



To: Community and Protective Services Committee

Meeting Date: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

From: London Dog Owners Association, Submitted by Beth Sayler

Subject: Proposed Dingman Off Leash Dog Area

We the London Dog Owners have met with Andrew McPherson and Lisa McNiven who have briefed us on the upcoming recommendation for the City of London to proceed with its 4<sup>th</sup> Off Leash Park.

The location that has been selected not only meets with your criteria but will cover the south west area of an ever expanding neighbourhood.

As we have already learned the 3 existing parks are nowhere near enough to house the growing demand of the dog guardians in this city. The parking lots are constantly full as people cannot walk to a location near them. Unlike other city parks (baseball, soccer, etc.) the off leash parks are used 365 days a year in all types of weather.

We would also like to remind you of some of the benefits of the “Off Leash Dog Parks”

- Animal behaviourists have known for years that dogs are less likely to be aggressive with each other when off-leash than when they are on leash!
- Better Socialized Dog
  - When dogs are allowed time off-leash, studies show that they are far more social towards people and other dogs, considerably less aggressive, bark less, bite less, and tend to have far less neurotic behaviour than dogs who get no off-leash exercise. A tired dog is a happy quieter dog thus a better neighbour!
- Designated off leash areas legalize the right for dogs to run/play off leash.
- Discourages crime and loitering in open land area / parks
- Exercise for humans as well as canine
- Interaction between diverse groups of people.
- Provides elderly and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions
- Promotes responsible pet ownership

- Promotes public health and safety
- Residents feel welcome as common interests and playful dogs break the ice.
- Brings dog enthusiasts together in one location
- Dog owners coordinate clean-up days.
- Keeps the dogs contained in one area
- Paid for by Dog Licenses
- Pet owners will no longer illegally allow their dogs to be off-leash in the neighborhood.
- Discourages the current dog waste in other locations
- Socializes and exercises dogs in a safe environment
- Provides a valuable tool for realistic enforcement of dog control laws

We are confident that that City would continue with its already established Off Leash Dog Park success and start construction on the Dingman location as quickly as possible.

Respectfully Submitted:

Beth Saylor  
London Dog Owners Association