



ITEM REPORT CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 10/20/2026
Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Closing Clearwater Park and Dog Park During the Winter from October 31 to April 1, Weather Dependent

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

The Clearwater Park and Dog Park opened October 10, 2025. Historically, we have closed and locked bathroom facilities from October 31 to April 1, weather dependent unless it's a warming house for the upcoming skating rink season. The parking lots that do not have a skating rink and warming house attached do not receive snow removal nor do we provide and maintain a portable satellite toilet for patrons. We've had one exception; one winter we did not have enough rink attendants so we provided and maintained a portable satellite toilet for patrons at Oscar Kristofferson rink.

We have found that if parking lots and bathrooms remain open, there is a higher probability of vandalism that can occur. Each winter we do receive some requests to plow and maintain parking lots of parks. The closing of park facilities and some trails during the winter months has allowed the City to provide consistent communication to residents while being mindful of the approved budget and providing sustainable services to the community.

Last year, the park was used throughout the winter. Due to its use, we emptied garbage and replenished supplies twice a week. We received three phone calls (one was a resident) asking if we could plow the parking lot.

Staff is proposing to keep the Clearwater Park and Dog Park open until the first snow event requiring plowing (typically 2" of snow). At that time, staff would close the park and have the satellite toilet closed. The park would re-open in the spring when the snow melts. Last year (2025-2026) was the first winter the park was open. After observing park activity over the course of one winter, staff is seeking permanent approval from the council to close the park each winter unless requested in the future from council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Snow removal is a budgeted item that is dependent on snow fall amounts and the number of events. If snow removal of the parking lot, trail, and gate entrances of the Clearwater Park and Dog Park were a plowing priority the day of the snow fall it would take staff approximately 30 minutes at a cost of \$42.50 per occurrence. On average, there are 4 plow events per month which would require a snow removal cost of \$170.00 per month. If opening the park daily to restock supplies, clean satellite, and remove waste were a priority, it would take staff approximately 1 hour per occurrence at a cost of approximately 20 hours and \$1,700.00 per month. Maintaining and servicing the satellite toilet bi-monthly would cost approximately \$120.00 per month. The total cost to open and maintain the Clearwater Park and Dog Park would be \$1,990.00 per month.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommend closing Clearwater Park and Dog Park during the winter from October 31 to April 1, weather dependent.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

Consensus on closing Clearwater Park and Dog Park during the winter from October 31 to April 1, weather dependent.