



August 10, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Tiina Mack – Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **People, Parks and Dogs Strategy (2017) – Time of Use Restrictions – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to explain the challenges of time-of-use restrictions on dog off-leash areas (OLAs) in Vancouver parks and next steps to address these challenges identified in the People Parks and Dogs Strategy.

Background

There are currently daytime time-of-use restrictions for all or part of the year at 20 of Vancouver's dog off-leash areas. Daytime time-of-use restrictions restrict dog activity to mornings and evenings (e.g. 5am to 10 am, 5pm to 10 pm), which allows for other park uses during the day. Five of these OLAs have seasonal restrictions on dog off-leash activity (e.g. May 1- 31).

Through engagement with over 7,000 stakeholder interactions and field observations for the People, Parks and Dogs Strategy (the 'Strategy'), two main issues with time-of-use restricted OLAs were identified. First is a low level of compliance with daytime off-leash usage restrictions which causes conflict between park users. Second is that the schedules of some dog owners are not compatible with permitted off-leash times and they are therefore frustrated by reduced opportunities for recreating with their dogs off-leash.

Due to a lack of compliance with time-of-use restrictions, incompatible adjacencies and subsequent increased incidents and enforcement requirements, the Strategy recommends discontinuing time-of-use restrictions as a practice for managing off-leash dog use in parks. The current time-of-use restrictions are being slowly eliminated through park renewals and upgrades.

Focusing on creating all-day dog off-leash areas provides a higher and more reliable level of dog off-leash service across the city by providing continuous access to OLAs during Park operating hours. Additionally, designated OLAs reduce confusion among users, and make the City's enforcement resources available for other dog-related activity.

Removing Time of Use Restrictions to Improve OLA Access

Time-of-use restrictions mean that outside of timed hours (e.g. 10 am to 5 pm) or year (e.g. May 1- 31), there is even less access to OLAs across the city. Removing time-of-use restrictions would improve access to these existing OLAs by allowing all day use during Park operating hours but requires design modifications to existing OLAs such as fencing and other design features as indicated in the Strategy.

The Appendix A map shows the current underserved areas (service gap) when all OLAs are open. Comparatively, the map in Appendix B illustrates how the underserved areas grow between the hours of 10am and 5pm when the time-of-use restricted OLAs are not open. Because some time-



of-use restricted OLAs are restricted by season, the Appendix B map illustrates the underserved area between 10am and 5pm in the month of May as this was found to be the time of year with the least access to off-leash spaces between 10am and 5pm.

Incompatible Adjacencies and Shared Uses

Most OLAs in parks have multiple adjacencies with other park amenities, many of which were identified through consultation feedback and site evaluations to be incompatible. The Strategy outlines that the use of secure fencing or a minimum setback distance of 50 to 75 meters is required to separate the following amenities from dog off-leash areas:

- Ecologically-sensitive areas
- Busy roads
- Multi-use trails
- Playgrounds, wading pools and splash pads
- Designated sports fields
- High-intensity park use areas
- Community gardens

Where adjacencies cannot be avoided, mitigation measures like fencing must be used to reduce chances of conflict. Additionally, using sport fields in combination with time-bound OLA's has resulted in significant increased maintenance for park operations and safety issues for field users due to dogs digging holes in the fields and dog waste, therefore this combination of uses should be discontinued.

Not all parks with existing time-of-use restrictions are able to be converted to a permanent and defined dog off-leash area because the existing adjacent park programs and amenities are incompatible. In some cases, this could mean that the removal of a time-bound dog off-leash areas needs to be undertaken through public consultation with the surrounding neighbourhood. In addition, sites adjacent to schools, or sites with other time-related constraints (e.g. wildlife activity), require additional study to evaluate their suitability for allowing all-day dog access. The removal of time-of-use restrictions and creation of new enclosed dog off leash areas depends on the availability of financial and staff resourcing through the capital plan, and is most often considered within park renewal projects. The projects currently underway in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan are listed in the table below:

In-progress New & Renewed Off-Leash Areas for the 2023-2026 Capital Plan:

Project	Engagement	Concept Design	ITT/Contract Award	Construction Completion*
Emery Barnes – Renewal and Expansion	Complete	Q2-2023*	Q4 2023*	Q4-2024*
Heather Park – New OLA	Complete	Q2-2023*	Q4 2023*	Q2-2024*
Granville Park – New OLA	Complete	Q2-2023*	Q4 2023*	Q2-2024*
Coopers' Park – Renewal	Complete	Complete (July 2021)	TBC (Staff vacancy)	TBC (Staff vacancy)
John Hendry – Renewal	Complete	Complete (May 2022)	TBC (Staff vacancy)	TBC (Staff vacancy)
Oakridge Park – New OLA	Complete	Complete (Q1 2022)	Developer timeline	Q4 2024

*Target Dates



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RECREATION

If Commissioners have any additional questions about OLA time-of-use restrictions please enquire through the General Manager's office.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tiina Mack (*she/her*)
Director – Planning and Park Development



