

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**April 7, 2020**

**File Number: 6130**

**To:** Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Sean Smith, Director of Corporate Services  
**Date:** March 30, 2020  
**Subject:** Dog Park History

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council receive this report for information.**

**Executive Summary:**

In 1960, by virtue of Lands Purchase By-law No. 389,1960, the City purchased a group of 25 parcels, including those where the dog park is currently located, for the sum of \$4,000 dollars. This land was purchased for “sewage disposal purposes”. Staff did not find any information to indicate that there was ever an intention that this land be dedicated as park.

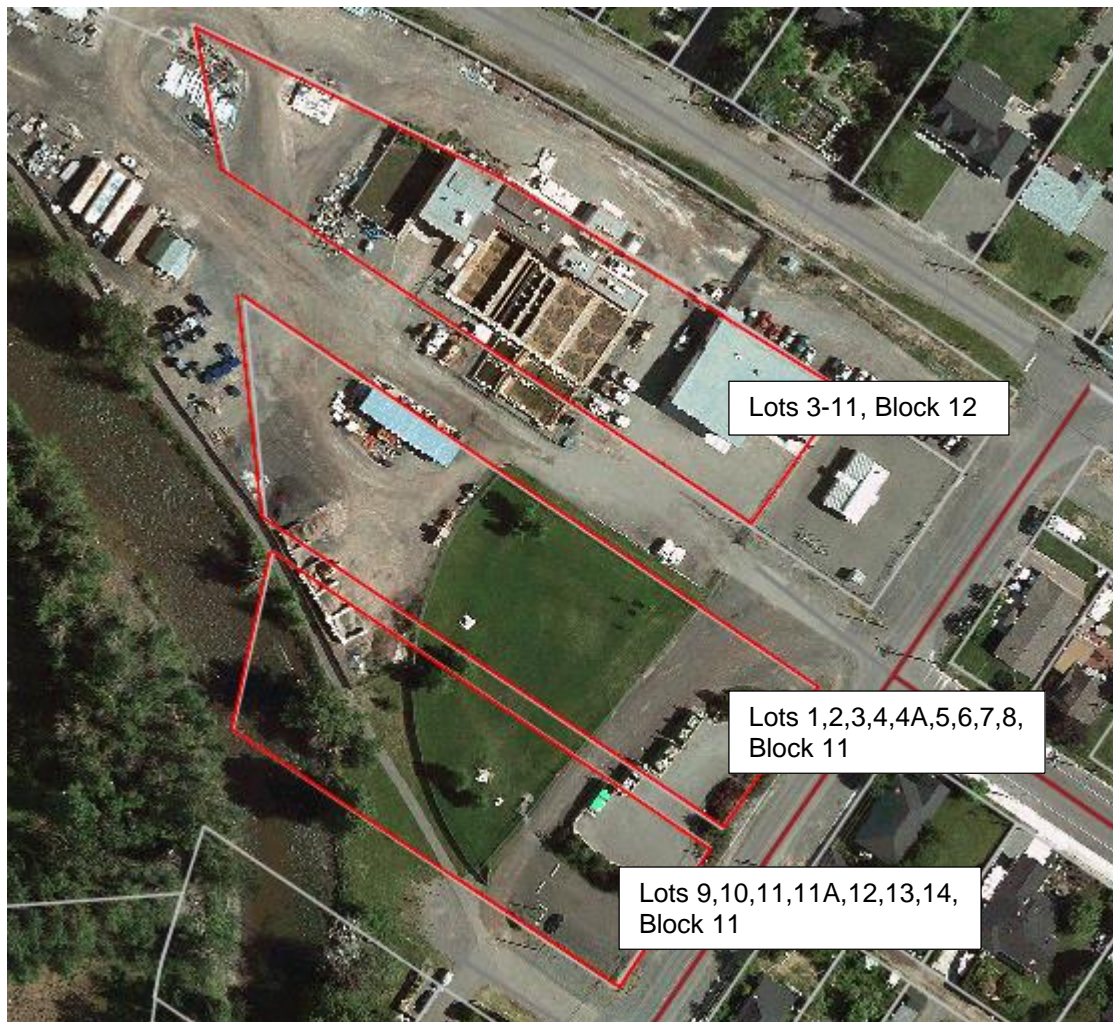
**Background:**

At the March 3, 2020 Budget Committee of the Whole meeting, Council omitted the \$140,000 dog park relocation item from the draft budget, as Council heard concerns from the public that the dog park area may have originally been donated to the City as park. Council requested that staff research the dog park to determine whether it is designated as park or not, to inform the budget discussion.

Attached to this report as Schedule “A” is Lands Purchase By-law No. 389,1960, which provides details regarding the City’s purchase of 25 parcels of land for \$4,000. The recital clause of that Bylaw states “WHEREAS, the Corporation of the Village of Merritt desires to purchase the land hereinafter described for **sewage disposal purposes**” (emphasis added).

The parcels included in this transaction were Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 11A, 12, 13, and 14, Block 11, as well as Lots 3-11 of Block 12, of District Lot 125, Kamloops Division, Yale District, Plan 1219.

These lots are represented on the figure below:



The City consolidated these 25 parcels into 3 parcels on October 22, 2014.

As further context, minutes from the meetings of February 10, 1960 as well as October 20, 1960 are also attached to Schedule "A". These minutes show the City contemplating the purchase of land to create a sewage lagoon, and later show the City offering three of the newly purchased lots to the RCMP.

Lastly, staff found no park dedication bylaws or other agreements in relation to this land that give any indication that it was ever required to be used as park. As such, staff is of the opinion that Council can utilize the land as it wishes, consistent with the OCP and Zoning Bylaw (P3, which is the same as the public works yard).

**Options / discussion:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.
2. THAT Council direct staff to include the \$140,000 dog park relocation request in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan, to be completed in 2020.
3. THAT Council direct staff to include the \$140,000 dog park relocation request in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan, to be completed in 2021.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sean Smith**  
**Deputy CAO/Director of Corporate Services**