

CNCL-25-13

From: <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 1:39 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Cc: Rosemary McConkey <RMcConkey@oshawa.ca>; John Neal <JNeal@oshawa.ca>

Subject: CNCL-25-10 Winter maintenance Stonecrest Parkette walkway

Dear Oshawa City Council members,

I am writing in support of CNCL-25-10 to ensure the City of Oshawa maintain the Stonecrest Parkette walkway, connecting Blackwood Boulevard to Missom Gate year-round. The walkway is a vital artery for our community, connecting residents to the Taunton/Harmony SmartCentre, the Harmony bus terminal, and Maxwell Heights secondary school.

Consistently, there is high foot traffic through the parkette, regardless of the weather. Attached are two photos captured February 13 at 2:04pm, after a snowfall, demonstrating the demand for this walkway. Leaving the Stonecrest Parkette walkway unattended has caused safety issues, especially in the winter when the snow melts and refreezes, and accessibility barriers when snow prevents wheelchairs or strollers from passing through the area.

While I appreciate the city's general practice of "no park pathway winter maintenance", it does not appear to be a hard and fast rule. Below is a sample of maintained park pathways, as captured on the city's Snow Clearing Service Level Web Map. Why are these pathways cleared and many others are not?

1. Coldstream Park, between Oakhill Avenue and Coldstream Drive
2. Iroquois Shoreline Park, between Westridge Court and Glenbourne Court
3. Alexandra Park, between Hospital Court and Midland Ave
4. Kinsmen Park, between Kaiser Cres and Arena Street
5. Brick Valley Park, between Nassau Street and John Street West
6. Radio Park near Grenfell Street
7. Dundee Park, between Talara Street and Dundee Avenue
8. Greenhill Park, between Greenhill Avenue and Riverton Court

If these paths are uniquely classified, let's work together to reclassify the concrete running through Stonecrest Parkette so the residents have safe access to their destination.

Let us also recognize the Stonecrest Parkette is unique: two roads terminate at the east and west ends, which I assume was intentional to manage vehicular traffic; pedestrians should not be penalized. Pedestrians on Blackwood Blvd should have barrier free access to Mission Gate, and vice versa.

Finally, and thankfully, the abutting sidewalks *are* cleared by the city. However, there have been instances where the snow clearing equipment traverse the park (over the concrete in question) to clear the opposite sidewalk. This fact highlights a missed opportunity: effort is spent moving across the parkette with a motorized vehicle which could perform a snow clearing function *at the same time*.

Thank you very much for improving the Stonecrest community by providing its residents with snow clearing through the parkette. I look forward to council's support of CNCL-25-10.





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Chris Bell, <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1)>