

DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKSHOP ON DOG OFF-LEASH OPTIONS

Monday, March 12, 2001 - VanDusen Garden

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM 8 DISCUSSION GROUPS**1. KEY ISSUES REGARDING OFF-LEASH PROGRAM**

- Space for off-leash is inadequate to meet use volume
- Heather Park is too small
- Overusing certain locations and impact on the physical amenities
- Large volume use by off-leash creates conflicts
- Popularity of use creates pack of dogs
- Popularity and central location attract non-local resident users
- Safety: concerning small dogs and people, especially children
- Large volume off-leash use displaces other park users
- People's attitudes
- Responsibility of people, in following regulations
- Dog waste and behaviour are problematic
- Lack of recognition for new community being created by off-leash program
- Off-leash areas need other amenities
- Need for resources to deal with problems accompanying the program
- Need for consideration for other people
- Need parameters for sharing
- Need to "spread the load"
- The process need to be comprehensive and inclusive

2. OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS**Strategy 1 Spread the load and dilute the use to lighten the impact**

Possible solutions:

- Have different schedules for off-leash at different times of the year
- Alternate parks, rotate uses and/or have flexible hours
- Access other locations e.g. school grounds
- Identify limits on volume of use

Strategy 2 Separate the off-leash use from other users

Possible solutions:

- Use landscaping, plants and other barriers to separate dogs from other users
- Use signage to define specific use areas
- Designate certain locations off-leash and others non off-leash

Strategy 3 Provide sufficient support and enforcement to maintain the quality of park use experiences

Possible solutions:

- Create and charge for permits and use revenue to improve amenities
- Need more money to improve amenities for off-leash use
- Create more off-leash use parks with dog runs and trails
- Develop and implement education and stewardship program regarding park uses