



ABOUT

John Hendry Park is classified as a Destination Dog Off-leash Area. Located at the north end of Trout Lake, the off-leash area includes amenities like swimming access for dogs, pathways, and benches.

The off-leash area is extremely well used and well loved by people and dogs – visiting it any day you will find the area populated with a wide variety of happy pups. But park users also identify concerns including a lack of clear boundaries, trail routes that direct all visitors into the off-leash area, and off-leash dogs in on-leash areas of the park.

Public opinions around off-leash activities in John Hendry Park are varied and polarized. We need to work collaboratively to find the best possible solution to the following question: **How do we improve John Hendry Park so that it works well for everyone – dogs, and people with and without dogs.**





EXISTING OFF-LEASH AREA - EARLY ANALYSIS

Planning for improvements starts with understanding how things work now. Based on observations and input so far, initial opportunities and challenges are described below. Let us know if we got it right and help build this analysis by participating in discussions and sharing your experiences and observations about the off-leash area in John Hendry Park.





& OBSERVATIONS FROM PUBLIC INPUT



ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 North beach is very popular for dog swimming and socializing and is where most off-leash visitors gather.
- 2 Northwest beach has steeper slopes so is less popular for dog swimming, but is sometimes used by shyer dogs.
- 3 Open spaces surrounding the beach provide places for dogs to run and play.
- 4 Existing docks are popular amongst all visitors (with and without dogs), however, they are deteriorating and may need to be replaced or removed soon.
- 5 Shaded seating structure is a very popular place for socializing and relaxing for all park users.
- 6 Off-leash areas away from the lake provide space for shy or quieter dogs to play or for training.
- 7 North parking lot directly adjacent to the off-leash area allows easy access.

CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

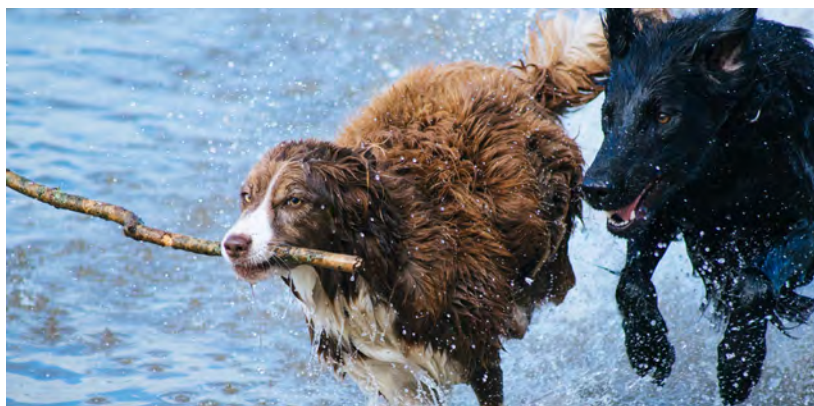
- 8 Primary conflict area between off-leash area users, active transportation users, and pedestrians.
- 9 Farmers Market at the north parking lot increases activity and potential for conflict on Saturdays.
- 10 Existing lake trail leads visitors unexpectedly into the most well-used part of the off-leash area.
- 11 No clear signage indicating entry into the off-leash area.
- 12 Boundary between off-leash area and designated sports fields is poorly defined.
- 13 Boundary between off-leash area and BC Parkway Trail is poorly defined.
- 14 Existing natural habitat area is vulnerable to dog activity.
- 15 Off-leash activities observed in the on-leash designated parts of John Hendry Park.



WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR

34%

of participants in the public survey indicated they visit the off-leash area when coming to John Hendry Park (7th most popular activity)



CONFLICTS

Participants in the online survey were asked to identify if they've observed conflicts between park users groups.

