



Date: April 16, 1999

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Dog Off-leash in Parks

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE BOARD approve the location between Nat Bailey Stadium and the Vancouver Racquet Club for dog off-leash use from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

THAT THE BOARD approve Balaclava Park for dog off-leash use from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a 1 year continued trial period and that staff report back to the Board with a recommendation for future off-leash privileges.

THAT THE BOARD withdraw off-leash approval for Burrardview Park and approve Dusty Greenwell Park for off-leash use from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND

On December 7th, 1998, the Park Board added 25 new sites to its list of dog off-leash locations and withdrew off-leash privileges at Hillcrest and Balaclava Parks (Appendix A - list of approved off-leash locations). At that meeting, the Board referred any proposed changes to the approved list of off-leash locations to a public process.

DISCUSSION

Since the December, 1998 meeting, staff have been working to find solutions to dog off-leash issues at Hillcrest, Balaclava and Burrard View Parks.

On February 24th, 1999, staff met with five (5) individuals from the Hillcrest area and came to the agreement that the site between Nat Bailey Stadium and the Vancouver Racquet Club could meet the off-leash needs of the people within the Riley Park area. While it was recognized that this site is being discussed for future development by the Phoenix Gym & Pacific Lawn Bowling Club, the group felt that the site would be an appropriate off-leash location for the community.

On March 5th, 1999, staff met with thirty-seven (37) individuals representing a petition signed by one hundred and twenty-eight (128) people from the Balaclava area and representatives from local sports organizations. The consensus at the meeting was an agreement that with the co-operation and support of responsible dog owners, Balaclava Park could operate successfully with off-leash hours (Appendix B, petition and letter written on behalf of Balaclava dog owners). The local sports organizations attending the meeting included Dunbar Little League, Vancouver Wildcats/Girls Softball and Vancouver Rugby. During the meeting the issue of irresponsible dog owners was discussed. In response to the problems created by irresponsible dog owners, the Balaclava group wanting off-leash privileges agreed to form a Dog Watch group that will work toward solving problems that may arise.

On February 12th, staff met with seven (7) residents to discuss the use of Burrard View Park for off-leash use. Burrard View Park has a playground, wading pool and daycare centre, making it unsuitable as a designated off-leash area. When the Cottage Hospice begins operating, conflicts may occur between off-leash dogs and residents or visitors. Dusty Greenwell Park was discussed as an alternative. It is located one-half (1/2) block from Burrard View Park and is used very little. It was agreed that Dusty Greenwell Park would be more appropriate as an off-leash park.

SUMMARY

Designated off-leash areas used by responsible dog owners are supported by most park users. By encouraging community involvement and supporting a Dog Watch Program, the Board will be able to satisfy the needs of most park users. Signage will be installed at all off-leash locations during the month of May.

Prepared by:

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Board of Parks & Recreation
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Dogs Off-Leash Locations

Approved by the Vancouver Park Board - December '98Stanley Park District

Nelson Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Charleson Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Coopers Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Portside Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Sunset Beach	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.

Vancouver East District

Killarney Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Burrardview Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Sunrise Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Falaise Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Fraserview Golf Course Perimeter	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Kingscrest Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Sparwood Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Strathcona Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Trout Lake park	24 hours/day
Jones Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Tecumseh Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.

Queen Elizabeth District

Fraser River Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
George Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Musqueam Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Quilchena Embarkment	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Spanish Bank (West of Concession)	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Sunset Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Vanier Park (West of Maritime Museum Parking Lot)	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
37th Ave & Oak St. Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Locarno Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Heather Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.
Valdez Park	6a.m. - 8a.m. & 5p.m. - 10p.m.