

# Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Park Advisory Board  
**Date:** May 10, 2021  
**Re:** Bennett Park Access

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At the Park Advisory Board meeting on May 4, 2021, the Board discussed the concrete barriers blocking access to the back part of Bennett Park from Camp Frances. This is a summary of the discussion and recommendation of the Board.

The Board agreed that there is an issue with unsavory activities along the two-track road to the back bridge of Bennett Park. Several made comments about not feeling safe when there are vehicles parked with people in them or cars coming up behind them while they are walking. These concerns mirror complaints that have been received over the years by other park users.

Currently there are concrete barricades at the two points of entry. They are placed in the fall and removed in the Spring by the DPW. This is done for maintenance reasons and requires heavy equipment to move them.

It is the recommendation of the Park Board that the back side of Bennett Park be closed to vehicular traffic all year. They are further recommending that the Council approve the installation of locked gates instead of the concrete barriers. This will allow access in the event of an emergency, for maintenance reasons, and for any other reason that would require access to the back of the park.

The Park Board appreciates the opportunity to review the issue. They are also willing to meet again if necessary to discuss any changes or other considerations deemed necessary by Council.

cc: Park Advisory Board