

PEOPLE PARKS & DOGS

A strategy for sharing Vancouver's parks

Round 1 - Public and Stakeholder Consultation
Discussion Guide and Survey

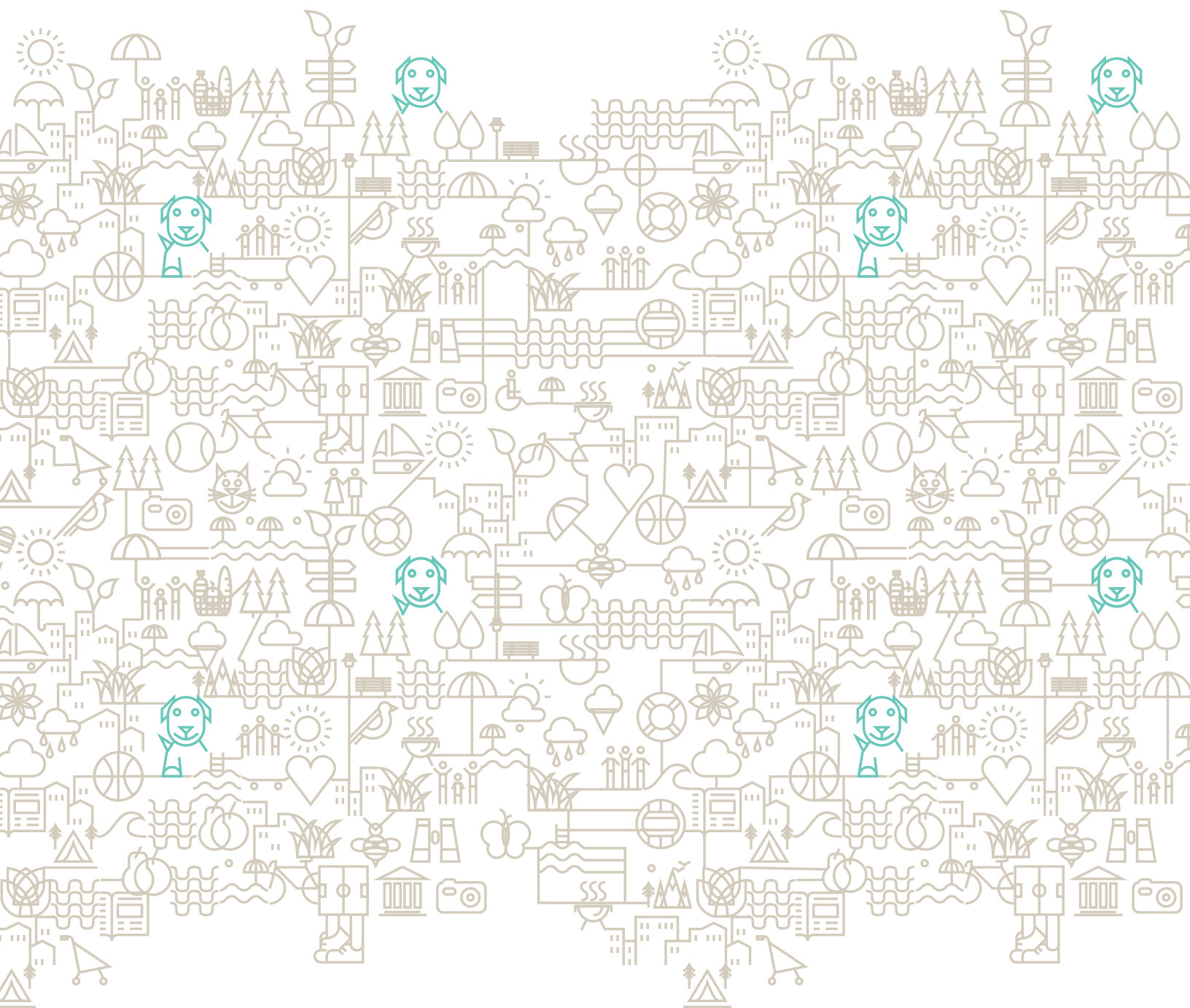
September 8 – October 14, 2016



SURVEY INSIDE

For more information about the strategy visit: vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs

Please submit your feedback by October 14, 2016



WE WANT TO KNOW: HOW CAN PEOPLE AND DOGS BEST SHARE OUR PARKS?

The Vancouver Park Board is developing a comprehensive strategy to guide the planning and design of beautiful, safe and engaging parks for people with and without dogs.

This discussion guide gives you information on park use by people and dogs. It includes an overview of the city's existing off-leash areas, information on how to get involved, as well as a survey so you can share your opinions and ideas.

