



Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council File No:6140-20
Date: June 9, 2025
From: Kendra Kryszak, Manager, Parks and Public Spaces
Subject: Department of National Defence Park - Washroom Operating Hours

Purpose: To provide Council with options for adjusting the operating hours of the Department of National Defence (DND) Park washroom to accommodate increased park usage.

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive the memorandum titled “Department of National Defence Park – Washroom Operating Hours” dated June 9, 2025.

Background:

a. Rationale

1. The DND park washrooms are currently opened between mid April and mid October. To help prevent vandalism, the washrooms are kept locked between bookings.
2. Vandalism has been a recurring issue at this location, largely due to the washroom’s remote setting. Unlike busier parks such as Polson and Marshall Field, which benefit from steady foot traffic and passive surveillance, DND Park is often unoccupied between rentals. For example, a 2021 vandalism incident resulted in over \$20,000 in damages.
3. The installation of a new playground in 2024 has contributed to greater use of DND Park. While Operations has not received any public complaints regarding the washroom availability, it is reasonable to anticipate that increased park activity will lead to higher demand for access to the washroom facilities. The rise in usage has enhanced passive security; however, there are still times during the day when the park is unoccupied, leaving the washroom vulnerable to vandalism. Additional security patrols would likely offer limited benefit, as vandals often wait until staff have left before acting.
4. Council may wish to consider aligning DND Park’s washroom hours with those of other parks, open daily from dawn to dusk, mid-April through mid-October.

5. Should Council decide to extend the operating hours of the washroom, Administration would monitor the levels of vandalism and report back to Council if required.

b. Relevant Policy/Bylaw/Resolutions/Legislative Authority:

N/A

c. Council's Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Organizational Excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation, Parks & Natural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

d. Committee Recommendations:

N/A

Financial Implications:

Should Council choose to not adjust the operating hours of the washroom, no additional funding would be required.

Should Council choose to adjust the operating hours of the washroom the estimated cost for additional cleaning and security for the remainder of 2025 is \$10,000, which could be funded from the Prior Year Uncommitted Unexpended Balance (current balance: \$3,768,342). The estimated annual cost increase for 2026 is \$15,000 and could be considered by Council during the 2026 budget deliberations.

Alternatives & Implications:

THAT Council direct staff to adjust the operating hours of Department of National Defence Park washroom to seven days a week from dawn to dusk starting June 16, 2025 until October 17, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 to be funded from the Prior Year Unexpended Uncommitted Balance;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct staff to bring forward a service level adjustment for the expanded operating hours of the Department of National Defence Park Washroom for consideration during the 2026 budget deliberations.

Note: this could lead to increased vandalism and unexpected costs required to operate and maintain this facility.

Communication:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A

Reviewed by: Chris Ovens, General Manager, Public Works
Reviewed by: James Rice, Director, Operations
Reviewed by: Kevin Poole, Director, Corporate Administration
Reviewed by: Elma Hamming, Director, Financial Services
Approved by: Peter Weeber, Chief Administrative Officer