

High Park Community Advisory Council

Subject:	Call for submission to the off-leash review committee		
Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Background Info and Motion		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Update Information		
Committee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Built Environment & Safety Committee		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment Committee		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (External)		
Sponsor or Committee Chair:	Select One If 'Other', specify		
Date Presented:	October 24 th , 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Attachments	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUMMARY:

- The HPCAC established a working committee during the Jan. 24, 2007 meeting to develop criteria and a process for the annual review of the off leash dog area. During subsequent meetings the criteria and protocol for the committee was established with the committee being composed of a representatives from K9 (John Cleary), NE (Karyn Morris) and the HPCAC (Tyler Devine).
- In consultation with the HPCAC and various members of the subcommittees a survey was developed to poll park users and community at large about their opinions on the High Park off-leash area and dogs in the park in general. The survey, which included an online option, ran from early Spring until late August. Approximately 500 survey results were collected, analyzed by the review committee members and the results presented at the last HPCAC meeting.
- The review committee is currently in the process of developing draft options to help define recommendations for the High Park off-leash area
- Members of the committee are set to meet with City staff responsible for the City-wide People, Dogs and Park strategy on Monday October 29th to determine how City officials view the High Park off-leash area in relation to the People, Dogs and Park strategy.

SUGGESTIONS and/or RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The off-leash review committee requests that the all HPCAC members, sub-committees, stakeholders and interested parties contribute comments, suggestions and solutions related to the off-leash area and dogs in the park
- As a starting point for discussion, the review committee has developed a set of ***draft*** options, which will be further refined based on input from all members of the HPCAC, its subcommittees, various stakeholders and the community at large
- The review committee wishes to remind everyone that all ideas related to the off-leash area and dogs in the park will be considered.

MOTION: (if applicable)

The HPCAC requests that the relevant departments of the City of Toronto provide the HPCAC with an assessment of the High Park off-leash area under the guidelines of the People, Dogs and Parks strategy and that High Park be placed as a top priority for review.

Off-leash area review committee
A call for suggestions to the HPCAC, subcommittees and stakeholders

The off-leash review committee presents these **draft options** as a starting point for discussion about the off-leash area and dogs in High Park. These options are not to be considered recommendations of the HPCAC and/or the off-leash review committee. The off-leash review committee requests all park users and interested parties provide proposed solutions to the off-leash area and dogs in the park to the review committee. Positive feedback and solutions which stress involvement of the entire community are appreciated. All ideas will be considered.

Options

1. Fenced and gated satellite off-leash area

Areas to be established on outskirts, easily accessible to surrounding community, not walking through environmentally sensitive areas to get to off-leash area, areas are well signed and away from core of park
Areas for consideration

- *West region*: East of Ellis, West of Grenadier pond, on grass median near pumping station
- *Northeast*: Grass hollow west of Parkside, South of Lott fountain, fence and gate
- *South-east*: Picnic area #22, firepit, fence and gated
- *South Parkside*: Apple orchard, fence and gated, north of south-east parking lot

2. Refinement of existing area (The Refine, Define and Fine plan)

Existing off-leash area is refined and defined using additional fencing, proper signage and gates, including fencing and gating of Dog Hill, fencing along Dream site path, addition of gates to entrances to nature trails at bottom of bridge routes leading to Spring road. In addition, large entrance sign at all entrances, providing information for dog-owners and non-dog owners, alternative routes for people uncomfortable with dogs listed on map

3. Only Dog Hill

Only the existing dog hill site would remain off-leash area. It would be fenced and gated. Nature trails and Spring Rd. would become on-leash

4. Off-leash Dog Hill and Nature trails

The existing dog hill site and nature trail would remain off-leash with Spring road becoming on-leash. Dog Hill would be completely fenced and gated along the off-leash trail with gates at the top of the hill leading to Spring Rd.

5. Seasonal/time adjustments

Sensitive areas (environmental and social) of the off-leash areas would be considered for seasonal and time adjustments. Seasonal adjustments, to off-leash trail and Spring Rd. for example, may have off-leash status from Sept 1st to April 1st. Time adjustments may see off-leash activity, on Spring Road for example, from 6pm to 9am.

6. No dog zones

Sections of the park would become No Dog zones, where even leashed dogs and their owners are not allowed. These areas would include both environmentally sensitive areas, such as Peter's walk, tablelands, socially sensitive, such as playground and baseball diamonds, as well as botanically sensitive, such as hillside gardens.