People, Parks & Dogs: A strategy for sharing Vancouver's parks
Round 1 – Public and Stakeholder Consultation
September 8 – October 14, 2016

The consultation includes:

- Discussion guide
- Survey attached and online at vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs
- Open houses and small group meetings throughout the city (see schedule on pages 5 and 6)



How feedback will be considered

The planning team will consider feedback from this round of consultation, along with technical information, to develop recommendations for the planning, design and management of Vancouver's parks, beaches and dog off-leash areas for Park Board review and approval.

Consulting with You

The Park Board is committed to consulting with a diverse range of stakeholders, park users and the public about *People, Parks & Dogs: A strategy for sharing Vancouver's parks*.

Further consultation opportunities are planned for early 2017. During the second round of consultation, we will ask for feedback on preliminary recommendations about the planning, design and management of Vancouver's parks, beaches and dog off-leash areas. Please visit vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs to sign-up for updates.

People, Parks & Dogs Advisory Committee

In June 2016, the Park Board created an Advisory Committee for *People, Parks & Dogs* to provide focused feedback into the consultation process from a range of stakeholder perspectives. Advisory Committee members represent a broad range of interests, including sport, the environment, animal health and behaviour, persons with disabilities, seniors, multicultural, tourism and others.

The Advisory Committee is a valuable resource for information sharing between the Park Board and stakeholder groups. Members provided feedback on consultation topics and methods during pre-consultation. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet regularly throughout the planning process.

Work to Date

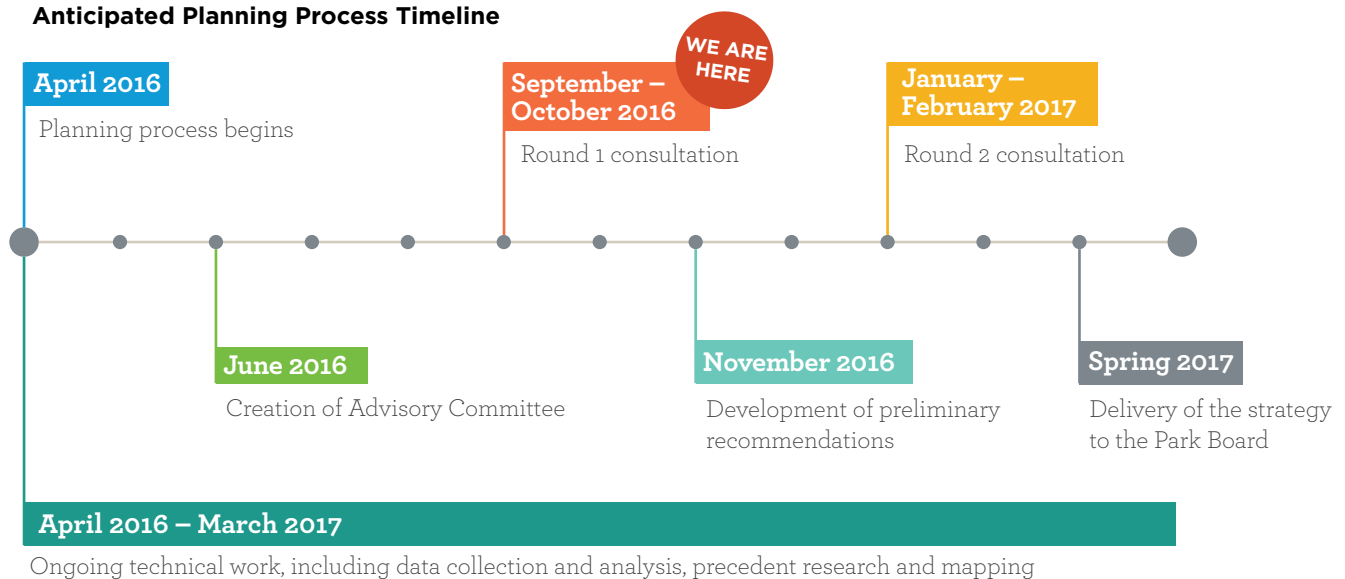
The planning team is working to gain a better understanding of how Vancouver's parks are used by people and their dogs, including opportunities and challenges related to off-leash areas. Work to date includes:

- Studying Vancouver's existing off-leash areas to identify opportunities and challenges in individual parks and within the larger parks system.
- Doing field surveys at eight off-leash parks to better understand how these parks are used. This includes observations of parks during weekdays and weekends, and surveys of park users.
- Studying dog parks in other cities, including interviews with parks department staff.
- Conducting a workshop with City of Vancouver and Park Board staff to identify opportunities and challenges in existing off-leash areas.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Park Board recently began a planning process to develop a bold, accessible and innovative master plan. This plan will guide the planning and provision of Vancouver parks and recreation facilities and services for the next 10 years and beyond. The Park Board and its planning team will consider *People, Parks & Dogs: A strategy for sharing Vancouver's parks* in this master planning process.


