



REPORT OF LIVABLE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

For City Council – October 15, 2024

From: Office of the City Clerk
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Title: Off-Leash Dog Trail Pilot

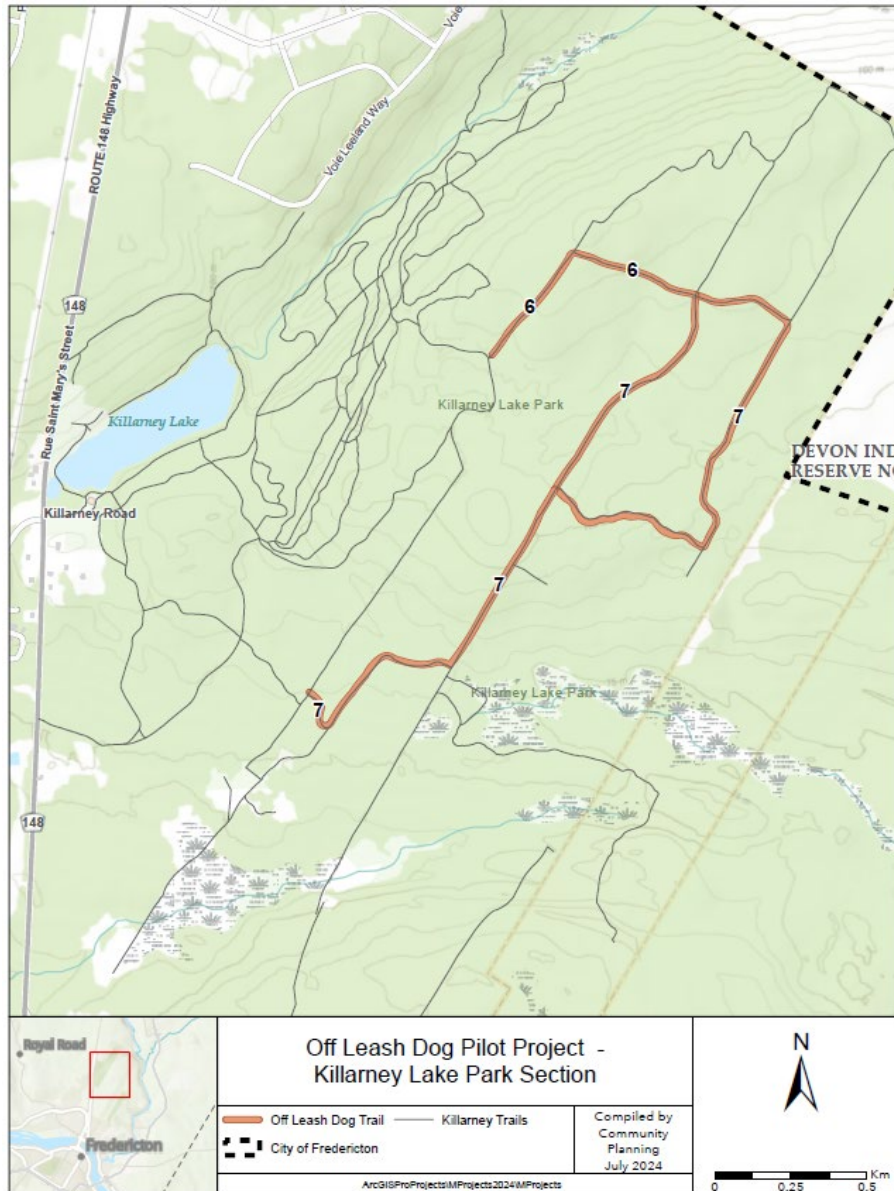
The Livable Community Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 considered a PowerPoint presentation and Administrative Report from the Manager of Policy & Strategic Planning seeking City Council direction on the possibility of introducing the concept of off-leash dog trails as a pilot project.

Existing off-leash dog parks are heavily used and may not be a good fit for some dogs. The concept of unfenced off-leash dog trails exists in many communities including Hanwell, Saint John, and Halifax. Where permitted, off-leash dog trails are typically located within municipal parks in a designated area that is clearly signed so users are aware they are entering and exiting an 'off-leash dog area'. Preliminary research indicates that off-leash dog trails are highly desired by dog owners and can work well when all users are properly informed.

Staff have met with the Fredericton Trails Coalition which recommended locations for off-leash dog trails. These recommendations include portions of Trails #6 and #7 at Killarney Lake Park as shown in the map below. Staff feel this location is well suited as an initial location for off-leash dog trails given their separation from busier trails closer to the lake. Staff, in collaboration with the Fredericton Trails Coalition and other stakeholders, are continuing to assess other off-leash trail areas for Council's consideration pending the outcome of the Killarney pilot, including possible options for a larger fenced, wooded off-leash area.

Accordingly, the Committee directed that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Fredericton hereby directs the Legal Division to prepare an amendment to By-law No. S-11, A By-law respecting Animal Control, to designate an off-leash area within the municipality, to establish rules associated with the use of such areas, to amend the definitions of dog, owner and running at large and to make such other amendments to give effect to the said changes. Sections relevant to the "Off-Leash Areas" are part of a pilot project which will be in effect between May 2025 and October 2025.)



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