

Topic: Parks Bylaw 05-2012

Introduction:

Parkland County currently has Parks Bylaw, 44-2002 and Environmental Reserve Bylaw 26-98 that are long overdue for review. Administration has reviewed both these bylaws and has drafted Parks Bylaw, 05-2012, that will replace both of these current bylaws. Administration is planning public engagement to provide our residents with opportunities to learn more about the proposed bylaw and provide some feedback; prior to initialing the formal approval process with Council. Administration purpose for bringing this bylaw forth at this time is to share it as information prior to implementing our public engagement activities.

Facts (Background Information):

The review of these bylaws was overdue. Parks Bylaw 44-2002 has not changed much since 1985, having been amended five times before with little or no change. A revised Parks Bylaw is necessary for the good of our residents and the protection of county parkland. Many of the rules from the former Parks Bylaw and Environmental Reserve Bylaw have been updated and carried over into the amended bylaw.

The parks bylaw sets manageable guidelines for the conduct and activities of park users. It encourages reasonable use of park property and promotes a safe, enjoyable atmosphere for everyone wishing to use Parkland Count's parks.

Analysis:

Aside from some format changes to the way information is presented in the Bylaw, changes of note are:

- No residential dumping will be allowed in our parks. This is something that is a regular issue for Parkland County, but was an activity not prohibited under the current bylaw.
- No unauthorized use has been strengthened and better defined. In the current Parks Bylaw and Environmental Reserve Bylaw parts of this are identified, but more clarification and definition was required.
- Gatherings over 50 people require permission from Parkland County. We are finding our park areas used more and more for weddings, school programs, cross country races etc... By instituting this requirement County staff can better manage resources and potential issues. If we know they are coming we can ensure site is ready – garbage's emptied, bathrooms cleaned and stocked; as well as advising the group that access by spontaneous users can not be impacted.
- Winter storage of boat lifts, docks will be permitted at certain times of the year with certain conditions. This type of use is and has been occurring on parkland for site some time. This puts some parameters in place to ensure access and use of these areas is not impacted.

- Added discretionary powers. This power is already granted via the Municipal Government Act. Purpose is to have the flexibility to focus enforcement resources to areas of highest priority.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration is pleased to provide this report for Council's information.

Alternatives:

None

Summary:

Administration has amended the current Parks Bylaw and is about to initiate public engagement for the purposes of informing the residents of the bylaw and its impacts. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the amended bylaw and its changes prior to public engagement. Once public engagement activities are complete revisions, if deemed necessary, will be made and the bylaw brought to Council for the formal approval process.