

HALIFAX

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Item No. 3

Halifax Regional Council
January 15, 2019

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 

Denise Schofield, Director, Parks & Recreation

Original Signed by 

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Off-leash Dog Area, Long Lake Provincial Park

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

January 16, 2018 Regional Council motion (Item 14.1.1): MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll THAT Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt Administrative Order 2017-013-OP, *Off-Leash Dog Areas Administrative Order*, as set out in Attachment A of this report;
2. Adopt By-law P-601, amending By-law P-600, the Municipal Parks By-law, as set out in Attachment C of this report;
3. Approve the continuation of the existing Off-Leash Dog Areas approved pursuant to the 2007 Off-Leash Strategy within Point Pleasant Park, Fort Needham Park, Mainland Common, Hemlock Ravine, Shubie Park, Dartmouth Common, Sandy Lake, and Ardmore Park;
4. Approve the continuation of the existing seasonal Off-leash Dog Areas as listed in Attachment E; and
5. Direct the CAO to identify potential additional Off-leash Dog Areas, pursuant to Administrative Order 2017-013-OP, for the communities of Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, Spryfield area, and Dartmouth. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

August 14, 2018 Halifax Regional Council Motion (Item 14.6.2): MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker That Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to look at potential of off leash dog parks in the Long Lake Provincial Park Area; excluding the new trail system off North West Arm Drive. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c.39

Section 61(5) The Municipality may

(a) acquire property, including property outside the Municipality, that the Municipality requires for its purposes or for the use of the public;

Section 79(1) The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for

...

(k) recreational programs; ...

(x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose; ...

(ah) playgrounds, trails, including trails developed under an agreement made pursuant to clause 73(c), bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities;

HRM Administrative Order 2017-013–OP Respecting Off-leash Dog Areas Within Parks (Off-leash Dog Areas Administrative Order)

5. All or a portion of a Park may be designated as an Off-Leash Dog Area.
7. The process to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area shall be initiated in one of the following ways: (a) by a motion of Regional Council, which may include directions for public consultation, to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area within a specific park or community;
8. Once initiated, proposals to consider the establishment of an Off-Leash Dog Area shall be referred to staff for consideration and evaluation.

BACKGROUND

Off-Leash Dog Area Program

As detailed in previous reports, HRM's off-leash dog program dates to 1998 when provisions were established to permit off-leash activity within municipal parks. In 2007, Regional Council adopted an off-leash dog strategy as a pilot program which guided the establishment of seven permanent off-leash areas, as well as the seasonal use of select sports fields. Between 2014 and 2015 the off-leash program was reviewed and was made permanent.

In January 2018, Regional Council:

- confirmed the continuation of the existing off-leash areas, previously implemented as part of the pilot program. A list of the existing off-leash areas can be found in Attachment A and is illustrated on Map 1;
- approved, as policy, Administrative Order 2017-013-OP (Respecting Off-Leash Dog Areas in Municipal Parks) which provides guidance on how new off-leash areas are established; and
- endorsed a work program to identify potential additional off-leash dog areas, pursuant to the new Administrative Order, for the communities of Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, the Spryfield area and Dartmouth.

Work Program

Since the work program was endorsed, Don Bayer Park in Dartmouth has been identified and approved for the establishment of a new dedicated off-leash area, subject to capital funding; public engagement has commenced for the community of Eastern Passage through the comprehensive park planning project underway for the Eastern Passage Common; and, the Former Rehabilitation Centre Lands on Bissett Road in Cole Harbour have been identified for a comprehensive park planning exercise to take place in the 2019/20 business year which will include the examination of off-leash potential.

DISCUSSION

As discussed in the report dated December 4, 2017, the area of Long Lake Provincial Park is a longstanding and popular area for off-leash dog walking and swimming. However, this is a prohibited activity under provincial park regulations. To address this issue, the Province approached HRM with a potential proposal

for the municipality to establish an off-leash area which would then be managed by HRM as part of the off-leash program. The details of this prospective arrangement have yet to be determined.

Staff has held discussions with staff from the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry (NSLAF) (formerly the Department of Natural Resources), under which the authority for Provincial parks rests. As part of this, provincial staff have suggested that existing and potential off-leash areas in the vicinity of the provincial park be assessed. This is based on a concern about establishing a precedent given that there are no allowances for off-leash areas in provincial parks. Some initial work on this has occurred by provincial and municipal staff. To date, this has not resulted in any change in the province's request to the municipality. Staff anticipate proceeding with the provincial initiative once the broader review is completed, unless circumstances change, in which case staff will report back to Regional Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Should a potential partnership with NSLAF appear achievable, additional information will be presented in a subsequent report to Regional Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was conducted in conjunction with the preparation of this report. As part of Regional Council's endorsement of the work program on January 16, 2018, community input is to be sought for candidate sites which would occur following a partnership arrangement with the Province.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

