

WALKWAYS

The Council of the City of Dawson Creek directs that:

1. Purpose

To establish a set of criteria to consider with any application for a walkway closure.

2. Definitions

a) Walkway – a public right of way established to facilitate pedestrian movement.

b) Direct Public Need – walkways that provide a Direct Public Need assist the City with any of the following:

i) Provides a continuous walking link or completes/extends an existing link;

ii) Provides a neighbourhood short-cut or enhances neighbourhood access;

iii) Parallels a utility corridor and is required in order to access utilities.

3. Policy

b) Walkways that serve no direct public need may be considered for closure or disposal if:

i) All adjacent owners are willing and amenable to apply for the closure;

ii) All adjacent owners are willing to purchase the land;

iii) All fees and land costs are paid for prior to the application proceeding.

c) The application fee for a proposed closure is stated in the City's Fees and Charges Bylaw.

d) The applicants will serve with the application, a petition with a significant percentage of signatures and contact information for closure from the walkways catchment area.

e) The City of Dawson Creek shall post signs regarding the application at the walkway entrance for 30 days with all contact information if there is opposition to the application.

f) The City of Dawson Creek shall, by the way of letter drop, advise the catchment area of the application and the means to object to the application.

g) The City of Dawson Creek shall post in the local papers notice of Walkway Closure application and means by which objections can be registered. These costs for this advertising will be invoiced directly to the applicants at current rates.

- h) Details of the application will be made available at City Hall.
- i) The City of Dawson Creek Parks and Recreation Department will provide support documentation if requested by Council.
- j) The adjacent owners must all be willing to purchase the land at market value and shall pay all associated costs with this determination by an independent firm.
- k) A walkway serving as a route to, or in close proximity to a school, playground, or a neighbourhood commercial site will not be considered for closure unless;
 - i) There are alternative pedestrian routes currently available, this would only be sidewalks or other walkways and not roads or streets;
 - ii) There is 80% support for the closure by property owners in the catchment area.
- l) Walkways serving as part of the storm water management system will not be considered for closure unless suitable arrangements can be made for alternate provision of this service.
- m) Antisocial behaviour should not be the sole reason for closure of any walkway. Antisocial behaviour is a very complex issue and the reason for this behaviour is not necessarily caused by the presence of the walkway.
- n) High usage does not warrant a reason for closure in any case.

4. Antisocial Behaviour

When Council receives a request for closure due to antisocial behaviour, documentation is required to determine the level and type. The applicants can be requested to document antisocial behaviour and will be asked to report all instances to the police for the appropriate police response.

- a) Council's first approach will be to see if an appropriate increase in the level of policing, within the resources available, is able to address the problem.
- b) To work with community crime prevention groups to increase pressure and awareness to the problems associated with a particular behaviour.
- c) If policing and community group awareness does not work then the City will need to consider the environment itself making it less attractive for loitering, particularly after dark. This may involve trimming trees, removing obstructions, lighting, night citizen patrols and the installation of video surveillance cameras or other measures.

- d) If all of these activities are ineffective then a temporary closure might be considered until a further remedy can be affected. Temporary closure will include the installation of gates that can be opened and closed at pre-determined times by approved persons.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

DATE: April 24, 2006

REAFFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

DATE: September 14, 2015

AMENDED BY COUNCIL:

DATE: _____