



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	October 17, 2017	Report No:	R & C 14 -17
Directed To:	Council	Attachments:	A & B
Department:	Culture and Recreation	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Director of Culture and Recreation		
Subject:	Dog Park Open House		

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report from the Director of Culture and Recreation dated October 17, 2017 (C&R 14 - 17) BE RECEIVED for information;

REPORT:

Council had requested staff collect feedback from residents regarding interest for a municipal Dog Park in LaSalle. Staff coordinated an Open House on September 21st at the Vollmer Recreation Complex with displays of various options for amenities, examples of other dog parks and a Town map showing all park locations throughout town. The event was promoted via social media, town signs, the activity guide, local newspaper and on the website.

Those who could not attend the event left comments on our Facebook page with recommendations and feedback (see Attachment B – Facebook comments)

As well, staff collected feedback during the open house regarding any interest for a dog park in town. There were over 40 residents who attended the event, half of the attendees left comment cards for the park location and desired amenities. (see Attachment A – comments from open house)

Majority of the feedback was positive and majority of people felt the Vollmer was the ideal location. Brunet Park was also recommended a few times in the comments provided. Most feedback suggested that an ideal dog park be divided into two fenced areas one for larger and the other for smaller breeds. This was recommend several times on comment cards from the Open House. Other ideas were presented, below are the most popular requests received overall for consideration regarding a dog park in LaSalle.

- water
- benches
- shade (pavilion or trees)
- picnic tables
- poop bags
- garbage cans
- separate areas for large and small breeds
- parking

Staff also received a few email comments, for example:

I am very interested in a dog park at the Vollmer centre! I wasn't able to attend the meeting but very much would like a dog park for my 90lb boxer mix. We are recent transplants from the Hamilton/GTA area, and are used to having a number of dog park options within an easy drive. A simple chain link fence and garbage can is enough, but picnic benches or a covered shelter are nice additions. I hope this goes forward! Thank you.

Many residents also commented that they are currently leaving LaSalle and driving to other municipalities to use their dog parks. Some seniors told staff that this was not an option due to the distance. Many of the seniors also shared their ideas from dog parks they visit during winter months when they are visiting their homes in Florida.

Overall, the feedback was positive and supportive and in line with recommendations from the Parks Master Plan, 2015. If Council is interested in proceeding with a dog park then staff would be able to include costing in the 2018 budget process for consideration.



Julie Columbus
Director Culture and Recreation

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

Attachment A - Dog Park

Comments received at Open House September 2017

-Would love a dog park, living in LaSalle I am flexible on location but if the Strawberry Festival was ever re-located, by the water would be nice. Lots of parking.

-need tap for drinkable water, 2 gated areas one for large and one for small dogs, poop bags, shade and picnic tables

-Brunet Park is a great location as people already bring their dogs there. There is already parking and maybe a few more could be added.

-I believe LaSalle definitely needs to have a dog park, we currently go to Windsor. Brunet Park would be ideal due to the fact that there is a lot of unused land.

-need parking, trees, separate area for small and large dogs, water station, benches and picnic tables for sitting

-trees, covered area for weather, water source, path for walking and seating

-locations suggestions Vollmer Centre area and Sandwich West Park (south east corner) must be close to parking for seniors, benches or picnic tables for seating, shade and a water station would be ideal too.

-“proper drainage” otherwise not very inviting after a rain, shade of some kind would be inviting for all, people like to walk, so possibly some small walking paths, water source for dogs, waste bags, disposal bins and seating but something not easily peed on by dogs. Prefer Brunet Park or Vollmer Rec Centre

-Any fenced area with shade, parking and garbage receptacle. Water would be a bonus. A model you may wish to explore is City of Oakville where members pay an optional yearly membership to help defray costs. A separate area for small breed, accessible parking and cleanliness.

-Find a way to incorporate dog space with existing space, allow off leash hours for non-aggressive dogs. Do not provide poop bags people just take a handful.

-I have concerns about a dog park near or at the Vollmer Complex. I have a child who is terrified of dogs and takes part in swimming, summer camps and playground at Vollmer. Many dog owners are responsible but some are not. I would fear that even an approach from a friendly dog would trigger a panic attack and he would no longer enjoy this great amenity. If it must be at the Vollmer, please consider beyond the baseball fields with parking away from playground.

-4 to 5 acres with asphalt trails to walk around perimeter while dogs run. People can exercise at same time. Seniors and disabled parking should be near main gate. Benches and shade provide area for small dogs and large dogs. Entrance should have 2 to 3 gated areas so dogs don't escape as wheelchairs enter or exit. Vollmer grounds are a great location. A dog park is a great idea.

-a fantastic idea that I would love to see implemented. Ideally a dog park would be somewhat centrally located with easy access from Malden Road with water, shade and parking.

-place behind the cenotaph. Parking at Zehrs put trees for shade, shelter if it rains, water and trails that are accessible. Must have water

-you need a place with adequate parking, a place close to senior buildings, a place with shade, enough space for 3 sizes of dogs with separate areas,, cameras and water. Research parks in NY and Colorado

-Wilkinson Park

Experienced dog park user – 3 sections for three sized dogs. Must have water, shade, benches near seniors housing, rentals and town homes. Very supportive, 20 year resident

-Great Idea – PARK SHOULD HAVE SHADE. Water supply, adequate parking and area that might work if off Malden park heading north past the roundabout, used to be a ball park.

