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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT // POWER PLAYER ACADEMY // TEAM CLINICS

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Dear Play At The Park,

We strongly support any policies that will help make our parks safer. We had some experiences with our soccer camps where unleashed dogs have been a danger to young children playing soccer in the park. The dogs often dig holes; as well there have been many instances where dog owners have failed to pick up dog excrement where children play soccer. We always conduct a field inspection for hazards, as these are situations that repeat themselves.

With residential intensification we must make sure that these parks are safe and in good condition so that children and youth can use the playing fields. It is well known that the use of a large number of dogs can ruin a playing field and also intimidate children as they play. Even a friendly dog can take a ball from a child or knock him/her down.

It is important to develop sound and consistent policies that would protect children's ability to freely enjoy public spaces. Proper enforcement of city guidelines that articulate the need for enclosures for dogs has the benefit of protecting the public and also the dogs.

Without proper enforcement, the city guidelines exist only in name. I encourage the city to implement their current guidelines, which ask for creating enclosures for dogs and preventing off leash areas from developing in small neighbourhood parks and playing fields. This would ensure that children and youth can access parks when they need them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as you work towards promoting a safe and healthy environment for children's play in Toronto.

Liam Power  
Director

