

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Fwd: Community Proposal for Leash Free Dog Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2022 12:20:09 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Marion Brunton [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Community Proposal for Leash Free Dog Park  
**Date:** April 18, 2022 at 12:18:28 PM EDT  
**To:** [Jim.Seferiades@burlington.ca](mailto:Jim.Seferiades@burlington.ca)  
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[Rebecca.Holmes@burlington.ca](mailto:Rebecca.Holmes@burlington.ca), [secretary@burlingtonlbc.org](mailto:secretary@burlingtonlbc.org), Ken  
Maitland [REDACTED]

Hello Jim Seferiades,

I am secretary at the Burlington Lawn Bowling Club, and I would like to raise some concerns about the proposed leash free dog park at Central Park. I apologize that I did not fully look at your proposal until April 18th. When you said Central Park, I assumed it was somewhere else in the park, other than the location I have now seen on the map. It is prudent of the City to consider a walkable location for those who would like to give their dogs an opportunity to run freely, but, as you have outlined, of the three locations chosen, the Central Park location has the most challenges associated with it.

The original proposal was for the small dog area of only .05 ha size which did not encompass any trees, but the larger proposal is for .2ha and it will encroach on many large trees. In any leash free park I have been to, the ground does eventually become quite compacted from increased usage, and I do wonder how this will effect the mature trees already existing on the property. You have the benefit that some people will choose to walk to the location rather than drive, but if the tree's lives are shortened, or eventually killed, because of the extra stress put on them, the benefits of a reduced carbon footprint will be negated. Some people will also choose to drive whether the location is close or not just because they are busy. The parking lot at this location is already full at many times.

I am also extremely concerned about safety. Drury Lane is a very busy road, and even though you have proposed to put a double gate in, so that people can leash and unleash their dogs in an enclosed space, when I have been to dog parks with the same arrangements, dogs do get loose because multiple users open gates when others are not ready. In your proposal, the gate opens on to Drury Lane, and in my view, your proposal is preparing for an accident to happen. If you decide rather to

put the gate opening towards the parking lot, it is equally dangerous for a loose dog to be running between parked cars, and that parking lot is often completely full.

I understand that Central Park is a convenient, accessible space for a dog park, and I am not sure of all the land uses in the park, but are there not other unused areas within the park that are not as busy? Ie: is all the space behind the library used for soccer and baseball fields, or what is behind 560 Guelph Line? If you do go ahead and decide to create this installation at Drury Lane and New Street, I hope you limit it to the smaller size. The larger it is, the more use it will have, and because it is a very visible location, I think it will be overused.

The Lions' Club seems to be in support of a leash free park. It will require the removal of a soccer field, but that was only used 88hrs in two years. The Central Park location is probably used that much in a few weeks.

The location you have suggested using for on the hydro lines is up closer to Fairview St. What about asking hydro if you can use a location closer to Ontario St. which is much closer to the downtown core? It would have the least impact on other users, and then the only issue you need to address is letting people know it exists.

Of your three proposals, I think the one at Drury Lane and New St is the worst choice because it is too busy already, and adding loose dogs to the mix will create a dangerous situation.

Thanks for listening to my thoughts.

Yours truly,  
Marion Brunton  
Secretary Burlington Lawn Bowling Club