

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** DIRECTOR - PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** **PARK BIKE PATROL PROGRAM**

**DATE:** 2019 Apr 30

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Public Safety Committee information on the deployment and operation of the Park Bike Patrol pilot program and request approval to make the program permanent.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Public Safety Committee recommends Council approve the Park Bike Patrol as a permanent program.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On 2018 March 05, Council approved the implementation of a one year pilot program for a City Park Bike Patrol as part of a larger initiative to enhance public safety and security in City parks and public spaces. The program objective was to enhance public safety by deterring nuisance and/or illegal activity in parks and public spaces as well as increase compliance with Animal Control, Parks, and Street and Traffic bylaws. The Park Bike Patrol commenced on 2018 May 19 and has been in operation for one year.

**2.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Park Bike Patrol initiative is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

- A Safe Community
  - Crime prevention and reduction
  - Community amenity safety
  - Transportation safety
- A Connected Community
  - Social connection

- Geographic connection
- An Inclusive Community
  - Create a sense of community
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy life
  - Healthy environment

### **3.0 PROGRAM LAUNCH, STAFFING AND TRAINING**

The Park Bike Patrol commenced operation on 2018 May 19 in conjunction with the start of the May long weekend. Four new bylaw patrollers were hired and deployed working in pairs, operating seven days a week including statutory holidays. The daily operational hours were from 7 am to 8 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and 12 pm to 8 pm Monday to Thursday. The schedule took into account peak park usage (evenings and weekends) and was adjusted throughout the year to reflect shorter daylight hours and other seasonal requirements as necessary.

Prior to commencing operations, all team members were required to successfully complete a week long bicycle handling course. Team members also received training from the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) on personal safety which focused on awareness, prevention and personal defense. Additional training included pairing the new staff members with experienced bylaw officers to facilitate coaching and job shadowing, ensuring the teams knew how to properly issue Bylaw Violation Notices, were familiar with park and civic facility locations along with standard operating procedures related to bylaw enforcement. Team members were outfitted with high visibility uniforms to easily identify them to the public and park patrons as City of Burnaby Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

### **4.0 OPERATIONS TO DATE AND PUBLIC RESPONSE**

Immediately upon the launch of the program, feed-back received from the general public has been overwhelmingly positive. During their patrols, the team was approached regularly by members of the public in order to respond to general questions and concerns. One Central Park patron made a point of informing the team that she has noticed a decrease in the amount of off leash dogs in the park and stated that she personally feels safer since the implementation of the Park Bike Patrol Unit. In addition to the larger parks, other public spaces including Civic Square and Highgate Greenway were also been added to the general patrol areas, as have seasonally used parks like Barnet Park.

The Park Bike Patrol officers were trained to first attempt to educate the public of the various bylaws governing the safe use of parks and public spaces. In almost all cases this approach resulted in voluntary bylaw compliance and did not require the issuance of a Violation Notice. The most common issues the team encountered involved dogs off leash, unauthorized camps in parks, unlicensed vendors, and unsafe parking concerns.

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Examples of the successes the team experienced in the past year include; providing assistance to a woman who was injured on a trail within Central Park and directing paramedics to her location; reuniting two young children who became separated from their parents after dusk in the park, and; discovering a growing brushfire in Central Park in extremely dry summer conditions. In this case the team contacted 911 and the Burnaby Fire Department was on scene within minutes. The team then guided the Firefighters to the active fire and blocked off trails to prevent park patrons from being exposed to the danger of the fire.

In addition to the park patrols, the Park Bike Patrol also attended community events including Hats off Day, Canada Day celebrations, Symphony in the Park, Giro di Burnaby, Edmonds City Fair and Classic Car show, Burnaby Pride Event, Willingdon Linear Park Grand Opening, Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival, Edmonds Festival of Lights, Light up the Heights and Walk 30 Burnaby Challenge Event. During these special events, the team engaged with the public, provided directions, fielded questions and explained the role of the Park Bike Patrol Program as well as general park safety and etiquette. Their presence at these events contributed to the overall safety and enjoyment by all those attending.

Due to the versatility of the Bike Unit they were occasionally deployed to assist with other City priority issues such as assisting with education and enforcement of the sidewalk snow and ice removal program during heavy snowfall in February.

## **5.0 PERFORMANCE METRICS**

During the spring and summer months the vast majority of the bike team's working day was spent in City parks and public spaces. Approximately 90% of their time was logged within parks and the remainder was spent moving between parks. During this time the team also averaged 173 km per week traveling on their bikes while in the parks and public spaces.

During peak usage of the parks from 2019 June 01 to 2019 September 30, the team encountered numerous bylaw violations (Appendix 1) and worked extensively with individuals to gain compliance. Common bylaw infractions included dogs off leash, parking infractions, camping and fires.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

Sufficient operating funds are available within the Public Safety and Community Services budget to fund a permanent Park Bike Patrol and it is recommended that the Public Safety Committee recommends Council approve transitioning the Park Bike Patrol Program from a pilot project to a permanent program.

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Dave Critchley  
DIRECTOR - PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

DC:cjh

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Parks Recreation and Cultural Services  
Director Finance  
OIC Burnaby RCMP

## APPENDIX 1

### Bylaw Infractions Encountered 2019 Jun 01 to 2019 Sept 30

Bylaw Infraction	Encounters
Dog off leash	686
Parking	449
Other (alcohol, drug use, etc.)	222
Camping in a park	127
Making a fire	51
Vehicle or bicycle in unauthorized area	47
Travelling in prohibited area	28
Dog in prohibited area	14
Smoking in a park	14
Unlicensed vendor	13
Damage/deface park infrastructure	7
Dog on a beach in a park	7
Littering in a park	4
Animal at large	3
Unlicensed dog	2