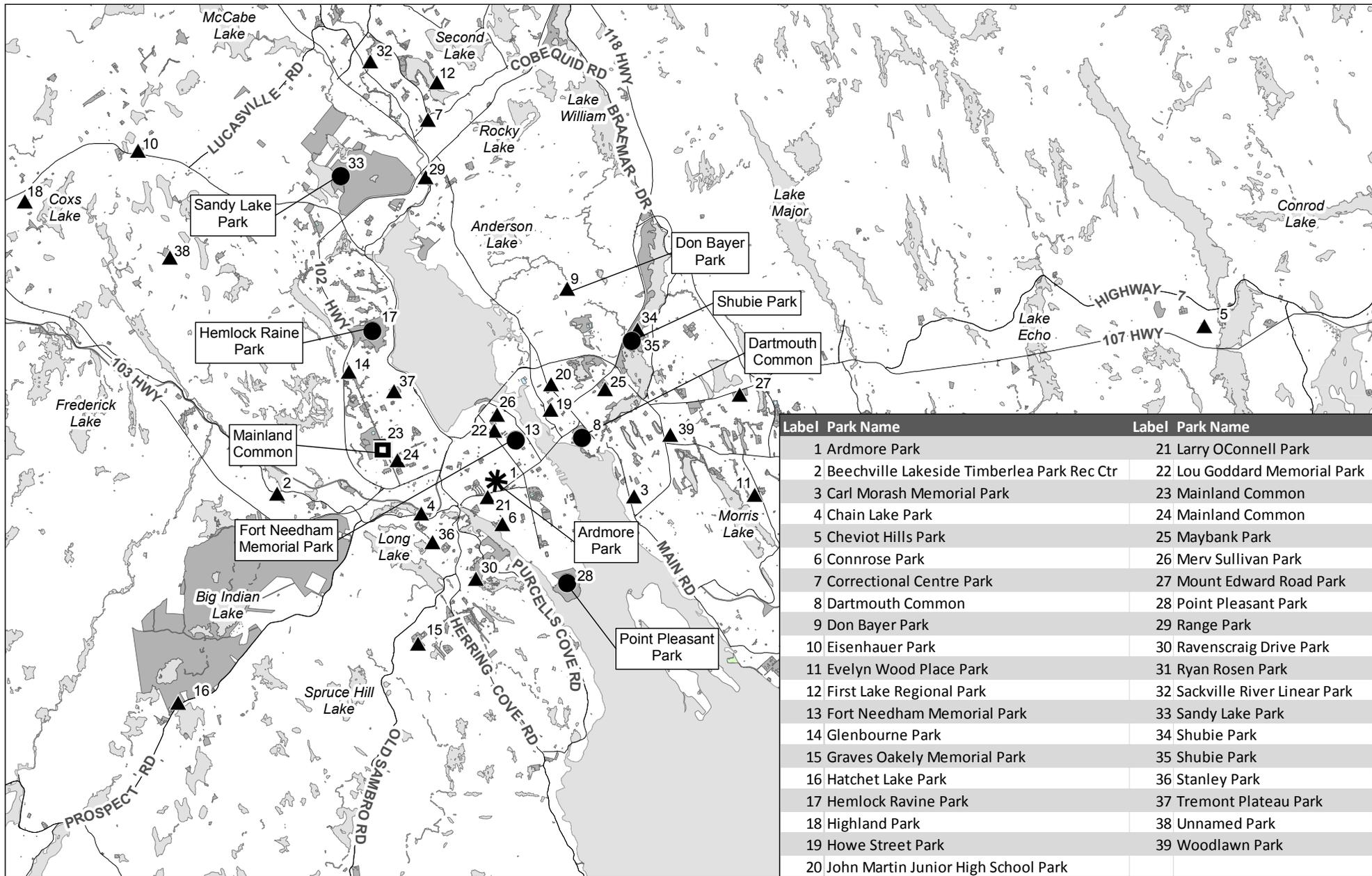
Environmental Implications were not examined in the preparation of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Map 1:	Existing Off-Leash Dog Areas
Attachment A:	List of Existing Off-Leash Dog Areas

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Jacqueline Belisle, Policy Coordinator, Parks and Recreation, 902.490.3970



Label	Park Name	Label	Park Name
1	Ardmore Park	21	Larry OConnell Park
2	Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Park Rec Ctr	22	Lou Goddard Memorial Park
3	Carl Morash Memorial Park	23	Mainland Common
4	Chain Lake Park	24	Mainland Common
5	Cheviot Hills Park	25	Maybank Park
6	Connrose Park	26	Merv Sullivan Park
7	Correctional Centre Park	27	Mount Edward Road Park
8	Dartmouth Common	28	Point Pleasant Park
9	Don Bayer Park	29	Range Park
10	Eisenhauer Park	30	Ravenscraig Drive Park
11	Evelyn Wood Place Park	31	Ryan Rosen Park
12	First Lake Regional Park	32	Sackville River Linear Park
13	Fort Needham Memorial Park	33	Sandy Lake Park
14	Glenbourne Park	34	Shubie Park
15	Graves Oakely Memorial Park	35	Shubie Park
16	Hatchet Lake Park	36	Stanley Park
17	Hemlock Ravine Park	37	Tremont Plateau Park
18	Highland Park	38	Unnamed Park
19	Howe Street Park	39	Woodlawn Park
20	John Martin Junior High School Park		

