

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 1, 2010

OFF LEASH AREA WORKING COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006 – 2010 TERM

Recommendation

The Off Leash Area Working Committee recommends:

- 1) That the following report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the accomplishments of the Off Leash Area Working Committee for the 2006 – 2010 term.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council approved that all non-statutory committees submit to Committee of the Whole a summary of its accomplishments over the four (4) year term, prior to the expiry of the term.

The mandate of the City of Vaughan's Off Leash Area Working Committee may include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- liaison with City of Vaughan staff, local Ratepayer Associations and land owners to identify and assess potential sites,
- undertake feasibility studies,
- raise funding and in-kind donations from public and private entities.

This committee meets monthly.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the goals and initiatives of Vaughan Vision 2020.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

As directed by Council, the Off Leash Area Working Committee's accomplishments are attached for Council's information.

Attachments

1. Off Leash Area Working Committee's Accomplishments

Report prepared by:

A. Bellisario
Assistant City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella,
Chair, Off Leash Area Working Committee

**Off Leash Area Working Committee
Accomplishments 2006 – 2010 Term**

The committee was constituted on February 27, 2007 and charged with identifying the site for the City's first off leash area. After an exhaustive search of potential sites that met pre-established criteria and after a review and ranking of sites vis-à-vis those criteria, the site was chosen, at the eastern most end of Concord-Thornhill District Park.

The park was constructed during the 2009 season and opened to great acclaim on September 11, 2009. Staff and park stewards (volunteers who monitor the conditions of the park on a regular basis and the behaviour of park-users with their dogs) all report that the park is both well-used and well treated. To date only one complaint has been received, that one user brought in too many dogs.

The committee strongly recommends that sufficient funds be set aside in the 2011 budget to fund the conversion of some open space in the public domain west of Highway 400 to an off leash working area, to serve the western half of the city. The identification of such a site should be the first task undertaken by the next Off Leash Area Working Committee during the 2010-2014 term of Council.

The opening of this second off leash area will be the next step in achieving the goal set forth in the City's Recreational Master Plan, "Active Together", of an off leash area in each of the city's five wards.