

WHAT WE HEARD

Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park Engagement Summary

1. Engagement Background

The Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park Engagement was launched in response to the closure of the Strachan Leash Free - Free Running Area in late 2021, and the delayed opening of the permanent Ward 2 Leash Free – Dog Park at Central Park (to be determined). The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Gather input on use of designated leash free parks across the city and features of designated areas that are important to leash free park users.
- Gauge interest in a temporary leash free park designation in Ward 2 at Jackie Washington Rotary Park.
- Provide an opportunity for visitors to provide comments and ask questions related to a temporary leash free designation at Jackie Washington Rotary Park.

All engagement activities were all hosted on Engage Hamilton (online engagement platform) and available from January 10, 2022 – March 1, 2022.

<https://engage.hamilton.ca/ward-2-temp-leash-free-park>

Engagement activities included:

- 9-question Survey (summary in section 3)
- Question and Answer opportunity (summary in section 4)

2. Visitor Summary

2.1 Outreach Strategy

The Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park Engagement was promoted through:

- City of Hamilton (Engage Hamilton, social media, dog park webpage).
- Councillor Farr's Newsletter.

- Signage within the Strachan Open Space and Jackie Washington Park.

Participants mainly accessed the engagement via a link through social media (124), Direct visit to the webpage (67), and through a Search Engine such as google (15).

2.2 Levels of Engagement

Aware (393)	393 online visitors viewed the engagement project page associated with the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park. These online visitors are considered "Aware".
Informed (273)	273 online visitors viewed multiple project pages and links associated with the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park and Hamilton Leash Free Parks Program. The online visitors are considered "Informed".
Engaged (227)	227 online visitors completed the survey (225) and/or participated in the Question and Answer (17). These online visitors are considered "Engaged".

3. Survey Summary

- 3.1 225 online visitors completed the 9-question survey.
- 3.2 88% (199) of respondents owned a dog and 82% (164) of these respondents had dogs registered with the City of Hamilton.
- 3.3 12% (26) of respondents did not own a dog.
- 3.4 In 2021, 52% (116) of respondents visited Strachan Free Running Area to exercise a dog with varying frequency (Daily (41), weekly (39), monthly (17), less than monthly (19)). 48% (109) respondents did not visit the Strachan Free Running Area in 2021.
- 3.5 The most frequented City of Hamilton Leash Free Parks by respondents in 2021 were:
 - i) Rail Trail (76)
 - ii) Corporal Nathan Cirillo (67)
 - iii) Hill Street (63)
- 3.6 The most important leash free park features in order of preference by respondents were:

Feature	# Respondents
Fully enclosed/fenced area	194
Two-way gate system	118
Parking	95
Extended operating hours (i.e., dawn to dusk)	76
Seating	26
Not applicable	12

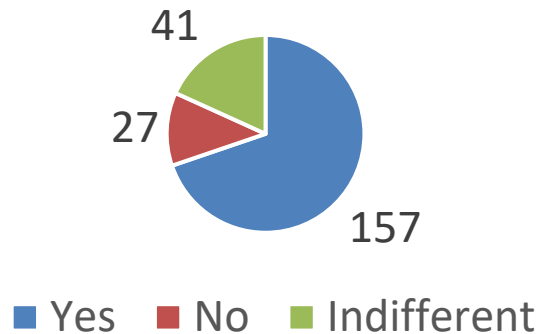
3.7 52% (117) of respondents do not visit Jackie Washington Rotary Park located at 363 and 371 Wellington Street North.

3.8 48% (108) of respondents visit Jackie Washington Rotary Park located at 363 and 371 Wellington Street North and make use of the following park features:

Park Feature	# Respondents
Pathways	71
Green space south of Simcoe Street East	55
Green space north of Simcoe Street East	49
Exercise equipment	22
Pavilion	14
Multi-use court	12

3.8 70% (157) of respondents are interested in a temporary leash free designation at Jackie Washington Rotary Park. 12% (27) of respondents are not interested in this feature and 18% (41) of respondents were indifferent to the idea.

Would you be interested in a temporary leash free designation being featured in a portion of Jackie Washington Rotary Park?



