



**SUMMARY REPORT
PARK REDESIGNATION REQUEST
TILLBURY PARK – WARD 15 – KITCHISSIPPI**

Dogs-in-Parks Designation Policy

In 2003, concurrent with the enactment of the Animal Care and Control By-law 2003-77, Council approved the Dogs-in-Parks Designation Policy (DIPDP), which had been in place in a similar form in former Ottawa. Tillbury Park was, in the late 1990s, designated as “No Dogs” under that policy which involves assessing each park against the criteria in the policy, determining a total point score based on the criteria, making a recommendation for the designation based on the point score (i.e. the higher the point score, the more restrictive the proposed designation) and, finally, undertaking community consultation. The designation categories are generally dogs allowed (off-leash), dogs on-leash and dogs prohibited (no dogs), although mixed and/or timed designations are occasionally applied depending on the circumstances and results of community consultation. As well, the DIPDP provides for park re-designations, with the requirements for said process, which also includes community consultation, outlined under Section 4 of the policy (ref. below). This process would apply in the case where a park has already been designated in accordance with the DIPDP and at least two years have elapsed since the designation took place.

“4. PARKS REDESIGNATIONS

Applications to change a park designation will be accepted by the Emergency and Protective Services Department if:

- submitted in writing by a recognized Community Association, or
- accompanied by a petition supporting the redesignation signed by the occupants of 25 or more households residing within a five-block or 500 metre radius of the subject park, whichever is the lesser distance, and
- no request for redesignation of the same park has been processed within two years immediately preceding the date of the application.

The application must outline clearly the reasons for the requested change.

If the application is in order, the Department will accept it and, as soon as possible, will post notices in the park of the redesignation request. Persons will be invited to submit comment to the Department during a specified timeframe (not less than three weeks).

At the conclusion of the consultation period, the Department will report to the Ward Councillor with the results of the public consultation, a history of dog-related service requests related to the park, and the Departmental recommendation.



If the Ward Councillor agrees with the Departmental recommendation, appropriate action will be taken by the Department to either effect the change or notify the applicant that there will be no change.

If the Ward Councillor disagrees with the Departmental recommendation, the matter will proceed to the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) by way of Departmental report. The decision of CPSC will be final.”

Re-designation Request

A request to re-designate Tillbury Park was received on June 10, 2019.

The outline of the petition signed by twenty-nine (29) residents, is as follows:

APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE PARK DESIGNATION FOR TILLBURY PARK

‘Dogs on-leash’ throughout the park.

The petition is signed by twenty-nine residences to ask that the by-law be reviewed and changed so that the park is ‘Dog on-leash’ to allow families to enjoy the park with their children and their dog.


The petition met the requirements of the DIPDP and the process proceeded.

Consultation

In accordance with the DIPDP, four (4) signs notifying park users of the request to re-designate Tillbury Park (Figure 1) were posted in the parks entrances commencing June 13, 2019. The comment period was scheduled to end on July 26, 2019.



Figure 1. Notification Sign

750 mm			
NOTICE		 AVIS	
A request has been made to change the "DOGS-IN-PARKS" designation for:		La ville a reçu une demande visant à changer la désignation "ACCÈS AUX CHIENS" pour	
Tillbury Park		Parc Tillbury	
From Current:	To Proposed:	Désignation actuelle :	Désignation proposée :
NO DOGS	DOGS ON LEASH	CHIENS INTERDITS	CHIENS EN LAISSE
DUE DATE FOR COMMENTS JULY 26, 2019		VEUILLEZ FAIRE PARVENIR VOS COMMENTAIRES D'ICI AU 26 JUILLET 2019	
<small>You are invited to support, oppose or submit other dog designation options. As no further public consultation will occur, please ensure that your detailed comments have been received by the By-law & Regulatory Services by the due date.</small>		<small>Nous vous invitons à manifester votre appui ou votre opposition, ou à suggérer d'autres options de désignation de parc. Comme il n'y aura pas d'autre consultation publique, veuillez présenter vos commentaires détaillés aux Services des règlements municipaux d'ici à la date limite.</small>	
<small>Your comments or questions may also be submitted by telephone, fax, e-mail or regular mail to:</small>		<small>Vous pouvez aussi envoyer vos commentaires ou questions par téléphone, télécopieur, courriel ou courrier à :</small>	
Kevin Heiss By-law & Regulatory Services 735 Industrial Ave., 2nd Floor Ottawa, ON K1G 5J1 Phone: 580-2424, ext. 41864 Fax: 580-2818 E-mail : kevin.heiss@ottawa.ca		Kevin Heiss Services des règlements municipaux 735, rue Industrial, 2 ^e étage Ottawa, ON K1G 5J1 Téléphone : 580-2424, poste 41864 Télécopieur : 580-2818 Courriel : kevin.heiss@ottawa.ca	
600 mm			

Results of Consultation

Comments were received via telephone and electronic mail, although the majority were submitted via electronic mail. A total of 91 submissions were received and reviewed. Noteworthy is that several individuals from the same residence submitted comments; however, only one submission per household was considered as part of the consultation process.

Of the 91 eligible submissions, **48 (53%)** individuals were in favour of the requested change in designation and **43 (47%)** were against it.

The majority of those who were opposed to the proposal commented that many children frequent the park and were concern about their safety. Those who were in favour of the proposed change commented that they would like to enjoy the park with their family and

their dog, and believe this is possible without issues due to the open green space in the park.

Service Requests

According to the By-law & Regulatory Services Branch database (MAP) records, from January 2014 to July 2019, a total of four (4) Service Requests (SRs) relating to dogs for Tillbury Park were received by By-law & Regulatory Services – 0 in 2014, 0 in 2015, 0 in 2016, 0 in 2017, 0 in 2018, and 5 in 2019 (2 in July and 2 in August). The 5 in 2019 are related to dog being in the park and were made after the redesignation sign were put up. 3 of the 5 complaints made in 2019 were made by the same resident.

Staff Recommendation

The majority of those who commented on the proposal were in favour of changing the park's designation to allow dogs on-leash. Further, the number of complaints received by the City in the last 5 years is low and the number of recent complaints in 2019 coincide with the redesignation proposal. Also, due to the proximity of the park to Notre Dame High School, allowing dogs on-leash in the park would minimize the number of dog owners bringing their dogs onto school property as they would have an alternative.

As well, application of the Dogs-in-Park Designation Policy scoring suggests that the park could be designated as "Dogs On-leash", which seems appropriate in light of the open green space in the park. This would allow families to spend time in the park with their dog, while still providing a dog free zone (5m) around the play structure, as outline in the Animal Care and Control bylaw under section 44.

Based on the foregoing, it is recommended that the designation of Tillbury Park be changed to "Dogs On-leash".

Ward Councillor Review

In accordance with the DIPDP, the Department advised Ward Councillor Leiper of the results of the public consultation, a history of dog-related service requests related to the park, and the Departmental staff recommendation. The results of the consultation demonstrate that the majority of those who commented on the proposed change were in favour of it. Further, the history of service requests demonstrates that there are no issues with dogs in Tillbury Park and therefore, the designation will be changed to "Dog On-leash". **Councillor Jeff Leiper concurs with the Departmental staff recommendation.**

