

Public Space Use By-law

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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
- City Council designated Market Square and St. George's Square as sensitive spaces

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)
- Discretion during extreme cold weather events, look to other support options

Operationalizing the by-law

- 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

Summary and questions

Feedback on how to operationalize