3.9 The top 3 concerns with respect to a leash free designation at Jackie Washington Rotary Park were:

- i. Other* (further details provide in comments below including Safety and accessibility).
- ii. Impact on quality of life.
- iii. Noise

Concern	# Respondents
Other*	16
Impact on quality of life	11
Noise	9
Accessibility of location	7
Traffic	6
Parking	5
Dust	4

*Under the concern 'Other', 15 Respondents provided comments related to concerns with a Leash Free designation at Jackie Washington Rotary Park. Comments have been categorized into those pertaining to safety (15), accessibility (2) and other (1). A full list of comments and categorization can be found in Appendix A.

Safety concerns included:

- General safety (5).
- Safety due to proximity to the detention centre (1), encampments (2) and drug use in the park (2)
- Aggressive dogs attacking people and/or other dogs (6)

- Risk associated with improperly discarded needles and broken glass in the park, urine, and feces because of the off-leash area (3)

6 commenters who raised safety as a concern indicated fencing would make them feel safer, or that fencing was necessary for safety if a leash free designation was added.

Accessibility concerns were identified with respect to the portion of the park south of Simcoe Street East and included concerns with restrictions to accessibility of the park due to the stairway (1) and the slope (1) in the south side of the park.

Other comments included concern that the leash free park would not be used, and suggestions on alternative locations (Eastwood Park, Strachan Open Space between McNab and Bay).

4. Question and Answer Summary

17 questions were posted through Engage Hamilton or direct to dog.parks@hamilton.ca. A summary of all questions and answers as well as categorization is in Appendix B.

- 10 questions were out of scope of this engagement and instead related to the Leash Free Parks Program Policy in general and Leash Free Parks in other Wards, or specifics of this engagement.
- 4 questions/comments were in support of the designation at Jackie Washington Rotary Park and 2 of these recommended that it be a permanent designation.
- 4 questions/comments stated that Central Park is too far from the North End Neighbourhood.
- 2 questions/comments suggested fencing of the Strachan Leash Free – Free Running Area.

Appendix A: Comment Table


	Comment	Categorization
1	I believe a fenced in area would be safer than an unfenced zone. But I understand some people just want a replacement space after the Strachan St. area was removed abruptly.	Safety – General; Fencing for safety
2	I'm concerned that temporary means not fenced off, and then I could no longer pass safely through depending on where they place this "temporary" park. If fenced, I have no issue whatsoever.	Safety – General; Fencing for safety
3	Dangerous to people without proper fence	Safety – General; Fencing for safety
4	I like to use the slopes to run and play with my kids. If there is a consideration for an off leash area, please ensure it is fenced for safety! And please fence Strachan Street dog area - my neighbour was bitten by a dog there last year and the owner took off! Dog areas need to be fenced to be safe!	Safety – General; Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and or other dogs; Fencing for safety
7	There should NOT be a leash free area without a proper fence. In the summer of 2021 a 10 year old child from the north end was attacked by a dog at the Strachan off leash park. They were bit on the face, arm and buttock. The child was riding their bicycle on the sidewalk and since there was no fence, they approached the dog. The owner of the dog thought that their dog would be friendly and instructed the child to put their hand out to greet the dog. However, the owner was wrong and the dog attacked. Furthermore, the owner failed to remain at the scene even after the child was visibly hurt. As the owner could not be found to confirm that the dog had all its shots in order, the child contacted had to receive a round of rabies vaccines. This behaviour is not common, and I do acknowledge that. However, this incident could have been prevented if the off leash park had a proper fence. Please do not create another one of these in the neighbourhood unless you are able to have proper fencing.	Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and/or other dogs; Fencing for safety
5	Safety-I know several people who were bitten by dogs in or near off leash dog parks.	Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and/or other dogs
6	Too many dogs running off leash and attacking other dogs	Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and or other dogs
8	A child was bitten by a dog there just a short while ago. There are enough dog parks. The kids love that park and we don't need more confrontation with dog owners	Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and/or other dogs
13	Feces, urine, dog attacks, contamination of space currently used by children. It would no longer be safe for children.	Safety - Aggressive dogs attacking people and/or other dogs; Risk – feces, urine
9	Proximity to detention centre	Safety – Proximity to detention centre
10	With the combination of no fencing, homeless encampments and gaps in the fence to the train tracks it is neither very accessible or safe	Safety – Proximity to encampments; Fencing for safety

