



Corporate Report

NO: R218

COUNCIL DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE:** October 3, 2007
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture **FILE:** 6135-20/C
SUBJECT: Recommended Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash Park Site Location - Clayton Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake detailed design and construction of a Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash area at Clayton Park, and undertake additional public consultation as part of the design process.

BACKGROUND

The City's *Dog Off-leash Areas Plan* (the Plan) was developed through public consultation and adopted by Council in 2001. This Plan indicates that each of Surrey's six town centres should have at least one destination Dog Off-Leash park. Today there are Dog Off Leash areas at Dogwood Park and Blackie Spit Park in South Surrey, Tynehead Park in Guildford, Freedom Park in Fleetwood, Tannery Park in Whalley, and the Serpentine Dog-Off-leash Park in Newton. The development of an Off-Leash park in Cloverdale will complete the 2001 plan.

Staff have been working with residents of Cloverdale since 2005 to locate a Dog Off-Leash Park that meets the Plan's size requirements, meets local residents' needs, while also being a site that ensures adequate connectivity to local Greenways and walking paths in the Cloverdale area.

In November 2006, in keeping with the recommendations of the Plan, an Open House was held to present a proposed Dog Off-Leash Park on existing parkland located on a hydro right-of-way, west of 184 Street and north of 60 Avenue in Cloverdale. The community did not support this location, with 70% of the comments sheets either opposing or strongly opposing the site and design. Primary concerns were related to concerns over the loss of a private license area for horses and the site being located under the hydro lines.

During 2007, staff carried out further community consultation and research in order to find an alternate site for the Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash Park that would be supported by the community. This work included:

- Review of comments from the previous Open House;
- In-depth research into Dog Park trends and issues to ensure that Surrey is at the leading edge of Dog Off Leash best practices; and
- Analysis of CPTED issues in and near candidate parks, dog licence mapping, and future population build-out for Cloverdale. This was done in order to determine where the greatest needs exist for a Dog Off Leash park in Cloverdale and to highlight possible alternate site options.

In addition staff held an evening Focus Group in April 2007, to review the research, to explore the alternate sites staff were proposing and to work with the Focus Group to isolate additional site locations staff may have overlooked. Letters and phone invitations to the Focus Group were sent to all PACs in Cloverdale, the RCMP, Cloverdale Recreation Senior staff and dog advocate groups in the surrounding areas. Participants represented an even balance of each of these stakeholders. After weighing the many community issues and concerns, the Focus Group suggested two sites as the best options to bring to the Cloverdale community and outlined important issues they felt needed to be included in the Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash Park. These sites, included in Appendix 'A', are:

- Clayton Park fronting on 188th Street, and
- The existing parkland near 64 Avenue and 182 Street that forms the eastern boundary of the Cloverdale Fairgrounds.

On May 30, 2007 staff held an Open House at the Cloverdale Senior's Centre to have the community determine a preferred site and outline design preferences for the two sites. Both sites were well received; comments to date have been constructive and positive for both locations, with 62% of those who commented preferring the Clayton Park site. (See Appendix 'B', proposed Clayton Dog Park site).

DISCUSSION

Clayton Park site strengths, as a Dog Off-Leash Park location:

1. The majority of participants preferred the Clayton site.
2. RCMP consultation supported the location as a Dog Off-Leash Park, due to research suggesting that increase park activity through dog off-leash park use minimizes crime and loitering in the immediate area.

3. A large portion of the development in East Clayton is zoned for RF – 12, 9 and coach houses, which tend to have small yards, suggesting the demand for a dog park will only increase with full infill of the area.
4. Research into dog licences in the area showed East Clayton as already being a high dog population area of Cloverdale.
5. Clayton Park borders onto the Clayton Greenway, allowing dog owners and families pedestrian connectivity via the Greenway.

Design suggestions highlighted through community consultation:

1. Clayton Heights Elementary staff and PAC members requested that a strong green buffer be maintained between the Dog Off Leash Park and the high school, and that the parking lot be located on the far north side of the site away from the high school parking area.
2. Local naturalists requested that Trillium beds in the park be protected.
3. Part of the staff best practices research and community process included gathering information and community recommendations regarding: mitigation of small/large dog conflicts, improved dog waste management, and adequate human and dog amenities in the parks. This research led to the following recommendations for changes to the City's standard Dog Off-leash park design:
 - To mitigate dog conflict - The Park design includes a separate small and large dog area, with separate entrances and green buffers and fencing dividing the two dog areas. Further a two way, entrance and exit gate for dogs to owners to pass through, to minimize dog conflict while entering or exiting the park.
 - To mitigate dog waste concerns - Decomposed crushed granite play areas, which help capture and eliminate odours. In addition to a pilot program of dog composting, to help ease dog waste build-up and smell.
 - To increase local responsibility over the park - Bulletin boards for local dog community organizing and advertising will be added to both dog parks.
 - To improve dog/human amenities in the dog park - A water hose and permanent stationary dog bowl, to ensure year round water for dogs in the park. Also, adequate low, downward facing lighting in the play areas, for winter evenings.

Funding

Funding for development of the Cloverdale Town Centre Dog Off-Leash area is set aside within the 2007 Park Development Capital Budget.

Next Steps

If Council supports the proposed site for the Cloverdale Town Centre Dog Off-Leash area, staff will proceed with additional public consultation, leading to detailed design and a land use plan for Clayton Park. Once complete, construction will begin on the Dog Off-Leash area, subject to favourable weather conditions.

SUMMARY

In keeping with the 2001 Council-adopted *Dog Off-Leash Area Plan*, the Cloverdale community has shown strong support and preference for a Dog Off-Leash area at Clayton Park in Cloverdale. Minor concerns expressed by the community can be addressed through a future detailed design community consultation process.

Should Council approve the recommendations, staff will begin community consultation on a detailed design of the dog park and a land use plan for Clayton Park in late 2007 or early 2008, with construction to begin once the design is complete. Development of the Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash area will complete the final requirements for the Council-adopted 2001 *Dog Off Leash Area Plan*.

Laurie Cavan
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Parks, Recreation & Culture

Cc -City Manager

CSP/OCC/lis

Attachments

APPENDIX A: Cloverdale Dog Off-Leash Park

APPENDIX B: Proposed Clayton Dog Park Site

