

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: October 18, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Director, Civic Operations

SUBJECT: People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program Update

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council RECEIVE the report dated October 18, 2021 from the Director of Civic Operations titled "People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program Update."

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the City of Prince George's progress towards adding off leash areas as part of the People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Off leash areas build community and support social health and wellbeing through the creation of a connected and inclusive community. Engaging the community and activating park spaces continues to promote recreation and healthy and active living, supporting myPG goals, council focus areas and the Park Strategy key focus areas.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Prince George introduced off leash/under control areas through the People, Pets and Parks program in 2002 as part of the regulations under the new Park & Open Space Bylaw No. 7370. Three off leash areas were established including Duchess, Ginters and Moore's Meadow. A report was presented to Council in early February 2012 to follow up on the recommendations of the Proposed Off Leash Strategies in the development of an off leash program for Prince George. After consultation throughout the summer of 2012, Ginters and Moore's Meadow were officially made off leash/under control areas.

As part of the Park Strategy, an update and summary of off leash areas and consultation was completed with over 2000 dog off leash consultations completed over the years to provide support and direction moving forward. The Park Strategy provides direction and guides investments through analysis of where we have been, where we are at currently and through extensive public engagement and criteria scoring including socio demographic trends, recreation trends, community demand, service gaps, functionality, cost efficiency and partnerships identified potential off leash areas at Bravery Park (completed in 2019) and future potential off leash areas at Malaspina Park and Ingledew Park.

DISCUSSION:

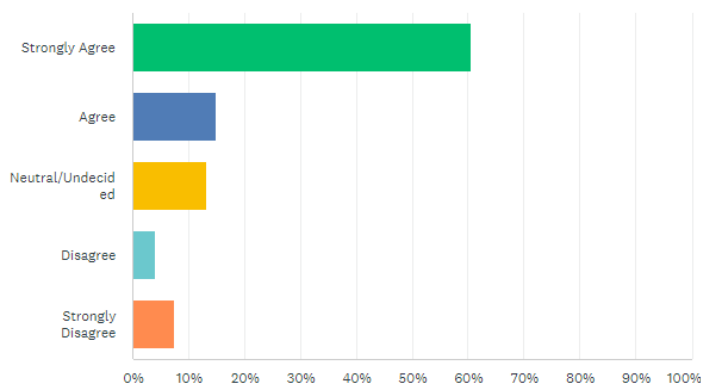
The Parks Division manages the City's People, Pets and Parks Off Leash program and had a capital expenditure project "Off Leash Areas" that was deferred to 2021. This project includes the implementation of new off leash areas and fenced dog parks throughout the community as supported by policy direction within the 2011 Proposed Off Leash Strategies report and 2017 Park Strategy. Existing park facilities such as underutilized ball diamonds would be re-purposed for off leash use. Priority areas include the Hart Highway and College Heights areas and works would include signage, waste receptacles and other site improvements that would be required to support off leash use.

A report was presented to Council in April of 2021 that provided further direction for City Parks Division to move forward with planned proposed capital works for expanded off leash areas in the College Heights and Millar Addition neighbourhoods. The Malaspina School Ball Diamond in College Heights and Ingledew Park in Millar Addition had been identified as underutilized areas that may be re-purposed to serve a demand in those areas that are deficient in off leash areas. Parks proceeded with a community consultation process that included a flyer and surveys, open for four weeks, that were distributed to neighbours and community residents to get input and feedback on planned upgrades transitioning these parks into off leash areas.

The City heard back from 175 residents and received support for more off leash areas with College Heights, the Bowl and then Hart Highway as the number 1, 2 and 3 areas best served by more off leash areas. The City received 86% support for an off leash area in Ingledew Park and 84% support for an off leash area in Malaspina Park ball diamond.

In your opinion, do you agree or disagree that the City of Prince George should develop more off leash areas?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



With council direction and community support, the Parks Division moved forward with transitioning Ingledew Park into a fenced dog park. Work was done to entrances and gates, signage, dog waste receptacles, garbage containers, picnic tables and benches were ordered and installed.

