



**Subject: Parks and Recreation Areas By-law**

**Report Number:** RCP 24-028

Department: Recreation, Culture and Parks Department

Submitted by: Matt Johnson, Manager of Parks & Facilities

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, June 24, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT report RCP 24-028 titled “Draft Parks and Recreation Areas By-law” be received as information; and
- B. THAT a By-Law to enact the Parks and Recreation Areas By-law, as attached to report RCP 24-028, be presented to Council for consideration.

**BACKGROUND**

The Town of Tillsonburg has not had a By-law related to regulating use of its parks and/or recreation areas to date. In 2023, the Council directed the Recreation, Culture & Parks staff to develop this document as a tool to manage use of these outdoor facilities in town and to apply the legislated process required to pass a by-law.

Enforcing and remediating complaints of behavioural and use of facilities issues at parks, trails and outdoor facilities has been an increasing problem in Tillsonburg, reflecting similar issues across the Province and Country. Thus far the RCP and By-law staff have minimal ability to correct or remove offenders or apply penalties for vandalism, garbage dumping, nighttime use and general anti-social behavior. This document aims to inform the public of permitted use and activities on town outdoor areas and to provide staff with tools to remedy contraventions.

**DISCUSSION**

The RCP staff has researched and compiled similar municipalities’ parks use by-laws, sought input from the By-law department as well as the Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Committee and created a draft document in early 2024. The draft was then made available for public consultation, through posting on the town website.

The public consultation process took place in March 2024. Feedback from residents was quite strong with 21 written responses received. The majority of feedback

addressed proposed regulations related to the use of Lake Lisgar for recreational purposes, parks hours and animal issues. The comments and feedback were compiled and reviewed by RCP and the By-law Department staff and by the Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Advisory Committee and changes were made to the first draft.

Additionally, input was sought and received from Long Point Region Conservation Authority, OPP and the Recreation & Sports Advisory Committee.

Staff recommend that Council approve this final draft of the by-law. Once the By-law has been passed, the responsibility for enforcement powers will be given to the Town's By-law department and designated staff.

### **CONSULTATION**

This document has been prepared in consultation with RCP Staff, By-law Department Staff, OPP, Long Point Region Conservation Authority and Parks, Beautification & Cemeteries Committee.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

This report does not have a financial impact.

### **CORPORATE GOALS**

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

**Goal** – N/A

**Strategic Direction** – N/A

**Priority Project** – N/A

### **ATTACHMENTS**

RCP 24-028 Choose an item. Click or tap here to enter text. Parks and Recreation Areas By-law

Appendix A – Draft Parks and Recreation Areas Bylaw

Appendix B – Draft Set Fines Part 1