

**City Council
Meeting Agenda**
Consolidated as of June 21, 2019



Monday, June 24, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street

Please turn off or place on non-audible all electronic devices during the meeting.

Please note that an electronic version of this agenda is available on guelph.ca/agendas.

Guelph City Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are streamed live on guelph.ca/live.

Changes to the original agenda have been highlighted.

Authority to move into closed meeting

That the Council of the City of Guelph now hold a meeting that is closed to the public, pursuant to the Municipal Act, to consider:

Confirmation of Minutes of the closed meetings of Council held March 18, March 25, April 23, May 13 and June 4, 2019 and the closed meetings of Committee of the Whole held May 6, 2019.

CS-2019-65

June 2019 Public Appointments to the Community Wellbeing Grant Allocation Panel

Section 293 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

June 2019 Public Appointment to The Elliott Community Board of Trustees

Section 293 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Open Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

O Canada
Silent Reflection
First Nations Acknowledgement
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Staff Recognitions:

Smart Cities Challenge Award (video)

Scott Stewart

Barb Swartzentruber

Cathy Kennedy

Jana Burns

Alex Chapman

Crystal Ellis

Jessie Finkelberg

Marina Grassi

Kelly Guthrie

Michelle Lowther

Barb Maly

Tyson McMann

Jenna Morris

Leah Parolin

Jennifer Smith

Tara Sprigg

Alison Springate

Das Soligo

Gina van den Berg

Cam Walsh

Doug Waram

Presentations:

Smart Cities Update (presentation)

Scott Stewart, Acting CAO/Deputy CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services

Barb Swartzentruber, Executive Director, Strategy, Innovation and Intergovernmental Services

Cathy Kennedy, Manager, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

Impact of Provincial Legislative Changes to the City of Guelph (presentation)

Scott Stewart, Acting CAO/Deputy CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services

Tara Baker, General Manager, Finance/City Treasurer

Confirmation of Minutes: (Councillor Gordon)

That the minutes of the open Council Meetings held May 13, 16, 23, 27, 28 and June 4, 2019, and the open Committee of the Whole Meeting held June 4, 2019, be confirmed as recorded and without being read.

Committee of the Whole Consent Report:

The following resolutions have been prepared to facilitate Council's consideration of various matters and are suggested for consideration. If Council wishes to address a specific report in isolation of the Committee of the Whole Consent Report, please identify the item. It will be extracted and dealt with separately as part of the Items for Discussion.

CAO-2019-09

Internal Audit Work Plan Update - 2019

Recommendation:

That the report CAO-2019-09, "Internal Audit Work Plan Update – 2019" dated June 4, 2019 be received.

CAO-2019-10 Status of Outstanding Management Action Plans – Q1 2019

Recommendation:

That the report CAO-2019-10, "Status of Outstanding Management Action Plans – Q1-2019" dated June 4, 2019 be received.

CAO-2019-11 Project Management Process Audit Report

Recommendation:

That the report CAO-2019-11, "Project Management Process Audit Report" dated June 4, 2019 be received.

CS-2019-19 2018 Unconsolidated Financial Statements

Recommendation:

That report CS-2019-19 titled, 2018 Unconsolidated Financial Statements and dated June 4, 2019 be received for information.

CS-2019-20 2018 Consolidated Financial Statements and External Audit Findings Report

Recommendation:

That report CS-2019-20 titled, 2018 Consolidated Financial Statements and External Audit Findings Report, dated June 4, 2019, be approved.

CS-2019-31 2019 Debenture Issue

Recommendation:

1. That capital projects identified in Table 1 of report CS-2019-31 dated June 4, 2019 be approved for debt financing in the amounts as listed.
2. That the City Treasurer be authorized to proceed with the marketing through the City's fiscal agent, of a debenture issue in the principal aggregate amount of \$33,074,500 for a term not exceeding twenty years.
3. That the 2019 debt servicing costs estimated at \$417 thousand be approved to be funded from the City's applicable capital reserve funds in accordance with Table 2 in report CS-2019-31.

CS-2019-18 First Quarter 2019 Operating Variance Report

Recommendation:

That report CS-2019-18 First Quarter 2019 Operating Variance Report dated June 4, 2019 be received for information.

PS-2019-09**Paramedic Services Response Time Performance Plan for 2020****Recommendation:**

1. That Report PS-2019-09 "Paramedic Services Response Time Performance Plan for 2020" be received.
2. That the Response Time Performance Plan for 2020 be set as recommended by staff in Report PS-2019-09.

PS-2019-10**Business Licence Fees 2019****Recommendation:**

1. That staff be directed to prepare the necessary amendments to Business Licence Bylaw (2009)-18855, to incorporate the 2019 fees as identified in Public Services Report PS-2019-10 dated June 4, 2019.
2. That staff be directed to review the payday loan businesses and bring forward possible amendments to Business Licence Bylaw (2009)-18855 for Council's consideration.

PS-2019-07**Agreements with Guelph Community Sports and Soccer Incorporated****Recommendation:**

1. That staff be directed to terminate the Municipal Capital Facility Agreement and Lease between the City of Guelph and Guelph Community Sports dated September 11, 2006.
2. That the loan outstanding to Royal Bank of Canada, owed by Guelph Community Sports, and guaranteed by the City of Guelph, in the amount of approximately \$255,000, be paid in full upon termination of the agreement referenced in recommendation #1 (plus related charges including, if applicable, accrued interest, termination fees, and outstanding arrears) and funded from the Tax Rate Operating Contingency Reserve.
3. That the City, through the Parks and Recreation Department, shall assume full operational control of the dome facility on June 30, 2019.
4. That the dome facility operations for the 2019-2020 indoor season be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Department and any net operating variance be subject to the City's ongoing financial processes governed by the City's Budget Monitoring Policy and Year-End Surplus Allocation Policy.
5. That staff be directed to prepare a report to Council in Q2 2020 to consider options for the future of the dome facility, including a facility assessment, capital plan, operating model, and recommendations for future use.

Items for Discussion:

The following items have been extracted from the Committee of the Whole Consent Report and the Council Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. These items have been extracted either at the request of a member of Council or because they include a presentation and/or delegations.

PS-2019-08

Leash Free Program Policy (Council Memo)

Delegations:

Eileen Gross

Michael Grand

Helen Prinold (presentation)

Tanya Gevaert

Tina Widowski

Christi Cooper

Beverley Fretz

Correspondence:

Garry Male and Melissa Floreani

Tamara Hinan

Nathan Perkins (additional submission)

Beth Finnis

Jonathan Rosenberg

Linda Carroll-Lyssy

Kim Robinson

Jacqueline Powers

Mike Hallett

Tina Widowski

Beverley Fretz

Christi Cooper

Helen Prinold

Recommendation:

1. That Council approve the implementation plan outlined in the Leash Free Study for the construction of leash free facilities at Bristol Street Park and Peter Misersky Park in 2019 and Lee Street Park in 2020 included as ATT-2 to the report PS-2019-06.
2. That Council direct staff to seek further leash free policy input as part of the community engagement of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update so future leash free decisions can be evaluated with consideration for overall community priorities for outdoor recreation space.

Recommendation:

1. That _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ be reappointed to the Wellbeing Grant Application Panel for a term ending June, 2021.
2. That _____ and _____ be appointed to the Wellbeing Grant Application Panel for a term ending June, 2020.

June 2019 Public Appointment to The Elliott Community Board of Trustees

Recommendation:

That _____ be appointed to The Elliott Community Board of Trustees for a three year term commencing September, 2019.

UNHCR’s Stand #WithRefugees Campaign

Mayor Guthrie will speak to this item.

Correspondence:

Jim Estill, Danby

Special Resolutions

By-laws

Resolution to adopt the By-laws (Councillor Hofland).

“That By-law Numbers (2019)-20414 to (2019)-20416, inclusive, are hereby passed.”

<p>By-law Number (2019)-20414</p>	<p>Being a By-law to amend By-law Number (2002)-17017, the Traffic By-law [amends No Parking in Schedule XV and 15 Minute/Public Loading Zones in Schedule XVIII; and Sections 54 (1)(g) and 56 (1)(a)].</p>
<p>By-law Number (2019)-20415</p>	<p>A By-law to amend By-law Number (2009)-18855, being a By-law respecting the licensing of businesses operating within the City of Guelph.</p>

By-law Number (2019)-20416	A By-law to confirm the proceedings of meetings of Guelph City Council held June 12 and 24, 2019, a meeting of Guelph City Council as Shareholder of Guelph Municipal Holdings Inc. held June 17, 2019, and a meeting of Guelph City Council as Shareholder of Guelph Junction Railway Limited held June 17, 2019.
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Mayor's Announcements

Please provide any announcements, to the Mayor in writing, by 12 noon on the day of the Council meeting.