The City has been advised by the Province that an application to develop a child care centre on the City-owned Malaspina site has been approved. City senior administration is meeting further to discuss and explore site plans to determine if there is space and compatibility to include both a child care centre and a dog park on this site. No decision has yet been made and Parks will not be moving forward until a decision has been made on whether to proceed with the child care facility.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Parks and Solid Waste Services Division had a capital expenditure project “Off Leash Areas” that was deferred to 2021 to support initiatives such as development and management of off leash areas, dog waste bag dispensers and litter containers, signage and promotion education.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Ingledew off leash area is now complete, welcoming the community as the City’s most recent off leash area.

The Malaspina Daycare Project is currently in the conceptual design phase and the exact location of the building on the City-owned lands adjacent to Malaspina Elementary has not yet been determined. If the Malaspina Daycare Project proceeds, it is likely that the daycare building would be situated within the proposed re-purposed ball fields that were to be converted to the dog park. In that circumstance, an alternative off leash area dog park in College Heights would need to be investigated and funded. Remaining 2021 funds could be carry-forwarded to next year and added to the 2022 Capital Project “Off Leash Areas”, subject to Council’s approval, to support an alternative location.

Parks will continue to manage the People, Pets and Parks program for the City of Prince George responding to community needs and demand, following strategies and allocating City resources efficiently.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Director Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Robyn McConkey, Parks Services Coordinator

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: [2021/10/18]

People Pets and Parks Off Leash Program Community Consultation – June 2021

Malaspina Mailing Area (approx.650)



Ingledeew Mailing Area (approx.170)



People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program

The City of Prince George needs
your feedback. Fill out our survey
today!



YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

The City of Prince George introduced off leash/under control areas through the People, Pets and Parks program in 2002 as part of the new Park & Open Space pet regulations. Three off leash areas were established including Duchess Park, Ginters and Moore's Meadow.

The 2017 adopted Park Strategy provides direction and support for future off leash program development. The strategy allowed staff through analysis of inventory and public engagement along with criteria scoring including trends, community demand, service gaps, functionality, and cost efficiency to identify specific potential off leash areas throughout our City in every neighbourhood. The Park Strategy had identified a fenced dog park at Bravery Park which was completed in 2019 and some potential off leash areas in Ingledeew Park and Malaspina Park.

Transitioning Ingledeew Park into an off leash area and the Malaspina Park Ball Diamond into fenced dog parks would require some upgrades fencing and gates at the park, additional garbage containers, signage and off leash bag dispensers.

We would like to hear your comments and concerns regarding this potential development.

Please fill out our ONLINE SURVEY available at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PGoffleash>

Please provide your comments by June 30th, 2021.

NEW Ingledeew Off Leash Area Project Completion – October 2021

Transitioned Ingledeew Park to a Off Leash Area fenced dog park to serve high demand area including:

- Fence and gate work
- Picnic table and benches (to be completed)
- Dog waste bag receptacles
- New waste containers
- Signage



INGLEDEEW PARK



This area is dedicated to fun and exercise with your dog. Dogs may run off-leash, under voice control, within the confines of the fenced area.

-  Control your dog and respect other park users.
-  Please clean up after your dog and put dog waste in the garbage cans provided.
-  Leash your pet outside of the fenced area.
-  Do not allow your dogs to be aggressive towards people or other dogs.
-  Display tags showing proof of current dog licence and vaccinations.

Please Note: Any person bringing a dog into this facility assumes the legal responsibility, jointly and severally with the owner of the dog, for any damage, disease or injury to person, other dogs or property caused by the dog. All persons using the facility, by entering it, agree to indemnify the City of Prince George and hold the City harmless for any harm resulting from the use of this facility.



Failure to comply with bylaws may result in a fine.
For more information, call 311.

