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Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
August 31, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer


Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: August 23, 2004

SUBJECT: Off-Leash Dog Parks

ORIGIN

Regional Council requested a report from staff regarding designated off-leash dog areas in all parts of HRM at the May 27, 2003, Regional Council meeting. Council also requested information on the possibility of using Nova Scotia Power Corridors for off-leash opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the attached Halifax Regional Municipality Off Leash Dog Park Internal Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

By-Law D-100 Respecting the Registration and Regulation of Dogs makes provisions for designation of off-leash areas within municipal parks. The by-law stipulates that owners may run their dogs off-leash within municipal parks designated by posted signs that permit such activity. This privilege is *constrained* by the requirement that, at all times, the dog must be under “*continuous and effective control of its owner or other person.*” The owner or walker of any dog must also remove their dog’s defecation immediately from any public or private property, other than on the property of the owner.

During the dog by-law deliberations Council determined that off-leash areas would be designated by Community Councils after consultation with staff. Although the Community Councils have held frequent discussion on the subject since 1998, many of the past proposed sites for off-leash areas are unsuitable, or require money that has not yet been approved in HRM’s budget.

Past staff reports to Chebucto and Harbour East Community Councils have identified *dedicated dog parks* as the preferred way to permit dogs off-leash within municipal parks. Dedicated dog parks are generally a fenced-in or enclosed open field. Development of dedicated dog parks would be a new program and would require either new monies or a reduction in other programs. The expenditures for developing any dog parks should be dealt with through the capital budget process.

Members of Halifax Regional Council have reported to staff that there is increasing concern that Point Pleasant Park and Seaview Park sites are over-stressed by the number of dogs. The closing of Point Pleasant Park after Hurricane Juan led many dog owners to let their dogs off-leash at other venues. Members of Council also reported the dog park issue is commonly raised during public participation sessions at Community Council meetings.

DISCUSSION

Staff feel that HRM should support an off-leash dog park program. Staff also feel that HRM needs a set of guidelines to help establish off-leash parks and provide direction for the establishment of future parks. Future off-leash parks should be single use (e.g. dedicated dog parks), rather than sharing space among parks with many other types of users (such as Point Pleasant Park). Staff has proposed a few sites that have the potential to become off-leash parks. They are included below. Staff believe one of these parks, preferably Don Bayer Sports Field, could be included in the 05/06 budget process. Staff will investigate further into this site and others as required to determine practicality.

Staff recognize that rural dog owners may also have an interest in off-leash parks. However, given the cost associated with establishing parks and the nature of rural living (larger yards, less vehicle

traffic and/or more access to empty land), staff advise the need for off-leash parks in rural areas is not yet critical enough to advise on potential sites. Finally, it should be noted that off-leash parks are more than an expensive way to avoid providing more Dog By-Law enforcement. Off-leash parks benefit all municipal residents, not just dogs and dog owners. The benefits and concerns regarding off-leash parks are discussed in more detail below.

The Issue: Benefits and Concerns

Benefits:

The benefits of establishing off-leash dog parks are numerous, though sometimes immeasurable. Off-leash parks promote responsible pet ownership, and help owners to become more educated on pet-related issues. Dogs who visit off-leash parks are able to exercise, play, and socialize. These dogs are also more protected from traffic and other safety hazards, especially in a fenced-in dog park.

Off-leash areas, especially fenced-in dog parks, allow for less interaction between off-leash dogs and the general public. This lowers the chance of hostile episodes. Dogs that are properly socialized with other dogs and dogs are less likely to bite or attack. Cities with dog-friendly parks have also experienced a decrease in crime in the park and surrounding area.

When a city-sanctioned off-leash area is provided, dog owners can be deterred from running their dogs off-leash in prohibited parks and open spaces. Community members may also become more involved in the maintenance, safety, and enforcement of park rules. Increased involvement means more people may be inclined to respect city by-laws.

Concerns:

Naturally, there are also a number of concerns regarding dog parks. Off-leash dogs may interfere with other park users; animals and plants in wilderness areas may be disturbed; there may be increased dog aggression against people owing to the concentration of dogs, and there may be increased traffic in the neighbourhood surrounding the dog park. All of these problems can be prevented or alleviated by the careful selection of suitable sites for off-leash use.