Notice of Motion

Adjournment

OURFOODFuture

GUELPH-WELLINGTON – Canada's
first food smart community

A Smart Cities Challenge initiative



Smart Cities Challenge Update

Council Presentation: June 24,
2019



Canada



Update Since March 25, 2019 Report to Council



Alignment with City Priorities

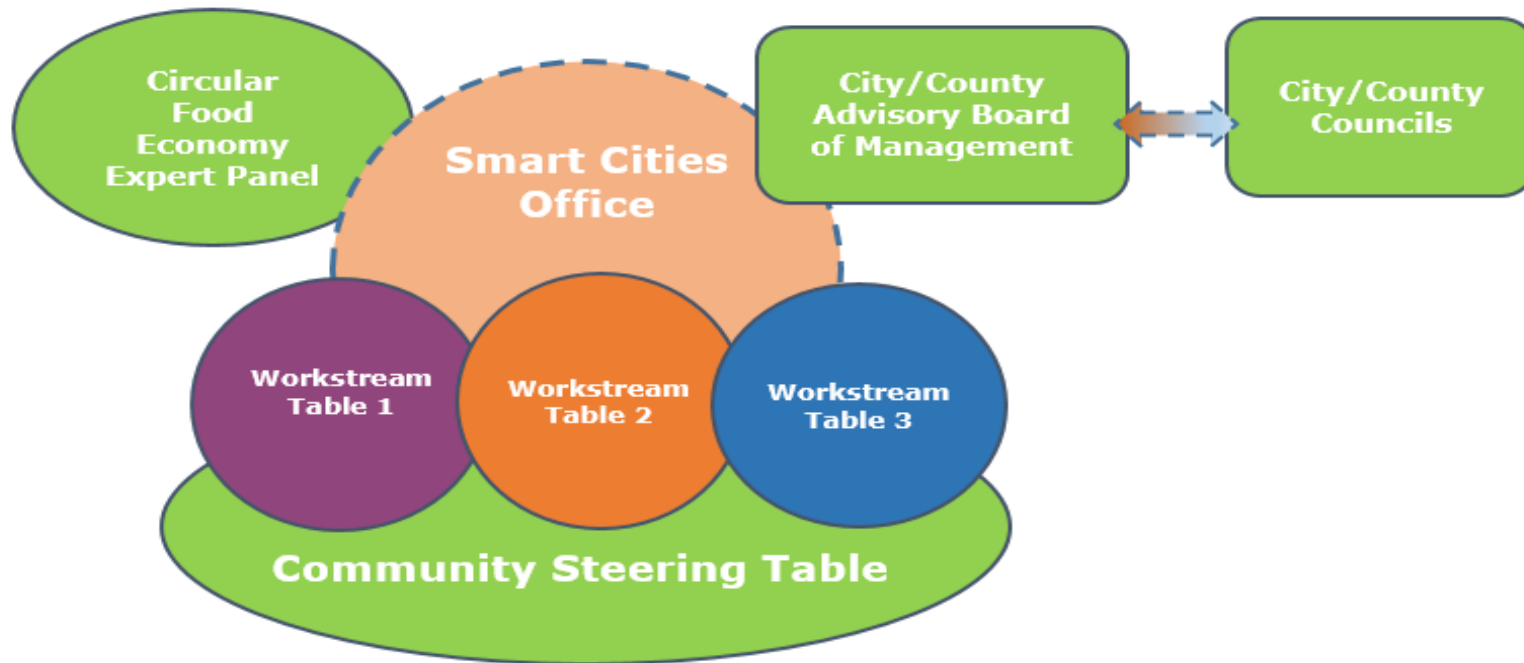
- Building Partnerships
- Enhancing Guelph's profile as the 'heart' of the Innovation Corridor
- Completing the implementation of Prosperity 2020 and setting the groundwork for the City's next 5 year economic development strategy
- Achieving the community commitment for net zero carbon, and the City commitment of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050
- Leadership in progressive waste programming and waste diversion
- Our new Community Plan – driven by complimentary goals shared by residents, businesses and community stakeholders

Smart Cities Office

- Department within the City
- Primary point of contact for initiative
- Provide project management, administration and oversight for the execution of key project milestones and deliverables
- Responsible for coordinating the governance system, financial administration and performance monitoring/reporting
- Provide secretariat support to Workstream Leadership Tables
- Responsible for the overall issues, risks & change management requirements
- Will coordinate and deliver the engagement, communication and performance management functions and guide the implementation of technology and data strategies, on behalf

of all the projects

Governance Structure



The Benefits of Our Approach

We will continue to:

- Build a City/County collaboration and capacity building centred on a joint vision
- Nurture new collaborations across sectors and new approaches
- Design pilots that will bring about results and make a difference
- Forge relationships with national and international organizations looking to us as leaders in the circular economy and agri-food sector
- Attract government, institutional and venture capital interest – both nationally and internationally
- Attract new funding for community agencies and seek further investments

Next Steps

In formalizing the plan for the implementation of the Our Food Future initiative, the following next steps are contemplated:

- Creation of the Smart Cities Office – Summer 2019
- Report back to Council in Fall of 2019 to:
 - Seek approval of the creation of an Advisory Board of Management including the roles and responsibility and reporting relationship of this Board in relation to Council
 - Confirm City political and CAO membership on the Advisory Board of Management
 - Seek approval for the execution of the Contribution Agreement with Infrastructure Canada
- Execution of Contribution Agreements with project partners – Fall/Winter 2019/2020
- Continue to explore additional funding opportunities to realize the full scope of the Our Food Future initiative - Ongoing

Project Delivery Partners



Waterloo Wellington LHIN



Upper Grand District School Board



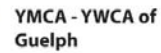
YMCA - YWCA of Guelph



Canada

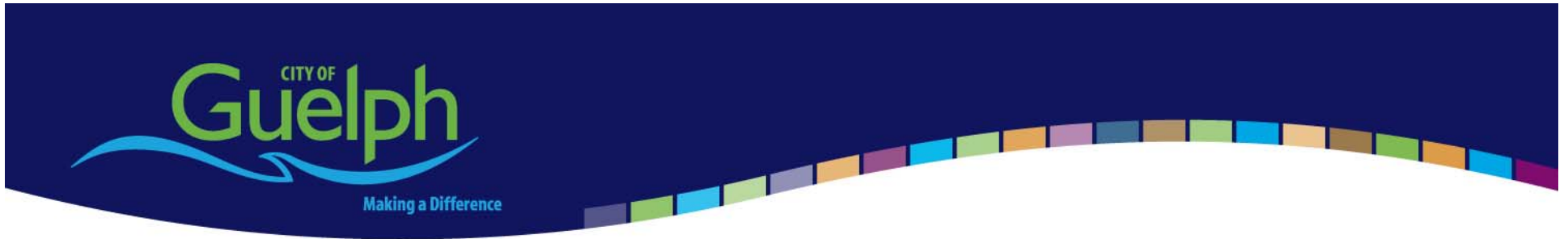


Letters of Support



Thank you!





Impact of Provincial Legislative Changes to the City of Guelph

City Council

June 24, 2019



Current Provincial-Municipal Climate

- Reducing municipal control over local planning matters
- Decreasing general revenue acquired from growth and development
- Changes to cost-sharing arrangements between the City and the Province, increasing municipal contributions
- New service realignments, in part, through the amalgamation of health services

Current Provincial-Municipal Climate

Chronology of Provincial Announcements

- **April 11, 2019** - Provincial Budget released
- **Weekly** - Incremental Provincial budget announcements related to new service reforms and cuts
- **May 2, 2019** - More Homes, More Choice: Ontario Housing Supply Action Plan and Bill 108 revealed
- **May 21, 2019** – Audit and Accountability Fund
 - Incentive for municipalities to conduct line-by-line reviews
- **May 27, 2019** – Province postpones implementation of changes to cost-sharing arrangements for Public Health, Paramedic Services and Childcare to 2020
- **June 6, 2019** – Bill 108 passed into law
 - Regulations and corresponding policy under development
- **June 18, 2019** – Province commences municipal consultations regarding regulations via teleconference

Budget Impacts Effecting Key Services

Paramedic Services



Paramedic services will be reduced through the merging of Ontario's 59 emergency health services operators and 22 provincial dispatch communication centres into 10.

Funding for Paramedic Services will be held at the 2018 budgeted amounts

What this means for Guelph

- Lost revenue in 2020 due to funding freeze totals \$1.5M (County 40% / Guelph 60%)
- Impact from any pending merger are not yet known

Budget Impacts Effecting Key Services



Public Health

Public Health cost allocations will move from the current 75:25% provincial/municipal model to a 70:30% model or 60:40% for populations serving above 1 million

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health merges with: Peel, Halton, and Waterloo Regions, making it the largest Public Health agency in Ontario overseeing 3 million people

What this means for Guelph

- Lost provincial revenue could be between \$1.5 and \$3 million of which Guelph's portion is 46.3%
- Impacts from the merger are not yet known



Budget Impacts Effecting Key Services

Provincial Gas Tax Fund

Province will not move forward on its promise to increase municipal share of provincial gas tax funds

What this means for Guelph

- Lost opportunity would have provided the City an additional \$27 million from 2019 to 2028 to invest in transit infrastructure
- Guelph didn't build the speculated 2 cents/litre increase into its capital plan so no impact to the Long-term Financial Plan



Budget Impacts Effecting Key Services

Housing Supply Action Plan



Outlines the Provincial government's plan to manage Ontario's housing crisis, in part, through changes that will streamline the development approvals process

What this means for Guelph

- Pausing or deferring significant capital projects, increased DC rates, increased tax burden for administrative and system costs
- Potential loss of control on planning decisions to LPAT
- Significant number of by-law amendments (Zoning, Official Plan, Development Charges, Parkland Dedication and new Community Benefit Charge Bylaw)

Highlights on Key Municipal-related legislation

Development Charges Act



Elimination of DCs will result in a capital funding shortfall for growth-related infrastructure needed for parks, trails, rec centres, libraries, public health, child care, social housing, homes for the aged, and parking.

What this means to Guelph

- Cost Guelph \$155M over the next 10 years
- Jeopardizes key projects including South End Community Centre, new Main Library, Wellington Park
- Increases City's reliance on debt
- Significant impact to cash flow
- City would act as a bank by financing industrial and commercial developments

Highlights on Key Municipal-related legislation

Community Benefits Authority (new)

Proposes to substitute the existing density bonusing provisions, parkland dedication authority and soft service DCs with a new community benefits charge

What this means to Guelph

- New process governing municipalities' collection / use of the funds, including a requirement to spend 60% annually
- Required to pass a community benefits charge by-law
- Required to prepare a community benefits charge strategy
- Owners can object to the value of the community benefits charge



Highlights on Key Municipal-related legislation

Planning Act

The timeframes for municipal processing of development applications, which had been extended in Bill 139, are now even shorter than the pre-Bill 139 Planning Act.

