



South Huron Soccer Club

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November 25, 2024

Mayor Finch & Members of Council
322 Main St S, PO Box 759
Exeter, ON N0M 1S6

Re: Location of Proposed Dog Park

Dear Mayor Finch & Members of South Huron Council,

We would like to commend Ms. Hannah on her proposal for a Community Dog Park, recently presented at the November 18, 2024 Meeting of Council.

While we do not oppose the addition of a Community Dog Park, we do have concerns and would strongly oppose any suggestion that the Community Soccer Field or Wagner Fields be suitable, even temporarily, for such an endeavour.

South Huron Soccer Club, along with the Exeter Masters, South Huron Rush, South Huron Adult Co-Ed Soccer League, St. Columban Soccer Club and Huron Perth Flag Football all utilize the Community Soccer Field and Wagner Fields from April through October annually. Collectively we serve over 500 players of the 2 sports and participation continues to grow. We host teams from all over SW Ontario on these fields and assist the Municipality in the maintenance and upkeep of the fields, specifically in the lining and provision of the nets, both of which are at considerable cost. We have a vested interest in ensuring that the fields are maintained to a degree that is acceptable to our respective leagues and to the hundreds of players that we represent.

To that end, we feel that utilizing these Municipal assets as a dog park would be detrimental to the field conditions and the health and safety of our members, even if only utilized in the off season. Dog feces are already an ongoing problem at the fields and despite Ms. Hannah's offer to ensure that the fields are cleaned up, a concentrated use of the fields as a dog park would exacerbate the issue, in addition to the potential harm to the field with dogs digging, urinating, drainage issues, etc.

In summary, we respectfully request that if considering potential locations for the requested dog park that you exclude Wagner fields and the Community field from consideration and continue to let them be enjoyed for their intended purpose of sport.

Respectfully Submitted,
South Huron Soccer Club, Exeter Masters and South Huron Rush