

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: July 14, 2020</p> <p>To: Mayor and Members of Council</p> <p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: August 5, 2020</p>
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Subject

Parks By-law 186-05 Review

Recommendation

1. That the Parks By-law 186-05, as amended, be repealed.
2. That a new Parks By-law be enacted pursuant to the report dated July 14, 2020 from the Commissioner of Community Services.
3. That Legal Services be directed to make an application to the Ministry of the Attorney-General for set fines under Part I of the Provincial Offence Act for the Parks By-law.

Report Highlights

- Parks By-law 186-05, as amended, requires updating to effectively continue the administration and enforcement on all park related programs and activities.
- Community organizations affected by changes to the by-law have been consulted throughout the process.
- An updated by-law will ensure greater clarity for members of the public and enforcement staff.

Background

Parks By-law 186-05, as amended, requires updating to effectively continue the administration and enforcement on all park related programs and activities. In 2019, a comprehensive review was initiated which confirmed the need to update the current by-law. Staff from the following City business units: Parks, Forestry and Environment, Enforcement, Corporate Security, Legal Services, Recreation, Animal Services, and Mobile Licensing have worked over the last year to finalize the draft by-law.

Council	2020/07/14	2
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An online survey pertaining to Leash Free Zones was conducted in October 2019. The survey had 707 respondents with 85% identified as Mississauga residents, with the other respondents residing in Brampton, Oakville, or Etobicoke. Dog owners accounted for 92% of the respondents, 23% used a dog walker service, and 49% were members of Leash Free Mississauga.

Consultation with City approved commercial dog walkers occurred in January 2020. Feedback from staff, online survey participants and commercial dog walkers assisted in developing specific Leash Free Zone use and commercial dog walker permit proposed requirements within the amended by-law.

Comments

The amended by-law clarifies many of the existing regulations of park uses, as well as allowing for the addition of proposed specific new provisions, as follows:

1. Age restriction for children under 12 not being able to enter Leash Free Zones in parks.
2. Hours of operation implemented for use of a Leash Free Zone for commercial dog walkers: Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm (the number of dogs permitted under the dog walker permit remains at 8).
3. Alignment with the Region of Peel's Peel Outdoor No Smoking or Vaping By-law 49-2019.
4. Park hours changed to better reflect user needs. Park closure remains at 11:00pm but opening has moved to dawn, from the current 7:00am, to allow earlier access. A provision to address loitering has also been added into the by-law. Woodlands still have restricted access from dusk to dawn.
5. Streetsville Village Square to be treated as a park, and subject to the new Park By-law, when the street is closed.
6. Clarity and alignment with Mobile Licensing regarding ice cream trucks, refreshment vehicles, full service food trucks, portable display units, refreshment carts, and refreshment cycles by creating a Park Vendor section.
7. Identification of the busking program and its role in parks.
8. Regulations to address current and emerging kite flying trends.
9. Introduction of a section on Commercial Activities created to consolidate the following activities into one section in the by-law, including commercial photography, fitness/instructional classes, and park vendors.

10. Clarity around fishing in parks.
11. Clarity and alignment with Active Transportation, recognizing the different modes of transportation that could be used in the parks system that are currently restricted.
12. Clarity around the use of profane and abusive language, including hate speech, against identifiable groups within parks.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts from the recommendations in this report.

Conclusion

The current Parks By-law 186-05, as amended, required an update in order to properly recognize and regulate the current range of activities which occur in City parks and open spaces. It is therefore appropriate for Council to establish the new by-law which govern the activities in City parks and open spaces. Commensurate with prior practices, provision for set fines are contained within the recommended by-law to allow for the issuance of tickets for enforcement purposes.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Parks By-law Revised

Appendix 2: Parks By-law 186-05



Shari Lichterman, CPA, Commissioner of Community Services

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