New requirements to allow secondary units in existing residential or ancillary buildings, in which DCs will be exempted

What this means to Guelph

Shortens the window of opportunity cities / residents have to provide input on the planning decisions that stand to affect them



Highlights on Key Municipal-related legislation

Ontario Heritage Act

Changes will reduce municipal control over decisions on designation and alterations to heritage properties by allowing appeals to the LPAT, whose decisions are binding.

Timeframes for notices and decisions are also being shortened

What this means to Guelph

Changes will significantly reduce local decision-making authority, add complexity to the heritage process, require additional resources, and costs more for cities and applicants.



Highlights on Key Municipal-related legislation

Local Planning and Appeals Tribunal Act (LPAT)



New procedural changes to the way planning appeals are handled adjust the deadlines on official plan and zoning appeals and returns to the former Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) procedure.

The LPAT will have the authority to limit direct and cross examination of witnesses and limit non-parties' ability to participate in *Planning Act* appeals.

What this means to Guelph

- Reduces local planning control
- Places more decision-making authority in the hands of an entity outside the local community

Taking Action

Advocating for Change



Guelph is working to:

- Influence *More Homes, More Choice Act's* regulations and policies
- Protect local decision-making authority and discretion, and existing tools for revenue generation
- Encourage improved provincial-municipal relations through transparent, meaningful consultation

Taking Action

Provincial Consultations

- 10th Year Review of Ontario's Endangered Species Act: proposed changes
- Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act (Operations)
- Modernizing Ontario's environmental assessment program Environmental Assessment Act and Discussion Paper
- Excess soil regulatory proposal and amendments to Record of Site Condition (Brownfields) Regulation
- Amendments to the *Development Charges Act*
- Amendments to the *Planning Act*
- Amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act*
- Amendments to the *Endangered Species Act*

Taking Action

Meetings and Correspondence

- May 24 – Mayor and City Treasurer met with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- May 31 - Letter submitted to the Legislative Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Allying with Stakeholders

- Large Urban Mayors Caucus
- Municipal Finance Officer's Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Communications Strategy

- Inform residents of local impacts
 - City Website
 - Social media
 - Residents and businesses can write to local MPP and MP

Taking Action

Next Steps

- Continue participating in ministry EBO consultations
- Participate in direct consultations with ministry staff in the development of the regulations and policy
- Address concerns to the Minister at the AMO Conference in August
- Collaborate with the County, Local MPs, MPPs, and other stakeholder groups
- Continue to provide the community with information on how residents can get involved in supporting this campaign
- Report back to Council, through the 2020 budget process, on any necessary curtailment of growth-related or other capital expenditures resulting from the province's proposed funding changes and the enactment of the *More Homes, More Choice Act*

**Canadian Assoc. of
Professional Pet Dog Trainers**



Delegation to Guelph Council – June 24, 2019

Re:

**Leash Free
Program Policy**



Leash Free Study



Dog park building often involves acquiring a plot of land and constructing a fence. If budget allows, seats are provided.

**Dogs may get limited physical exercise,
but their behavioral and mental needs
– and those of their owners – remain unmet.**

(Canadian Assoc. of Professional Pet Dog Trainers, American Kennel Club, Lee et al, 2013)

We Can Do Better

1. Need to follow best practice dog park design guidelines, dog needs not mentioned in policy
 - E.g. space allocation inadequate at two of the proposed parks, fence height in smaller parks
2. Additional hazards need attention
 - very small children become targets of “predatory drift” (Brampton bans and Mississauga is considering)
 - choke and martingale collars, breakables all hazards for dogs
 - no direction on maximum # of dogs per handler (dog walkers operating a commercial business)
3. No direction to seek cost-effective waste disposal that is environmentally friendly
4. Moving to fully-fenced policy releases owners the most significant reason to have dogs that respond to the recall cues – keeping their dogs.

PLEASE CONSIDER A MOTION

TO RETURN POLICY & PLAN to staff for REVISION

IN MEANTIME – RETAIN NON-PREMIUM SPORTS FIELDS for OFF LEASH USE

CONSIDER CONTINUING TO ALLOW NON-PREMIUM SPORTS FIELDS AT THIS TIME

- Municipalities chosen as comparators do not allow sports field access – but many other areas do (e.g. Halifax, NS pop. 450,000 allows this)
- More convenient and regularly emptied waste disposal for these areas along with additional “leash free zone” signage might assist in resolving some concerns
- Behaviourally better for dogs rather than small and overused spaces

ANOTHER OPTION:

Require dogs in off leash areas to have Canine Good Neighbour badge.

Recognize that dog parks are, after all, *PARKS*.

They should be welcoming, attractive, accessible and WELL MAINTAINED community resources. Exercise components are for *people* to use in a non-competitive environment with their dogs.

AS PROPOSED...?



“park closed this month ... to re-establish healthy turf...”

**Dog Park
Design,
Development
and
Operation**



Marilynn R. Glasse

WE CAN DO BETTER!



THANK YOU for CONSIDERING THIS INPUT!

References

- American Kennel Club (2011). *Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community*
- Brown, L. (2012). *Landscape Barkitecture: Guidelines for behaviorally, mentally, and physically responsive dog parks.*
- Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers (2015), *Dog Park Design Guidelines & Best Practices.*
- Canadian Kennel Club (Accessed 2019-06-12) *Canine Good Neighbour Program.* www.ckc.ca/en/Raising-My-Dog/Responsible-Ownership/Canine-Good-Neighbour-Program
- *Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy.* (2016). City of Edmonton, AB.
- *Dog Off Leash Area Strategy.* (2012). City of Surrey, BC.
- Carter, S. B. (2016). Establishing a framework to understand the regulation and control of dogs in urban environments: a case study of Melbourne, Australia. *SpringerPlus*, 5(1), 1190. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40064-016-2843-8>
- Glasser, M. R. (2013). *Dog Park Design, Development, and Operation* (1st ed.). Champaign, IL, USA: Human Kinetics.
- Hart, B. L. (2001). *Guidelines for establishment and maintenance of successful off-leash dog exercise areas.*
- Jackson, P. (2012). Situated activities in a dog park: Identity and conflict in human-animal space. *Society and Animals*, 20(3), 254–272. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-12341237>
- Lee, H.-S., Shepley, M., & Huang, C.-S. (2013). Evaluation of off-leash dog parks: A study of use patterns, user satisfaction, and perception. *Landscape And Urban Planning - ScienceDirect*, 92(3–4), 314–324.
- McMillan, F. D. (2006). Development of a mental wellness program for animals. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 220(7), 965–972. <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.2002.220.965>
- Metcalfe, J. (2017). How to design the best dog park. *City Lab*.
- Rahim, T., Barrios, P. R., McKee, G., McLaws, M., & Kosatsky, T. (2018). Public Health Considerations Associated with the Location and Operation of Off-Leash Dog Parks. *Journal of Community Health*, 43(2), 433–440. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-017-0428-2>
- *Unleashed a Guide To Successful Dog Parks.* (2014). Government of South Australia.

Dear City of Guelph Councillors,

Thank you once again for listening to the Rickson Park delegation on June 4, 2019 and directing staff to revise the Off-Leash policy being considered by Council on June 24th. A significant amount of time was spent by many people to present a case for a more informed by-law that reflects not just our little park but many parks and people throughout the city. A lengthy letter was submitted for the June 4 meeting and while many specific concerns were addressed we hope that the broader points made in a positive and respectful fashion carry forward. First among these is that many diverse activities can be accommodated in Guelph parks if people respect each other and the parks themselves.

Although I still have concerns about some of the by-law details such as age restrictions, the lack of enrichment in the off-leash enclosures and seasonal restrictions, the general intent seems reasonable and hopefully subject to tweaking in the future.

Best Regards,

Nathan Perkins

Hi there;

I would like to say I am in support of keeping leash free areas available for dogs and their owners in Guelph.

I walk my 2 dogs off leash every morning at 6am at the Rickson Park in Guelph and rarely if ever do I see anyone else using this space. Park areas should be maximized in terms of their usage and benefit to all citizens .

My dogs are well trained and because I can walk them off leash they are very well socialized. There is great benefit to dogs being able to socialize as they are much less aggressive then dogs who are kept on leash at all times.

Our dog park community is very respectful. We live in the community around the schools of St Mikes and Jean Little. Understandably there is a need for times when other Guelph citizens want to play baseball or ultimate Frisbee. These times are respected as leash only times. **I would suggest there be a compromise in usage depending on times etc.** For instance through the winter the dog walkers are probably the only people utilizing the park areas for the most part.

Please do not create 3 enclosed spaces as the only option for citizens to walk their dogs off leash. Our park area is kept very clean . We are committed to keeping it clean for everyone who may want to utilize it.

Sincerely Linda Carroll-Lyssy

To whom it may concern,

There is a strong community that is created around pets - dogs in particular. Dog parks are places where community members gather and spend time together, getting exercise, socializing and enjoying being with people who share their passion for their pets. For some,

who may be socially isolated for other reasons - these communities of dog owners are a key part of well being. Allowing people to use these spaces when others are not in them, provides added security for the neighbourhood and doesn't interfere with community activities. On the contrary - allowing dogs in these spaces creates community.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I would urge the City of Guelph to reconsider allowing a dog free area in the park adjacent to Jean Little Public School. I have been bringing my dog to that park for over six years and have had countless opportunities to meet families in the neighbourhood, help children get over their fear of dogs and have welcomed new community members to Guelph.

