include specific restrictions to the leash free dog park.

Risk management considerations including rules, signage, inspections and public education.

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

There is currently \$10,000 capital funds available from the 2020 Capital budget for this project. While an additional \$15,000 was approved in the 2023 Capital Budget. This funding should be sufficient to create the dog park, install benches, garbage receptacles, signage and plant trees.

Quotes based on the attached mark up drawing were requested from three companies who service this area.

The pricing was very different with costs from around \$17,000 to \$33,000.

The removal of the existing utility posts, planting of trees, additional garbage receptacles, benches and other items to create this area is not yet known as the design has not been formalized. We could reallocate benches that were previously purchased to this location.

Initial operations and maintenance costs would be monitored using the existing 2023 Operating Budget and future needs would be discussed during future budget deliberations if the need arises.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

This is unknown at this time as it will depend on the usage by persons who drive to this location. The amount of waste that is generated from use and the possible offsets by the planting of trees for shade.

7.0 Communications

None

8.0 Conclusion

With the properties owned and operated by the Township which are sufficiently sized and away from major residential areas are minimal.

The location of one single dog park centrally located in MacLeod Park which is farther away from residential buildings and has sufficient parking and requires the least amount of preparation is being recommended.

9.0 Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT report 2023-PRF-008 “Dog Park Proposal, be received; and

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the creation of the dog park in MacLeod Park in the proposed location; and

THAT staff obtain suggested wordings for signage from the Municipal Insurance Pool to create Brock specific signage; and

THAT staff be directed to amend the existing Animal Control By-law 2446-2012-PP to include specific restrictions for the leash free dog park; and

THAT the recommendations of this report be ratified at the Council meeting held on March 27, 2023.