



## Port Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

# Proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas  
Engagement Summary Report  
March 2016

## 1. Background

Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are working together to explore the restoration of habitat in New Brighton Park in Vancouver. The goal of the proposed project is to restore habitat for Burrard Inlet's fish and wildlife, and to increase public access to nature. The New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project team ("the project team") is composed of members from the Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

## 2. Engagement to Date

Two rounds of public and stakeholder consultation have been completed to date: August 26 – September 9, 2015 (Conceptual Design Public Consultation) and November 2 – 18, 2015 (Preliminary Design Public Consultation).

During Preliminary Design Public Consultation and through discussions with the stakeholder advisory group, the project team heard that some participants wanted an alternative option with off-leash use concentrated in the western portion of the park, which recognizes how off-leash activities occur in the park at present. Participants also commented that the separation of off-leash use from the restored habitat area was important. Based on this input, the project team refined one option presented in the fall and developed a new option, which were presented in Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas (February 1 – 15, 2016).

To see previous consultation materials and summary reports, please visit [vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh](http://vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh).

### 3. Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas: February 1 – 15, 2016

The project team conducted public engagement from February 1 – 15, 2016, to provide information and to gather feedback from the public about two options for dog off-leash areas. These options were developed based on feedback received during Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2015).

Engagement was conducted through a discussion paper and TalkVancouver survey (online feedback form) posted to [vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh](http://vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh).

Notification of opportunities to participate in the engagement included:

- An email to all members of the East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (nine members) and to all members of the stakeholder advisory group (10 members) in advance of the engagement period.
- An email to approximately 1,850 stakeholders in advance of the engagement period.
- Two reminder emails to approximately 1,850 stakeholders during the engagement period.
- Posters placed in New Brighton Park notifying park users of the engagement period and presenting the two dog off-leash options.
- Social Media: A series of tweets from @portmetrovan to approximately 9,200 followers and from @ParkBoard to approximately 16,800 followers. 13 tweets were made between February 2 and February 15, 2016.

There were a total of **216 participant interactions** as part of the engagement:

- 210 online feedback forms were received
- 6 open submissions were received via email

#### How Input Will Be Used

Input gathered during New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project engagement will be considered carefully, along with technical and economic information, and information provided by Aboriginal groups and relevant regulatory agencies, through further project design and development.

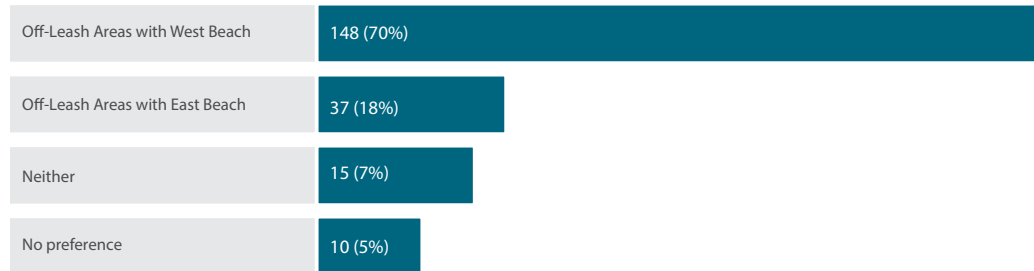
## 4. Key Results

### 4.1 FEEDBACK FORMS

**210 online feedback forms** were completed as part of the engagement period.

*Please note that totals may not add to 100% due to rounding, and that the number of mentions may exceed the total number of participants, as individuals commented on more than one topic.*

#### Q1. Which proposed off-leash option do you prefer?



Total Responses: 210

#### Q2. Why do you prefer this option?

**183 participants** responded to this question:

Reasons for answers regarding proposed off-leash options	
<i>The following is a summary of considerations regarding preferences for dog off-leash options</i>	Number of Mentions
1. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach as it will promote compliance, and is more convenient and clearer to have consolidated dog off-leash use on one side of the park, with a clear area where dogs must be on-leash.	66
2. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach as its location away from other uses (e.g., playground, pool, etc.) would reduce conflicts.	50
3. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach as off-leash use would be kept away from the restored habitat area.	46
4. Drinking water for dogs is an important consideration and would be helpful.	15
5. Dog owners can provide drinking water for dogs.	13
6. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with East Beach because the west beach is sandy and is popular with people and families with children and it is the only beach of its kind in East Vancouver.	12
7. Concern with providing any beach access for dogs in New Brighton Park, and that fencing of the beach will keep other park users out.	11
8. Separate off-leash areas would result in poor compliance.	10
9. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach due to the larger total off-leash area, and larger beach area.	9

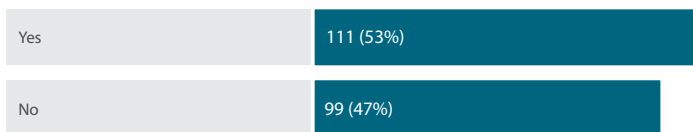
10. Concern that dogs are being given priority or concern with the amount of money being spent on dogs.	8
11. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with East Beach as it will not change current use; the west beach is popular with people, the east beach is quieter and is used for dog walking.	8
12. Concern with lack of compliance with current on/off-leash areas in New Brighton Park.	6
13. Appreciation for consultation, design work and incorporation of feedback that has been undertaken for the project to date.	5
14. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach due to safer and/or easier access from the parking lot.	4
15. Opposition to fencing off-leash areas or concern that fenced-in off-leash areas are unsafe or unwelcoming for families to use.	4
16. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with East Beach as it has better access and is further from car traffic.	4
17. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with East Beach due to access to drinking water.	4
18. Opposition to off-leash use in parks.	4
19. The pros and cons of each option seem equal.	4

### Q3. What is your connection to New Brighton Park? (Please select all that apply.)



Total Responses: 210

### Q4. Do you own a dog?



Total Responses: 210

## 4.1 FEEDBACK FORMS

In addition to feedback forms, **6 submissions** were received during the engagement period via email. Key themes from these submissions are summarized below:

Comments regarding dog off-leash options	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments in regards to dog off-leash areas</i>	Number of Mentions
1. Prefer Off-Leash Areas with West Beach.	2
2. Concern with the lack of compliance with or enforcement of on/off-leash areas in New Brighton Park.	2
3. Concern that dogs are being given priority over people.	2
4. Opposition to off-leash use in public parks.	1
5. Request for the current east off-leash area to be made larger and fenced.	1
6. Appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback.	1
7. Note that the benefits of each option seem similar.	1
8. Dog owners can provide their own drinking water for dogs.	1
9. Request for some plantings in the off-leash area, like trees and shrubs, so that it doesn't feel fenced-in for dogs.	1
10. Off-leash use is the primary use of New Brighton Park during the winter months, but dog owners are underserved in terms of off-leash space in the city.	1

The views represented in this report reflect the priorities and concerns of respondents. They may not be representative of the views of the public and other stakeholders as a whole because respondents self-selected into the public engagement, and therefore do not reflect a random sample. The data used in this report has been provided to Kirk & Co. by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

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