I look forward to hearing how the City can accommodate the committed, responsible dog owning public in their plans.

Respectfully,
Kim Robinson

To City of Guelph Counsellors,

Many thanks for re-considering the use of City of Guelph sports fields for leash free areas for dogs. I was pleased to hear the revisions to the original recommendation and that staff heard the concerns raised by residents who use these spaces when they are not occupied by recreational groups. I look forward to continued interaction with neighbours and our dogs in these spaces.

With much appreciation,
Kim Robinson

Dear City Council,

I am writing as I am concerned about potential changes in the dog off-leash policy and by-law. I would not be happy with the proposed changes. I live near Exhibition Park and walk my dog there twice a day every day. I only allow my dog to be off-leash during the designated times in the designated areas. It is a wonderful thing for the dogs to play and to learn socialization so that they are better behaved. I do not drive and so would not benefit from designated off-leash parks that require me to have a car to get to. I want to walk my dog in my neighborhood and have him be able to run off-leash.

I also think that the parks are safer since dogs are walked and play in the park (again, off-leash only at the designated times). No matter what the weather, dogs and their walkers are in the park. The park is used all year long. Even when it is pouring rain, even at -40 degrees. Please don't take this away.

I invite you to see the happiness that the off-leash times bring the dogs and their owners.

Please leave things as they are. There is no need for a change.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline

Dr. Jacqueline Powers
University of Guelph

* * *

Dear Mayor and Council,

First off I'd like to thank you for referring the initial report back to staff at the June 4th meeting. The updated proposal coming to Council on June 24th is much improved and a fair middle ground that I hope council supports. I had many of the same concerns with the initial report as the group from Rickson and I am happy to see they have been addressed. The most important being:

- It is unfair to punish the responsible dog owners for the acts of the irresponsible ones. The irresponsible people are going to do what ever they want anyway and will likely ignore any new policy. The responsible owners will follow the rules and you have come up with workable rules.
- Pet ownership builds community. Whether the facility is fenced or an open field, I have meet many new people in my neighbourhood through our dogs playing in the morning or evening. Making friendship and building community with people I otherwise wouldn't have and an opportunity to meet.
- Adding fenced dog facilities is great but the three proposed sites are not walkable for the majority of residents. The facilities should be spread out more.

I spoke with Mr Jefferson last week. He was very helpful and we had great discussion. I fully understand the complexities of the competing needs and concerns from the various stakeholders and appreciate that it is often hard to find a middle ground.

That being said, I would encourage council to consider the following regarding the new Leash Free Program Policy:

1. Let data inform the location of future fenced areas.

According to Mr Jefferson, the City only has data on the numbers of dogs city wide. I spoke with Docupet, who manages dog licensing for the City, and they can provide the City with dog ownership data by postal code. This data would indicate the distribution of the dog population throughout Guelph and inform future decision making regarding location of fenced facilities.

2. Modify scheduled B to allow off season use of some the fields currently designated "not permitted".

I understand the elite fields need to be off limits year round. I'd ask that some of the fields within subdivisions on the "not permitted" list be moved to a third list. This list would not permit off leash use from April 1st to November 30th, but would allow off leash use from December 1st to March 31st. This timing lines up with the on street parking rules and thus the City could jointly communicate about these seasonal changes.

This modification wouldn't impact park staff's maintenance of the fields and would let the fields be used by the community when they'd otherwise be unused.

3. **Think about walkability and greenhouse gases from cars.**

Dog owners out to exercise their dogs are more apt to walk to a park to exercise themselves and their dogs. Most soccer/baseball players are driven to games due to the age of kids, the need to carry chairs, and the need to get to a field quickly after dinner. Keep this in mind as new parks are programmed. Kids are going to be driven to games so it makes sense to construct fields in complexes with adequate parking. Meanwhile leash free facilities are best within communities/subdivisions where the users will walk to them.

Thank you for considering my thoughts. Please consider them as you discuss the revised proposal on June 24th. Again, I encourage you to at a minimum support the revised program policy but if possible consider my modification for off season use.

Regards,
Mike Hallett
Ward 6

Dear Council Members,

I would first like to thank you all for listening to the concerns raised by our delegation (Rickson Park) on the original proposed Leash Free Policy, and especially for the support from Councillors O'Rourke, Piper, Hofland, Allt, Gordon, Gibson and Salisbury in voting to revisit the proposal.

I have reviewed the updated proposal posted on the June 24 City Council agenda and am very pleased with the work that City of Guelph staff has done to turn this around in such a short time. I feel that the updated proposed Leash Free Program meets the diverse needs of our community, makes better use of our parks and green spaces and supports a healthy environment for all.

The success of any Leash Free program depends on a culture of responsible use by dog owners and a good understanding of the rules by all. At the June 4 Council of the Whole meeting, there was some discussion of the need for communication and education. I wholeheartedly agree that this will be an important component of the process and encourage the development of a good communication plan. I think that there are a number of means that could be used and stakeholders that could participate – the DocuPet system, Guelph Humane Society, University of Guelph, the local veterinary community and local dog trainers.

Again, thank you for considering the updated policy. I look forward to all of your support.

Best regards,

Tina Widowski

I am very unhappy with the information about the pending new 3 leash-free dog parks in Guelph (nice 'spin') – on the fringe of town and requiring a drive to get there outside of one's neighbourhood, and what has not been shared in a forthright way, seemingly the plan to disband local / neighbourhood leash-free dog parks, such as a portion of Exhibition

park. While I can not attend until 8:10pm, I would like to speak at the June 24th City Council meeting. I hope Phil Allt Ward 3 will be there, as he has seemingly let down many of those who voted for him. We will not be fooled next time. I would expect this from the Major, but not Phil. Shame.

Beverley Fretz

To: Members of Guelph City Council
From: Rickson Park Community Members (and their Dogs)
Date: June 21, 2019

Re: The City of Guelph's Proposed Leash Free Program Policy (Council Memo)

We applaud the work of the City Staff as requested by the Council of the Whole during the June 4, 2019 meeting, to balance the findings of the Leash Free report and provide more accessible leash free locations throughout the city. The request has resulted in a proposal that, we feel, finds a balance in addressing multiple community park user groups, while providing greater clarity and reasonable hours of use for leash free options.

Request to Guelph City Council

1. Accept the intent of the proposed Leash Free Program Policy with Schedule A and Schedule B, detailed listings of parks, sports fields and facilities.
2. Request that City Staff develop a communication strategy for initially rolling the changes out to the community and ongoing sustainable programming; strategies based on providing information through outreach, especially to the students and other newcomers to the community.
3. Reconsider the use of regimented wording, specifically around ages of children that can accompany adults to leash free areas, and restricting anyone under 18 from being alone with their family dog. This wording supersedes the role of parents in determining appropriate family activities, disallows family outings with strollers, while creating policy that will be difficult to enforce. Instead, incorporate wording that promotes responsible parental supervision, recommending rather than disallowing younger family members and expecting close supervision.

Rationale

We support the provision of building new leash-free areas that are developed on evidence based principles, but do not believe that these areas should be the only place where dogs can be off-leash. The proposed policy more reasonably reflects the day-to-day actual use of the City's parks or sports fields and allows for walkable access in most areas of the community.

We feel strongly that the current proposed policy, which allows on- and off-leash activity of specifically defined unoccupied sports fields, provides for greater clarity and promotes balance in shared use by multiple park and sports field users. We ask City Council to accept the proposed policy with minor amendments around the ages of family members and dog handlers allowed in leash free areas.

Community Benefits

- Sustainable Communities: Community amenities, such as public parks, should be nearby and walkable.
- Community Use: Language first devised around the new fenced in leash free facilities, has been expanded to all leash free parks, facilities and sports fields, creating hardship for families by the mandated limitations on use, such as no children under 6 years allowed in or no teens under 18 years allowed on their own.
- Healthy Communities: Providing opportunities for easily accessible social gatherings, that are essentially no cost, adds to the social health of the city as a whole. The proposed by-law will allow community meeting points, but the proposed age restrictions may create limitations and challenges to family friendly activities, causing families to choose between their children and their dogs. Many leash free dog areas are incorporated into family walks.

Members of the Rickson Park Community (and their Dogs)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nate Perkins and Tina Widowski (Boags & Brüne) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melanie James (Izzie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackie Cooper (Nugget) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nadia Steininger (Oscar)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christi Cooper (Gemma & Spencer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manick Annamalai (Rani) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harley Knighton (Brecken) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nancy Picard (Willa)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyndi Jaku (Charlie & Tucker) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathon Rosenberg and Kari Grant (Willow) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Mullock and Emily Booth (Sweet Pea) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andreas Boecker (Freida)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirsteen Birkett (Daisy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marg Perchaluk (Maggie & Sparky) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Mosney (Hobbes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim Robinson (Juno)

Behaviour Needs - Dog

- P. 2 of study says it reflects the needs of all the park users – but dog behaviour is not well considered!
- Different breeds – different needs:
 - Digging – need a digging pit and buried fencing below ground level to prevent dogs from digging and exiting, along with requirement owners not allow digging in non-pit areas
 - Paved Paths at Fenceline – for herding and sighthound breeds, prevents fenceline from getting muddy and encourages walking
 - Scenting – need meandering trails with vegetation to allow for “sniff walks” for hounds
 - Running – need large fields for fetch
 - Retrievers – water is key, if no way to swim to cool down than shade cover and fountains
- Small AND special use area for brachycephalic, shy, older or overwhelmed dogs needing rest
- Extra small parks may have to restrict food & TOYS due to possession aggression

**MORE in good dog park design guidelines documents
provided during consultations**

Behaviour Needs –Human

- Research shows users spend .5 – 2 hrs at parks – as a result need furnishings & toilets
- Accessible landscaping and pathways required, plowing/shovelling needed for safety
- Park features, such as a linear or walkthrough design, can help deter sedentary behaviour by encouraging owners to walk alongside their dogs
- Community involvement needed to increase sense of ownership and community.
- Lack of lighting an issue, no use during winter from 5pm dusk onwards?
- Also a lack of rental fields for dog sports, events and classes exists... not surfaced due to consultation design?
- Perhaps a fee for use opportunity for small parks or for Community Sports Dome?



