



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Planning, Development and Recreation
Division: Parks and Recreation
Report Number: 2019-233-Planning, Development and Recreation
Prepared By: James Fawthrop, Manager of Recreation and Facilities
Meeting Date: December 9, 2019
Subject: Request to Designate the Waterfront Trail as a Smoke-Free Zone

Purpose

To report to Council on the request to designate the Waterfront Trail as a smoke-free zone.

Recommendation

Whereas the Smoke-Free Ontario Act currently prohibits smoking and vaporizing on the grounds or within 20m of any Community Recreational Facility (area shown on the attached sketch), that Council receive this report and provide Administration with direction on the following additional specified items for inclusion/omission into a bylaw to regulate smoking and vaping:

1. Designate the entire length of the Waterfront Trail and all areas within 20m of the Trail, within the City's limits as smoke-free
2. Designate all of Lamoureux Park and Legion Park as smoke-free, with an exemption for RCAF Wing patio,
3. Designate all City parks as smoke-free.

It is estimated that the cost to supply and install the necessary signage along the Waterfront Trail within the City of Cornwall to be approximately \$20,000.

Background / Discussion

At the Council meeting of July 22nd, the Great River Network (formally known as the Upper St Lawrence Protection Network / USRPN) submitted a request to Council requesting that the Waterfront Trail, from the Power Dam to Boundary Road, be designated as a smoke-free zone and that no smoking signs be installed along the path. The group cites concerns regarding litter (cigarette butts) along the trail as the main reason for the request.

At the Council meeting of September 28th, Administration presented a report to Council in response to the request to designate the Waterfront Trail as a smoke-free zone. The report from Administration recommended that the Waterfront Trail not be designated as a smoke-free zone and that ash urns be installed at specific areas along the trail where discarded cigarette butts are problematic. The report also recommended that if Council decides to designate the Waterfront Trail as a smoke-free zone, that they also designate Lamoureux Park as a smoke-free zone in order to avoid public confusion regarding which trails/paths in Lamoureux Park are smoke-free and which trails/paths aren't. Council passed a motion to defer the matter until after members of the Great River Network have an opportunity to make a presentation to Council.

At the Council meeting of November 12th, Patricia O'Hare and Karen Cooper of the Great River Network, made a presentation to Council regarding the request to designate the Waterfront Trail as a smoke-free zone. Council received the presentation and made a motion to refer the matter to Administration for a report.

Administration has subsequently met with staff at the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) to discuss recent changes made to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which came into effect in 2019, and to provide clarification regarding the limits of the smoke-free areas as specified by the Act. The EOHU confirmed that the recent changes to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act now restrict smoking within 20m of the grounds of community recreational facilities, where previously the restriction only designated areas within 9m of building entrances as smoke-free.

Administration and EOHU staff reviewed the property fabric of the City's community recreational facilities (ie. Benson Centre, Civic Complex, Aquatic Centre, Curling Club, etc) to determine the extents of the smoke-free designated



areas as stipulated by the Act. The property parcels that contain the Civic Complex, Aquatic Centre and Curling Club are irregularly shaped and include large portions of Lamoureux Park as well as the Legion Park baseball fields. Please find attached a map of Lamoureux Park where the properties that house the Civic Complex, Aquatic Centre, and Curling Club are identified. EOHU confirmed that based on the recent changes to the Act, the properties identified on the attached sketch are now designated as smoke-free because they share the same property as a community recreational facility.

Considering the irregular shapes of the properties that house the Civic Complex, Curling Club, and Aquatic Centre, staff are concerned that a smoke-free designation for these irregular properties, would cause public confusion as not all portions of Lamoureux Park are included. Therefore Administration recommends that all of Lamoureux Park, including Legion Park (baseball fields) also be designated as smoke-free zones, in addition to the entire Waterfront Trail and any areas within 20m of the Waterfront Trail within the City's limits. It is recommended that the RCAF Wing patio be exempted from any smoke-free designation, as the RCAF Wing building is subject to a lease between the RCAF and Federal Government, and should be considered a private establishment and not part of Lamoureux Park. The EOHU has confirmed that the RCAF Wing patio is currently not subject to any smoking restrictions under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

During the discussion between Council and members of the Great River Network, it was mentioned that the City of Brockville has a good bylaw to regulate smoking and vaporizing in public place. Please find attached a copy of the City of Brockville's bylaw. Section 4.1 of the bylaw lists the public places designated as smoke-free. Included in the list of designated spaces are all City parks. Council may consider designating all City of Cornwall parks as smoke-free. Currently, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act stipulates that no smoking shall occur within 20m of playground structures, sportfields (including spectator areas), splashpads, outdoor pools, tennis courts, etc. Considering that the amenities listed are located within City Parks, and the specified 20m setback, it may be less confusing for the public to simply designate all City Parks as smoke-free, instead of trying to determine the extents of the areas within parks that are outside the 20m setback. Other local municipalities that have declared their municipal parks as smoke-free include Russell Township and The Nation Municipality.

Document Title:	Request to Designate the Waterfront Trail as a Smoke Free Zone - 2019-233-Planning, Development and Recreation.docx
Attachments:	- BrockvilleBylaw.pdf - SmokeFreeOntarioActAreas.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 4, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mark A. Boileau - Dec 4, 2019 - 3:23 PM

Maureen Adams - Dec 4, 2019 - 3:29 PM