

**From:** [Johnny Percolides](#)  
**To:** [Lucas Cleveland](#); [Nicole Beatty](#); [Adam Bureau](#); [Brian Darling](#); [burchat@cobourg.ca](mailto:burchat@cobourg.ca); [Miriam Mutton](#); [Randy Barber](#)  
**Cc:** [johnnyrealestate@bell.net](mailto:johnnyrealestate@bell.net); [Clerk Cobourg](#); [Brent Larmer](#)  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL SOURCE) off leash dog area  
**Date:** January 20, 2023 12:09:27 PM

---

Hello everyone,

After speaking with Councillor Adam Bureau a couple of times now about the potential of an off leash fenced dog area in the east end to compliment the one we have in the west end, I thought I would reach out to all of you.

Councillor Adam Bureau kindly suggested that I get on the list for this Monday as it is the deadline for submissions for 2023.

There's been a large number of residents who have adopted new dogs the past 18-36 months. This is not unique to Cobourg, many have adopted dogs to help deal with all the stress of the last 3 years with covid. I'm sure each and every one of you knows of someone who has adopted a dog in the last 3 years and maybe even some of you have personally too.

I can tell you that a large number of residents have been using Donegan park ( D'arcy and Lakeshore ) as well as the actual beach area and Victoria Park to walk their dogs and maybe even occasionally letting their dogs off leash to run. I have personally seen many dogs running free regularly on the beach this winter and in Victoria park as well.

My family also adopted a dog about 2 ½ years ago now and I have been walking my dog all over town and have met many of these new dog owners. They all have been telling me the same thing that we really need another off leash dog area for dog owners to responsibly exercise their dogs.

Many don't want to get in the car and drive to the only dog park we have in the north/west end of town. Maybe it's the price of gas or the guilty feeling of polluting the environment or maybe a physical issue prevents them from driving, so they can't go to the dog park in the north/west end.

An additional off leash dog park area in the east end would assist many of these dog owners exercise their pets responsibly. It would help with reducing the need to let their dogs off leash in restricted areas and maybe reduce the need to send bylaw officers to investigate a dog playing in the park or by the beach. The resources of a bylaw officer would now be better utilized maybe with dealing with parking issues and other bylaw activities in town.

I feel that Donegan park in the east end is a very suitable space for an off leash dog park. For starters I can tell you that hardly anyone is using that park for about 6-7 months over the winter months besides people who are walking their dogs. Also that park has 4 baseball diamond fields ( one full size and 3 practice fields )and that is just really excessive, Cobourg does not have an incredibly large amount of kids to begin with and Cobourg does not have an incredible amount who want to play baseball. I think reducing the park to 3 baseball fields would be more than enough to accommodate the baseball activity in the summer.

It would be great if we could share this large park between all the residents of Cobourg for various activities including dog owners.

The reality is dog owners must walk their dogs 2-3 times every single day of the year, in good weather and bad. The dogs must get out and exercise and do their business. Dog owners are probably the only residents that use the park every single day. An off leash fenced in dog area at Donegan park would help eliminate dogs running all over the park. They would be contained to a specific spot far away from any of the other activities that might take place for about 2-3 months in the summer.

The south/west corner of Donegan park, right at Lakeshore and D'arcy would be a great spot for this off leash fenced in dog area. It is currently 1 of 4 baseball diamond fields ( 3 are smaller practice fields ) that is hardly ever used by anyone. It could very easily be turned into a fenced in off leash dog area by just putting up some chain link fencing. The park already has multiple large garbage bins all over that are maintained by the staff and are being used by the majority of the responsible dog owners.

Toronto has been doing this for a few years now, creating these off leash spaces for dogs inside the existing public parks. I have personally been to them with my dog and they work very well by having the dogs contained in one area to exercise and play away from the other activities that are happening in the public parks.

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/animals-pets/pets-in-the-city/dog-off-leash-areas/>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this.

All the best,

**Johnny Percolides**



Virus-free [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)