11	Drug users drop needles everywhere, there's always broken glass and tents with unsavory people hanging around. Drug addicts shooting up and hanging out in the park	Safety – Proximity to encampments; Safety – Proximity to drug use; Risk – Needles and/or broken glass
12	Quality of Life issue...personal safety and security. The location selected is not near well travelled street/pathway. Also that location has a hill which will make it very difficult and inaccessible for those with mobility issues or knee/hip leg problems. When it snows will it be cleared or will walkers have to scale the hill and slide back down?! There are also a lot of needles and drug use in that park. PS I do not own a dog but I do walk dogs for friends who work in Toronto and need a mid day outing.	Safety – General; Safety – Proximity to drug use; Risk – Needles and/or broken glass Accessibility - south of Simcoe St. E
14	It is accessible only by stairs and is primarily hill going towards the tracks. Any dog owners with mobility issues will have difficulty with the stairs and picking up poop if their dog poops at the bottom of the hill. If it is being used in winter, the hill can get slippery, making it a slipping hazard, both for people and dogs. Dogs are at higher risk of injury. There are other areas in the North End that can be used- the area on Strachan between Bay and McNab is perfect. Lots of space to run and parking. Also the south side of Eastwood park- rarely is used by humans and parking is available. These should be areas for permanent dog areas. The North End needs at least one off leash area- Central Park is too far. When the construction on Pier 8 is finished , there will be hundreds more dogs living in the neighbourhood. This should have been incorporated in the planning. I have 2 very active dogs and will have to resort to taking my dogs to the parks illegally and hoping I don't get a ticket. The City of Hamilton has never been a dog friendly city. It is time to change that and offer more space so our dogs can be socialized and exercised.	Accessibility - south of Simcoe St. E; Other comment – consider Eastwood Park and/or Strachan between Bay and McNab
15	dog owners are entitled and wouldn't use it anyways	Other comment – won't be used

Appendix B: Questions and Answers Table

	Question	Answer	Categorization
1	<p>Hello.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Before making your final recommendation on the location would you consider joining us by ZOOM at the appropriate monthly Committee meeting to discuss the project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Good afternoon [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>I trust that you have accessed a link to the Engage Hamilton – online survey for the Ward 2 – Temporary Leash Free Park. If not, it can be accessed here: https://engage.hamilton.ca/</p> <p>Please feel free to share this opportunity to complete the survey and provide comment to your members.</p> <p>To clarify, this is for a temporary leash free location in Ward 2 while we await Central Park to come online. We do not anticipate any physical site alterations and the chosen site will remain as parkland so this would not constitute a planning exercise.</p> <p>With respect to joining in one of your meetings, we are collecting feedback through Engage Hamilton until February 8, 2022. Do you have a meeting between now and then which would be suitable for attendance? If so, please let me know what specific information your group would be interested in receiving so that the appropriate staff can be coordinated.</p>	Question addressed
2	<p>I live on Simcoe St East in the North End. I have a small dog who used the Strachan off leash area daily. We were very sad when that area was taken away for dogs.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email. Have you by chance had an opportunity to complete the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Area survey on our Engage Hamilton webpage?</p>	In support of designation (permanent)


	<p>There are many green areas in the North end that could be used for off leash dog park, permanently.</p> <p>I understand there is an idea to have a temporary location until Central Park is completed, but why can't it be permanent?</p> <p>Central park is far for many north end areas, and would require driving. Many don't have access to cars all the time plus this would cause more traffic in an area that is just going to get busier.</p> <p>The city is big enough with a big enough pet population to warrant another location. Why jam it all into one place? That park will surely be overrun and too busy.</p> <p>Areas around Jackie Robinson park aren't used by anyone. Why not make this a permanent location where people actually go in a safe manner and come together as a community? Right now it's almost always empty or full of garbage and needles.</p> <p>Thank you for listening,</p> <p>All the best,</p> <p>██████████</p>	<p>https://engage.hamilton.ca/projects</p> <p>If not, your feed back there would also be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Also, for clarity, below, when you're speaking of Jackie Robinson, do you mean Jackie Washington Park (the green space bordered by Wellington Street North and the rail line and extending both north and south of Simcoe St?) or are you referring to another green space?</p>	<p>Central park too far from North End</p>
3	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to say that although building a path was a nice idea to beautify the Strachan green space (even though the new lamp posts look horrible) and promoting cycling and walking towards Bayfront Park, taking away the off leash privileges for this neighbourhood is definitely a big mistake and a HUGE disservice to most, it not all of the dog owners around the CORE North End area.</p>	<p>Responded Jan 17 – awaiting confirmation on reference to Jackie Robinson</p> <p>Welcome to Hamilton. Thank you for your email. Have you by chance had an opportunity to complete the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Area survey on our Engage Hamilton webpage? https://engage.hamilton.ca/projects</p> <p>If not, your feed back there would also be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Also, for clarity, below, when you're speaking of Jackie Robinson, do you mean Jackie Washington Park (the green space bordered by Wellington Street North and the rail line and</p>	<p>In support of designation</p> <p>Central park too far from North End</p>

