

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services

Date: February 10, 2022

Re: February Committee of the Whole Agenda Item F.2.1 – Designating an Additional York Regional Forest Tract for Off-leash Dog Walking Based on Future Demand

This memo is a follow up to a discussion at the February 10 Committee of the Whole meeting and responds to Council inquiries about permitting off-leash dog walking at more than the two locations recommended.

Staff propose to monitor use of off-leash dog walking and designate an additional tract as off-leash if needed

Staff propose monitoring off-leash use levels at the Bendor and Graves and Davis Drive Tracts to determine demand for an additional off-leash tract. Should use levels warrant designating an additional tract, staff will designate an additional tract based on anticipated level of use, suitability including parking availability and location.

Staff will report back to Council on the success and challenges with off-leash tracts

Off-leash dog walking will be monitored over a 12-month period, including environmental impacts, visitor experience and incidents relating to off-leash dogs. Results of monitoring will be evaluated to determine the success of off-leash dog walking and results reported back to Council, including any changes to designated off-leash tracts.



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

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