



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF THE CAO

Mission Statement: As stewards of the Town of Amherstburg, we strive to improve the quality of life of all residents through the delivery of effective, efficient, and affordable services.

Author's Name: Bill Tetler	Report Date: February 10, 2025
Author's Phone: 519 736-0012 ext. 2251	Date to Council: February 24, 2025
Author's E-mail: btetler@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: KNYP Fishing Report

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The report from the Manager of Licensing and Enforcement dated February 10, 2025 regarding fishing in KNYP **BE RECEIVED for information;**
2. **DIRECT** Administration to implement the option selected by Council, which may include updating the User Fee By-law.

2. BACKGROUND:

Council at their June 10, 2024 meeting requested a report back on options regarding Silver Bass Fishing in King's Navy Yard Park (KNYP).

During the spring spawning season, silver bass can be found in large numbers in the Detroit River. Silver bass season typically lasts 2-3 weeks and varies with dates depending on the water temperature. Council directed Administration to bring back options to deal with the complaints related to Silver bass fishing season in KNYP.

3. DISCUSSION:

Kings Navy Yard Park is Amherstburg's most visited and award-winning park known for its passive and beautiful perennial and annual gardens featuring many monuments, walking paths, storyboards and is a key tourism destination in Amherstburg. The park is civic and passive in nature offering beautiful views of the Detroit river, pathways for

strolling and is home to the Historic Gordon House, Tin Smith Building, Commissariat and Park House museum on the far northern border. Silver bass, an invasive species in the area, have recently become a popular target for out of town anglers. While fishing is a traditionally enjoyed activity in the park in the southwest corner, the surge in silver bass anglers has resulted in several complaints:

- a) **Overcrowding and Conflicts:** Increased fishing activities, specifically targeting silver bass, have led to overcrowding in certain areas of the park, especially along the south fishing pier. This has created conflicts between fishermen, park-goers, and those participating in other recreational activities. The overcrowding also negatively impacts the park's aesthetic appeal.
- b) **Public Safety and Infrastructure Strain:** The heightened fishing activity has created safety risks. Crowded fishing spots near pedestrian paths and water access points could lead to accidents, such as tripping, injuries, and disputes over fishing locations. The park's infrastructure, including waste disposal facilities, has also been strained due to increased use.
- c) **Local Community Concerns:** Residents using Kings Navy Yard Park have raised concerns about the growing fishing activity, particularly about noise, littering, and disruption to the natural environment. Some have expressed frustration that the fishing has negatively impacted the park's reputation as a tranquil place for family-friendly enjoyment.

In response to the issues outlined above, the following solutions are proposed to address the fishing complaints in Kings Navy Yard Park for Council's consideration;

1. **Public Awareness Campaign:** Launch an educational campaign to raise awareness about the importance on how to properly dispose of fishing waste.
2. **Improved Infrastructure:** Upgrade park infrastructure to support safe and organized fishing activities. This could include additional signage and waste disposal stations specifically for fishing debris. This could also include expanding the approved fishing area from the south end of the park (fishing pier) to the walkway by the Gordon House, effectively tripling the approved fishing area. This area would be fenced off to the general public during this time.
3. **Enhanced Park Management and Monitoring:** Increase By-law Enforcement staff hours during Silver Bass fishing season to monitor the situation, enforce regulations, and assist in maintaining park safety.
4. **Fees.** Council could include a User Fee to off set the costs of improved Infrastructure and Enhanced Park Monitoring by charging a \$10.00 per person per day fee to fish within the approved area. This entrance would be monitored by a Town employee and a wrist band would be provided upon payment for anyone wishing to fish in this area. Residents of the Town of Amherstburg with Valid ID would be exempt from this fee.

While Kings Navy Yard Park is a cherished and popular destination that offers beauty and tranquility to the community, the recent surge in silver bass fishing activities has

created several challenges, including overcrowding, safety risks, and disruption to the park's peaceful atmosphere. To preserve the park's appeal while managing the growing number of anglers, Administration is recommending all four (4) solutions be implemented. By implementing these measures, the Town can ensure a balanced approach that maintains the park's beauty, enhances safety, and allows for a harmonious coexistence of all visitors and activities.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is no risk analysis associated with this report.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The primary costs associated with overtime for enforcement personnel are those directly related to the additional hours worked outside of their regular shifts.

- **Overtime Pay Rates:** Overtime pay typically involves a premium rate, often at 1.5 times or more of the regular hourly wage.

Cost Calculation Example:

- Regular hourly wage for a By-law Enforcement Officer
- Overtime hourly wage (1.5x) and (2x)
- Number of personnel requiring overtime: 2 officers.
- Frequency of overtime shifts: 7 days per week during peak enforcement periods

If this overtime is approved the cost for enhanced enforcement from the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers would cost \$3,492.32 weekly plus benefits.

The cost to monitor the main entrance would be between \$17.50 to \$20.00/per hour, and the monitoring would be required daily from 0600hrs to 2000hrs during the Silver Bass season. There may also be an opportunity for students who need volunteer hours to engage with St. Clair College in order to fulfill graduation requirements.

6. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPACTS:

N/A

7. CONSULTATIONS:

Staff Sgt. Bryan Hayes, Windsor Police Amherstburg Detachment
Donna Drouillard, Manager Human Resources
Tracy Prince, CFO
By-law Enforcement Officers
Annette Zahaluk, Parks Manager
Heidi Baillargeon, Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation

8. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

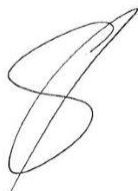
Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.

Amherstburg Community Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026

<p align="center">PILLAR 1 Deliver Trusted & Accountable Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase effective communication and engagement with residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation. 	<p align="center">PILLAR 3 Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands. ✓ Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.
<p align="center">PILLAR 2 Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue) <input type="checkbox"/> Create public access to water and waterfront <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town operations and increase Town resilience to climate change. 	<p align="center">PILLAR 4 Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage. <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve the Town’s greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.

9. CONCLUSION:

Silver bass fishing at Kings Navy Yard Park has grown significantly in recent years, leading to a series of complaints from residents that utilize KNYP. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that involves regulation, education and infrastructure improvements. By implementing the proposed solutions, we can ensure that Kings Navy Yard Park remains a safe, enjoyable, and sustainable environment for both anglers and other park visitors.



Bill Tetler
Manager, Licensing and Enforcement

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	KNYP Fishing Report.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 14, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Tracy Prince was completed by workflow administrator Kevin Fox

Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox