

# Information Report

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Service Area	Public Services
Date	Friday, September 4, 2020
Subject	<b>Locking of Fenced Dog Parks</b>

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

To report the potential options and costs to lock fenced dog parks daily.

### Key Findings

Due to the implications of COVID-19, the Bristol Street construction and mitigation work planned for Peter Misersky Park was suspended and the fenced dog parks remained closed.

On August 12, both dog parks were opened for use by the community. To address citizen concerns, starting on September 17, 2020 for the next six months, Bylaw or Security staff will open and secure the dog parks daily. At the end of the six-month period, staff will review this process and will consider making this a permanent service.

### Financial Implications

As Bylaw and Security staff can provide this function around dawn and dusk each day during their normal patrols, there are no direct costs. However, if Council wishes to have these parks opened and secured at a precise time (7am and 9pm), dedicated staff would be required.

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## Report

### Details

At the February 24 meeting of Council, staff were directed by the below resolution:

“That staff be directed to report back to Council by the end of Q2 2020 on potential options and costs to lock fenced dog park gates daily from approximately dusk to dawn, which is when the facilities are considered closed to the public.”

Due to implications of COVID-19, the dog park construction at Bristol Street Park along with the mitigation work planned for Peter Misersky Park was suspended and the fenced dog parks remained closed.

On August 12, the dog parks were opened for use by the community. Starting on September 7, 2020 for the next six months, Bylaw or Security staff will open and secure the dog parks daily during their routine patrols.

New signage has been installed at the parks indicating that the hours of operation for these parks are 7am to 9pm daily. The shift to a specific opening and closing time from dawn to dusk was in response to concerns from local residents and was identified as a mitigation measure to Council.

While staff will ensure that the parks are open from 7am to 9pm, for this pilot to work at no cost, Bylaw staff will need some discretion outside of the opening and closing times to account for travel time and other calls for service. Alternatively, Council could provide direction to hire staff to ensure the dog parks are opened and closed at specific times.

The active monitoring of the dog parks by staff, along with the review of camera footage will assist staff in determining if any other operational adjustments are required. At the end of the six-month period, staff will review this process and will consider making the opening and securing of the dog parks a permanent service.

### **Financial Implications**

As Bylaw and Security staff can provide this function around dawn and dusk each day during their normal patrols, there are no direct costs. However, if Council wishes to have these parks opened and secured at a precise time (7am and 9pm), dedicated staff would be required.

### **Consultations**

Parks Operations and Forestry

Bylaw Compliance, Security and Licensing

Open Space Planning

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

Working Together for our Future – providing programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Departmental Approval**

Heather Flaherty, General Manager

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### **This report was approved by:**

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