



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	May 4, 2017	Report No:	C&R 03-17
Directed To:	Council	Attachments:	
Department:	Culture and Recreation	Policy References:	Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Prepared By:	Director of Culture and Recreation		
Subject:	Dog Park		

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Director of Culture and Recreation dated May 4th, 2017 (C&R 03-17) regarding Leash Free Dog Parks in LaSalle BE RECEIVED for information; AND THAT Council support staff coordinating an Open House to collect community input on a possible Leash Free Dog Park in LaSalle and report back to Council.

REPORT:

Council has received an inquiry regarding the possibility of constructing a Dog Park within the municipality. The following information is being presented for consideration including operational costs and capital budget requirements for the construction and maintenance of the facility.

It is common practice for off leash dog parks found in Ontario to be approximately 1 acre in size. The following budget outlines the costs associated with the construction component a dog park (150' x 265'). The Park would include two fenced areas allowing for larger and smaller dogs. It would have an entry area where owners could remove leashes and be considered a transition area.

ITEM	COST
Fencing (1,150' galvanized 5', 2 equipment gates, 3 man gates, bottom rail)	\$23,000
Trees (10 Shade trees)	\$ 3,000
Signage (rules of dog park posted at entrance and interior to park)	\$ 250
Doggie Bags and Dispenser (x 2)	\$ 600
Garbage Cans (x4)	\$ 500
Benches (x2)	\$ 3,000
*Activity Obstacles are optional (prices would vary)	
*Water is optional (price would vary on location)	
TOTAL	\$ 30,350

The annual operating expenses on the Parks Department would include staffing salaries to maintain the park, equipment to tend to grass cutting, garbage pick-up and any general repairs of elements found within the park.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends several different locations for an off leash dog park throughout LaSalle. Council may wish to consider erecting the park at the Vollmer Complex as it is central and has capacity to host the facility.

The Town Solicitor has sent the following comments regarding liability around the dog park operations.

"A question has been raised about the potential liability of the Town in the event a dog attack or dog-biting incident occurs while the dog is in a dog park created by the Town. In such a circumstance, the owner of the dog concerned remains liable for any damages resulting from the attack or bite. The Dog Owners' Liability Act imposes that liability on the dog owner, no matter where the incident takes place. There is no provision under the Act that changes this liability if the incident occurs in a dog park, or in any park or on any other publicly-owned land. It is therefore my opinion that the Town would not be liable for damages caused by a dog attack or dog-biting incident solely because it occurred in a dog park created by the Town." (C Riley)

Should Council support the concept of an Off Leash Dog Park, staff recommends that an open house be held to gather community input and gauge interest. The information gathered would reflect demand from residents driving the determination of size, location and amenities required for construction. Staff will provide a report back to Council to disseminate comments and feedback including a recommendation.



Julie Columbus
Director of Culture & Recreation

Reviewed by:							
CAO	Treasury	Clerks	Env. Services	Planning	Parks & Rec	Building	Fire