Map 1 Existing Off-Leash Dog Area Locations

- Dedicated Year Round Service Dog Off-Leash Area
- Seasonal Municipal Sports Fields
- Dedicated Year Round Off-Leash Area
- Year Round Off-Leash Areas

**Attachment A:
List of Existing Off-Leash Dog Areas**

Year-Round Off-Leash Dog Areas with Municipal Parks:

Park, Community	Type of Off-leash Area
Ardmore Park, Halifax	Dedicated Service Dog Park – not available to the general public
Dartmouth Common, Dartmouth	Shared
Fort Needham Memorial Park, Halifax	Shared
Hemlock Ravine Park, Halifax	Shared
Mainland Common, Halifax	Dedicated fully fenced area augmented with seasonal use of the Westridge ballfield
Point Pleasant Park, Halifax	Shared
Sandy Lake Park, Bedford	Shared
Shubie Park, Dartmouth	Shared and augmented with seasonal use of Shubie ballfield
Don Bayer Park, Dartmouth*	Dedicated fully fenced area augmented with seasonal use of Don Bayer sports field

* Approved pending confirmation of capital budget funding

Seasonal Municipal Sports Fields:

Summer Use Sports Field (June 1 – November 1, 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)	
Field, Park	Civic Address
Halifax	
Chain Lake Park	531 Crown Drive
Conrose Park	6510 Jubilee Road
Glenbourne #2, Glenbourne Park	655 Parkland Drive
Larry OConnell Park	6691 Fourth Street
Hammonds Plains	
Unnamed Park (Green Space between George Samuel and Nousha Court)	414 Kingswood Drive
Sackville	
Eddie LeBlanc #3, First Lake Regional Park	385 First Lake Drive

Winter Use Sports Field (November 1 – May 1, 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)	
Field, Park	Civic Address
Bedford	
Bud Bremner Soccer Field, Range Park	1800 Bedford Highway
Cole Harbour	
Mel Braine Park Diamond, Evelyn Wood Place Park	70 Evelyn Wood Place
Dartmouth	
Conrad Ball Diamond, Mount Edward Road Park	192 Mount Edward Road
Don Bayer Sport Field, Don Bayer Park	26 Troop Avenue
John Martin Ball Diamond, John Martin Junior High School Park	7 Brule Street
Mic Mac #1 and #2 Sport Fields, Maybank Park	1088 MicMac Boulevard
Penhorn #1, #2, and #3 Ball Diamonds, Woodlawn Park	50 Athorpe Drive
Schultz Ball Diamond, Howe Street Park	35 Howe Street
Shubie Ball Diamond, Shubie Park	30 John Brenton Drive
Woodside #1 and #2 Ball Diamonds, Carl Morash Memorial Park	6 Mount Hope Avenue

Fall River	
Ryan Rosen Sport Field, Ryan Rosen Park	60 Foster Avenue
Halifax	
Chain Lake Sport Field, Chain Lake Park	531 Crown Drive
Conrose Ball Diamond, Conrose Park	6510 Jubilee Road Conrose Avenue
Glenbourne Sport Field, Glenbourne Park	655 Parkland Drive
Graves Oakley #1 and #2 Sport Fields, Graves Oakley Memorial Park	104 Leiblin Drive
Larry O'Connell Ball Diamond, Larry OConnell Park	6691 Fourth Street
Lou Goddard Ball Diamond, Lou Goddard Memorial Park	3566 Highland Ave.
Merv Sullivan Sport Field, Merv Sullivan Park	3791 Noalea Drive 3740 Kencrest Avenue
Ravenscraig Drive Park	15 Ravenscraig Drive
Tremont Plateau Park Sport Field, Tremont Plateau Park	45 Trailwood Place End of Tremont Drive
Westridge Ball Diamond, Mainland Common	69 Westridge Drive
Stanley Park Sport Field, Stanley Park	56 Tamarack Drive
Hatchet Lake	
Hatchet Lake Ball Diamond, Hatchet Lake Park	2101 Prospect Road
Hammonds Plains	
Eisenhauer Field, Eisenhauer Park	2043 Hammonds Plains Road
Highland Park	21 Deepwood Drive
Lakeside	
Lakeside Ball Diamond, BLT Recreation Centre Site	1492 St Margarets Bay Rd
Lower Sackville	
Correctional Ball Diamond, Correctional Centre Park	191 Cobequid Road
Eddie LeBlanc #1 and #2 Ball Diamonds, First Lake Regional Park	385 First Lake Drive
Superstore Ball Diamond, Sackville River Linear Park	67 Old Beaver Bank Road
Porters Lake	
Cheviot Hills Ball Diamond, Cheviot Hills Park	50 Cheviot Hills Road