



# Committee Report

**To:** Councillor Milt McIver, Chair and  
Members of the Transportation & Environmental Services  
Committee

**From:** Amanda Froese  
Director of Transportation & Environmental Services

**Date:** January 26, 2023

**Re:** Recreational Bylaw Enforcement Pilot Project Report

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## Staff Recommendation:

The Recreational Bylaw Enforcement Pilot Project Report is for information.

## Background:

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee approved an 8-week bylaw enforcement pilot project on June 16, 2022, for James Special Services Inc (JSS) to enforce the County's Recreational By-law in county forests and the Bruce County Rail Trail. The purpose of this pilot project was to educate trail users, track warnings and tickets issued, but also to identify problem areas and provide the county with an understanding of what enforcement resources were required moving forward.

During the program, JSS patrolled multiple forest properties in both motorized and non-motorized designated areas and at variable times during weekdays and weekends. This process helped us understand peak trail use periods, where issues were occurring, and other challenges in enforcing the recreational bylaw. Their summary of patrols and recommendations are as follows:

## Summary of Patrols

- 154 motorized vehicles stopped on county trails
- 6 Warnings
- 9 Tickets issued
- 9 off-road vehicles stopped that did not have trail permits but agreed to purchase trail permits on the spot, in front of officers - proof of purchase was provided to officers
- Multiple occasions where riders would see Bylaw Enforcement officers and turn around

## Recommendations by James Special Services

- Update Recreational bylaw to enforce additional infractions
  - Use of motorized vehicle in prohibited area
  - Use of prohibited off-road vehicle in county forest

- Operate motorized vehicle without a helmet
- Operate ORV; fail to produce valid driver's licence
- Change "Operate motorized vehicle in county forest without permit or insurance" into 2 different offences (permit and insurance)
- Limit patrols during weekdays and focus primarily on weekends
- Enlarge and increase signage in high traffic areas
- Limit illegal/unauthorized access points
- Placing some form of identification at each access point to improve identification, communications, and response times

## **Moving Forward**

Overall, the program was a success. The program allowed us to identify weaknesses in our bylaw and where improvements are needed. The program also identified areas where we need to improve signage and restrict access on county lands. By providing an enforcement presence on our trails, we've created awareness among trail users on what is acceptable and what is not.

The Transportation and Environmental Services Department sees value in continuing the bylaw enforcement program in 2023. Staff will propose to include this level of service increase in the 2023 budget and to move from an 8-week contract to a 16-week contract, so education and enforcement can continue periodically through April to November. By spreading out services over a six-month period it will allow us to monitor and enforce trail closures in the spring and fall and provide a presence during peak season in the summer.

## **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

Funds from the Transportation and Environmental Services Department in the amount of \$20,000.00 will be proposed in the 2023 budget to the Recreational By-law Enforcement Pilot Project.

Contributions from the Huron Shores and South Bruce Peninsula ATV Clubs in the amount of \$4000.00 have been committed for the project if it moves forward.

## **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Corporate Services was consulted on budget requirements and revenue accounts for project.

## **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

- 6. Explore alternative options to improve efficiency, service
- 10. Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are meaningful and report on them

**Report Author:**

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Trails Manager

**Departmental Approval:**

Amanda Froese  
Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Derrick Thomson  
Chief Administrative Officer