Dog feces is a very common concern. The HRM Dog By-Law requires dog owners to pick up and dispose of their dog's feces when not on their property. Dog-friendly parks are public property and must be treated as such. Other cities have generally observed dog park users will "self-police" to get other dog handlers to pick up after their dogs. This "peer pressure" approach generally reduces the need for increased by-law enforcement visits.

Objectives of Dog Parks in HRM

Basic tenets and objectives which justify and help govern off-leash parks should be introduced in HRM. These tenets are reflected in the proposed Off Leash Dog Park Internal Guidelines. The

purpose of these guidelines is to delineate the existing off-leash park principles that staff use. Once the guidelines are in place, new off-leash parks have a greater chance of being created. The guidelines will also give Councillors and the public a concrete understanding of how off-leash parks should function and the qualities the potential sites should possess. This will lead to more understanding between residents, council, and staff, increasing the chance that suitable sites for off-leash parks will be found, with minimal delay at each level of the process. Some of the goals for HRM's off-leash parks are to minimize conflicts between park users and dogs, provide an "equal opportunity" for each resident of HRM to run their dog off-leash, respect and promote public health, and promote owner responsibility, civic duty, and by-law compliance. The complete list of objectives and guidelines can be found at the end of the report as *Attachment A*.

Off Leash Requirements in HRM

Data on Off-Leash Dog Area Users

There is no hard data on dog owners in HRM or off-leash dog walking, and there is only anecdotal information on the desires and concerns about off-leash areas. Staff only have an estimated dog population in the municipality, which ranges between 30,000 - 60,000 dogs.

Urban

Dog owners in urban HRM presently have access to two off-leash parks, Point Pleasant Park and Seaview Park. These parks, especially Point Pleasant Park, are well used by dog owners. Point Pleasant Park, as a regional park, receives visitors from Peninsular Halifax residents as well as from the surrounding urban areas. The off-leash areas of these two parks are therefore high-traffic areas, and as a result the designated areas deteriorate quickly and require more maintenance and enforcement.

Dartmouth does not have a single off-leash park, and sees many off-leash dogs in non designated areas. Dogs are walked off-leash frequently at many Dartmouth parks, some as small as Ferry Terminal Park (adjacent to the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal). There are even instances of dogs off-leash in cemeteries, where they are not allowed at any time.

Suburban

The suburban areas of HRM are growing very quickly, and share many of urban HRM's issues. Some of the places where suburban dog owners walk their dogs off-leash are not suitable sites for off-leash usage (some common parks are the Cole Harbour Heritage Park, Long Lake Provincial Park, Shubenacadie Park, and Hemlock Ravine Park). Many of the people who live beside Hemlock Ravine Park, for instance, use well-water, not the city supply. Increased dog visitation - especially off-leash, where dogs are free to roam the park at will - could taint the groundwater and surrounding wells. There is a definite interest in suburban areas for off-leash parks. Community Councils which represent suburban areas have requested a number of reports from staff on suitable off-leash sites.

Nova Scotia Power Corridors

Nova Scotia Power Corridors crisscross HRM. NSP manages the vegetation in these corridors to gain easy access to the power lines. As a result, access roads and power line corridors are often used by the public for a variety of activities, from berry picking to mountain biking and sometimes recreational vehicle use. NSP has no firm policy on off-leash dog use, but there are a few main issues that would discourage sanctioned use of all HRM power corridors. These are:

- 1) A large portion of Nova Scotia Power corridors are not owned by the utility. For instance, the power corridors in North Halifax, reaching down the Northwest Arm, etc., are actually owned by CN Rail. These power corridors are therefore easements, and usage must be authorized by CN Rail.
2. Nova Scotia Power must manage the vegetation in the power corridors and need constant access to these areas in case of emergencies. These corridors and their access roads cannot be impeded. There is also an issue of safety where the corridors are reached by controlled access (ie. gated road).

Because of this, Nova Scotia Power could only agree to off-leash dog use on a case by case basis. It is recommended that HRM consider power corridors for off-leash opportunities *only* when an area is suitable, and when all other off-leash area options have been ruled out by insurmountable conditions.

