



Community Services *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: CS-2023-18

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Catania, Director, Community Services

PREPARED BY: Chris Catania, Director, Community Services
Geoff Dubrick, Manager, Parks/Facilities

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: September 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Investigation of Off-Leash Dog Park in Sir Adam Beck Park

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CS 2023-18, Investigation of Off-Leash Dog Park in Sir Adam Beck Park be received for information.

SUMMARY:

To provide Council with the feasibility of a potential off-leash dog park in Sir Adam Beck Park.

BACKGROUND:

The Township of Wilmot recognizes the importance of recreational spaces and facilities. When consultation took place in 2016 with the 2017 Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services Master Plan, low interest was expressed through the consultation process for an off-leash dog park. Even though limited demand at that time was expressed for this type of facility, observations in other municipalities have shown an increased demand, leisure and social benefit for residents and enhanced community interaction.

As a result, the Township proceeded to site and construct an off-leash dog park at William Scott Park in New Hamburg that opened in September 2020. This off-leash dog park is the

only facility of this kind in the Township. Staff provide ongoing inspections and maintenance for this facility and can report the utilized off-leash dog park feedback is favourable due to its quaint, natural location.

On July 24, 2023, Council approved a Notice of Motion directing staff to investigate and appropriate site, conditions and costing and report back to Council on a potential off-leash dog park in Sir Adam Beck Park.

REPORT:

Sir Adam Beck Park is located at 215 Synder's Road East in Baden. The existing off-leash dog park facility in New Hamburg is approximately 6.5 kilometers from Sir Adam Beck Park. Staff have investigated potential siting and options for an off-leash dog park facility in Sir Adam Beck Park and analysis as follows:

Sir Adam Beck Park Considerations – Site A

Site A (attachment) is located in the Northwest corner of the property. This area of Sir Adam Beck Park borders the residences of Synder's Road E to the north and Schneller Court to the west. Constructing an off-leash dog park in this area would limit any potential future park program development (i.e.: soccer pitch, baseball diamond, etc). This large parcel of land could be used for future recreational opportunity based on needs of the community reflected in the upcoming Community Services master plan update (Formerly Parks, Facilities & Recreation Services master plan). Residential homes exist with approximate twelve (12) homes in close vicinity of this site selection. Consideration would have to be given to ongoing noise concerns, specific hours of operation that would affect the surrounding residences occurring year round.

Sir Adam Beck Park Considerations – Site B

Site B (attachment) is located in the Northeast corner of the property. This area is slightly smaller due to the proximity of the playground and courts. This area of Sir Adam Beck Park borders the residences of Snyder's Road E to the north and Erbach Crescent to the east. This area of the park also has residential properties with approximately five (5) residences backing directly onto this area. Similar consideration would have to be given to noise and operational hours year round. Furthermore, approximately ten mature black walnut trees are located in this area of Sir Adam Beck Park. Constructing any fencing enclosure for a dog park would require careful site examination mitigating root damage and/or health of the trees from fence posts. These mature black walnut trees can also be a health concern for dogs if any falling walnut shells are ingested during the fall months. The walnut rind becomes moldy, turns black to expose the walnut shell. These walnuts become a risk for users and would create elevated maintenance of the area unless the risk is fully eliminated.

Updated Master Plans to Further Validate Additional Facilities

Staff are in the process of updating the Community Services and Trails Master plans. These updates beginning in 2024 will validate the required recreational facilities, suitability, and programming locations for the planned growth of the Township including public open spaces and off-leash dog parks. With enhanced community engagement and consultation, the results will highlight the needs of the community, and set forth a planned approach in delivering all additional facilities and services to the community. This will include validating the feasibility and suitability of Sir Adam Beck Park for the existing program elements and any future program elements.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

The information contained within this report align with the Strategic Plan goals of:

- Quality of Life through Recreation and Leisure Opportunities
- Responsible Governance through Infrastructure Investments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The design and build of a permanent leash-free dog park at Sir Adam Beck (Site dependant) includes upward capital estimates and yearly operating impacts as noted below:

Capital	Amount
Design	\$10,000
Construction (i.e. Staging, Excavation, Screenings, Fencing, Waste Disposal, Tables/Benches, Signage)	\$90,000
Contingency – approximate (5%)	\$5,000
Total Capital Budget	\$105,000

Operating (Yearly)	Amount
Parking Lot Snow/Ice Removal	\$8,500
Waste Removal & Additional Turf Maintenance	\$1,000

Resourcing - Fence Inspections, Fence & Gate Repairs, Disputes	TBD
Total Operating Impacts	\$9,500

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Sir Adam Beck Park Siting