Anticipated Planning Process Timeline



This first round of consultation will inform the development of *People, Parks & Dogs: A strategy for sharing Vancouver's parks*. There will be further consultation opportunities in early 2017, when we'll be asking you for feedback on preliminary recommendations about the planning, design and management of Vancouver's parks, beaches and off-leash areas.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1 Discussion Guide and Survey



Take the survey
any time from your
mobile phone!

Online at vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs

In person at an open house or small group meeting

2 Open Houses

Date	Time	Location*
Tues, Sept 13	6 pm – 9 pm	Trout Lake Community Centre
Sat, Sept 17	10 am – 1 pm	David Lam Park
Wed, Sept 21	6 pm – 9 pm	St. James Community Square
Sat, Oct 1	10 am – 1 pm	Langara Golf Course Clubhouse

Drop in to chat with the planning team and learn more about *People, Parks & Dogs*. You don't have to pre-register.

***Visit vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs for details**



3

Small Group Meetings

Date	Time	Location*
Thurs, Sept 15	7 pm – 9 pm	Trout Lake Community Centre
Thurs, Sept 29	7 pm – 9 pm	Roundhouse Community Centre
Tues, Oct 4	7 pm – 9 pm	Sunset Community Centre
Thurs, Oct 6	7 pm – 9 pm	Kitsilano Community Centre

Join the planning team for an in-depth discussion about *People, Parks & Dogs*. To register, email people-parks-dogs@vancouver.ca or phone 604.257.8476 with your name and the date, time and location of the meeting you would like to attend.

***Visit vancouver.ca/people-parks-dogs for details**

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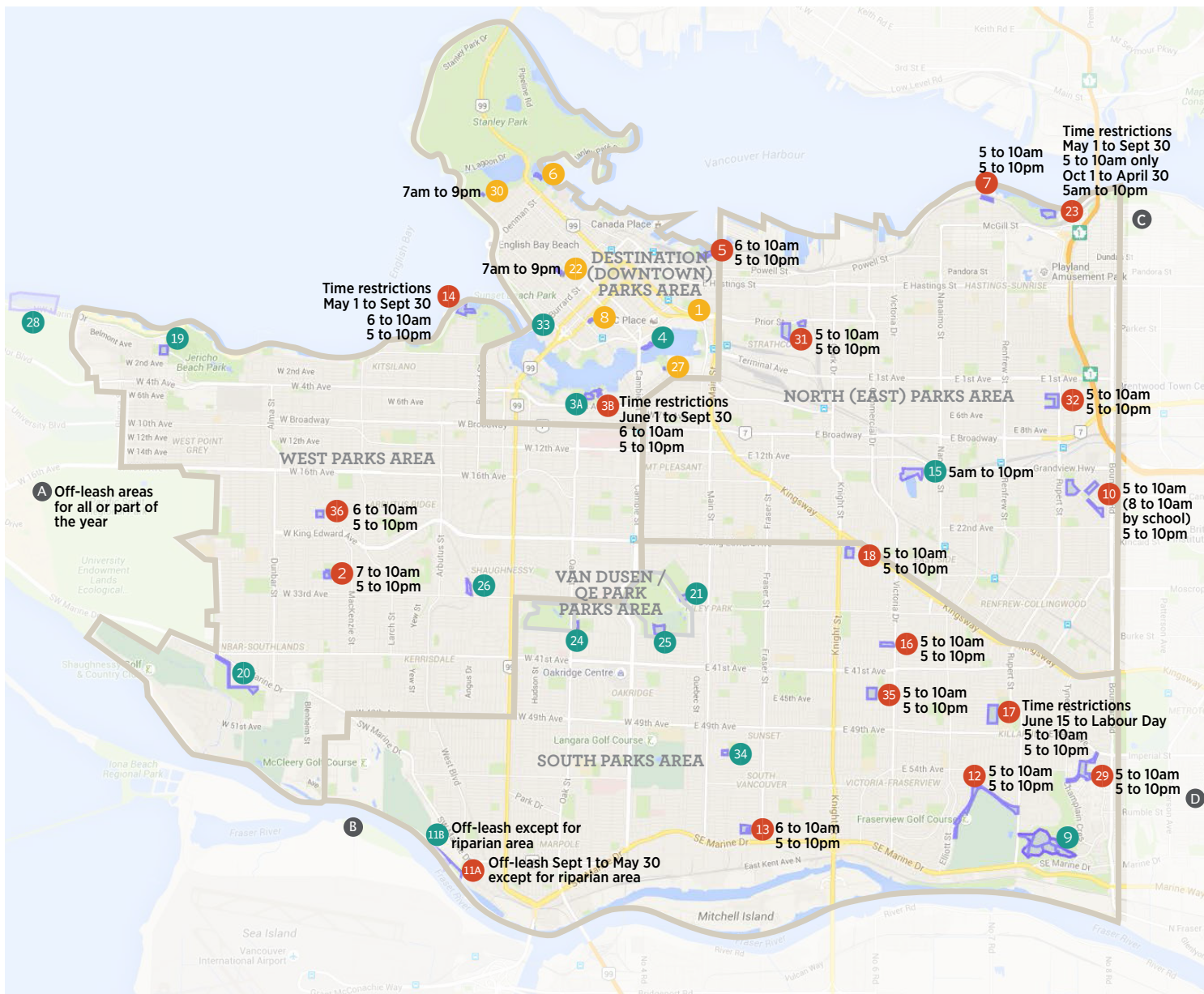
Written Feedback