Dog Park Design Highlights

A dog park is a space, often in a public park and usually enclosed with fencing, where dogs are encouraged to play off-leash with their owners/caregivers and other dogs.

Excellence in dog park design occurs when not only the physical site is considered, but the users and community (including dogs and owners/caregivers, maintenance personnel and neighbours) have their needs considered and included in the design and operation of the facility.

*A wise person once said “the answer is in the question”,
the questions below encourage dog park designs
to consider the needs of these various constituents.*

Physical Location

1. Size, Location and Entrances
 - a. Is the park located near residential areas (within walking distance) to encourage use and far enough away (setback and buffer)/landscaped to minimize noise?
 - b. Is there good surveillance of the space from public areas (site is not isolated)?
 - c. Is the site connected to an existing urban walking route?
 - d. Are there multiple entrances or one main entryway?
 - e. Is the site located near environmentally sensitive areas (such as wetlands or with significant wildlife habitat/near endangered species) and are they appropriately buffered?
 - f. Is the site a minimum of 2 acres (~8000 square meters) or - more appropriately to prevent dog behaviour issues - between 2.5 - 4 acres?

‘The area should be big enough for dogs to run around and space themselves out considerably. If there’s not enough square footage available, a park can easily get crowded. Crowding can lead to tension among dogs and, as a result, fights can erupt’

(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2013:n.p).

2. Signage
 - a. Is the name of the park clearly posted at entrance(s)?
 - b. Are the signs located so they are clearly visible?
 - c. Are the signs legible (i.e. color, size, etc.)?
 - d. Are there appropriate regulatory, advisory, and warning signs?
 - e. Are emergency contact numbers posted – to local animal control and maintenance?
 - f. Is a notice board provided for dog service providers and dog owners to post concerns such as lost dogs?
3. Fencing
 - a. What type?

- b. How high (six or seven feet is generally appropriate)?
 - c. Configuration?
 - d. Size of area that is fenced?
 - e. Are dogs protected by fencing from hazards such as roadways and train tracks?
 - f. Is there a separation between large and small dogs (generally a 25 – 30 pound limit)?
 - g. Do visual barriers separate the small and large dog areas to prevent stress?
 - h. Are 90 degree angles (corners) avoided to reduce areas where dogs can be trapped by other dogs?
4. Gates and Equipment Access
- a. Are small and large dog gates physically separated?
 - b. What kinds of gates are used?
 - c. Is there double-gated entry and exit (usually a minimum of sixteen feet)?
 - d. Are there several (at least two of each) entry and exit gates to reduce congestion and prevent potential conflict from dogs congregating to bully newcomers?
 - e. Are gates situated on fencing straight-runs to prevent dogs from being boxed-in immediately on entry?
 - f. Is there a maintenance access with a minimum entrance width of 16 feet to allow vehicles to access the site?
5. Seating
- a. Does the park provide adequate seating away from the entry gate?
 - b. Are there benches in each section of the park?
 - c. What kind?
 - d. Are the benches designed to minimize mud and dirt from jumping dogs?
 - e. Is there enough seating?
 - f. Is there a good mix of sun and shade seating?
 - g. Does the seating minimize the risk of dog injury (getting paws stuck or avoiding sharp metal re collisions)?
 - h. Do benches surround trees to help protect them from the nitrogen in dog urine?
6. Accessibility
- a. Is the park accessible to people with disabilities?
 - b. Are signage, gates and paths clearly marked for PWD's?
 - c. Are pathways wide and substantial, with surface and height transitions clearly marked (using bright colours and Braille as possible)?
7. Surfaces
- a. What types of surfaces do the dogs run on?
 - b. Are the surfaces durable?
 - c. Are high traffic areas such as the entry and transition areas hardscaped to prevent churning?
 - d. Do stones and mulches used avoid colourants which might transfer to dogs (for example red stone or mulch)?

- e. Is grass mowed, watered, reseeded and aerated to maintain drainage and are any holes and ruts repaired regularly?
 - f. Is integrated pest management practiced in grass areas?
 - g. If there are grass fields, are they regularly rotated to allow regeneration?
 - h. Is rain puddle formation prevented by maintaining level surfaces, to prevent mosquitoes and other arthropod pests?
8. Paths
- a. Are there paths through the dog park?
 - b. How are they constructed?
 - c. Are they effective?
 - d. Are they looping to encourage flow and movement?
9. Parking
- a. Is there parking available?
 - b. Is it easy to park?
 - c. Are there enough spaces?
 - d. Is there accessible parking?
 - e. Is parking off-street and near to park entrances?
 - f. Has a traffic engineer been consulted to ensure congestion is reduced (for example, dead-end parking increases congestion and decreases circulation)?
10. Lighting
- a. Is there night lighting and is it energy efficient?
 - b. What type?
 - c. Location?
 - d. Is the parking area well lit and visible enough to prevent crime while the owners are in the park?
11. Structures
- a. Are there buildings to protect users from the elements?
 - b. Are there structures that provide shade?
 - c. What type?
 - d. How many?
 - e. Are there sculptures or equipment designed for dogs?
 - f. Are structures (material and fasteners) used in construction able to withstand corrosion from dog urine (for example, made of aluminum, HDPE plastic and stainless steel)?
 - g.
12. Vegetation and Softscaping
- a. Is the park deliberately organized?
 - b. Are there trees that provide shade?
 - c. What kinds of plants are used?
 - d. Are the plant species native?
 - e. What is the condition of the plant material?

-
- f. Are any of the plants poisonous to dogs?
 - g. Is the facility regularly checked for poisonous plants?
13. Water
- a. Is there a water fountain for both dogs and humans?
 - b. Do the water fountains appear sanitary?
 - c. Is water protected from faeces run-off?
 - d. Are there areas of regularly refreshed and circulating water where the dogs can swim (both splash pad depth and for deep swimming)?
 - e. Are dogs with cuts and open sores prohibited from swimming?
 - f. Is there a place for dogs to shower off on exit?
14. Waste disposal
- a. Are there trash cans?
 - b. Are there enough (generally at least one or two waste stations per acre)?
 - c. Are they being used?
 - d. Are they being maintained?
 - e. Are there alternative trash arrangements such as biodigesters or methane digesters with “community” scoops to encourage use?
 - f. Is there a naturalized and separately-fenced “long grass” poop-run where faeces is not picked up?
 - g. Does the park provide bags for clean up?
15. Bathrooms
- a. Are there bathrooms provided?
 - b. What kind?
 - c. Are bathrooms regularly maintained?
16. What is the overall condition of the park?
- a. Is it maintained?
 - b. Are hazards regularly removed (for example, broken glass)?
 - c. Does park design discourage crime and encourage safety?

Management and Activity Considerations

17. Dog activities
- a. Is there equipment provided such as jumps, tunnels or A-frames?
 - b. Are there interesting areas for the dog to explore?
 - c. Would owners generally be able to see their dogs?
 - d. Are toys (especially those that provide choking hazards like tennis balls) prohibited?
 - e. Does the park offer a linear and easily-walkable set up to encourage walking vs. congregating (reduces opportunities for aggression)?
 - f. Does the park provide opportunities to fulfill heredity activity needs (scenting on trails, a digging pit, open field for chasing and retrieving)
 - g. Is there a quiet zone where dogs can enjoy low-energy activities or down-time?

18. Dog behaviour

- a. Are dogs required to enter and exit on leash?
- b. Is there a time out area for dogs that become over-excited?
- c. Are there clear instructions for users on what to do in event of a dog fight or injury?
- d. Are owners required to fill holes that a dog digs?
- e. Are there separate fenced areas where dogs can be worked in sports such as obedience that can potentially generate revenue via dogs shows and trials?

19. Owner/Caregiver Requirements

- a. Are owners required to carry a leash at all times?
- b. Do owners need to remain with and monitor their dog(s) at all times?
- c. If a dog becomes aggressive, are the owners required to put it on a leash and remove it immediately (or place it in a time out area)?
- d. Must children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult?
- e. Are owners required to be a minimum age to be in charge of a dog?
- f. Is there a maximum number of dogs that an owner can be in charge of?
- g. Are people encouraged to walk and travel with their dogs vs. remaining stationary?
- h. Are rules posted?
- i. Are the rules easy to read and understandable?
- j. Do the rules seem to be followed?
- k. Do the rules appear to be enforced and how?

'A small fenced area does not encourage people to walk with their dogs, but rather to stand around socialising. This increases the risk of inadequate supervision of dog behaviour' (McArthur, 2007:85).

20. Dog Health

- a. Are dogs with contagious illnesses prohibited?
- b. Is there a regular preventive parasite control program for the grounds?
- c. Is there a minimum age for dogs (for example, four months)?
- d. Are abrupt grade changes in open areas avoided to prevent accidents when dogs are running?
 - a. Is there educational signage discussing arthropod pests?
 - b. Do elderly dogs have a separate area?

