

Report to Council #27/02/15

February 27 2014

Recommendations from HCM Recreation Committee - Municipal Property Use Review

Many thanks to CAO Reith for her review of this bylaw. Her notes were used for the committee's consideration.

Animals in Parks – presently dogs are not allowed at Old Mackey Park. We know of course that this is routinely ignored by park visitors. Service dogs are allowed under the Accessibility Act of Ontario but not in the food preparation area.

The committee's recommendation is to allow dogs on leash on municipal property, with responsible ownership. It should be noted that one committee member expressed that we should let people do whatever they want

Overnight Camping or Parking – presently overnight (23:00h and 08:00h) camping or parking is prohibited at parks and boat launches.

The committee's recommendation is that we should we continue to prohibit overnight camping at the parks. The committee would like to allow overnight parking (At Your Own Risk) at boat launches for those who wish to spend a couple of nights on the river. This change would need additional attention at the Stonecliffe boat launch because of the smaller parking area.

Fires – a clause in our current by-law does not expressly prevent fires at our parks.

The committee recommends that we ban all fires at our parks. This conclusion was drawn mainly due to our lack of community fire protection. It was felt that we could continue to allow fires for special events if approved by council and fire permitted.

Enforcement – one enforcement officer - 5 areas to police and nearly 70 km between them  
Clear simple signage (inherent desire to follow rules) is required in each area to outline HCM expectations of "neighbourly" park use.

Other Considerations

The Stonecliffe boat launch is in dire need of proper toilet facilities (vs. the present nearest tree solution). This is an ongoing unpleasant situation for our surrounding residents. Overflow boat trailer parking area should be identified near the municipal hall.

Consider the additional of "poop and scoop" bag dispensers in park areas.

Councillor Debbi Grills