

Date: September 16, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Subject: Progress Report: People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program

Attachment(s): None

#### Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the report dated September 25, 2024 from the Director of Civic Operations titled "People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program Progress Report".

#### Purpose:

Administration is providing an update on the addition of two fenced dog parks as part of the People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program.

#### Discussion:

The Parks Division has been actively communicating the 2011 Off Leash Strategies Report and 2016 Park Strategy to the community and these strategies utilize a balanced approach in identifying and implementing off leash dog parks on City land. These strategies have been used to identify and install the off-leash dog parks in the Southridge and Perry subdivisions.

Southridge Park was selected for a fenced dog park to service the College Heights area with more pet friendly outdoor spaces, while maximizing use of land in the park. The fenced dog park at Southridge Park opened in June of this year.

As part of the Playground Replacement Program, Perry Park's under-utilized and non-CSA compliant playground equipment was recycled, and the parkland was left to naturalize as a greenspace in the Perry subdivision. In late 2023, Perry Park was identified as another option for the expansion of the fenced dog park inventory. Parks and Solid Waste Services received annual funding from the Capital Expenditure Plan which aligned with the above program strategies.

The transition of available space at Southridge Park into a fenced dog park has been completed and the repurpose of available space at Perry Park into a fenced dog park is scheduled to be complete by November of this year and will be accomplished within 2024 funding.

### Strategic Priorities:

The People, Pets and Parks Off Leash Program supports the community's pets and pet owners by providing accessible opportunities for exercise, social development and enhancement of quality of life.

### Summary and conclusion:

The Parks Division will continue to manage the People, Pets and Parks Program for the City of Prince George, while responding to community needs. This program follows established best practices to ensure the strategic and efficient use of allocated resources. Under this program, Southridge and Perry Parks will be enhanced with off leash pet areas.

### Respectfully submitted:

Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Prepared by Neil Matheson, Supervisor Parks and Solid Waste

### Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024/09/25