	<p>We have just moved here from Toronto thinking that we would have an off leash area near us, but now we have to walk 23minutes to get to an off leash dog park. We literally chose the area because it was close to an offleash park and now there wont be an option for us. What about the other North-enders that live a little further up the block?</p> <p>For a city and ward that's promoting gentrification and urban renewal, taking away green spaces for pets is definitely the wrong way to go. Were very disappointed.</p> <p>The Jackie Robinson, respectfully speaking, is a horrendous looking park, full of drug addict, needles and homeless people with ONE garbage bin for the entire park. Why not just permanently change it into a dog park and utilize it for the BETTER. It will deter drug abuse away from this area, less homeless encampments and less petty theft and car break ins (like what happened to us last night). There's also a huge green space across the street from Jackie Robinson Park that's divided into two sections with the path cutting across them. One section close to the houses and one away from them, near the road.</p> <p>We spoke to Jason Farr this summer through our neighbour and he seemed like a great councillor, he mentioned something about an alternative park, but I didn't think that, it would be in Central Hamilton. I am aware Central Hamilton is still Ward 2, but its not the North end. I hope someone actually gets to reads this the end of the day. Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, </p>	<p>extending both north and south of Simcoe St?) or are you referring to another green space?</p>	
4	<p>What was wrong with just fencing the Strachan dog park? Good old Jason Farr said years ago it would done as soon as the path was completed. It's central,</p>	<p>Thanks for your input – Recommendations based on this feedback will be provided to council via the Councillor for further decision making after February 8, 2022.</p>	<p>Fence Strachan</p>

	very few neighbours and adequate parking nearby.		
5	<p>There was no spot for additional comments on the survey page, so here are my comments: - This should be a permanent designated area for off leash dogs, especially considering the existing free-run area along Strachan St was removed without any community consultation regarding the removal. - The future Central Park location does not suffice as an appropriate replacement for this free-run area, for two main issues: it is 2km away (too far of a walk for daily use) and it will be a fully fenced, non-grass dog park (incredibly different use-case than a free-run area and not a daily use amenity). - There are multiple useful areas surrounding the park for unfenced free-run areas, such as: 1) the greenspace north of Simcoe/Jackie Washington, with the addition of a structured fence along Wellington (current fence is wooden posts), leaving the Simcoe facing side unfenced. 2) the greenspace within Jackie Washington, south of Simcoe, with some repairs made to fencing along train tracks. 3) the greenspace west of Jackie Washington & train tracks, along Ferguson and Simcoe. 4) reinstating the Strachan St free-run area as it was.</p>	<p>Thank you for completing the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park survey and for taking the time to provide your ideas. Recommendations based on this feedback will be provided to council via the Councillor for further decision making after February 8, 2022.</p>	<p>In support of designation (permanent)</p> <p>Central park too far from North End</p>
6	<p>Why aren't we looking at a permanent dog park within the neighbourhood? Central Park is not close enough to the Strachan dog park area.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, the City of Hamilton Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan (2011) recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one "free running area" and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability appropriate sites and available funding. Based on budget considerations, resources will be allocated to wards that currently have a deficiency of leash free amenities. Here is a map of Municipal Leash Free opportunities across the City for your reference: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2021-12-03/map-of-hamilton-dog-parks-dec2021.pdf</p>	<p>Permanent leash free park for North End</p> <p>Central park too far from North End</p>
7	<p>I would love to have a leash free park for small breed dogs. And one just for large breed dogs</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. For your information we currently have two dog park facilities with fenced areas designated for small dogs (Joe Sams Dog Park and Borsers Falls Dog Park). A</p>	<p>Comment addressed</p>

