

August 3, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton
Acting General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **People, Parks & Dogs Strategy Implementation RFPs - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the upcoming postings of two (2) Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to support the implementation of the [People Parks and Dogs Strategy](#). The strategy includes a recommendation to increase the equitable distribution of dog off-leash areas across Vancouver, and it identifies the Downtown, Kitsilano and Fairview neighborhoods as areas being deficient. The upcoming RFPs will be seeking qualified consultants to assist with engagement and design for the renewal of the existing off-leash area at Emery Barnes Park (Downtown), and the potential development of new off-leash areas within Granville Park (Kitsilano) and Heather Park (Fairview).

Emery Barnes Park - Dog Off-Leash Area Renewal RFP

The off-leash area at Emery Barnes Park (see Figure 1) was built in 2010 and serves as one of the most conveniently located urban dog parks for Downtown South residents. With the neighborhood's high population density and large proportion of dog ownership, this site is in need of upgrading as it no longer meets the current service levels and demands placed upon it. Staff have also identified a number of functional challenges and have received considerable feedback from park users on the need to improve the dog facility.

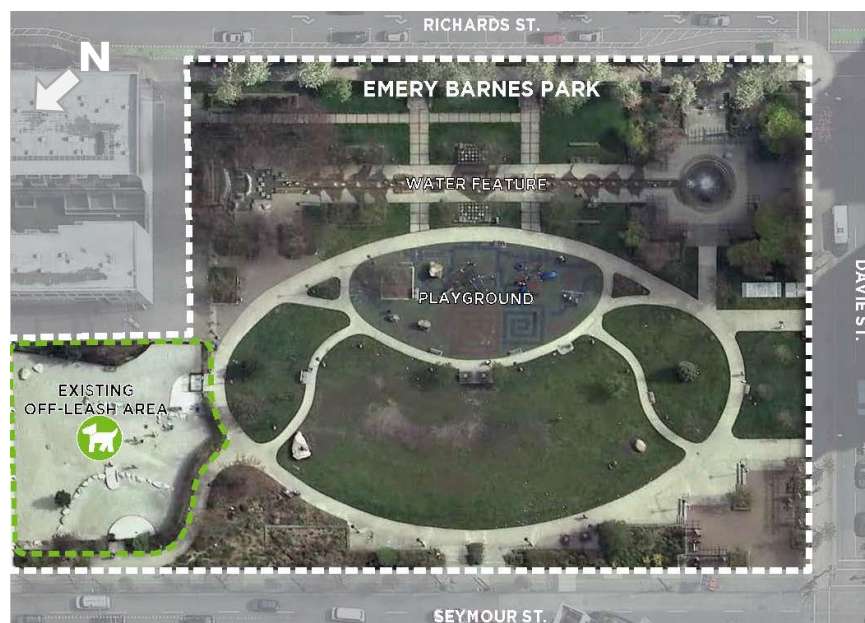


Figure 1: Emery Barnes Park – Dog Off-Leash Area (Downtown South)

A renewal of this facility provides an opportunity to deliver a high quality and engaging urban dog park in the heart of downtown. The purpose of this RFP is to seek responses from qualified consultant teams to assist with engagement and to lead the redesign of the off-leash area. It is anticipated that a highly functional new space will improve the overall quality of the off-leash area experience and decrease the number of off-leash dogs in unsanctioned areas downtown.

Granville & Heather Parks - New Dog Off-Leash Areas RFP

An analysis of parks in the Kitsilano and Fairview neighborhoods revealed that Granville Park (see Figure 2) and Heather Park (see Figure 3) have favorable existing conditions to potentially support new dog off-leash facilities. These new sites would help to address the off-leash needs identified in these communities. The purpose of the RFP is to seek responses from qualified consultant teams to assist with engagement and to lead the design of both off-leash areas.



Figure 2: Granville Park (Kitsilano)

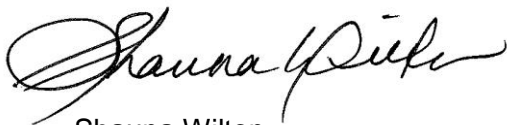


Figure 3: Heather Park (Fairview)

Next Steps

It is anticipated that both RFPs will be posted by the end of August, with a target to award the consultant contracts to qualified proponents by early October. This timing would support public engagement beginning in January 2021, with construction potentially starting in September 2021. Should the current public health measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in effect when engagement is expected to begin early in the new year, a modified consultation process will need to be considered to avoid project delays, while still ensuring sufficient and relevant public input can be received.

Regards,



Shauna Wilton
Acting General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/dm/nt/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
Park Development Team
PB Communications