21. Enforcement

- a. Can dog park associations be trained to take an active role in self policing off leash areas and to notify city bylaw officers when additional enforcement appears to be needed?

- b. Are city bylaw officers available to enforce area rules when warranted using the appropriate powers and laddered enforcement strategy (education and warning, escalating fines)?
 - C. Is technology (e.g. texting, smartphone apps) available to be used by volunteers and park visitors to help the city track and respond to infractions?
22. Visitor Health
- a. Are children required to wear shoes to prevent contracting zoonotic disease?
 - b. Is there educational signage discussing dog body language and appropriate play?
23. Licensing, Identification and Vaccinations
- a. Are dogs required to display a current City dog licence?
 - b. Are dogs required to have proof of rabies vaccination?
 - c. Are female dogs in heat clearly prohibited?
 - d. Are the park and features (including water) regularly tested for communicable illnesses?
24. Food
- a. Are treats or bones allowed (bones may encourage possessive aggression)?
 - b. Is there a place to purchase food for both dogs and humans?
 - c. Types of food offered?

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Design, Planning and Management of Off-leash Dog Parks

A brief guide for local councils, dog owner/carer groups and others who may be involved with providing dog park facilities. Includes checklists to help with planning and design.

By Bob Holderness-Roddam M. Env. Mgmt.

November 2017

Introduction

I have deliberately kept this manual short. This is because the people who will use it are busy. They are typically the council employees tasked with parks and animal management. Others who may find this manual useful are the various dog walking groups and others advocating for off-leash dog exercise areas.

The paramount consideration is the safety of both dogs and their human companions when visiting dog parks. Apart from the humanitarian considerations, authorities who ignore the safety of dogs and people are risking legal action for personal suffering (if the human is injured), veterinary costs or (if the dog is a valuable pedigree) even replacement costs.

What is a dog park? There several definitions of for dog parks. These include that in *Unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks*. “A dog park is a designated public area that’s been set aside for dog guardians to legally exercise, play and socialise with their dogs off-leash in a secure environment. The park is fully enclosed or fenced and has amenities that make it clear that dogs are invited, not just permitted.”

Off-leash dog parks were introduced in the USA in 1979, with the development of the Ohlone Dog Park in Berkeley, California to cater for the demand for the increasingly urban dog population to be exercised in safety, for both dogs and people.

More recently dog parks have been developed in Australia. Unfortunately the suitability of many dog parks, for dogs and people, leaves a lot to be desired. In some cases authorities have simply run a fence around an area for which there was no other demand. Such essentials as water, waste disposal, drainage, shelter and seating are sometimes over-looked.

Whilst researching this handbook I have consulted academic studies, looked at numerous internet sites and visited several dog parks in eastern Australia. Most of these parks have had both good and not so good features.

I have detailed the more useful resources at the end, just before the appendices. Speaking of which, the two appendices provide a suggested star rating system for dog parks and a dog park assessment form.

Contents

Why we need dog parks	1
Location	1
Size	2
Separate large and small dog sections	2
Parking	2
Entry / exit design.	2
Park shape	2
Fences	3
Surface materials	4
Shade and shelter	5
Vegetation	6
Seating	7
Water supply	7
Waste management	8
Agility and exercise equipment.....	9
Splashing pool	11
Digging area	11
Washing facilities	12
Signs	12
Further information	14
Appendix I – Dog park interview form	16
Appendix II – Draft star rating criteria for dog parks	18

Why we need dog parks

Australia has one of the highest populations of domestic dogs in relation to humans of any country. In my home state of Tasmania a survey of councils I did in 2015 found that there were 87,000 registered dogs and at least another 14,000 estimated to be unregistered. Tasmania's human population is a bit over 500,000, so that is about one dog for every five people. Because these dogs are 'attached' to people, they live where people live – in the towns and suburbs. This is where the problem lies!

As dog carers, we have the responsibility to ensure that our doggy friends are able to get regular exercise, meet other dogs and enjoy the old and new smells they encounter during their walks. Note, **dogs' sense of smell is 1,000s of times more sensitive than that of humans.** Smell is far more important to dogs than are hearing and vision, although these are still important.

Studies have shown that people who walk dogs regularly are healthier. This, along with the benefits of the love and affection we share with our dogs, reduces blood pressure and improves our mental health. In other words, dogs may reduce the cost of providing public health. Although there are issues regarding dog bites, trips and falls, road accidents caused by dogs and diseases transmitted to humans; these can in part be mitigated by better management of our doggy population.

These days many people travel with their dogs, and if an area is dog friendly, with a dog park, these travellers are more likely to visit an area and help the local economy by buying refreshments or staying locally.

Location

Where do we put dog parks? The simplistic answer is where they cause the least nuisance to other people through barking and unwanted dog waste. However, there are other important considerations. These include ease of access for dog carers, proximity to services such as toilets and consideration for native wildlife.

Because dogs are not permitted on public transport (except assistance dogs for sight or hearing impaired people) access is going to be either via car or on foot. The general rule seems to be that smaller off-leash areas may be closer to housing, to accommodate those who walk to the dog parks. Larger, regional, off-leash parks may be further away from domestic residences as there is more likelihood of barking and other disturbance.

A major consideration when siting dog parks is the environment. There needs to be a buffer zone between dog parks and water courses and drains. This is to prevent dog waste, including urine, from being washed into waterways when it rains. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, dog faeces and urine carry excessive amounts of nutrients which promote the growth of algae in waterways. These reduce the amount of available oxygen and may result in the area becoming unsuitable for aquatic life. Secondly, dog faeces carry diseases. There have been several cases in other parts of the world where marine mammals, such as seals and otters, have been infected with canine distemper and parvovirus. Potential 'hosts' for canine diseases in Australian coasts and estuaries include the platypus, porpoises, seals, and water rats.

Needless to say, dog parks should not be sited near reserves or areas near wildlife roosting, nesting or foraging areas.

How big should dog parks be?

Ideally a dog park should be large enough to permit dogs to run freely and play. If it becomes over-crowded with dogs there is more likelihood of fights. However, size may be limited by available space, construction (e.g. fences, ground cover and shelters) and maintenance costs. Those in America vary from a quarter acre to 40 acres. One study suggests a minimum of one acre and preferably four acres.

Separate large and small dog sections

Potential hazard – *small dogs may be hurt in rough and tumble, large aggressive dogs injure smaller ones.*

Unfortunately, there are times when small dogs have been killed or seriously injured by larger dogs. Whilst carers are asked not to bring aggressive dogs into parks, they don't all do the right thing. There are also dogs which are normally well-behaved, but may become aggressive if they feel under threat.

The solution is for separate, fenced off, sections for large and small dogs. This can still lead to aggressive behaviour through the fence though.

Parking

There needs to be parking and it should be well drained. Gravel or a sealed surface, but ensure run-off from storms is dealt with appropriately. One dog park has placed the car park between the sections for large and small dogs.

Entry / exit design

Potential hazard – *dog escapes whilst others are arriving or departing.*

One of the most important features of a dog park is the design of entry and exit gates. The minimal requirement is for double-gates to prevent dogs escaping when others are arriving or departing. Some parks have separate entrances and exits. Because use is concentrated in the entrance areas, they should be concreted to prevent wear. They should not be placed at the corners of parks, as dogs may mob new comers and leave them unable to avoid their attention.

There also needs to be access for mowers and other maintenance equipment.

Park shape

The shape of a park can affect how it is used. A small, square shape is likely to result in dog carers standing around, talking. This may be good for human socialisation, but who's watching out for the dogs? How will they know the dog has messed, so they can clean it up?

A longer, linear park will encourage people and their dogs to keep moving. However seating needs to be available along the way so that seniors (dogs and people) can have a break.



An example of a double-gated entry to prevent dogs escaping when others enter

Fences

Potential hazards - *dogs' paws being caught in fence strands or escaping, and invading aggressive dogs from outside.*

The current record for a jump by a dog is nearly three metres, that's about nine feet. Small dogs, such as Jack Russell terriers, are adept at crawling under fences. This means that fences should be at least two metres high and that they must reach ground and preferably be embedded in it. Probably the best type of fence is chain-link.

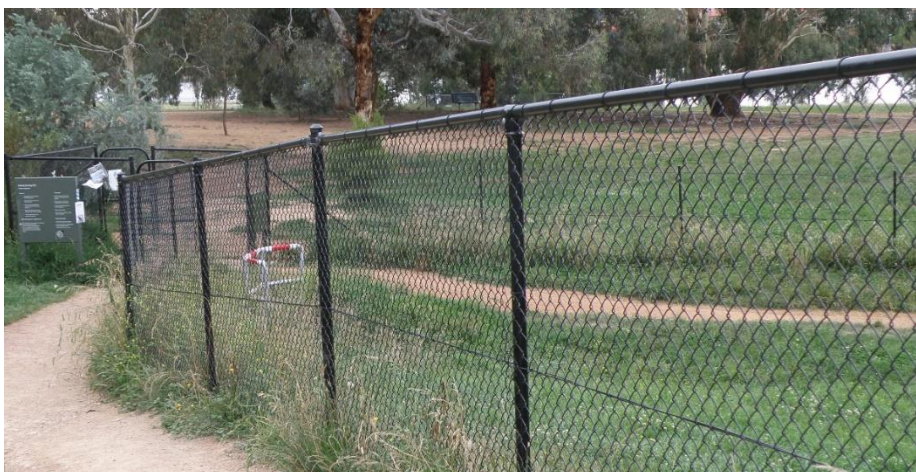
There must be no wire strands or barbed wire. Dogs can get their legs entangled in fence strands when trying to jump a fence. I once had to help a fox hound that had caught its leg in a wire fence. It was in severe pain and struggled wildly.



