

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Improvements to Thompson DOLA

Moved by: Councillor Fletcher

Seconded by: Councillor Nunziata

SUMMARY:

The Thompson Parkette Dog Off-Leash Area was established with the conversion of a local parkette to a DOLA in order to meet the demands of rapid development in Riverside. It was also established to ensure that dog owners in Riverside had a standalone DOLA rather than using the new Joel Weeks Park established with the TCHC revitalization of Don Mount Court into Rivertowne.

The existing pea gravel surfacing has generated concerns regarding accessibility as well as maintenance, cleanliness, drainage, user comfort, and the tracking of gravel beyond the boundaries of the off-leash area.

Artificial turf has been successfully used in dog off-leash areas and recreational facilities to improve surface durability, accessibility, user experience, and year-round usability;

Parks currently has improvements planned to Thompson Off Leash by replacing the pea gravel. Artificial turf would enhance the functionality and enjoyment of the DOLA for residents with an appropriate artificial turf surface designed for dog off-leash use and ensures user accessibility.

This option has much support in the community who have been awaiting an off leash at Riverside Square which has dedicated funds and has been delayed 10 years due to continued work on Richmond and Adelaide bridges and now the Ontario Line at East Harbour

There are sufficient storm sewers immediately adjacent to the DOLA to provide for irrigation.

Reason for urgency: The current parks plan is to start to replace the pea gravel with wood chips however sufficient increased funding is available to change it over to accessible artificial turf.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council amend the 2026 to 2035 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks and Recreation by increasing the existing budget for the Thompson Parkette Off-Leash

Area improvements by \$646,569.72 gross and \$0 debt, to be added to the existing approved project budget of \$400,000, resulting in a revised total project budget of \$1,046,569.72 gross and \$0 debt, for design, installation, drainage improvements, site preparation, artificial turf conversion, and related works to enhance the Thompson Parkette Off-Leash Area, with the additional funding comprised of \$300,000 gross and \$0 debt in 2026 from Section 42 Above 5 percent Cash-in-lieu funds from Source Account XR2213-4201084 and \$346,569.72 gross and \$0 debt in 2027 from Section 37 funds from Source Account XR3026-3700880 for the purpose of a dog off-leash area in the ward.

July 29, 2026