-we definitely need a dog park in LaSalle. Important considerations are small and large dog areas, water, visibility, accessibility, seating, drainage, poop bags and access to garbage

Attachment B - Dog Park

Comments received on Facebook

September 2017

I won't be able to make it, but this is a great idea. We definitely need one!!! My dog would get more than enough use out of one! Just please separate small dogs and big dogs if this plan goes through.

September 15 at 6:12am

Yes it would be so nice to have a dog park! I can't make it to the meeting but would like to pledge my support for this!!

September 14 at 11:01pm

Awesome to see all of this feedback. I can't make it either but have voiced my concern over this to a few councillors already. I drive out to kingsville to use their park and it's phenomenal.

A spacious, fenced in area for big dogs and another for small dogs. A paved or wood chipped walking path for the owners to tag along beside them as they run.

A garbage can in both sides of the park

A bench or two for sitting

And a small dog fountain on each side would be the cherry on top (kingsville has one and it's super cool and very beneficial on warm days)

The park doesn't need hills, but that's a nice idea just for a change in pace.

I absolutely love this idea Town of LaSalle and I really hope that this is carried out to completion!!

September 14 at 7:03pm

Definitely a great idea for a dog park in LaSalle. It's too far to use the one in Tecumseh. I hope it comes in our community.

September 14 at 6:44pm

I just moved to LaSalle and was just going to contact town council suggesting LaSalle get one! I LOVE the idea! Currently I am driving out to Tecumseh to use their dog park. I love the paved trail and fenced in area. (Not as muddy as the one in South Walkerville).

I would suggest near Vollmer.

I just realized that all of the schools seem to have their "Meet the Teacher" that night so I can't make it either. Please include my vote as a BIG yes!!!

September 14 at 6:31pm

I can't make it, but LOVE the idea of a dog park in our community!!! I hope LaSalle comes thru for our fur babies!!!

September 13 at 5:02pm

A big dog area. A small dog area. And a small training area for dogs new to the dog park experience.

September 13 at 5:15pm

Fantastic! Any chance of fixing the park for the babies and children that's already here?!

September 13 at 5:15pm

Can't make it but love love love the idea!

September 14 at 6:05pm

Dont think that I Can make it either....but WANT ONE!

September 15 at 3:03pm

Go Thor go!

September 14 at 10:05pm

Absolutely !!!

September 15 at 8:50am

Great idea!

September 14 at 10:05pm

Yes a dog park would be wonderful. I'm a senior and would love to bring my fur baby to the park to play with other dogs and burn off some energy. I now have to drive to Windsor off Ypres. Also after I park it is such a long walk to the park. I would love parking close to the entrance. Please Lasalle it's not only good for the dog but also gets me out and I get to socialize with other dog owners.

I live in Amherstburg but would love for a dog park in lasalle especially like the one in Tecumseh that has running water so you can bring a bowl for the dogs in the summer. Please provide some shaded areas so the dogs can relax and cool off! Fantastic idea. If it is built I would definitely attend it for sure!

September 20 at 8:20pm

Long over due, make sure to make it big enough. Both the skatepark and new park are too small. If we are going to do it, do it right.

September 20 at 5:11pm

We would love a dog park in LaSalle!!! Not having to drive out to Tecumseh and staying in our own community would be terrific!!!! We love LaSalle!!!

September 15 at 1:58pm

I love the idea. Please something central with good parking. Water fountains for the dogs in good weather, Garbage cans, benches and 2 areas sorted by size of dogs. I know LaSalle will do this right. I have always been proud to call LaSalle home.

September 20 at 9:58pm

Would love to see this happen in my town. Just got back from Calgary and their dog parks are wonderful. They even have a river for the hot days. Please have separate areas for big and small dogs and perhaps a training area for new dogs to socialize! The best part of dog parks is the dog people.

September 20 at 7:39pm

I love dogs but I think dog parks are just breeding ground for diseases. Now the fact that they want to make the park my grand kids play in a drainage just pisses me off to no end

September 20 at 6:43pm

Hey look Lasalle wants to turn the park by you into a big drainage pond but build one for dogs. You can't make this up, the world is nuts

September 20 at 5:08pm

Yes please build it and they will come. Our community is very active and this would be a welcome addition. Long over due!!!!

September 15 at 9:02pm

I'd bring both my standards on a regular basis

Long overdue! I support the creation of a municipal dog park 100%.

September 20 at 5:49pm

Definitely should have one. Make it large enough and if possible one for large dogs and one for smaller dogs.

September 21 at 7:02am

good idea if we decide to live there!

September 20 at 7:43pm

Greatest place to live.

September 15 at 8:38pm

Yes!! Yess! YESSSS!!!

Can't attend - I think we need more than one park. Would support fees on license (or something like that...)September 20 at 11:08pm

Love this idea.

September 20 at 6:31pm