Provincial Parks in HRM

Dogs must be on a leash in every Provincial Park. The Provincial Parks Act. Section 24(1)(a) of the Regulations adopted pursuant to the Act states: "No person who owns or is in control of a domestic animal shall permit it to be at large in a park." Section 24(2) expands on this: "For the purpose of subsection (1), a domestic animal is deemed to be at large unless the animal is on a leash which does not exceed six feet in length and which is handheld or securely tied and restricts the animal from running loose."

Some Other Cities' Experiences

Off-leash dog areas are a topic of interest in many municipalities across Canada. Some off-leash programs are upward of 10 to 15 years old, while others are still in the planning stages. Staff considered a number of cities across Canada. Hamilton, Vancouver, and Ottawa were considered in depth. London, Calgary, and Saskatchewan were also examined. The problems and successes of each city's model were considered as staff developed the off-leash guidelines. The following are three main observations, based upon these cities' experiences.

- A. Dedicated parks are more favourable than designated “free run” parks. HRM’s existing parks and geography is compatible with this observation.
- B. Off-leash policies are often very rigid and can in turn discourage the establishment of off-leash parks, rather than encourage their establishment.
- C. Off-leash policies can also encourage too much off-leash designation, leading to a complicated park system of criteria, categories, designations, review processes, and the need for increased enforcement/maintenance at all parks. This is time-consuming and confuses the park user.

Park Selection

Staff suggests that only parks with a District classification (or a large Community park serving the maximum number of inhabitants) or undeveloped parkland/openspace should be considered for off-leash areas. Among other benefits, this will ensure off-leash parks comply with the Parks and Openspace Planning Guidelines (see *Attachment C*). See the *Off Leash Dog Park Guidelines* for more specific park selection criteria. These criteria support a regional approach to off-leash parks.

Decision-making

Staff recommend that Community Councils continue to determine off-leash sites and seek funding for each project through the Capital Budget process. Admittedly, Community Council in the past encountered many obstacles preventing the creation of new off-leash parks, capital constraints being one of the main problems, a well-understood plan for off-leash parks being the other. The off-leash guidelines and the list of potential off-leash dog parks should help Community Councils designate off-leash areas more effectively.

Distribution of Parks and Potential Candidate Site Suggestions

Designating off-leash dog parks is less complicated with a goal of regional off-leash parks. Essentially, the goal of regional parks means that every main suburban or urban area should have at least one dog park. Off-leash areas require more maintenance than most parks over a period of time. It is more cost-effective to provide this infrastructure in a few choice sites that are used by an entire region, rather than at every community park, where off-leash dogs may not even be wanted.

Staff has identified, in no particular order, Mainland Halifax, and Dartmouth as the top priorities for off-leash areas. Peninsular Halifax already has two off-leash areas. In the future, off-leash areas should be located in Bedford, Sackville, and Dartmouth East/Cole Harbour. Other parks can be located as regions grow and their need for an off-leash area becomes apparent.

Off-leash dog park sites should be easily convertible to a dog park, of adequate size (around one acre or more for dedicated dog park, from three acres and up for free-running areas), and preferably have

much of the necessary infrastructure already in place (e.g. lighting, parking). Candidate sites should also be convertible at a reasonable price to the municipality, and with an idea of future maintenance costs. Over the next few years, some surplus or unused sports field could make excellent candidates for off-leash parks. At the present, staff have identified a few candidates for off-leash areas. Don Bayer Sports Field in Dartmouth, Glenbourne Community Park in Mainland North Halifax, and Williams Lake Lands in Halifax Mainland. A description of these potential sites is available as *Attachment C*.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Approval of Off Leash Park Guidelines would have no direct budget implications, any individual budget designations which required additional capital or operating dollars would be subject to approval of Regional Council through the normal budget approval process.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

- A) Regional Council could choose to maintain the status quo, and not approve the off-leash guidelines.
- B) Instead of council designating off-leash areas, the decision could be left with staff. Since Council would have approved an HRM-wide guidelines for off-leash parks, Staff would be working within Council's authority. However, any designations which require additional capital or operating funds would be subject to Council approval through the annual budget process.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Halifax Regional Municipality Off Leash Dog Park Internal Guidelines (proposed)
Attachment B - Halifax Regional Municipality Park Classification
Attachment C - Potential Candidate Sites 2004 - Off-Leash Dog Parks

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sarah Osborne, Real Property Planning

Report Reviewed/Approved by: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)

ATTACHMENT A

Halifax Regional Municipality Off Leash Dog Park Internal Guidelines

Purpose

These guidelines are created to advance the establishment of future off-leash dog areas in urban Halifax Regional Municipality and regulate their use.

