



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: February 14, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

File No: Westbank Centre Park

Subject: **Wildhorse Park – Dog Park Addition**

Report Prepared by: Mark Roberts, Parks Manager

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council consider and resolve to construct a dog park at Wildhorse Park.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining quality infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Strengthen our Community – We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

BACKGROUND

The Dog Park and Community Gardens located at Westbank Centre Park were constructed on a piece of leased land from School District 23 (SD23). With the upcoming construction of the new George Pringle High School, per the terms of the lease, SD23 have provided written notification that they require that space back for school uses. The SD23 has allowed the use the Dog Park and Community Garden areas on the property until the end of September 2023.

This notification has resulted in the need to relocate the Westbank Centre Dog Park before September 2023 to avoid an interruption in service offered by the City. As part of our planning process to look at locations for both the Dog Park and Community Gardens we have identified an option to add an additional Dog Park.

Figure 1 – Existing Dog Park and Community Garden location in Westbank Centre Park



DISCUSSION

Dog Park Option

Wildhorse Park

Wildhorse Park is located in the Smith Creek neighbourhood and was originally dedicated to the City as part of the surrounding development. Adjacent to the City owned park is a piece of property owned by SD23 which was originally procured as a future elementary school location. Wildhorse Park provides an easy addition to the City of West Kelowna’s dog park inventory while other opportunities are explored, particularly those closer to the Westbank Centre.

Opportunities	Constraints
Large available land	Future development of the SD23 property could introduce different community park desires
Already used by many dog walkers	

In 2017 with no development plans on the horizon, the City installed a walking path in Wildhorse park and on the adjacent SD23 property. The pathway on the SD23 property is protected as part of a License of Occupation. The pathways have become a popular route for residents in the Smith Creek neighbourhood, especially those with dogs. The proposed design gives opportunity for both a large and small off leash dog run adjacent to those trails, with access gates for those seeking a longer walk with their dog on leash. The walking trails also extend around the outside of the dog park, so people are not forced to enter the dog areas. There is ample street parking available on Wildhorse Drive, with access to the park provided on the sidewalk.

Figure 2 – Wildhorse Park

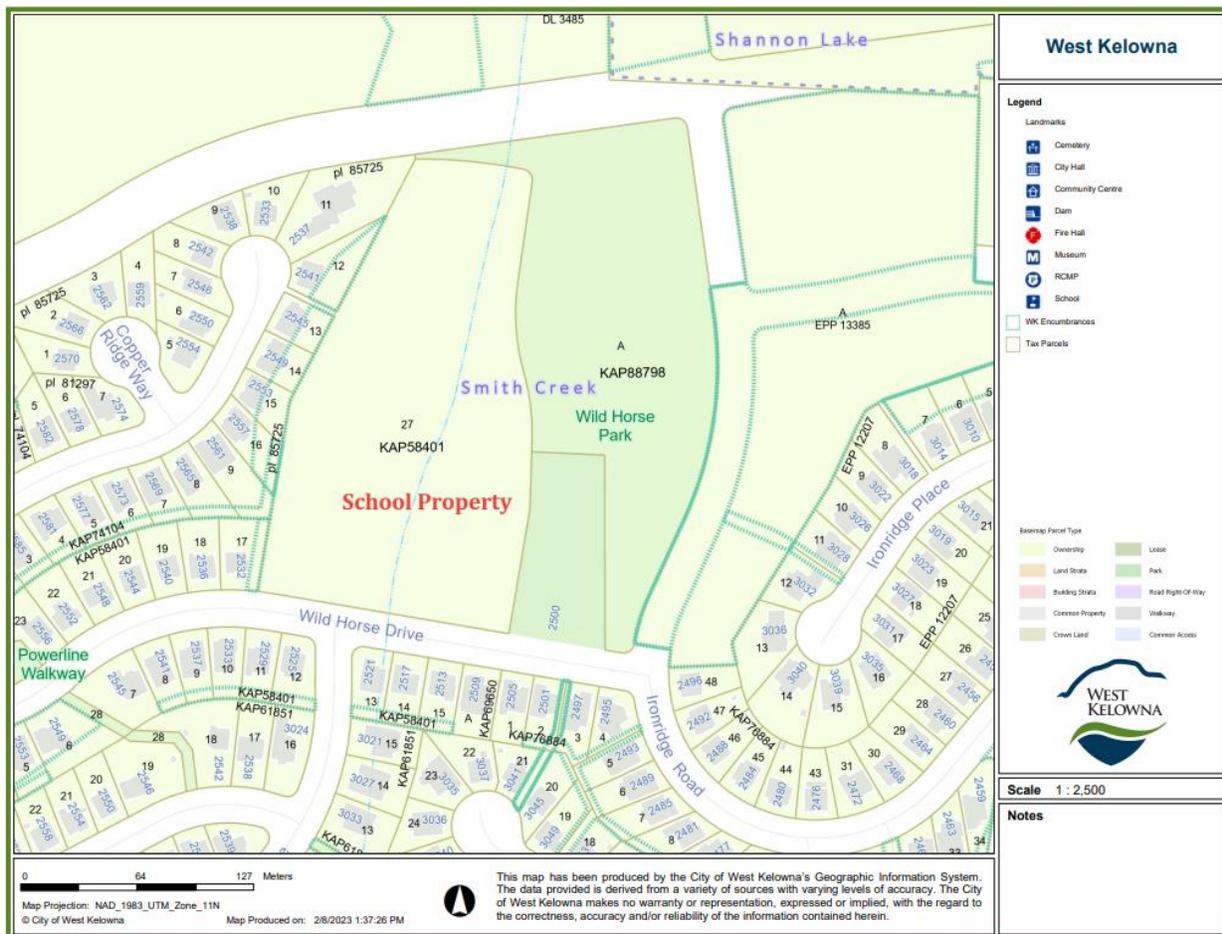


Figure 3 – Site Plan



Construction of this proposal could start in the short term, presuming favourable weather conditions continue.

Other Dog Park Locations

As part of the upcoming Parks Master Plan update, development applications and other opportunities that present themselves, staff will continue to investigate opportunities within other City parks, and leverage opportunities with public partners and the local developers to increase the total number of dog parks throughout the City.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As part of the 2022 Capital Budget, Council allocated \$45,000 towards the improvement and construction of Dog Parks.

This proposed Dog Park can be completed for approx. \$22,000 and is within the existing budget.

CONCLUSION

Construction of a dog park at Wildhorse Park can be completed prior to spring 2023 if the resolution is supported.

REVIEWED BY

Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & Operations

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes No