



Memo

2021 July 26

To: Mayor Nenshi and Members of Council

From: Kyle Ripley, Director, Calgary Parks

Re: Administrative Inquiry – Remote Controlled (RC) Cars

This memo responds to the 2020 July 29 Administrative Inquiry submitted by Councillor Keating and includes responses to the following series of questions:

1. Why are RC Cars only approved in designated areas?
2. If they are not bothering anyone, why are they unacceptable in City Parks?
3. What are the designated areas and how would a resident find these?
4. Have we considered allowing individuals to operate RC Cars in City Parks?
5. The May 4, 2018 Parks & Pathway Bylaw review showed public interest in operating RC Cars in the park. How has this feedback been taken into consideration?

Why are RC Cars only approved in designated areas?

The City of Calgary has experienced issues with conflicts between RC car users and other park users, and as such RC cars have remained on the restricted list in the Parks and Pathways Bylaw.

If they are not bothering anyone, why are they unacceptable in City Parks?

Some citizens are not bothered by use of RC cars while others feel that RC car use impacts their ability to enjoy our parks. Due to noise, risk of wildlife conflicts, and the potential for conflict with other users (e.g. cyclists on pathways), we have restricted use of RC cars in the Parks and Pathways Bylaw.

What are the designated areas and how would a resident find these?

There are no designated areas in City parks, but there are two areas in the city that have been built specifically for RC car use:

1. *RC Gears Race Track* (rcgears.net/): An RC track free for use on practice days, with regular races hosted, can be found at 4215 80 Ave NE.
2. *Blackfoot RC* (blackfootrc.com): An RC track built specifically for RC cars that can be found at 5613 Burbank Road S.E.



Have we considered allowing individuals to operate RC Cars in City Parks?

While RC cars are on the restricted list in the Parks and Pathways Bylaw, there are mechanisms to allow for their use on a case by case basis, in an appropriate location and with some conditions in place, through authorization by the Parks Director. We would be happy to work with groups or individuals who wish to operate RC cars in City parks. Please forward any inquiries you may receive to the Parks Director's office or advise citizens they can make a request through 311.

The May 4, 2018 Parks & Pathway Bylaw review showed public interest in operating RC Cars in the park. How has this feedback been taken into consideration?

The RC car feedback was taken into account and weighed against the issues Parks has historically seen with their use in the park system. It was determined that the best course of action for all park users was that RC cars remain on the restricted list and that Parks manage any special requests for use as they come in.

If there are any further questions, please contact Kyle Ripley, Director, Calgary Parks.