



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 Survey Results
Date of Report: February 6, 2023
Date of Meeting: February 27, 2023
Report No: 2023-PRF-006

1.0 Issue / Origin

The 2018-2022 Council directed staff to prepare a public survey regarding dog park facilities.

2.0 Background

The topic of a Dog Park was previously brought forward in 2013 with a report from the By-Law Enforcement/Canine Control Supervisor.

A public survey was created using an online forum to gather information from the public on specific items regarding dog parks.

The online forum was closed in mid January 2023 with the results being compiled through the online system and staff who compiled all comments from submissions

3.0 Analysis

Through the online survey the following information was gathered.

- 336 Township residents completed the survey
- 11 Non-Residents completed the survey
- 158 responses from Beaverton, 96 from Cannington and 81 from Sunderland
- Preferred location Beaverton (113), Cannington (84), Sunderland (57)
- 93 responded they would not visit a dog park
- 188 support a dog park if run and managed by the Township, 80 do not support a dog park, 38 support a dog park if run through a volunteer committee, 28 not sure and 13 support if run by a for profit service

1 response was submitted in paper format from a resident who was not in support of a dog park.

To determine pricing for a dog park I used an area within Claire Hardy Park in Cannington directly to the east of the Bunkland Skateboard Park. The proposed area is approximately 435 linear metres. This would create an area of approximately 8,750 metres square. The proposed location would surround an existing structure on the property and could be divided into smaller areas if deemed necessary. I received two written quotes for fencing from DC Fence and Johnston Fence. The quotes were based on the same area, type of fencing, corner posts, gates, etc. DC Fence pricing is \$37,171.00 plus taxes. Johnston Fence pricing is \$18,049.00 plus taxes.

Referencing the previously mentioned report from the By-Law Enforcement/Canine Control Supervisor a minimum size for an off-leash dog park should be no less than 1.2 acres in size. The area used for my proposed space is approximately 4.6 acres. The size could be reduced for cost savings for creation of the location.

Not included in any pricing are items such as additional garbage cans, benches, shade trees or other amenities. Also, staff hours for maintenance and servicing of this area for grass cutting and trimming, ground maintenance from dogs digging into the ground, pathway creation, or additional garbage pickup and disposal.

Off-leash hours for areas within existing parks has also been suggested. This would likely require amendments to the current by-law for dogs and would create additional strain on the by-law department for enforcement of times and areas. It is already understood that many residents already use our parks and other areas as an off-leash area which could create issues of dog bite incidents and dogs at large. While there are no direct costs involved aside from signage, there would likely be overhead costs for enforcement.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

By-Law 2446-2012-PP, By-Law to provide for the Licensing and Regulation of Certain Animal within the Township of Brock.

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

There are many variables that affect the capital and operating costs of a dog park - the location, size, parking requirement, landscaping, public education, risk mitigation and by-law enforcement, as an example.

Capital Budget Impacts

If a single dog park is selected based on the figures within the analysis section of this report, the fencing would be in excess of \$20,000, with over \$18,000 for the installation. This is based on the 4.6 acres of the sample area used for purposes of this report. Costs over and above the fencing would be signage, benches, trees, additional garbage receptacles and staff time to install and maintain these amenities.

Operating Budget Impacts

Prior to opening, staff recommend an update to the Township's park by-laws, distribution of public educational materials and an update to park inspection and by-law enforcement patrols. Once operational, the park will require ongoing maintenance such as waste collection, lawn care, and repairs.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

Additional waste created by the animals and owners could have a climate impact which is not completely known until studied.

7.0 Communications

See included correspondence

8.0 Conclusion

The results from the survey indicate many respondents have mixed feelings regarding a dog park, but there seems to be support for the creation of a dog park.

9.0 Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Committee receive this report, and

THAT Committee direct staff to investigate probable locations and costing for the creation of a dog park based on sizing determined by Committee,

OR,

That Committee Table this report.