		<p>map as well as details of these locations can be found on the Dog Park webpage: https://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/dogs/dog-parks</p> <p>Further, the Central Park dog park facility is proposed to have a designated small dog area as well: https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/improving-our-parks/central-park</p>	
8	Is there a set area dimension for a leash free park? which is closer to the Northend, Central Park or the Corktown leash free park? Has the North West corner of Eastwood park been considered?	<p>Thank you for your questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have two different distinctions of Leash Free Parks – Free Running Areas and Dog Parks. Each have their own site selection criteria as outlined in the Leash Free Parks Program Policy, PW03067 included here for your reference: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2014-06-11/leashfreeprogrampolicy.pdf 2. As the crow flies Central park is 1km and Rail Trail Dog Park is 1.9km from the former Strachan Free Running Area. 3. Eastwood Park was out of scope for the Temporary Ward 2 Leash Free Park location. 	Comment addressed
9	Why can we just not fence the space at Strachan which has been used for years, along the outside of the bike path? It is the most accessible and friendliest space in the area.	<p>Thank you for your comment. As per the Leash Free Parks Policy, PW03067, this area does not meet the site selection criteria for a Leash Free Dog Park (fenced) based on the requirement for onsite parking. In addition, the Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one “free running area” and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability appropriate sites and available funding. For your reference the Leash Free Parks Policy can be found here: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2014-06-11/leashfreeprogrampolicy.pdf</p>	Fence Strachan
10	Why are male dogs that are NOT neutered allowed in dog parks?. Lots of dogs have real problems with them. My dog can somehow smell the testosterone from an unaltered male a long way away and is fearful. Some of the city staff I talked to years ago thought they were NOT allowed. Any chance it was an error or oversight when the guidelines for off leash	<p>Direct response: Thank you for your questions [REDACTED]. The City of Hamilton Leash Free Parks Policy, PW03067 under Rules and Regulations, section 7, a, vi and 7, b, vi, make specific reference to aggressive dogs however not to those un-neutered specifically. These rules are posted at our Leash Free Facilities. For your reference the Leash Free Parks Policy can be found here:</p>	Comment addressed

	<p>parks were developed? I would appreciate your response.</p>	https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2014-06-11/leashfreeprogrampolicy.pdf	
11	<p>Is the off leash area on Strachan being removed?</p>	<p>Yes, the designation of Strachan Open Space as a Free Run Area no longer complies with the Leash Free Parks Policy as a result of the multi use pathway development. The City of Hamilton is looking to establish a temporary leash free designation in the North End Neighbourhood in Ward 2 through the Leash Free Parks Program. The new area will serve as a temporary leash free park until construction of the permanent Leash Free facility in Central Park is complete.</p>	<p>Comment addressed</p>
12	<p>Hi. In regards to Jackie Washington, yes there's ample space for a dog area. I don't own a dog but I understand that providing these socialization areas in every park that's large enough is important for neighbourhood safety as it results in better behaved dogs and lower chance of dogs being off leash in general park areas. Providing more dog areas also means fewer people driving to dog parks. The reason parking becomes a problem is because we haven't provided dog areas within walking distance of people's houses. The dog park at Jackie Washington should be permanent not temporary. More issues with Jackie Washington: 1. No accessible route from Simcoe. There is ample room on the northwest slope to provide a switchback path to access Simcoe from the upper courtyard area. The stairs are impassable by mobility devices and bikes, and in winter they are not maintained (why?). Can this be prioritized? 2. There is no playground equipment at all. Why? Based on the state of the exercise gear, perhaps that area should be given back to kids. More generally, there's seems to be an absolute disconnect in the Parks department from the realities of park usage. A huge function of parks is to act as active transportation corridors to link streets in neighbourhoods and yet there are no parks that honour these connections with curb cuts and internal pathways. Accessibility is atrocious due to lack of curb cuts where park paths meet streets, and in almost every park in the city, the desired user pathways are</p>	<p>Hello, Thank you for your comments and feedback pertaining to the proposed temporary Leash Free Area in question as well as Parks and Trails in general. Here is some feedback in response to the specific questions asked:</p> <p>1) Currently accessible access to Jackie Washington Park is from Wellington St. North. Further to your comment, one side of the stairway is prioritized to be shoveled as part of the City's regular snow maintenance schedule. Should you notice that snow clearing has not been completed, I encourage you to contact Customer Service at 905-546-City, and a complaint will be lodged.</p> <p>2) Generally, municipal parks go through a public consultation process when they are created and when major updates are being conducted to determine the desired types of uses (you can view and participate in some of these current engagement processes on Engage Hamilton today). My understanding is that the same was done for Jackie Washington Park. As you mentioned the exercise gear has met its end of life and will be removed when weather permits. I've included a link below to the Recreational Trails Masterplan for your reference. I thought that you may be interested in reviewing this document as it refers to active transportation corridors, classifications of trails and planning around those as you refer to in your comment: https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/master-plans-class-eas/recreational-trails-master-plan</p>	<p>In support of designation</p>