An unsatisfactory fence type. Note the strands, which may cause serious injuries and a lot of pain to a dog that gets its leg caught whilst trying to jump over. The fence is also not high enough. (Note, I have made the fence strands look thicker, to make it easier to see them in the photograph.)



This is what can happen when a dog tries to jump a wire strand fence. Note how the stick representing a dog's leg has caught a strand of wire and twisted it over.



An example of one of the better fences – chain link and reasonable height

Surface materials

Potential hazard – *slips and trips.*

Choice of surface materials depends upon the climate and the amount of wear by human and doggy feet. Grass is possibly the most common, but wears with heavy use and needs mowing and watering, depending upon the season. Some grass types wear better than others. Your local botanical garden or nursery may be able to advise regarding suitable hard wearing, climate appropriate grass varieties – and maybe even varieties that can resist dog urine!

Gravel may result in people falling over and hurting themselves, but it does allow rainwater to drain away.

Pine-bark may be good idea, softer than gravel and does not need mowing or watering. Use the smaller sized pieces. However, bear in mind that it may burn if there is spotting from nearby bushfires.

Concrete is expensive for large areas and hard on the feet and joints. However, it is possibly the best material for areas next to the entry and exit gates.

Some American dog parks use an artificial turf, but this is very expensive.

Shade and shelter

Potential hazard – *sunburn, dehydration.*

Ample shade is important for both dogs and human companions. This may be provided by either natural growth or with artificial shelters. If the dog park is newly developed from an open area, it may be necessary to provide some temporary shelter until trees have become established.



A new dog park, with minimal shade for dogs and their companions



Plenty of natural shade in this park



Artificial shelter

Vegetation

Potential hazard – spines and poisoning

Some plants have long, sharp spines. African boxthorn is probably the worst example, but briar rose, hawthorn, etc. could also give dogs nasty injuries or even blind them. Other plants, such as Lily, may be toxic, either through ingestion or contact. My dog has a habit of sticking her nose into ivy, resulting in an inflamed muzzle. Another issue is *buzzies* or seeds on dogs' coats, or human socks and trousers. Grass seeds have been known to get into dogs' eyes or penetrate their skin. Grass should be regularly mown, to discourage snakes.



African boxthorn. These spines evolved to protect the plants from being eaten by Africa's herbivores. They are vicious and could seriously injure a dog, including blinding it.

Seating

Potential hazard – *dogs catching tails or feet in gaps.*

Seating is usually designed for humans, rather than dogs. However, not all dogs have been told this and may jump onto seats or even picnic tables. Many of these have slats, with spaces between them, a nasty trap for feet.



Note how the spaces between the slats get narrower. A dog's tail got caught at the top, slipped down the gap and could not be removed without causing damage. This required a visit to a vet for emergency treatment.



There is possibly less chance of a dog's tail or feet being caught on this type of seating; but a dog could fall off and be injured.

Water supply

Potential hazard – *dogs drink infected water (giardia?) or water with toxic substances rising up from a park being a former land fill or waste disposal site.*

Both humans and dogs need clean water, particularly in hot weather. This is likely to become even more so with climate change. Let's face it, most dogs are quite happy to drink the dirtiest water they can find. Our job is to reduce the availability of unsuitable water and provide a clean supply. This is best done by installing a dual human/dog water dispenser. The human part is a standard fountain, but should be accessible from a wheel-chair. The dog section is at ground level and can be inverted to enable the removal of leaves and cigarette butts. One council I know of replaced a perfectly satisfactory bowl on a chain under a tap

with a concrete lined hole in the ground. Within a couple of weeks it had cigarette butts and algae in it, and it was impossible to clean out.



Above, a concrete hole in the ground and an above ground concrete bowl. How does one clean these out?



Two different water dispensers, to suit dogs and their carers. The one on the right enables wheelchair access. Note the dog bowls can be easily tipped for cleaning.

Waste management

Potential hazards – *disease for wildlife or humans, slips, 'yukky' shoe soles.*

I have already discussed the environmental hazards associated with dogs' messes. But what can we do about it, in addition to keeping away from drains and water courses?

The most common response is to bag and bin the product. Most councils provide the bags next to the bins, although the supply of bags may not be replenished before they run out.

There are other options. These include composting and methane production.



Cambridge, Massachusetts, turns dog waste into energy through a publicly fed methane digester, the *Park Spark*. The methane produced lights a lamp post in the park.

A trial of composting waste at Notre-Dame-de-Grâce dog run in Montreal was considered a success.

Another option is dung beetles. Three species are known to target dog waste.

Agility and exercise equipment

Potential hazards – *dogs get injuries from sharp items, or equipment is unsuitable for ordinary dogs.*

Full blown agility equipment, with high jumps and elevated balance boards are probably not a good idea in an all-comers dog park. These are best kept to special areas for the agility club dogs. For others, keep balance bars close to the ground and not too narrow. Ideally all posts, jumping hoops and other items should be smooth, rounded and finished with powder coated paint.

Beware home-made items with, e.g. star droppers. The tops of star droppers are often a bit jagged from being driven into the ground. They should be capped, and regularly checked and have missing caps replaced. The droppers themselves have sharp, angular sides that stick out.

Items made from timber should be regularly checked for protruding nails or splinters.



An example from a piece of home-made agility equipment. The tops of these star droppers should be capped. Regular maintenance checks of such equipment are important.



These posts had to be removed after several dogs were injured when they ran into them. They were probably chasing balls or other flying objects. This also indicates their owners' may not have been aware of the potential hazards.



An example of a relatively safe (i.e. wide and close to ground) agility item for dogs who are not trained for agility equipment. Note that the timber structure would need regular safety checks for loose planks or protruding nails, etc.



This agility equipment poses little danger to dogs. Note the smooth, rounded finish and powder-coated finish. Low maintenance would help to offset the initial costs.

Splashing pool

Potential hazard- *small children accessing.*

I am not sure about this feature in an all-comers dog park. It would likely attract small children. It should certainly not be too deep, just enough to let dogs cool off. Water would require frequent changing to avoid diseases building up.

Digging area

Potential hazard – *probably only if someone falls into a hole dug by a dog.*

Even if there is no specified digging area, some dogs may dig holes. Ask carers to fill in any holes made by their dog.



Hole left in a dog park. Potential for a twisted ankle or worse. The dog carer or maintenance crew should have filled this in.

Washing facilities

Hazards – *coats covered in mud if wet.*

Most dogs like nothing better than to roll in something smellier – the smellier the better. My girl (collie cross hound) usually chooses rabbit poo. This is not too bad, solid lumps, not runny. However, she once decided that another dog's droppings would make an excellent perfume. Well, maybe for her – certainly not for me! It took me nearly half an hour with a hose and an industrial strength scrubbing brush before I considered her acceptable to be allowed inside.

Signs

Some dog carers could well be described as being '*responsibility averse*'. They need to be reminded of appropriate behaviour for both themselves and their dogs. There should be signs at all park entrances to remind people of their responsibilities. These should be well maintained and regularly cleared of graffiti. The example below illustrates how not to do things!



Who is going to read this, particularly when they are with an excited dog?

Entrance signs need to remind carers of their responsibilities and are an opportunity to educate new dog owners. These are some of the key points to consider:

Please do not bring your dog if it is:

- Aggressive towards other dogs or people,
- A bitch in season,
- Has not been vaccinated for canine distemper, parvovirus or kennel cough,
- A young puppy.

Please keep your dog under effective control:

- Either on leash, or
- Within view,
- Nearby, and
- Immediately responds to your commands.

Please clean up after your dog when it messes.

Please bring no more than two dogs with you – you need to be able to manage them.

Please do not bring very young children, and please closely supervise any children you do bring in. They are over-represented in dog bite statistics.

Some councils also ask carers not to bring in food or toys, as these may cause fights or at least stress. My dog is very good at soliciting treats from people, whether they are being offered or not!



At left is an example of a reasonably comprehensive sign. The one below is far too authoritarian and will likely annoy carers. 'Effective control' needs defining.



Further Information

These are the main sources I have used when researching this guide.

The internet has heaps of material, some excellent, other rather questionable. The problem is that absolutely anyone can write a blog, paste to social media or have their own website – and we can't really assess their qualifications or expertise. If someone has had a bad experience in a dog park, was it their fault?

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Dog Park User Interview

File ref. (use for assessment forms and photo id.): _____

Dog park name: _____

Location: _____

Date visited: _____ Time: _____

Weather: Temp [] Clouds [] Wind [] Rain []

Dog A: Breed _____ Large/small: _____

Dog B: Breed _____ Large/small: _____

Dog C: Breed _____ Large/small: _____

Carer: Gender [] Age decade [] (i.e. teens/20s/30s/40s/50s/60s/70s/80s/90s)

How often do they visit this park?

Daily [] _____ x week Monthly [] Other (state): _____

Why this particular park? _____

Length of average visit: _____

Preferred time of day: _____

Best features: _____

Worst features: _____

Please see the next page

Please take a couple of minutes to tell us how you feel about the following features of this dog park:

Your safety: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Your dog's safety: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Other dog carers: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Other dogs: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Shelter: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Agility equipment: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Digging areas: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Swimming areas: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Water supply: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Fencing design: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Fencing height: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Entrances/exits: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Ground cover: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Vegetation: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Waste disposal: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Access: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Parking: Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

How does this park compare with others you have visited? :

Very poor [] Poor [] Adequate [] Good [] Excellent []

Further comments:

Dog Park Star Ratings

This *draft* star rating for dog parks is based upon:

1. Safety of both dogs and their human carers,
2. Extension for dogs' physical and mental fitness, and
3. Convenience for users.

