



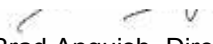
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Item No. 12
Transportation Standing Committee
February 26, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:


Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 17, 2015

SUBJECT: **Service Dog Exercise Area**

ORIGIN

February 5, 2014 motion of the Transportation Standing Committee (Item 7.2.2):

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Transportation Standing Committee request staff, as a part of the North Park Intersection Redesign project, consider relocating the service dog exercise area at Rainnie Drive and Cogswell Street to a more accessible area located within the urban core, that has more space, that the area be grassed, that the rules be clearly posted in writing and braille, and that the relocation be done in consultation with the individuals who use the area.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Part I, Section 21, of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* - Standing, special and advisory committees; and

Part 1, Section 25, of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* – Powers and duties of community council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council recommend that staff proceed with the planning process for a service dog park in Ardmore Park, Oxford Street, Halifax, in accordance with the existing HRM Off Leash Parks Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The existing service dog exercise park currently located at Rainnie Drive and Cosgwell Street opened in 2009 and is designated for use by service dogs and their owners/trainers only. It is the only service dog park in the Municipality. The Park will be closing in the spring of 2015 as a result of the North Park Intersection redesign project. Staff has been requested to review options, in consultation with the individuals who use the area, to relocate the existing service dog park within the urban core.

DISCUSSION

HRM is currently reviewing its existing Off Leash Parks Strategy and service levels for the provision of off leash facilities. Through this review, it is expected that options for certain specialized off leash areas will be permitted.

In response to the Standing Committee's request, staff has reviewed a number of potential sites over the past several months and created a list based on input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Staff also attended a meeting of the Canadian Council of the Blind to present options and receive feedback. The main criteria from the Accessibility Advisory Committee members was that the new site be centrally located within the urban core, in a convenient, visible, safe location with easy access to parking and be near a transit stop that has frequent service.

After considering a number of sites, it was determined that the Ardmore Park Site, located at the corner of Almon and Oxford Streets, would be best suited for the service dog park. A layout of the proposed site is identified in Attachment 1. The site is currently designated as a community park. The proposed location for the service dog park will not compromise the existing use of the park. It is a fenced off area that was used in the past for a horse shoe pit and minimal site preparation is required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding in the amount of \$40,000 is proposed in the 2015/16 Project Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff consulted with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Canadian Council of the Blind. The area Councillor with staff support will host a community meeting to discuss the proposed service dog park and other relevant planning and issues for the Park. The Off Leash Park Strategy requires a community meeting be part of the creation of a new facility. This would take place upon direction of Halifax and West Community Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

Staff could be directed to look for an alternative site; however, this is not recommended as numerous sites were reviewed with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and this was the only location that met their criteria.

ATTACHMENTS

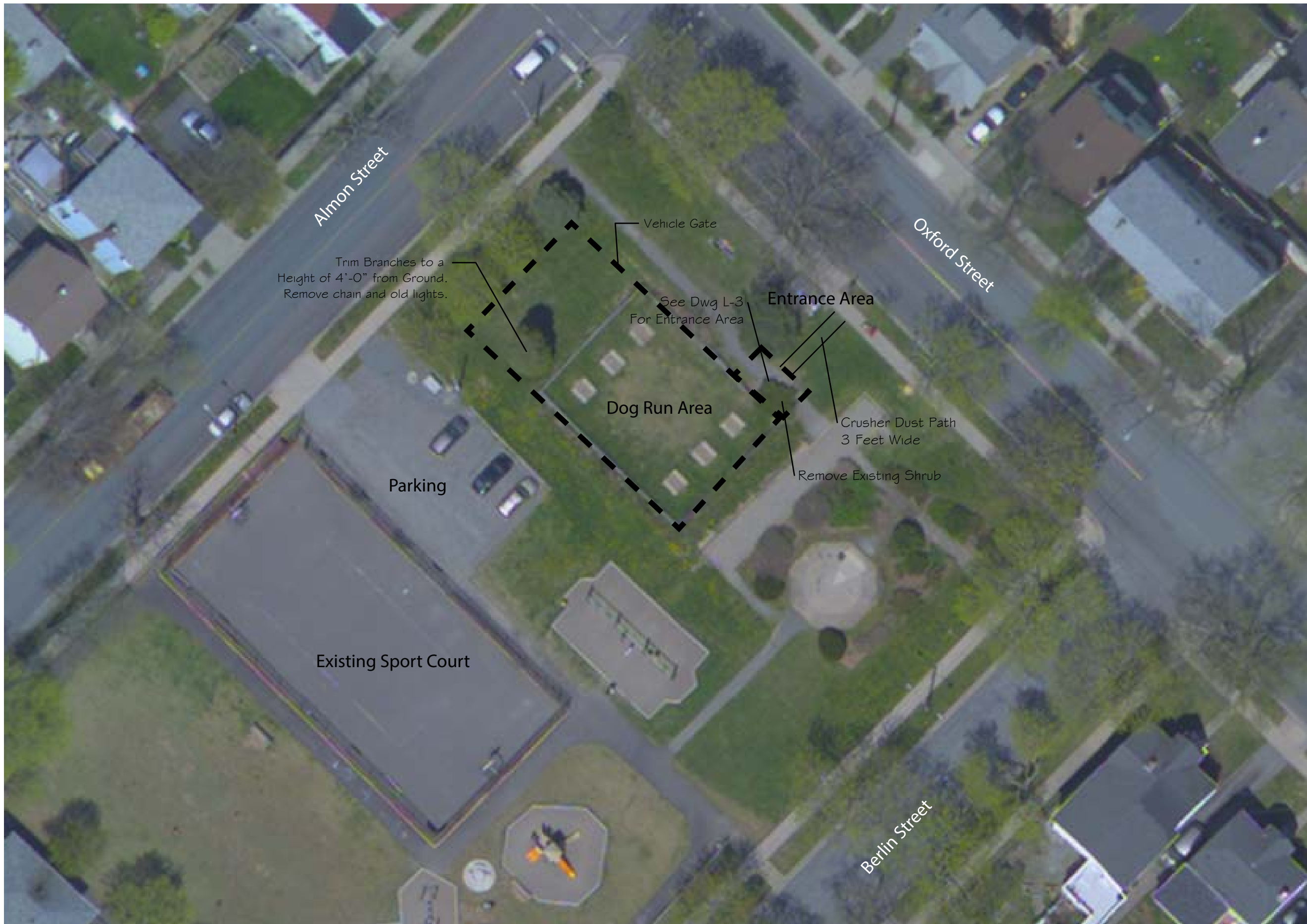
Attachment 1 - Proposed Service Dog Park Relocation Project

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Margaret Soley, Coordinator, Parks Projects, 902.490.5591
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Original Signed

Financial Approval by: Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO, 902.490.6308



SERVICE DOG PARK RELOCATION PROJECT

Ardmore Park Site - Halifax, Nova Scotia

Not to Scale

