

of complaints from the public, and in parks that have been identified by either Parks Division or By-law staff as having significant problems. These officers deal with dog off-leash issues, vandalism, illegal use of sport fields, dumping in parks, and with abusive park users. The officers are equipped with RCMP radios and are in contact with the RCMP on a continuing basis.

In addition to the patrol by By-law Enforcement Officers, the RCMP provide ad-hoc patrols in city parks, and also respond as resources permit to complaints about illegal activities taking place in parks.

DISCUSSION

The Corporate Report supported by Council on January 13, 2006 contained a number of specific recommendations made by an Integrated Services Team that included representatives from RCMP, Bylaws and Parks, Recreation and Culture staff (Appendix A). The impact of these measures represents a significant positive impact on security at the park; the Integrated Services Team did not recommend additional patrols during this review. At the request of Council a proposal of park patrol service utilizing City resources is presented for consideration.

While there are many different combinations of patrol services that could be established, the following model is presented to Council as the most effective use of financial resources:

Year Round Park Patrol by By-law Enforcement Officers

Three additional uniformed By-law Enforcement Officers would be hired and given an orientation to the park system and assigned specifically to city parks. They would join an established team of experienced officers, and would carry the mobile police radios. They would utilize existing By-law Enforcement Vehicles, and would provide seven day per week coverage, with the flexibility of providing coverage in the parks during peak times, on weekends, and during the evening hours should it be necessary. The cost of this option would be an additional \$170,000 per year.

The advantage of this type of patrol are numerous: they would have a close working relationship with the RCMP; they would be backed up by other trained By-law Enforcement Officers during holidays and other absences from work; they would have access to mobile enforcement-related computing systems; they could enforce other by-laws such as soil-dumping, business licensing and illegal parking, thereby generating additional revenues.

CONCLUSION

The By-law Enforcement and Licensing Section presently provides a dedicated park patrol of six officers for the five-month period of May to September. This unit deals with many park-related by-law offences, and was instrumental in apprehending an individual that was later charged with assaulting seniors at Bear Creek Park.

This report describes a method for providing a year-round City Park Patrol through the deployment of three additional By-law Enforcement Officers dedicated to this task, with annual costs of \$170,000. At the present time, the staffing level is not contained within the 2006 Operating Budget.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laurie A. Cavan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'A'.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix 1

Recommendations from Corporate Report 009

The Corporate Report supported by Council on January 16, 2006 included several security improvement recommendations including: i) additional CPTED modifications to the park, as noted in Appendix 3; ii) more frequent and better communication between the seniors, staff and the RCMP; iii) development of safety information kiosks within the park; iv) more frequent bicycle and foot patrols by uniformed police officers; v) roll-out of safety seminars at other parks where seniors gather; vi) lighting of the pathway to the parking lot on the King George Highway; vii) continued patrols by By-law Enforcement Officers, day-time patrols by Parks maintenance staff, and night-time patrols by Engineering Operations staff; viii) a potential volunteer-based *Park Watch* program; ix) a one year pilot project to outfit Bear Creek Park maintenance staff with uniforms and radios and/or cellular phones; and x) discontinuation of the private security patrol.