



2026 Strong Mayor's Budget

(Section 284.16 of the *Municipal Act*)

Proposed Amendment Form

Office Use Only

Amendment #
CO-03-2026

Date Received
December 4, 2025

Mover: Councillor McLeod-Haggitt

Signature:

Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

Budget: Capital

Department: Recreation & Cultural Services

Division: Parks (Active/Passive)

Proposed Amendment:

Please provide the specific wording for your proposed amendment.

THAT Council amend the proposed 2026 Capital Budget by removing the proposed Dog Park project.

Reason for Proposed Amendment:

Please provide the reason for the proposed amendment, including anticipated benefits to South Huron.

When considering recent projects completed in this area—such as the splash pad and the washroom facilities — it is important to note that both were funded through service groups and community contributions. Consistent with municipal practice, new recreational amenities requested within the municipality are expected to be supported through funding from service groups and/or community members rather than through the tax base.

The Crediton and Centralia projects did not constitute the development of new dog parks. Instead, these parks were established through the repurposing of existing assets, such as the former ball diamond in Centralia. As such, these initiatives are more accurately characterized as upgrades to existing park facilities rather than new park construction. The Centralia dog park was funded through the Wind Turbine community benefits program. It should also be noted that the community's former community centre had been removed, and the surrounding lands required necessary improvements and reinvestment. The Crediton dog park is in partnership with the ABCA. +

Health & Safety Impact:

Please indicate whether this proposed amendment would pose impacts to health and safety of South Huron residents and/or municipal staff.

Locating a dog park in close proximity to the public pool, the community walking trail, the picnic area, and the dam raises several health and safety concerns:

1. Public Pool Proximity - Increased risk of conflicts between off-leash dogs and young children or families using the pool facilities. Potential sanitary concerns, including animal waste near high-use recreational water and food areas. Higher likelihood of dogs entering restricted spaces or creating disruptions during peak seasonal use.
2. Walking Trail Interface - Off-leash activity adjacent to or crossing the trail may create safety risks for pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, and mobility-device users. Increased potential for dog-to-dog or dog-to-person interactions, especially in congested trail segments.
3. Picnic and Recreation Area - Food-related attractants and gatherings can increase the chance of unwanted interactions or incidents involving dogs. Noise, activity, and scent stimuli can overstimulate dogs, increasing the risk of unpredictable behaviour.
4. Proximity to the Dam and Watercourse - Safety risk of dogs entering fast-moving water or steep embankments around the dam structure. Potential for dogs to disturb wildlife habitat or enter environmentally sensitive areas. Additional liability considerations for rescue or response should an animal become trapped or injured.

These points outline the rationale for the suggested location. However, I respectfully request that Council also consider the comments provided in the other sections of this report when evaluating this matter, including any potential alternative locations within Exeter. The broader considerations identified remain relevant regardless of the final siting decision.

Tax Levy or Other Financial Impacts:

Please indicate whether this proposed amendment would result in an impact to the Tax Levy. Please include the financial cost (or cost savings) and the percentage amount(s) for Tax Levy increases or decreases, if applicable.

There is no impact on the tax levy. Funding for these projects was drawn from the Parkland Reserve, which is collected through parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu requirements related to new development. These funds were not allocated to any other purpose.

From an operational standpoint, the projects are sustainable and do not create any additional levy impact.

Looking ahead, future parkland projects should be prioritized based on community growth and development needs. Current priorities for parkland development include improvements to soccer fields, trail systems, and other recreational amenities required as a result of ongoing development.

The amendment avoids future operating costs related to maintenance, waste management, and bylaw enforcement that would otherwise place ongoing pressure on the Operating Budget and the Tax Levy.

Consultation:

I have consulted with the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer and CAO

Office Use Only:

Account Description:

Account #: