

COVID-19 Emergency Response: Update Part 2

as of June 8, 2021

Environment, Infrastructure & Community
Services Committee

June 10, 2021

Fitness Classes in Parks

Issues:

- During the pandemic there has been an increase of residents' passive use of parks year round
- Pre-pandemic, Recreation, Community and Culture has consciously limited the number of bookings in parks, outside of sport fields, events, picnics and photography, so that parks are not over subscribed with organized groups and allow for passive use of residents
- The province is entering step 1 of the Roadmap to Re-open adding additional park use in the parks for sport and fitness
 - Group size of 10, 3 m distancing
- The additional passive use in the parks has already put pressure on parks maintenance – garbage pick ups, washroom servicing, adding use will add pressure to this current situation.
- Some parks are much busier than others especially all the lakefront parks
- Some times of day are busier than others – weeknight and weekends

Fitness Classes in Parks (continued)

Options

Assumption: all options are only applicable while under Step 1 of the Province's Roadmap to Re-Opening

1. Do not permit fitness classes in parks and retain only passive resident use – no cost
2. Allow for fitness classes in open spaces in select locations, in select parks, and at select times, and charge the appropriate approved rental rate - revenue generation
 - Council-approved rate
 - Not for Profit with the 20% rate reduction already approved by Council - \$9.97/hour plus HST
 - Commercial with the 20% rate reduction already approved by Council - \$14.51/hour plus HST
 - Limit to weekday use
 - No lake front parks
 - Not on sport fields because of wear and tear issues and existing permitted use
 - Similar to photography permit conditions, it is the responsibility of the permit holder and group to accommodate the community in the park and to work around them
3. Allow for fitness classes as outlined in option 2 but at no charge – no cost
4. Allow for fitness classes in all parks without limitations and charge the appropriate fee – revenue generation
 - Council-approved rate
 - Not for Profit with the 20% rate reduction already approved by Council - \$9.97/hour plus HST
 - Commercial with the 20% rate reduction already approved by Council - \$14.51/hour plus HST
5. Allow for fitness classes in all parks without limitations at no charge – no cost

Fitness Classes in Parks (continued)

Enforcement:

- No by-law enforcement is required as the Parks By-Law allows for this type of use
- COVID compliance with step 1 will occur on a complaint basis, when and if staff are available to investigate
- Sport Ambassadors and Park Experience staff will observe use, mitigate onsite issues and report and follow up with supervisors and if required staff may need to re-assess a park location and timing of the permit
- The permit holder must comply with all the terms and conditions for facility rental contract (permit). Non-compliance could result in the termination of the permit.

Fitness Classes in Parks (continued)

Decision:

Permit fitness classes in open spaces in select locations, in select parks, and at select times, and charge the appropriate approved rental rate.

- This decision supports:
 - Staff's ability to quickly communicate and act on requests given the possibility Step 1 of the Province's Roadmap to Re-Opening will transition to Step 2 in or around July 2nd.
 - Staff balancing locations and timings with the passive use of parks.
 - Staff's ability to monitor how many groups are in the parks, when and where through the permitting system.
 - Equity of treatment with other parties seeking permits to utilize park space

414 Locust Washroom Availability

Issues:

- Significant demand of existing City provided washrooms in downtown area resulting in line-ups for use
 - Discovery Landing, City Hall, Beachway Park Pavilion+ Portable Washrooms, Spenser Smith Park Portable Washrooms (East Side)
- Pressure on local businesses for use of their washrooms by public

Decision:

- Open washrooms at 414 Locust St. for public use
 - Existing COVID restrictions apply. Only one person/family use of washroom at a time.
 - Staff monitoring occupancy flow into the lobby
- Availability
 - June 11 – July 25 including statutory holidays
 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Statutory Holidays – 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Costs
 - Approximately \$10,000
 - Includes City of Burlington staff and cleaning to COVID standards