Objectives

Off-leash dog areas should:

1. Minimize conflicts between park users and dogs, and prevent or minimize park/habitat destruction due to dogs. This includes the safety issues of dogs running off-leash in inappropriate areas, and damage to park infrastructure or (in some cases) natural habitats.
2. Be distributed around HRM based on population density. This 'democratizes' the off-leash area selection process, and allows all citizens of HRM equal opportunity to visit a dog park within their region.
3. Minimize capital/operating costs of off-leash sites.
4. Respect and promote public health. Off-leash areas should facilitate and encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog. "A healthy dog is a happy dog," and exercising dogs off-leash also provides exercise opportunities for the owner. HRM also commits to choosing off-leash sites only where there are no environmental health concerns (ie. Not near playgrounds, sensitive bodies of water).
5. Promote by-law compliance, personal responsibility, and civic duty. By providing dog owners with designated areas to walk, play, and socialize their dogs off-leash, it is expected dog owners will be more inclined or better able to respect the Dog By-Law.

HRM will also commit to promoting responsible dog ownership through public education and awareness programs.

Basic Guidelines

Park Designation Process

Off-leash areas will first be established on a regional basis. The identified regions are Peninsular Halifax, Mainland Halifax (North and South), Dartmouth, Bedford, Sackville, and East Dartmouth/Cole Harbour. As HRM grows, more regions can be added to this list. The most under

served regions - that is, regions that do not have existing off-leash areas - and regions which would benefit most from an off-leash area will be given the highest priority.

When a region is determined to have a clear need of an off-leash area, staff will determine a suitable site in conjunction with the municipality's parks supervisors. HRM staff will then submit a report to Community Council with recommendations. All potential off-leash areas and dog park sites must receive Community Council approval to be implemented. Park development is subject to the availability of adequate funding.

Park Selection Criteria

This applies to parks that will be converted into dog parks (such as surplus sports fields) or parks where an off-leash area will be designated.

Only parks with a District classification (or a large Community park serving the maximum number of inhabitants) or undeveloped parkland/openspace should be considered for off-leash areas. This will ensure off-leash parks comply with the Parks and Openspace Planning Guidelines. Additionally, off-leash parks will be established at existing parks only when they have a recreation use or, where there are no sensitive habitats/ecosystems, a conservation use (ie. forested park with open spaces). This automatically disqualifies parks where parking is not/cannot be provided, parks on quiet residential streets, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. Staff will refer to the Parks and Openspace Planning Guidelines when there is a question of a park's suitability.

Decision-Making

Staff recommend that Community Councils continue to determine off-leash sites and seek money for each project through the Capital Budget process. When Regional parks are being considered for off-leash areas, the decision should be made at the Regional Council level.

Site Selection Criteria

The following are some of the criteria HRM staff considers when locating potential off-leash sites:

- 1) Size of Park or Open Space Area: Small parks are much more susceptible to damage from high off-leash usage than larger parks. Damage to surfaces (e.g. turf), pollution, and overcrowding all result from overuse of areas of limited size. Dedicated (single use) dog parks should generally be at least one acre in area, and designated (free-running) areas in parks should be at least two to three acres in area.
- 2) Economic impact of future maintenance costs will be considered.
- 3) Active and Passive Recreation Areas: Off-leash dog walking falls between the two levels of activity. Off-Leash dogs in active spaces like sports fields and playgrounds have a higher potential for dog-user conflict, so HRM staff discourages locating free-running areas near other

active recreation areas. Free-running areas are best suited to generous passive recreation parks, such as Point Pleasant Park where users can be given an opportunity to avoid dogs if they desire, or should be provided in dedicated dog parks where they are contained within their own enclosure.

- 4) Public Health Concerns: Public health concerns may arise if nearby residents use well water and increased dog visitation could pollute their drinking water. Other consideration should be given around swimming areas and children's wading pools.
- 5) Habitat Concerns: Staff discourage off-leash parks from being located near wilderness habitats such as marshland or sensitive woodland.
- 6) Types/potential of facilities: Off-leash parks areas should be chosen where there is existing or the possibility to provide adequate parking, lighting, fencing, turf conditions, etc. Already established areas where there are organized sports, pools, flowerbeds, running tracks and golf courses are not generally acceptable.

