



SUBJECT: Leash Free Site Preference Ward 2

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Recreation, Community and Culture Department

Report Number: RCC-04-22

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: 930-01

Date to Committee: April 7, 2022

Date to Council: April 19, 2022

Recommendation:

Receive and file recreation, community and culture department report RCC-04-22.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

Background and Discussion:

In December 2019, Council approved report PR-12-19 Proposed Changes to the Leash-free Area Criteria, to allow for more opportunities for leash free areas in parks. The approved criteria and process strive to deliver leash free areas in a thoughtfully planned and designed manner to accommodate all park users. The updates to the Leash Free Area Criteria identify two leash free area size classifications, destination and neighbourhood, to better meet different needs and to suit the character of the neighbourhood and park. The updated process for the construction of leash free areas includes planned park renewal or new park construction projects, or through an online application process for resident requests.

Through the approved process, all online applications received prior to March 31 of each year will be reviewed by staff in relation to the Council approved Leash Free Area Criteria. Application(s) that meet the criteria will be reported to Council with

recommendations in Q2 of that same year. Upon approval, staff will request funds through the capital budget process for the following year. This year staff anticipate two community applications to come in for requests in ward 1 and 5. Staff will report by June 2022 on these applications.

In 2021, a new leash free area was constructed at Colin Alton Parkette through the new park development project. One (1) application for a leash free area was received through the online application process; Central Park (Ward 2).

Staff received the following directions during the 2022 capital budget process:

Redirect \$100,000 from capital project PO-PR-1695 (Queensway Park) to construct a leash-free park in ward 2 in 2022; and

Direct the Director of Recreation, Community and Culture to investigate options for a leash-free park location in ward 2 with options to include, but not limited to, Central Park (0.15ha), Lion's Park (0.3ha) and Hydro One Corridor (0.7ha) (SD-38-21).

Strategy/process

Central Park Application - Ward 2

An application was received in June 2021 for a new leash free area in Central Park at the corner of Drury Lane and New Street.

Per the staff direction above, utilizing the Council approved Leash Free Area Criteria, staff have reviewed several leash free area site options in ward 2, including the one identified in the application as well as other city owned or leased lands. In follow up discussions with the ward Councillor on this item, staff provided the overview of each option considered. Based on these summaries, the ward Councillor supports proceeding with the community's proposed site and in order to expediate the process, prefers to move directly into construction as quickly as possible to meet the community need.

Options Considered

The charts below identify the site options and the benefits and challenges of each site. Site locations and conceptual layouts of the leash free areas for each site are presented in Appendix A.

Burlington Lions Club Park Proposed Leash Free Area Size - 0.10ha Park Classification: Neighbourhood	
Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lions Club supports adding leash free area • Access to parking • Walkable location within the downtown core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of soccer field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the average usage between 2016-2018 was 88hrs • A new property with many different interests being expressed by the community

Central Park at Drury Lane and New Street Proposed Leash Free Area Size - 0.06 ha max. Park Classification: Neighbourhood	
Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger area • Walkable location within the downtown core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry to be consulted based on location of mature trees • Very busy complex • Limited parking during peak times, especially when the two joint ventures are in operations • High profile location • Proximity to major intersection • Removal of open green space

Maple Trail Hydro Corridor (end of Grahams Lane) Proposed Leash Free Area Size - 0.05ha to 0.15ha Park Classification: Special Resource	
Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkable location for local neighbourhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires approval from Hydro One • Coordination with trail extension • No parking • Not walkable for the downtown core

Financial Matters:

The 2022 capital budget identifies \$100,000 for the construction of a leash free area in Ward 2. The funds will be allocated to build a leash free area in Central Park.

Climate Implications

Allowing for neighborhood leash free areas will encourage residents to walk to their local leash free area therefore reducing greenhouse gasses created by longer car trips to access leash free areas.

Engagement Matters:

No formal staff engagement will happen for this item as the ward Councillor has indicated that the community has expressed their desired location by making an application to the City and has obtained the required community support.

Staff have reached out to the Joint Ventures located in the southwest area of Central Park to make them aware of this report. Staff do expect the Joint Ventures to express concerns about the existing pressures in the parking lot and express their desires that the leash-free park not be located so close to the parking lot.

Conclusion:

Staff will start the tender and construction process over Q2 of 2022 for the ward 2 leash free area, with an anticipated opening to the community in fall 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Beard

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Appendices:

A. Ward 2 Leash Free Options Considered

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.