36%

Have observed conflicts between pedestrians and off-leash dogs

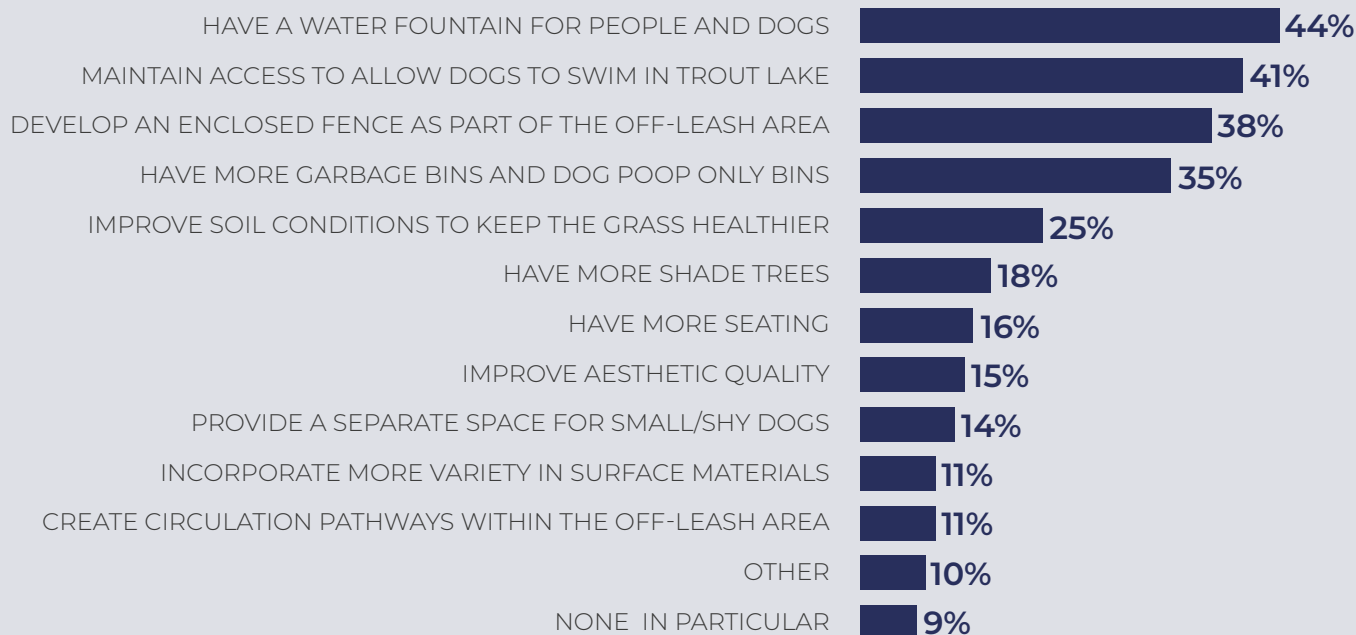
31%

Have observed conflicts between cyclists and off-leash dogs

Feedback suggests a need to consider how to reduce points of potential conflict.

FUTURE FEATURES FOR THE OFF-LEASH AREA

In the online survey, participants were asked to identify potential features which they felt were important in improving the off-leash area.





A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS

Below are a comments recorded at the October 5th Open House and in the online survey. These comments illustrate the diverse range of opinions about the off-leash area. This diversity of public opinion makes developing an acceptable path forward more complex – showing how important it will be to work collaboratively to consider acceptable solutions that can address community concerns while maintaining the essence of what makes this space great.

I love Trout Lake's off leash area because it is so wide open and free of strict rules. I have never had any issues there where I felt threatened or unsafe because of a dog, or where I felt my dog was unsafe.

Dog off-leash area for the whole park.

Some fencing near the busiest path intersections is appropriate.

I strongly believe the dog beach should be completely fenced in. Many people with dogs who love to swim cannot let them off leash in a not secured area.

Do NOT have circulation routes go through the dog area, as this creates the potential for conflict between dog and non-dog park users.

When us grandmas push our grandkids in strollers, often the dogs come up to them at face level causing a conflict. The kids end up crying while the dog parents say "She's friendly" but it's too late. The damage is done. Parents can choose to have interactions with dogs if they like. Help keep the kids happy with a fence please.

Enclose it all! Dogs don't know abstract boundaries.

I'm against the dog corral idea. The nice thing about Trout Lake is that there is enough space that you can choose where to take your dog to play, based on the mix of dogs across the park. I have a small dog and can easily find an area where she feels comfortable running around. Those corrals trap dogs of all sizes and energy levels and doesn't allow them to remove themselves from play when they're ready or the mix of dogs isn't working for them.

Rather than an enclosed space you can create a defined space with a soft border of large rocks which can be gleaned from the spoil pile at the City of Vancouver's Kent yard and alternated with shrubs to create a border.

Maintain current off-leash area boundaries, do not decrease size of off-leash area. Maintain areas that are not fenced as some dogs have fear of confinement with other dogs and benefit from large open spaces for play. Maintain two swim beaches, as this allows more shy dogs to swim away from the current high use, high play area.

Paved path for wheelchairs please.

Clearly indicate to other users that they are entering a dog park.

Reduce conflicts between dog park users and other park users or wildlife by creating better separation of spaces. Make the off-leash area smaller and educate dog owners about where the off-leash area is. Enforce leash-required areas.

Please let the dog area remain as is, with better signage. Lake access is needed for these dogs and the large space is necessary.



DESIGN GROUND RULES

Setting ground rules helps to provide a framework for considering improvements, so that they are grounded in reality and responsive to the overall vision for John Hendry Park, as well as policy set by Vancouver's *People, Parks & Dogs Strategy*. Please reflect on the following ground rules when imagining improvements for the dog off-leash area.



MAINTAIN A SUFFICIENT SIZE & QUALITY

Maintain a space that continues to provide dogs a variety of opportunities to run and play, including spaces that suit all types of dogs, ranging from social dogs to quieter dogs.



KEEP THE LOCATION AT THE NORTH END OF TROUT LAKE

Keep the off-leash area generally in its current location, maintaining the popular north beach for dog swimming and water play.



CLARIFY BOUNDARIES

Mark clear boundaries for all parts of the off-leash area and use consistent signs and markers so people know when they're entering an off-leash area.



PROVIDE ROUTES FOR ALL PARK USERS

Provide options that allow people to choose whether to visit or to avoid the off-leash area when traveling around Trout Lake or entering the park.



MITIGATE ISSUES BETWEEN LESS COMPATIBLE ADJACENCIES

Where the off-leash area is directly adjacent to less compatible uses, including ecologically-sensitive areas, multi-use trails, or designated sports fields, use setbacks or barriers to reduce potential for conflicts.



IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

Make improvements to increase access for all abilities to enjoy the off-leash area.



ADD DESIRABLE AMENITIES

Provide amenities that make the space more functional, comfortable, and attractive.



ENCOURAGE RESPECT & STEWARDSHIP

Encourage park visitors to respect on-leash and off-leash regulations and work with stewards to support monitoring, education, and communications about the off-leash area.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions will be used to help guide discussions. Consider your responses and listen to others to understand their values.

- 1. What does a good dog off-leash area look like to you?**
 - » What are some key components?
 - » What are some challenges to achieving this in John Hendry Park?
- 2. We heard in the survey that the boundaries of the off-leash area are not clear. Vancouver's *People, Parks and Dogs Strategy* recommends clearly-marked boundaries for all off-leash areas and barriers between off-leash areas and less compatible uses such as ecologically-sensitive areas, multi-use trails, and designated sports fields.**
 - » There are a wide range of ways to delineate an off-leash area including fencing, bollards, and vegetation. What would be an ideal mix of boundaries and barriers for the off-leash area at John Hendry Park?
- 3. We heard in the survey and at the open house that the current location at the north end of Trout Lake is preferred for the off-leash area. Additionally, people also identified that because all trails go through the dog off-leash area, they can't choose whether or not they pass through the space when moving around the park. What changes could we consider to provide alternate routes and/or consider minor adjustments to the layout of the off-leash area that you think could help address adjacency issues or improve the overall function of the park?**

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS AS TIME ALLOWS:

- 4. Survey participants identified conflicts between off-leash dogs and other park users. What could we do at a site planning level to reduce and mitigate these conflicts?**
 - » Between pedestrians and off-leash dogs?
 - » Between cyclists and off-leash dogs?
 - » Between farmers market users and off-leash dogs?