Signage

The municipality will provide adequate signage posted at all primary park entrances and near off-leash areas. The signage must indicate clearly which areas are off-leash, as well provide off-leash park users with the rules governing off-leash areas.

Dog Park User Rules

Dog handlers must take the initiative to respect off-leash areas and encourage other dog owners to do the same. Off-leash areas work best when users hold each other accountable for cleaning up after their dogs and keeping the park safe for every visitor. Dog Park User Rules will be posted at every off-leash area.

Site Evaluations

Every off-leash area will be evaluated after the first year of operation (e.g. the 'pilot' period). Subsequent evaluations will be made on an as required basis. If the off-leash area poses an immediate health or safety risk, the city may rescind the off-leash designation immediately. If the city or region is no longer best served by maintaining an off-leash designation in any area, staff may refer the decision to Community Council to repeal the off-leash designation.

Appendix B

Halifax Regional Municipality Park Classification

Halifax Regional Municipality's Parks and Openspace Planning Guidelines has four classifications for parks. They are Neighbourhood Park, Community Park, District Park, and Regional Park. Parkland Classification is considered on a service delivery basis (the number of people who visit the park, and the distance they travel to reach the park). A number of other criteria are considered as well, such as size, use, road access and parking. A neighbourhood Park, for instance, would serve 250-375 people (500 square metres), cover about 10,000 square feet (about 930 square metres), and have a low environmental sensitivity. Neighbourhood parks are normally not provided with parking to encourage neighbourhood-only use. Community parks have a service radius of about 2 km (or 1,200 +/- people); District Parks have a radius of 5 km (or 10,000 +/- people), and Regional Parks serve about 25 km, or 100,000 +/- people. For example, Point Pleasant Park is a Regional Park since it serves all of Peninsular Halifax, as well as the 25 km area in every direction, and has regional significance in terms of its interest and draw.

Recreation needs are another important classification criterion of HRM parks. Recreation needs are described as either passive or active. Passive recreation means people are dispersed over a large area, with unscheduled, lower density/intensity use (e.g., hiking, walking, or picnicking). Active recreation is a recreation activity that generally involves groups of people who occupy a single area; it is higher density or intensity, it generates noise, and often requires night time lighting. It may also require scheduling and user fees. Examples include play, sport, swimming, etc. Running, walking, or playing with a dog in a designated off-leash area would fall somewhere between the two levels of activity. This is because dog owners will congregate for a single activity, but their park usage is unorganized and passive.

Appendix C

Potential Candidate Sites 2004 - Off-Leash Dog Parks

Don Bayer Sports Field

Field conditions at the Don Bayer Sports Field have been steadily deteriorating, due to failure of the sites structural fill. Although the field was used up until last year for some practice use, it is now officially closed and deemed unsafe for use. The cost for repairing the field and making it suitable for sports use is upwards of \$400,000. HRM can prepare Don Bayer Sports Field for use as an off-leash dog park with much less expense, and to the benefit of Dartmouth's dog owners. Requested drinking water for the dogs would involve bringing in water services and additional costs. There are many off-leash options at this site, such as dividing the park into two off-leash areas, one for large dogs and the other for small dogs. There is no design plan to convert the park for off-leash use thus there is no capital estimate yet, but staff estimate that a basic quality off-leash park at the site would have a general estimated cost of \$30,000 - \$40,000.

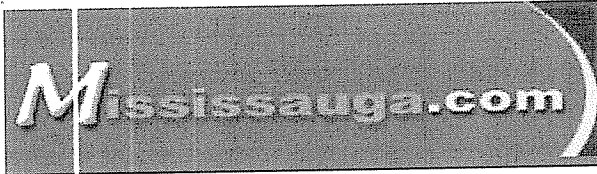
Glenbourne Park

Construction on Glenbourne Park began in 1997 and the park currently consists, of a soccer field, a sledding hill and open play space, a basketball court, parking area, and a level pad intended for a future tennis court. The empty pad is the site being recommended for an off-leash dog park. As stated earlier, city staff and community council approved a dedicated dog park to be built in Glenbourne Park in 2003. The project was not included in the 2004/2005 Capital Budget, but the site is still suitable for off-leash dog park construction. The Glenbourne Park site is estimated to cost \$49,000 to develop the empty pad into an off-leash dog park.

