



**City of Kingston  
Information Report to Council  
Report Number 19-291**

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<b>To:</b>	<b>Mayor and Members of Council</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation &amp; Public Works</b>
<b>Resource Staff:</b>	<b>Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>November 5, 2019</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>City Park Ring Road</b>

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**Executive Summary:**

Over the past several years, the use and damage caused by parking of motorized vehicles along the ring road in City Park has increased. The ring road in City Park is a historical feature that has been designated for limited use by park visitors and as an overflow option for patients of the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario. The park is located in a high demand parking area and is surrounded by a variety of paid parking options. Unfortunately, the free parking option in the park has been misused by commuter parkers. At times, staff have counted close to 150 cars along the ring road. Currently, parking in City Park is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the posted regulations indicate that parkers must be users of the park. However, it has been difficult to enforce because it is hard to differentiate cars that belong to park users, particularly during high demand periods in the summer. As a result, it is difficult to protect parking for those visiting the park throughout the day since the park area is occupied with vehicles that arrive early in the morning and stay all day.

This parking problem is similar to the congestion that was experienced on neighbouring residential streets prior to the implementation of the On-Street Parking Program. As a result, staff is planning to close access to the ring road within the park as of November 15, 2019. After that time, motor vehicles will be restricted from entering the park.

There are numerous on-street spaces in close proximity to the park that will serve park users but restrict all-day parkers. Staff are reviewing options to provide additional regulated parking spaces along Bagot Street adjacent to the park's washroom facilities and Court Street, and will be presenting a report to Council in Q1 2020.

Staff have worked with the Cancer Clinic to provide more convenient parking options for their patients and visitors and will continue to promote Kingston Transit as a convenient option for commuters.

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**Recommendation:**

This report is for information purposes only.

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**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

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**Sheila Kidd, Commissioner,  
Transportation & Public Works**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**Lanie Hurdle, Interim Chief  
Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services

Brad Joyce, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services

Not required

Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston

Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

Not required

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**Options/Discussion:**

City Park is located within a high demand parking area. The ring road within the park has been used and damaged by motorists for several years. At times, staff have counted close to 150 cars along the ring road. Currently, parking in City Park is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the posted regulations are that parkers must be users of the park. However, enforcement is difficult because it is hard to differentiate park users from commuter vehicles, particularly during high demand periods in the summer.

Taking the above into consideration and Council's declaration of a climate emergency, including the strategic plan initiative to enhance green spaces and improve walkability, staff will be closing the ring road to motorized vehicles beginning November 15, 2019.

Over the coming months, general maintenance and detailed design work will be completed to improve the condition of the ring road for active transportation and event uses. Below is an outline of some of the key tasks that will be undertaken.

**November 2019**

- Communications released to the public regarding the upcoming closure of the ring road to motorized vehicles. The communications includes the promotion of active transportation including walking, cycling, and transit.
- On November 15, the ring road will be closed to motorized vehicles using temporary concrete barricades and signage.
- Access to the ring road for walking and cycling will be retained (some minor interruptions can be expected to accommodate maintenance activities).
- Event organizers will be contacted regarding the changes to the ring road and how these changes can be incorporated to improve their events. It is anticipated that the ring road will be used for event setup but, during an event, the parking for event-related vehicles and event attendees will be located offsite.

**Fall 2019/Winter 2020**

- Minor repairs and improvements will be completed to the damaged areas of the park.
- Detailed design will be undertaken in order to implement the improvements to the ring road for active transportation uses.
- Construction services will be procured to implement the permanent solutions.
- Continued promotion of the active forms of transportation will continue.
- A review of Bagot Street and Court Street will be completed to determine options for additional on-street metered parking options, including accessible parking, and a report will be provided to Council in Q1 2020.

**Spring 2020**

- Work will be completed to install permanent infrastructure to restrict motorized access to the park and ring road.

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- Parking changes on adjacent streets will be implemented.
- Continue promotion of the active forms of transportation.

Eliminating the ability for commuters to park their vehicles for extended periods of time for free in City Park provides an opportunity to move these commuters to Kingston Transit. As part of the communications plan, Kingston Transit staff will be onsite at City Park on several occasions prior to the closure of the ring road to meet motorists, discuss Kingston Transit trip options for their commute, and to promote the Transpass employer program available to staff at Kingston General Hospital, Queen's University, and other employers that provide supporting services to these institutions.

Park visitors who choose to drive to the park will continue to have numerous parking options in the immediate area, some of which are currently underutilized for short-term parking. These include, but are not limited to, the metered parking both on-street and in surface lots, as well as time-restricted parking on-street (i.e. it is permitted to park outside of 10 am -11 am and 2 pm – 3 pm).

**Existing Policy/By-law:**

By-Law Number 2009-76: A by-law to provide for the regulation use of parks and recreation facilities of The Corporation of the City of Kingston

**Notice Provisions:**

Staff will provide onsite signage regarding changes to motorized access to the ring road through the Communications & Customer Experience Department.

**Accessibility Considerations:**

Accessibility criteria will be incorporated into the improvements of the existing ring road, which will include the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS).

**Financial Considerations:**

The installation of the temporary barricades will be completed with the existing Engineering Services budget. Staff will include funds for the long-term capital improvements in the proposed 2020 capital budget.

**Contacts:**

Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services 613-546-4291 extension 3139

**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Jeremy DaCosta, Director, Transit Services

Ian Semple, Director, Transportation Services

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Lacricia Turner, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

**Exhibits Attached:**

Not applicable