One Star ★

- A basic park, only partial fencing.
- No water on tap.
- No supplied waste bags.
- Dangerous aspects, such as spiky plants, sharp metal and unrounded timber corners on furniture.
- No instructions for users.

Two Stars ★★

- Fully fenced, chain link, etc. No strands or barbed wire. Fence height sufficient to reduce risk of escapes, recommend at least two metres. Down to ground level, to reduce risk of burrowing under fence.
- Water on tap for dogs and carers.
- Waste disposal bags supplied.
- Instructions at entrances, detailing safety, etc.
- No dangerous aspects. All furniture edges rounded.
- Safe walking/play surfaces.
- Shelter for people, either natural or artificial.
- Car parking.
- Located away from sensitive wildlife areas, including waterways.

Three stars ★★★

As for two star rating, plus:

- Double gate entry system.
- Separate enclosures for large and small dogs OR different time allocations for large and small dogs.
- Public toilets nearby.

Four stars ★★★★★

As for three stars, plus:

- Basic gym equipment; low jumps, low balance bar, etc. All edges rounded.

Five stars ★★★★★

As for four star, plus:

- Dog digging area.
- Dog swimming area.

Five stars ★★★★★ plus

As for five stars, but with café etc. for carers and other luxury aspects.



June 14, 2019

Valerie Agawin
UNHCR Canada, The UN Refugee Agency
80 Albert Street, Suite 401
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G8

Dear Valerie,

RE: UNHCR's Stand #WithRefugees campaign

As Mayor of Guelph, Ontario, I was pleased to learn about UNHCR Canada's Statement of Solidarity with Refugees. Thank you for inviting Guelph City Council to sign the statement.

I have asked Guelph's City Clerk to add this item to the June 24, 2019 Council agenda so that all members of Council may consider it.

I regret that I am unable to be with you this Saturday, but I wanted to send my very best wishes and assure you of my personal support of the Cities #WithRefugees statement.

One of my proudest experiences as Mayor was to see the remarkable response of the Guelph community to the refugee crisis in Syria, including raising funds to sponsor families and galvanizing hundreds of volunteers. Danby CEO Jim Estill has been at the forefront of that effort, not only giving significant personal funds to sponsor families, but going to great lengths to help them settle here. Jim has inspired people in Guelph and all over the world to "do the right thing."

Refugees from many different countries have made incredible contributions to the community of Guelph. They are contributing to our economy, raising their families in neighbourhoods across the city, and helping Guelph to become an even more vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place. We are fortunate they have made Guelph their home.

Office of the Mayor

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T 519-837-5643
TTY 519-826-9771
F 519-822-8277
E mayor@guelph.ca

guelph.ca

All the best for a wonderful gathering!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cam Guthrie". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cam Guthrie
Mayor

Please consider supporting #WithRefugees Campaign by joining the Cities #WithRefugees initiative. The Cities #WithRefugees initiative seeks to amplify the efforts of cities who are creating inclusive communities where everyone can live in safety, become self-reliant, and contribute to and participate in their local community.

UNHCR through its #WithRefugees Campaign will showcase the solidarity that so many cities around the world have demonstrated towards refugees. The Cities #WithRefugees statement of solidarity was released on World Refugee Day 2018 on June 20th with 60 cities signing the statement. ***Cities can continue to sign onto the document to send a strong message of global grass roots solidarity for families forced to flee [here](#).***



Cities #WithRefugees Statement

We, mayors and local authorities from around the world, stand #WithRefugees. The role of towns, cities and counties in creating inclusive communities and promoting hope has never been as important.

Today, over 25 million people worldwide are living outside their countries to escape violence and persecution. Refugees leave nearly everything behind to seek safety: their homes, their jobs, and sometimes even their families. Despite the unimaginable sacrifices refugees make to find safety, many keep their hopes and dreams for the future. Refugees' will to survive and their drive to help their families and communities prosper are not easily extinguished by adversity.

When refugees arrive to a new country, nearly two out of three settle in an urban area. As cities, we are undeniably at the forefront of refugee crises, and our communities benefit from their tenacity and courage. Welcoming refugees creates opportunities for economic, civic and social growth. The diversity of experiences and ideas refugees bring spurs creativity and innovation. For example, both Albert Einstein and Sergey Brin were refugees. Their contributions did not just change our communities; they changed the course of human history.

As cities, we are constantly working to improve our infrastructure, services, and administrative systems in order to meet governance challenges, such as incorporating large inflows of new residents. This work is critical to our shared future. As leaders, we have a responsibility to receive and include new residents with care in order for our cities to become stronger and more resilient to change. Ultimately, those among us who rise to this call for leadership will reap the benefits of societies that are the most productive, the most modern, and the most filled with promise.

As local authorities, we shoulder the enormous responsibility of providing access to housing, health care, education, skills training, and employment opportunities for newcomers and long-term residents alike. Solutions to refugee crises start at the local level and require that everyone plays a part: every city, every neighbourhood, and every individual can contribute. As leaders, we must create spaces where everyone can live in safety, become self-reliant, and contribute to and participate in their local community.

The vital work that cities do can be a model for others, forging a path forward as national governments create and adopt a Global Compact on Refugees to strengthen international crisis response. Our work as mayors and city authorities is primarily local, but when we are united in purpose with each other and our refugee residents, the impact of our solidarity will be global.

Join us and stand #WithRefugees. Together we can make a world of difference.

Aix-les-Bains, France
Albury City, Australia
Altena, Germany
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Athens, Greece
Bankstown, Australia
Barcelona, Spain
Berbera, Somaliland/Somalia
Berlin, Germany
Bosaso-district, Somalia
Bradford, UK
Braga, Portugal
Brighton, UK
Bristol, UK
Brussels, Belgium
Byron, Australia
Cardinia, Australia
Casino, Australia
Chicago, IL, USA
Chula Vista, CA, USA
Dallas, TX, USA
Darebin, Australia
Dire Dawa, Ethiopia
Evanston, IL, USA
Galway, Ireland
Greater Dandenong, Australia
Hargeisa, Somaliland
Hobart, Australia
Jackson, WY, USA
Kalumbila town Council, Zambia
Kampala, Uganda
Kortrijk, Belgium
Lane Cove, Australia
Leicester, UK
Livadia, Greece
Ljubljana, Slovenia
London, England
Los Angeles, CA, USA
Madison, WI, USA
Madrid, Spain
Manchester, UK
Melbourne, Australia
Mexico City, Mexico
Milan, Italy
Mogadishu, Somalia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Montgomery County, MD, USA
Namur, Belgium
New York, NY, USA
Nicosia, Cyprus
Paterson, NJ, USA
Philadelphia, PA, USA
Providence, RI, USA
Queanbeyan, Australia
Randwick, Australia
Rochester, NY, USA
Ryde, Australia
Saltillo, Mexico
São Paulo, Brazil
Saskatoon, Canada
Sheffield, UK
South Orange, NJ, USA
St. Louis, MO, USA
St. Paul, MN, USA
Sydney, Australia
Torino, Italy
Toronto, Canada
Union City, CA, USA
València, Spain
Vancouver, Canada
Victoria, Canada
Vienna, Austria
Warsaw, Poland
Whittlesea, Australia

Dear Mayor Guthrie,

I am writing to you on behalf of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to thank you for your excellent efforts to support refugees who are resettled to your city and through initiatives such as the Welcome to Guelph program.

[UNHCR's Cities #WithRefugees initiative](#) is inviting cities all over the world who are working to promote inclusion, support refugees and bringing communities together to sign a statement of solidarity. Cities #WithRefugees was launched on World Refugee Day 20 June 2018. We hope that with at least 200 cities endorsing the statement an even stronger message of global solidarity will be sent for families forced to flee on World Refugee Day 2019. If your city would like to sign, you can use this [form](#).

This initiative seeks to build upon the work related to the 2017 Global Mayors Summit that took place during the United Nations General Assembly in New York and the work that cities all over the world are already engaged in locally and through their networks.

If you need more information or you would like to meet in person so we can explain more fully, we would be delighted.

All the best,

Azadeh Tamjeedi

Protection Officer

UNHCR Canada

280 Albert Street, suite 401

Ottawa, ON K1P 5G8

Phone: 613-232-0909 ext.236

www.unhcr.ca



Every year, refugees walk over 2 billion km to safety.

Please join our solidarity movement to honour their resilience:

www.stepwithrefugees.org

Leader in Refrigeration and Specialty Appliances

17 June 2019

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I would like to voice my support for the City of Guelph to join the UNHCR Cities #WithRefugees campaign. For our city this is a simple opportunity to publicly state on a worldwide platform that our city is working to promote inclusion, support refugees and bring communities together by signing a statement of solidarity.

Every day the citizens of Guelph are actively demonstrating how a community prospers by offering welcome to refugees. Our neighbourhoods and service providers are successfully assisting in the integration of New Canadians, working together to make positive change in people's lives. Our community is growing in its diversity and benefiting from the strengths and contribution that refugees are bringing with them. These are areas Guelph can be proud of and can be celebrated and recognized by joining Cities #WithRefugees.

Guelph would be joining an international contingent of cities that includes Amsterdam, Athens, Brussels, Chicago, Dublin, Kabul, Lahore, London, Palermo, São Paulo, Toronto, and Vancouver amongst many others. This involves no cost to the city and is yet another way for Guelph to boast of its successes as a vibrant growing community. This is yet another way for Guelph to put itself on the map for doing the right thing.

To join simply sign on at <https://www.unhcr.org/withrefugees/cities/>.

Sincerely,



Jim Estill