



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF PARKS, FACILITIES, RECREATION & CULTURE

MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.

Author's Name: Heidi Baillargeon	Report Date: March 31, 2022
Author's Phone: 519 736-5712 ext. 2128	Date to Council: April 11, 2022
Author's E-mail: hbailargeon@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #: N/A

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Dog Park in Amherstburg

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The Dog Park in Amherstburg report dated April 11, 2022 **BE RECEIVED**.
2. Council **APPROVE** the installation of a Dog park at the Libro Centre located at 3295 Meloche Road in the expansion lands south of the Libro Complex.
3. Council **DIRECT** Administration to proceed with the installation of a Dog Park at the above noted location as approved in the Capital Budget in the amount of \$166,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

In the past few years, public advocacy for the creation of a 'Dog Park' in Amherstburg has grown as a desired and sought-after amenity for the Town. On March 11, 2020 a delegation and petition with upwards of 600 signatures requesting a Dog Park in Amherstburg came before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Since this time there have been a number of requests brought forward by various residents in the community enquiring about when and if the Town would build a 'Dog Park' in Amherstburg.

Recommendation #55 of The Parks Master Plan states:

“Monitor the demand for an off-leash park. Should there be sufficient demand, use the recommended guidelines for evaluating potential sites, identify an organization to act as stewards of the park, and create a dog park on a trial basis.”

3. DISCUSSION:

On January 26, 2022, Administration launched a public survey on ‘Talk the Burg’ to get a sense of where the dog park should be located in Amherstburg and potential features that would be important to users. The survey closed Feb, 28 2022 results are attached under **Appendix A**. The survey was structured towards obtaining input on a number of dog park features, including location, use, size and amenities potentially found within.

Highlights from Survey Responses:

How often would residents use a dog park if it was available:

- 43.6% stated they would use it weekly,
- followed by 24.6% daily users,
- 13.8% not at all
- 7.2% rarely,
- 6.5% occasionally, and
- 4% monthly.

The top ten amenities requested for a dog park include (in order of preference):

1. Benches
2. Dog drinking fountain
3. Waste station
4. Shade structure
5. Hilltop ramp
6. Dog wash station
7. Leash post
8. Dog jump
9. Tunnel
10. Teeter totter

Preferred location for a dog park, four options were provided:

1. The Libro Centre/Larry Bauer Park, (69%)
2. Ranta Park and (13%)
3. Golfview Park. (9%)
4. Anderdon Park, (8%)

The above noted four park locations were identified for a potential dog park based on some key considerations including but not limited to size, visiting hours, proximity to neighbours, parking, ease of access and accessibility. From the responses, 69.2% (191

people) chose the Libro Centre/Larry Bauer park, followed by 13.4% (37) Ranta Park, 9.1% (25) Golfview Park and 8.3% (23) Anderdon Park.

A further question asked if there was a park, not listed in the previous question which should be considered for the dog park. Of the responses:

- 9 people selected Thrasher,
- 5 requested not at Golfview, and
- 4 suggested Jack Purdie.
- Other parks or locations were identified however the numbers were not significant.

The recommended minimum size for a dog parks varies considerably among municipalities but is generally between 1 and 2 acres. Most have two distinct areas; an area for small dogs and an area for larger dogs.

The preferred location for a dog park is at the Libro Centre located at 3295 Meloche Road. Administration is recommending the dog park be located on the southwest corner in the expansion lands in the approximate location as indicated in blue below. This location makes use of underutilized land, provides easy access to Meloche Road, and is distanced from the sport activities that occur at the park. The current topography of the land in this area includes some rolling hills, open grass area and some naturalized areas. There will also be a small gravel parking lot located here that will act as both parking for dog park users and trail users. The new Libro trail that will be constructed will extend past this area and link to the main facility.



4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There are some areas with the above noted footprint that have been allowed to naturalize over time. In order to be sensitive to these areas the Town will need to consult the proper planning and regulatory authorities in order to proceed with the development of this amenity which could present some extended timelines for constructability. This is considered possible and of medium risk.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Council approved \$166,000 in the 2022 Capital Budget in order to fund Phase 1 of the project which includes, planning/design, installation of fencing approx. 1.5 acres in size, poured concrete approaches, a double gated pen for entering and exiting the dog park, limited gravel pathways, tree planting, benches, picnic tables and a few dog park amenities.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

Finance Treasurer
Parks Manager
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Public Outreach through a Survey

7. CONCLUSION:

Administration recommends a new Dog Park be located at 3295 Meloche the Libro Centre in the southwest corner as indicated in this report. Current feedback from residents in the community and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee indicate this will be a welcomed amenity for the residents of Amherstburg.




Heidi Baillargeon
Director of Parks, Facilities, Recreation and Culture

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Dog Park.docx
Attachments:	- 2022 Dog Park Survey FINAL.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 20, 2022

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



Heidi Baillargeon



Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley – Acting CAO