

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Re: Revision to the People, Dogs and Park policy

Date:Wed, 13 Jan 2010 09:52:18 -0500

From:Lesley Price <lprice2@toronto.ca>

To:<k9@highpark.org>

Good morning,

On behalf of Brenda Patterson, General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, I would like to take this opportunity to address your concerns with respect to the proposed refinements to the People Dogs and Parks Off-leash Policy.

Please be assured there is no intent to close the off-leash area at High Park. There will continue to be an off-leash area in High Park. Staff is currently following the process with capital planning to develop a landscape plan for the dog off-leash area at High Park and the project is on schedule. The draft concept plan is due by the end of January and we were looking at a public information meeting early March.

The People Dogs and Parks Strategy enacted by Council in 2007, provides a comprehensive framework to address the provision of off-leash areas in City parks, greenspaces and waterfront areas. The current report being considered by the Parks and Environment Committee proposes policy refinements in an effort to provide greater clarity regarding the assessment criteria for off-leash areas; streamline the decision-making process; better link consideration of dog off-leash requests to community need, overall park planning and development, and financial sustainability.

The changes are refinements based on considerable experience implementing the off-leash policy enacted by Council in 2007 and provide an opportunity to reduce conflicts and improve the process. Impacts, if any, on the High Park off-leash area as a result of these policy refinements are expected to be minimal.

I trust this clarifies your enquiry.

Lesley

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