

Public Space Use By-law

August 28, 2024

Goals of the by-law

- Help make public spaces owned and operated by the City available for everyone
- Ensure designated and sensitive spaces are used for their intended purposes
- Accommodate the needs of unsheltered individuals so that they can live safer with dignity and with stability

Fully permissible locations

- Locations where there is no competing public use, space booking, sensitive area
- Temporary shelters permitted 24/7
- Examples include open park space that is not programmed or designated as a sports field
- Protections in place to prevent removal of encampment or shelters by others

Time restricted locations

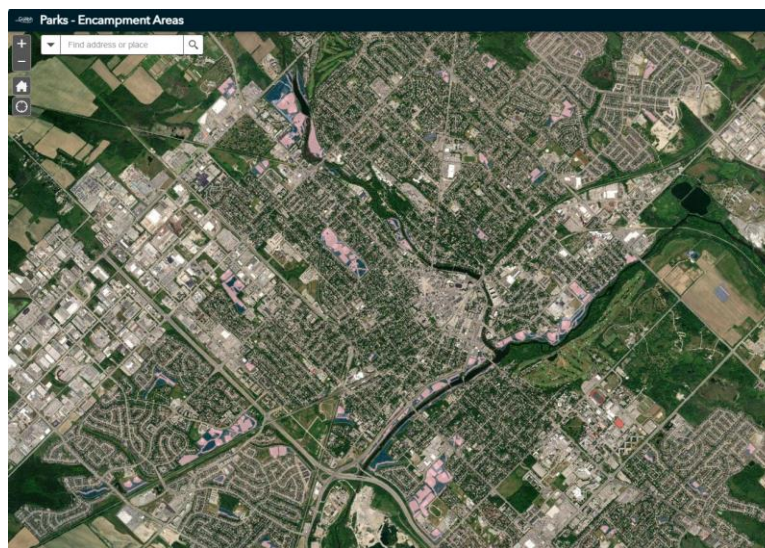
- Locations where space is programmed or designated for other purposes
- In general public spaces, temporary shelters are permitted one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise. Examples include public squares, outdoor areas of City facilities
- In reservable public spaces, temporary shelters permitted when not booked. Examples include unbooked sportsfields, picnic pavilions

Not permitted locations

- Locations specifically designated or sensitive
- Temporary shelters not permitted at any time
- Examples include splash pads, playgrounds, community gardens, sidewalks, trails

Sample map

- GIS maps will be available before October 1st implementation date



Education approach

- Will work with County and social service agencies to educate individuals about approved and safe places for sheltering in tents
- First priority will be to address immediate safety concerns (i.e. fire hazards)
- Discretionary enforcement during extreme cold weather events

Compliance

- No set fines associated with the by-law
- Goal will be to notify people if they are in a restricted location and request that they relocate to permissible locations
- Only if required, City staff may issue formal notices and move to dismantle structures

Recommendation

1. That City Council approve the draft Public Space Use By-law, as attached to staff memo 2024-359, and that staff be directed to place the by-law on the September 10, 2024 City Council agenda for final adoption after which the by-law will come into effect on October 1, 2024.

Summary and questions