TM.JL/NT/VT

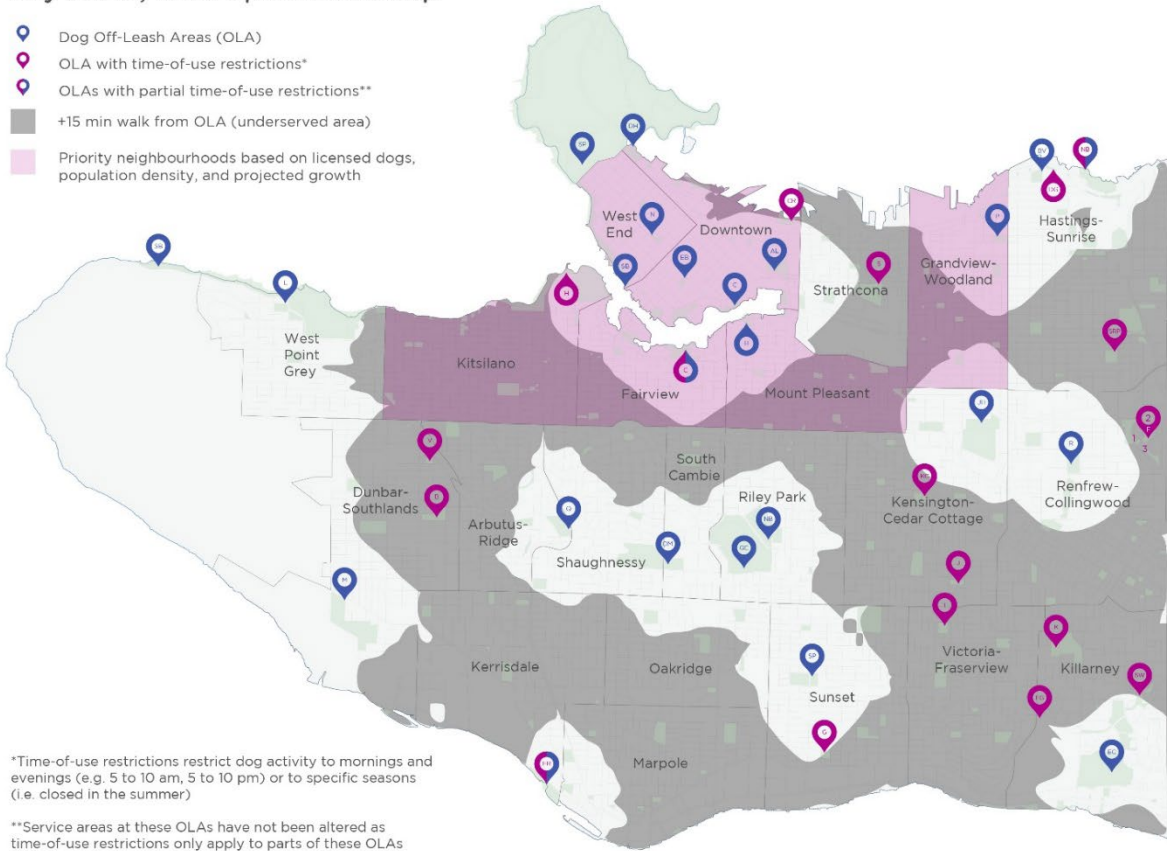
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PB Communications



Appendix B: Dog Off-Leash Areas: May 1 to 31, 10am-5pm Service Gap

Dog Off-Leash Areas: May 1 to 31, 10am-5pm Service Gap

-  Dog Off-Leash Areas (OLA)
-  OLA with time-of-use restrictions*
-  OLAs with partial time-of-use restrictions**
-  +15 min walk from OLA (underserved area)
-  Priority neighbourhoods based on licensed dogs, population density, and projected growth



*Time-of-use restrictions restrict dog activity to mornings and evenings (e.g. 5 to 10 am, 5 to 10 pm) or to specific seasons (i.e. closed in the summer)

**Service areas at these OLAs have not been altered as time-of-use restrictions only apply to parts of these OLAs



Appendix C: Dog Off-Leash Area Hours

#	Park Name	Hours/Seasons
1	Andy Livingstone	*
2	Balaclava Park	6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
3	Burrard View Park	*
4	Charleson Park East	*
	Charleson Park West	*
	Charleson Park Waterfall	Oct 1 to May 31, 6 AM to 10 PM June 1 to Sept 30, 6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
5	Coopers' Park	*
6	CRAB Park at Portside	6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
7	Devonian Harbour	*
8	Dusty Greenwell Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
9	Emery Barnes	*
10	Everett Crowley	*
11	Falaise Park, West	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
	Falaise Park, Southeast	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
	Falaise Park, Northeast	5 AM to 8 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
12	Fraser River Park, East	Sept 2 to May 31, 6 AM to 10 PM
	Fraser River Park, West	*
13	Fraserview Golf Course	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
	Fraserview Golf Course	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
14	George Park	6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
15	Hadden Park	Oct 1 to April 30, 6 AM to 10 PM
		May 1 to Sept 30, 6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
16	Hinge Park	*
17	John Hendry	*
18	Jones Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
19	Killarney Park	June 15 to Labour Day, 5 AM to 10 PM
		Rest of year, 5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
20	Kingcrest Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
21	Locarno Beach Park	*
22	Musqueam Park	*
23	Nat Bailey Stadium Park	*
24	Nelson Park	*
25	New Brighton Park, West OLA	*
	New Brighton Park, East Beach	Oct 1 to April 30, 5 AM to 10 PM
		May 1 to Sept 30, on-leash



26	Oak Meadows Park	*
27	Pandora Park	*
28	Queen Elizabeth Park	*
29	Quilchena Park	*
30	Renfrew Community Park	*
31	Spanish Banks Park	*
32	Sparwood Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
33	Stanley Park	*
34	Strathcona Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
35	Sunrise Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
36	Sunset Beach	*
37	Sunset Park	*
38	Tecumseh Park	5 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM
39	Valdez Park	6 AM to 10 AM & 5 PM to 10 PM

**Dog Off-Leash Area hours are 6AM – 10PM except where noted above.*