

Summer 2023

# Waterfront Trail Report

Submitted by:

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Hamilton

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## Introduction

This year we were given a great opportunity to be Hamilton's Waterfront Trail division. This team consists of two Municipal Law Enforcement Officers who are, (Student) Officer Evan Blewitt and (Student) Officer Steely Sloss.

Our daily duties were as follows:

- To patrol Confederation Park in Ward 5
- To patrol the Waterfront area as City of Hamilton Ambassadors enforcing the Parks Bylaw 01-219.
- To educate the general public about the Parks bylaw.





**City of Hamilton**

**BY-LAW NO. 01-219  
TO MANAGE AND REGULATE MUNICIPAL PARKS**

**WHEREAS** Section 191(1) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45, as amended, provides that the council of every corporation may pass by-laws for acquiring land for the purposes of the corporation and for erecting and repairing buildings thereon and for making additions to or alterations of such buildings;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 191(6) of the Municipal Act provides that the council of every corporation may pass by-laws providing for the use of the public of lands which the corporation is the owner and for the regulation of such use and the protection of such lands;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton may exercise all or any of the powers that are conferred on Boards of Park Management by the Public Parks Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.46, as amended, pursuant to Section 207, paragraph 52 of the Municipal Act;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 207(42) of the Municipal Act, provides for the prohibition of vehicles from sidewalks, pathways or footpaths in Parks;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton Act, 1999, S.O. 1999 Chapter 14, Schedule C did incorporate, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, the municipality "City of Hamilton";

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton is the successor to the following former area municipalities, namely: The Corporation of the Town of Ancaster, The Corporation of the Town of Dundas, The Corporation of the Town of Flamborough; The Corporation of the Township of Glanbrook; The Corporation of the City of Hamilton; and the Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek; all hereinafter referred to as the "former area municipalities";

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton Act, 1999, provides that the By-laws of the former area municipalities continue in force and effect in the City of Hamilton until subsequently amended or repealed by the Council of the City of Hamilton;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the City of Hamilton deems it expedient to enact a single by-law to provide for the maintenance, operation, management and regulation of Municipal Parks, in place of by-laws of the former area municipalities.



## Council Direction

7.2

### CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: June 24, 2020

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. COLLINS.....**

**City Ambassadors on the Waterfront Trail**

WHEREAS the use of the Waterfront Trail has become popular with out of town cyclists many of whom are speeding and racing down the trail, creating daily safety concerns for those in the area; and,

WHEREAS Licensing and By-law Services has previously hired summer students to act as City Ambassadors to educate the public and enforce City By-laws.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That Licensing and By-law Services be directed to hire two summer students to act as City Ambassadors on the Waterfront Trail for the months of July and August at a cost of approximately \$12,000 which will be covered through the Hamilton Beach Reserve

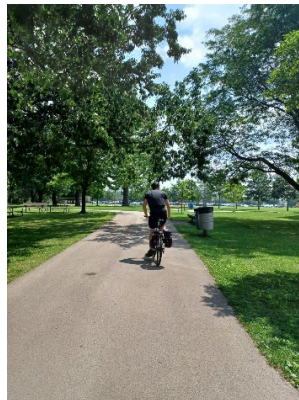


## Team Goals / Objectives

### Summer Goals

1. To have the majority of the bikes, scooters, roller bladders use an audible device such as a bell or simple verbal acknowledgement when passing others on the path.
2. To minimize all injuries by both providing better coverage and implementing as many appropriate safety measures as possible.
3. To inform more people about the ban on portable Barbeque devices in the park, as well as any other object or device that contains a flame.
4. To continue to build relationships with regulars on the path and any residents that lives on the beach strip, so that we may understand their related concerns better.

Our Objective for the Waterfront trail of summer 2023, was to help educate the public on the Parks Bylaw and to advise on trail etiquette. Our tasks were insuring that people are: not speeding through the parks, indicate when passing either by using a bell or their own variable voice, and sharing the trail with others who are actively on the trail. Another major part of our job was to make sure that no devices with a flame are being used in the parks. No barbeques of any kind are allowed in a city park, including that of the beachfront.



