



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-068**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services
Resource Staff: Kyle Compeau, Director Licencing & Enforcement
Date of Meeting: March 24, 2026
Subject: Amendments to City By-Laws to Establish Fishing Prohibition in Turtle Habitat Areas

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Policies & by-laws

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

On August 12, 2025, Council adopted Resolution [2025-268](#) directing staff to implement measures to protect turtle habitat and the provincially significant wetland complex adjacent to Highway 2 East between Abbey Dawn Road and St. Lawrence Avenue.

As part of this direction, Council instructed staff to bring forward amendments to the appropriate City by-laws to establish a prohibition on fishing from City property at designated turtle habitat areas where municipal signage is present.

This report recommends an amendment to the Community Standards By-Law to incorporate this prohibition, providing Municipal Enforcement Officers with clear authority to support habitat protection through education and enforcement where required.

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Recommendation:

That City of Kingston By-Law Number 2023-214, Community Standards By-Law, be amended as per Exhibit A to Report Number 26-068, A By-Law to Amend By-Law Number 2023-214, Community Standards By-Law.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Paige Agnew, Commissioner,
Growth & Development Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Jenna Morley, City Solicitor	
Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services	

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Options/Discussion:

Through Resolution 2025-268, Council directed staff to implement protective measures for turtle habitat along Highway 2 East. This included amending municipal by-laws to prohibit fishing from City-owned property in designated habitat areas:

Whereas Highway 2 East runs across a provincially significant wetland complex between Abbey Dawn Road and St. Lawrence Avenue with a speed limit of 80km/hour; and

Whereas the wetland complex is only a short section of Highway 2 East, less than 1 kilometre long, but a speed limit reduction is not warranted based on the engineering standards from the Transportation Association of Canada that City staff follow; and

Whereas the engineering standards from the Transportation Association of Canada do not give consideration to the protection of turtles or other wildlife when warranting speed limit reductions; and

Whereas the City of Kingston has just invested in enhanced flood protection along Abbey Dawn Road, Highway 2 and St. Lawrence Avenue that included the installation of turtle fencing along many parts of the wetland, however, there are still at least 9 access roads and a private road where turtles have easy access to get onto Highway 2 East in that short stretch; and

Whereas turtles are a keystone species, their populations are in critical decline, they need protection from human interference, and Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan includes a commitment to protecting the biodiversity in the city;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council direct staff to lower the speed limit to 60km/hour on Highway 2 East from Abbey Dawn Road to St. Lawrence Ave, extend the no passing zone on Highway 2 East from its current eastern limit at 48 metres east of Abbey Dawn Road a further 506 metres easterly to St. Lawrence Avenue, and post "Do Not Pass" signs at the ends of the wetland; and

That Council direct staff to put funds in the 2026 budget to convert the Turtle Warning signs at each end of the wetland to be yellow flashing signs for the 2026 season; and

That Council direct staff to bring a report to Council by the end of Q1 2026 with recommended amendments to the appropriate City by-law(s) to establish a prohibition of fishing on or from City property at turtle habitat areas, where indicated by signage.

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A review of the Community Standards By-Law identified that while general nuisance, property use, and environmental protections existed, there was no explicit authority to prohibit fishing activity from City lands in designated sensitive wildlife habitat areas.

To implement Council's direction in a clear, enforceable manner, this report recommends amendments to the Community Standards By-Law to:

- Establish a prohibition on fishing from City-owned property within designated turtle habitat areas;
- Link enforceability to the presence of posted municipal signage identifying these areas; and
- Provide Municipal Law Enforcement Officers with a clear authority to educate, warn, and, where necessary, enforce compliance in support of habitat protection.

The proposed amendments align the by-law with Council's environmental objectives and provide an appropriate regulatory tool to complement signage, public education, and physical infrastructure already installed in the wetland area.

Transportation staff plan to amend the speed limit to 60km/h as recommended in the motion in spring 2026. As part of this speed limit reduction the speed limit will also be reduced to 60km/h starting 30m east of Ravensview where the 60km/h currently starts to maintain a consistent speed limit along this corridor from St. Lawrence Ave. to Valour Dr./Navy Way.

In spring 2026 no passing zones and signage will also be modified as noted in the bylaw and flashing warning beacons will be erected on existing turtle signage to enhance awareness.

Existing Policy/By-Law

The Community Standards By-Law addresses general nuisance and property use matters but does not provide specific authority to restrict fishing from municipal lands in environmentally sensitive areas.

The proposed amendment brings the by-law into alignment with Council's direction under Resolution 2025-268 and ensures municipal enforcement authority supports environmental protection initiatives.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial impacts associated with this by-law amendment. Enforcement will be carried out within existing operational resources. Signage costs were addressed separately through directions contained in Resolution 2025-268.

Contacts:

Kyle Compeau, Director, Licensing & Enforcement Services, 613-546-4291 extension 1343

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Jenna Morley, City Solicitor, Legal Services

Mark Dickson, Manager, Transportation Infrastructure

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A - By-Law to Amend By-Law Number 2023-214, Community Standards By-Law