Williams Lake

Williams Lake is located in Mainland South Halifax. Williams Lake is a new park which is still in the park planning stage. A portion of the natural lands are suitable for off-leash use. This off-leash park will be eventually built as part of the overall park design plan. It could be included in any future Capital Budget process, although the need for off-leash parks in regions such as Dartmouth may have a higher priority/be more readily established. The proposed area would be a trail loop separate from the rest of the park. HRM's Park Development Community Consultation process this fall will help identify the general opinion of local residents.

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L. Mosher Re: 9.18
Aug 31/04



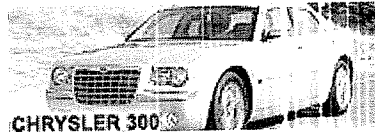
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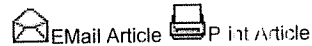
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THE MISSISSAUGA NEWS

Doggone it! Our leash-free zones are tops
Interest shown worldwide Zones are creating pride

DECLAN FINUCANE
Mar 21, 2004

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Mississauga is top dog when it comes to leash-free parks.

Municipal leaders from across Ontario and as far away as the United States and Australia are looking to Mississauga's leash-free zones as models for dog parks of their own.

That's the word from City of Mississauga authorities and affiliated group Leash-Free Mississauga (LFM), a grassroots volunteer organization responsible for the day-to-day operations of Mississauga's six off-leash dog parks, the newest of which will open this spring.

What sets Mississauga's canine play parks apart from others is that LFM through fundraising initiatives, picks up the tab for all costs associated with the set-up, maintenance and operation of the fenced-in dog zones, said Hazel McColl, the City's community development co-ordinator.

"It's done at no cost to taxpayers," said McColl, who has worked continually with LFM to help find suitable locations for dog parks.

McColl said Mississauga's leash-free blueprint is gaining a strong reputation as an example of how to responsibly accommodate dog owners and that queries have been coming from across the globe.

"The fact that (Mississauga's leash-free parks) are community-run, by volunteers, and run effectively.

That's what we're getting calls about," said McColl, adding

most leash-free dog parks in other jurisdictions are run solely by municipal governments. "We get a lot of interest because of the way in which the zones are operated. Leash-Free Mississauga has a sense of ownership of each zone and takes pride in maintaining them.

"Municipalities such as Kitchener-Waterloo, Burlington and Ottawa have shown interest in our model, but we've also had calls from as far away as Australia,



Municipal leaders from across Ontario and as far away as the United States are looking to Mississauga's leash-free zones as models for dog parks of their own.



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Maryland, Buffalo, and Prince Edward Island."

Adve

Originally developed in 1996 as a pilot project, the leash-free zones have become increasingly popular in Mississauga and elsewhere.

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A three-acre leash-free zone at Totoredaca Park, located on Meadowvale Blvd between Hwys. 401 and 407, opened last year to rave reviews from dog owners.

The facility includes a large agility area with obstacles, two fly-ball runs, lights for night-time use, a special area for smaller dogs and a large parking area

The park replaced the Battleford Rd. leash-free facility, which closed down to make way for a Peel Region Community Recycling Centre.

In a few weeks, a sixth dog park will open, located near Eglinton Ave. and Kennedy Rd., just east of Hwy. 403.

Leash-Free Mississauga Chair Rick Driffield said the parks are well-run and dog lovers are flocking to join the organization.

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"Membership has risen from 500 to 1,000 residents in the past year and continues to grow," said Driffield.

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McColl said the parks are a definite asset to residents, their dogs and the City

"It's important for these animals to have a safe and fun environment to exercise and socialize off-leash," said McColl.

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City council has consistently supported the concept of canine playgrounds as well.

Ward 9 Councillor Pat Saito says, "they provide a safe environment for dogs to exercise off-leash."

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14-DAY SEARCH

THE MISSISSAUGA NEWS

Other leash-free zones are located at Garnetwood Park, Etobicoke Valley Park, Quenippenon Meadows and Jack Darling Park.

Leash-Free Mississauga memberships cost \$10 for one dog and \$15 for two or more dogs. Application forms can be picked up at leash-free zones or online at www.caninefriends.com.



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