

PE 17.6.6



## Councillor Sarah Doucette

**Ward 13**

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8<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

Chair and Members  
Parks and Environment Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Request for Report on Off-Leash Hours in Toronto Parks (PE 17.6)**

Dear Councillor Kelly and Members of the Parks and Environment Committee,

I do not support designating parks as off-leash areas from the time the park opens until 9 am, and then from 9 pm until the park closes. There are numerous designated off-leash areas in our park system across the City that are available to dogs and their owners all day.

Letting dogs run off-leash causes many problems, including the dogs chasing wildlife, cyclists and joggers. My office has received reports that dogs running off-leash illegally have chased deer, ducks, swans and geese and bitten cyclists and joggers in our parks here in Ward 13. Particular areas of concern in my ward would be High Park, and the Humber River and Martin Goodman park trail systems. Also once it is dark, it is impossible for owners to track where their dogs and are therefore unable to locate and pick up their dog's poo.

I would like to recommend the report take into consideration the above concerns and come up with criteria for suitable parks which will ensure the protection of trees, sensitive natural areas and children's playgrounds.

I believe our Toronto parks should be for the use of everyone in a safe and clean manner at all times.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sarah Doucette". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sarah Doucette  
Councillor Ward 13