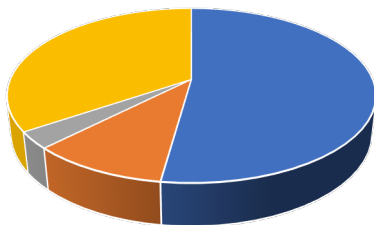


### June waterfront Statistics

For this month, in addition to the reported individuals that we noted for the month, we added an estimated total, to provide a more accurate total for the month as a whole. We did this to include the days and hours that we were not present and observing.

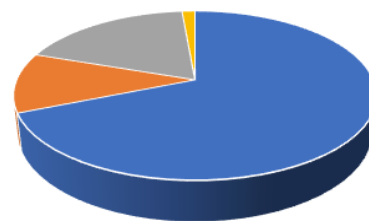
<b>Confederation Park Estimated Totals</b>	<b>Total days present</b>	<b>Estimate for month of June</b>
Estimated Total of Visitors at the park	25,264	76,000
Estimated Total of Mobility Devices on path (E-Scooter, E-Bike ETC)	61	190
Estimated Total of Group Style Riders (5+ More in a pack)	21	75
<b>Types of Activities</b>		
Pedestrians	13,193	40,000
Cyclists	2,585	7,800
Skateboards/Rollerblades	781	2,400
Beach	8,705	26,500
<b>Types of Interactions</b>		
Warnings	129	-
Tickets	0	-
Total	264	-
<b>Common Warnings</b>		
Audible Warning	60	-
Speed	10	-
BBQ/Fire	16	-
Smoking	12	-

Types of Activities



■ Pedestrians ■ Cyclists

Warnings



■ Audible Warning ■ Speed ■ BBQ/Fire ■ Smoking

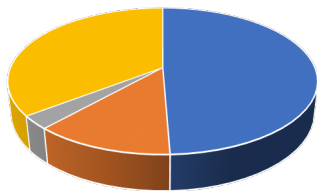


## July Waterfront Statistics

For this month, in addition to the reported individuals that we noted for the month, we added an estimated total, to provide a more accurate total for the month as a whole. We did this to include the days and hours that we were not present and observing.

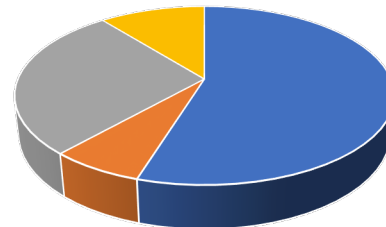
Confederation Park Totals	Totals for days present	Estimates for Month of July
Visitors at the park	43,264	129,792
Mobility Devices on path (E-Scooter, E-Bike ETC)	97	291
Total of Group Style Riders (5+ More in a pack)	43	129
<b>Types of Activities</b>		
Pedestrians	21,364	64,092
Cyclists	5,321	15,963
Skateboards/Rollerblades	1,256	3,768
Beach	15,325	45,975
<b>Types of Interactions</b>		
Warnings	182	-
Tickets	1	-
Total	396	-
<b>Common Warnings</b>		
Audible Warning	97	-
Speed	12	-
BBQ/Fire	49	-
Smoking	19	-

Types of Activities



- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Skateboards/ rollerblades
- Beach

Warnings



- Audible Warning
- Speed
- BBQ/Fire
- Smoking

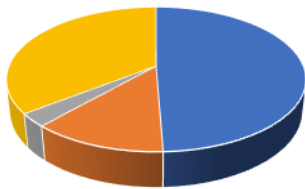


## August Waterfront Statistics

For this month, in addition to the reported individuals that we noted for the month, we added an estimated total, to provide a more accurate total for the month as a whole. We did this to include the days and hours that we were not present and observing

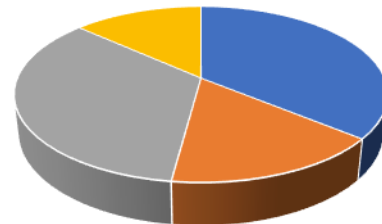
Confederation Park Totals	Totals for days present	Estimates for Month of August
Visitors at the park	36,043	155,000
Mobility Devices on path (E-Scooter, E-Bike ETC)	29	90
Total of Group Style Riders (5+ More in a pack)	33	100
<b>Types of Activities</b>		
Pedestrians	17,984	54,000
Cyclists	3,790	11,500
Skateboards/Rollerblades	2,075	6,500
Beach	12,194	37,000
<b>Types of Interactions</b>		
Warnings	110	-
Tickets	2	-
Total	112	-
<b>Common Warnings</b>		
Audible Warning	51	-
Speed	23	-
BBQ/Fire	9	-
Smoking	27	-

