



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

# Staff Report

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**To:** Council

**File No.:** 3900-01

**From:** Director of Corporate Services

**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Subject:** Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw

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**PURPOSE:** To request Council give 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading to the Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw No. 3121, 2024.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Courtenay initiated the Parks Control Bylaw Modernization Project in February 2023 to better reflect and address the needs of its population, changing park usage trends, and emerging challenges related to climate change and urbanization.

To modernize the Parks Control Bylaw, a systematic approach to develop the Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw was employed, advancing through three phases. Staff first formulated regulations that aligned with Courtenay's priorities and integrated best practices through municipal comparisons. Next, Staff conducted a comprehensive impact assessment that carefully considered the implications of proposed regulatory actions and policy perspectives. The impact assessment underscored the achievement of a balanced approach, allowing for a variety of activities while safeguarding ecological zones and the community's natural assets. Lastly, regulations were refined through engagement with various contributors, including city staff from various departments, Vancouver Island Health Authority's medical health officer, the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, the Homelessness Response Team, and unhoused individuals.

At the September 27, 2023 Council meeting, Council passed the following motion:

THAT Council approve the Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw Guiding Document and direct staff to work with external legal counsel to draft a new Parks and Open Spaces Control Bylaw; and,

THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on any further amendments to B.C.'s current decriminalization policy and or at such time as further guidance for local government is provided by the Province.

## **DISCUSSION:**

As per Council's direction, external legal counsel has prepared the attached Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw.

## **POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Upon adoption of the Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw, the current Parks Control Bylaw, No. 1664, 1992 will be repealed.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:**

This initiative addresses the following strategic priorities:

- Social Infrastructure - Review City operations with a social equity, reconciliation and anti-racism lens and develop corporate policy
- Local Economy - Review City processes that may be barriers to economic development

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Upon adoption of the new Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw, a Good Neighbour Guide on the bylaw regulations will be disseminated to the public via online media, social media and physical materials. The City will also provide guides for distribution to community outreach organizations, the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, the Homelessness Response Team.

**OPTIONS:**

1. THAT Council give first and second readings to the Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw No. 3121, 2024; and, THAT staff be authorized to prepare a bylaw amendment to the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 2435, 2006 for Council consideration.
2. THAT Council give first and second readings to the Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw No. 3121, 2024, and refer it back to staff with direction; and, THAT staff be authorized to prepare a bylaw amendment to the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 2435, 2006 for Council consideration.
3. That Council refer the Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw No. 3121, 2024 to staff and provide further direction.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Parks and Open Spaces Regulation Bylaw No. 3121, 2024

Prepared by: Kate O'Connell, Director of Corporate Services

Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.PI., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)