	mud and grass because the park design doesn't obey the true needs of users, instead offering meandering paths that go nowhere. While meandering is definitely a great park use case, it's not the primary one, as I dictated by the muddy "desire lines" cut by actual park users. Thanks for your time!		
13	Hello there! Two things to note about the survey about the Ward 2 Temporary Leash Free Park. The survey doesn't actually list or show the location of the proposed park. I have no idea where Jackie Washington Rotary park is and there's no address in the survey information and no map. Also, the first question only allows for Dog or No Dog families. Shouldn't there be an answer for multi-dog families?	<p>Jackie Washington Park is located at 363 and 371 Wellington Street North, Hamilton.</p> 	Comment addressed
14	Are there any plans for a more accessible leash free dog park in Ward 3?	<p>Thank you for your question. City of Hamilton Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan (2011) recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one "free running area" and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability appropriate sites and available funding. Based on budget considerations, resources will be allocated to wards that currently have a deficiency of leash free amenities. As such we are not currently considering additional leash free facilities in Ward 3. Here is a map of Municipal Leash Free facilities across the City for your reference: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2021-12-03/map-of-hamilton-dog-parks-dec2021.pdf</p>	Comment addressed
15	Is there a plan to add a leash-free area to Eastwood Park	<p>City of Hamilton is not considering a Leash Free Park designation at Eastwood Park. The new permanent Ward 2 Leash Free Park will be located at Central Park. The Hamilton Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan</p>	Comment addressed

		(2011) recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one free running area and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability appropriate sites and available funding. Based on budget considerations, resources will be allocated to wards that currently have a deficiency of leash free amenities. Here is a map of Municipal Leash Free facilities across the City for your reference: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2021-12-03/map-of-hamilton-dog-parks-dec2021.pdf	
16	Will we ever see a dog park in ward 5. Green Acres park has a large enclosed area that's no longer being used for baseball. Think of all the free time Animal Control would have if they didn't have to monitor dog activity daily on a unused city property	<p>The Hamilton Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan (2011) recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one free running area and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability appropriate sites and available funding. Based on budget considerations, resources will be allocated to wards that currently have a deficiency of leash free amenities. As you are aware, Ward 5 does not currently have a designated Leash Free Area and as such is prioritized when funding and suitable locations allow. Here is a map of Municipal Leash Free facilities across the City for your reference: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2021-12-03/map-of-hamilton-dog-parks-dec2021.pdf</p> <p>Here is also a link to the Leash Free Parks Program Policy which provides guidance on where leash free facilities can be located: https://www.hamilton.ca/files/leashfreeprogrampolicypdf</p>	Comment addressed
17	<p>Can we please have a dog park in the Raleigh area? We have a dog that needs to run every day, and there are a lot of dog owners in this area. Speaking with other dog owners, this has been affecting our dogs overall health and quality of life because some breeds really need to run and dogs need to socialize.</p> <p>Our dogs recent vet visit has proven that this is affecting him, he has gained weight because we aren't allowed to run him in parks. We've also been given</p>	<p>Via email: We currently do not have plans for a leash free facility in the area of Raleigh St. City of Hamilton Outdoor Recreation and Sport Field Provision Plan (2011) recommends continuing to work towards the goal of implementing the model of at least one "free running area" and/or dog park per ward, subject to the availability of appropriate sites and funding. Based on budget considerations, resources are allocated to wards that currently have a deficiency of leash free amenities. View a map of Municipal Leash Free opportunities here: https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2021-12-03/map-of-hamilton-dog-parks-dec2021.pdf</p>	Comment addressed

	<p>warnings from bylaw officers, and some owners have expressed that they've been given tickets for up to \$820 for running their dog in a park!</p> <p>Will there be any plans for the Raleigh area?</p>	<p>The Responsible Animal Control Bylaw otherwise prohibits dogs at large on any other municipal properties: https://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/responsible-pet-ownership/responsible-animal-ownership-by-law</p> <p>I believe your closest opportunity, also in Ward 6 is the Hamilton SPCA. This site has a fully fenced dog park as well as an unfenced free run area.</p>	
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