Types of Activities



■ Pedestrians ■ Cyclists ■ Skateboards/ rollerblades ■ Beach

Warnings



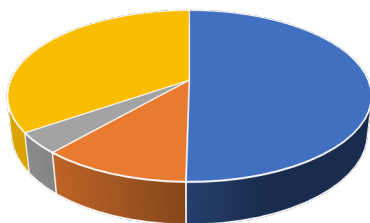
■ Audible Warning ■ Speed ■ BBQ/Fire ■ Smoking

### Summer Waterfront Statistics

For this month, in addition to the reported individuals that we noted for the month, we added an estimated total, to provide a more accurate total for the month as a whole. We did this to include the days and hours that we were not present and observing

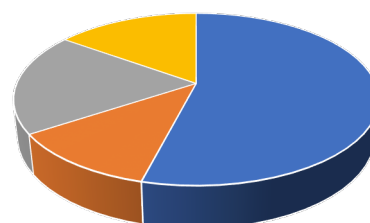
Confederation Park Totals	Totals for days present	Estimates for the summer
Visitors at the park	104,571	315,000
Mobility Devices on path (E-Scooter, E-Bike ETC)	187	600
Total of Group Style Riders (5+ More in a pack)	97	300
<b>Types of Activities</b>		
Pedestrians	52,541	157,500
Cyclists	11,696	35,000
Skateboards/Rollerblades	4,112	12,500
Beach	36,224	109,000
<b>Types of Interactions</b>		
Warnings	421	-
Tickets	3	-
Total	424	-
<b>Common Warnings</b>		
Audible Warning	208	-
Speed	45	-
BBQ/Fire	74	-
Smoking	58	-

Types of Activities



■ Pedestrian ■ Cyclists ■ Skateboard/Rollerblades ■ Beach

Warnings



■ Audible Warning ■ Speed ■ BBQ/Fire ■ Smoking



## Recommendations and Efforts

The following are recommendations that we have for next summer, based on our experiences.

1. We believe it would be beneficial for speed limit signs to be placed along the Waterfront trail. One of the largest issues that we have faced on the trail is the presence of reckless and speedy cyclists who put others in danger. Also, we believe that it would be very beneficial to work along side Hamilton Police using a radar speed gun, to be able to help hand out APNs for those who do not use the trail appropriately.
2. More large trail signs should be added stating normal park rules, with a possibility of separate signs for e-vehicles. We also believe that a sign should be placed at the start of the lift bridge from the Burlington trail, as many who use the trail do not understand the rules for it. Signs should be specific in prohibiting all electric vehicles, for as they stand, they only work to prohibit e-bikes, which is not entirely accurate nor specific enough.
3. It would be very beneficial to have more Waterfront Ambassador staff available. We believe having two morning and two afternoon/night staff would be very beneficial as we'd be able to cover all times of day at the park being able to prevent more rule breaks. On top of this, we believe that it would be beneficial to add Waterfront Ambassadors during the Spring and Fall months to ensure that constant coverage is assured for the safety of the park and trail. We have noticed a great deal of progress that has been achieved due to our presence and we fear that this progress could be undone if there were to be no more coverage until next summer.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we are very satisfied with the work and impact that have been accomplished this summer. Our largest lasting takeaways are the conversations and relationships that have been formed with the pedestrians who frequented the trail. As we interacted with them throughout the summer, we developed a community feeling that we believe contributed towards better communication within the park as a whole. It became apparent through our interactions as the summer moved along, that we truly were beginning to understand life within the park and also the issues and frustrations that came along with it. We believe that this all culminated in the overall ability to listen to pedestrians in a way that made them feel heard and to also speak with enough authority and understanding to help them feel that we knew the park well and therefore understood the issues that they would bring forward. In all, we believe that this was due to our constant presence and experiences that we shared alongside those in the park. This seemed to be the best form of enforcement and is one of the reasons why we highly recommend more coverage in the park, moving forward.