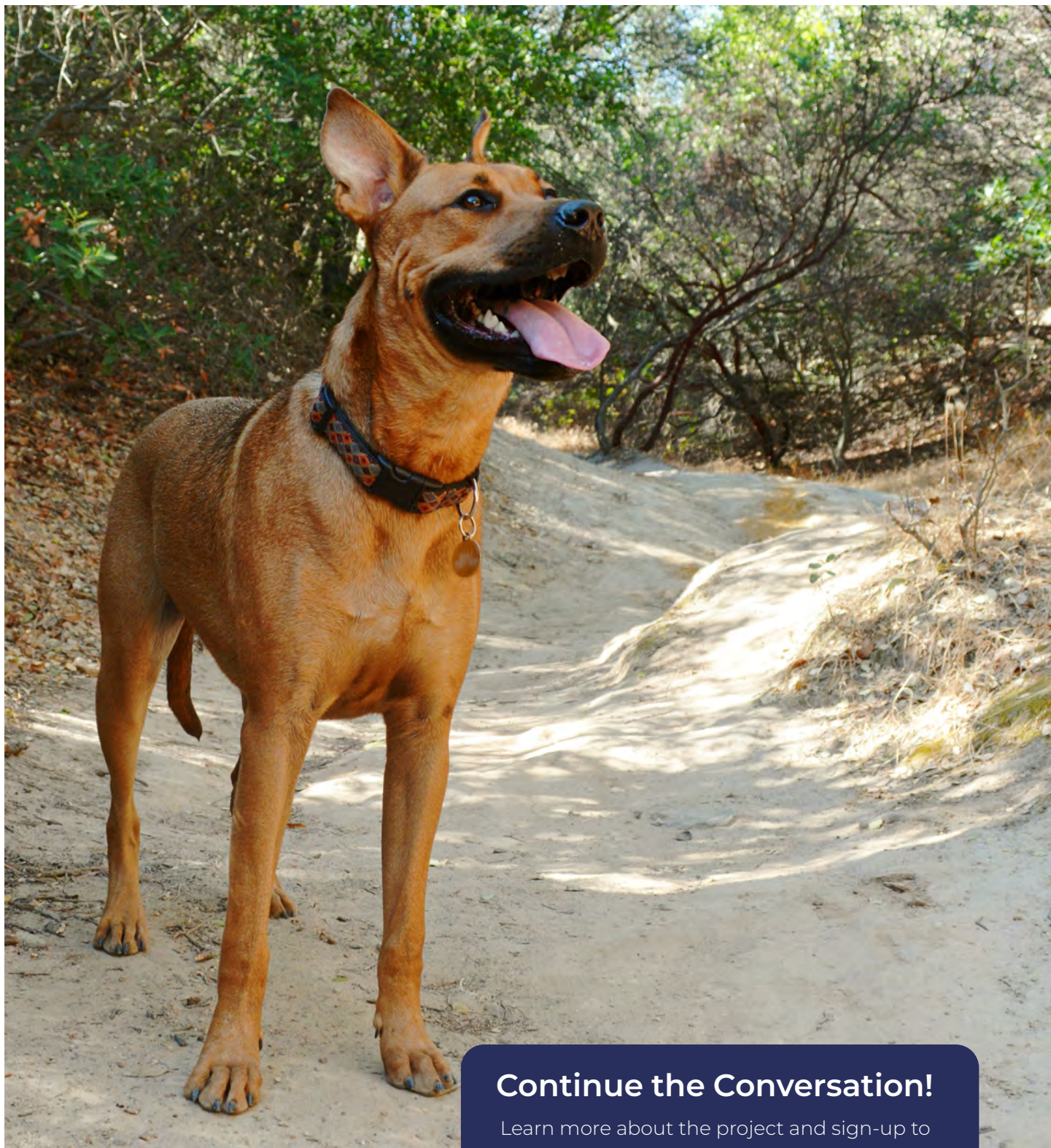


JOHN HENDRY PARK

MASTER PLAN

WORKSHOP

LET'S FETCH!



Continue the Conversation!

Learn more about the project and sign-up to
receive notifications about next steps at:

vancouver.ca/johnhendry