By email people-parks-dogs@vancouver.ca

By mail Attn: People, Parks & Dogs
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z4

Please submit your feedback by October 14, 2016

Map of Vancouver's dog off-leash areas



LEGEND:

- Unfenced and open all day*
- Unfenced with time / seasonal restrictions
- Fenced and open all day*

*Typical hours are 6 am to 10 pm unless noted otherwise

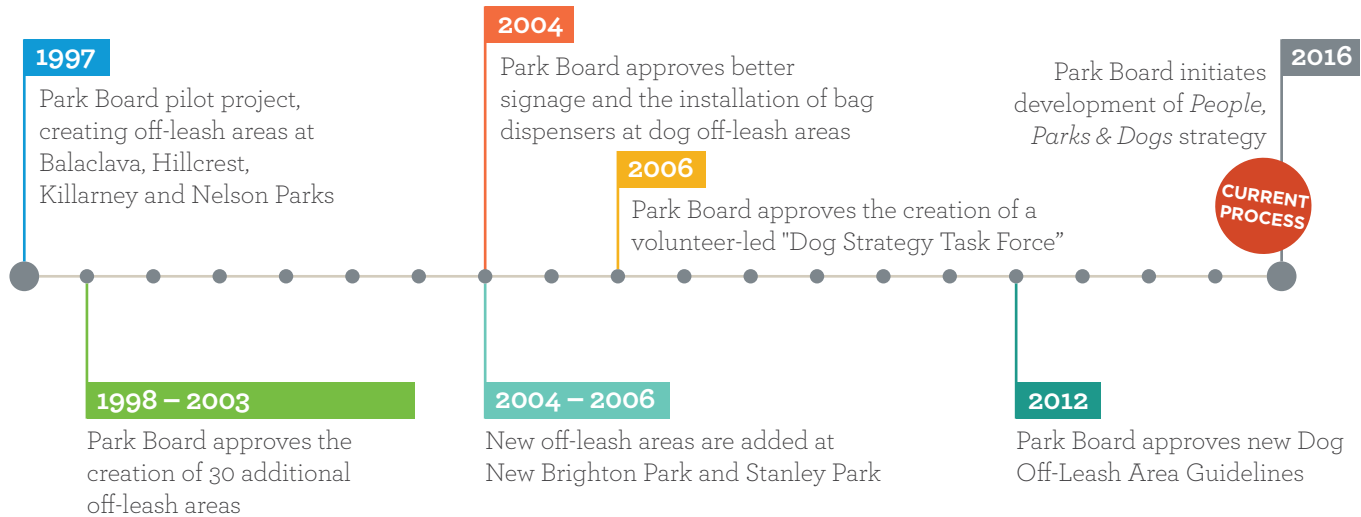
VANCOUVER PARK BOARD DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS:

- 1 Andy Livingstone Park
- 2 Balaclava Park
- 3A Charleston Park (west)
- 3B Charleston Park (east)
- 4 Coopers' Park
- 5 Crab Park at Portside
- 6 Devonian Harbour Park
- 7 Dusty Greenwell Park
- 8 Emery Barnes Park
- 9 Everett Crowley Park
- 10 Falaise Park
- 11A Fraser River Park (east)
- 11B Fraser River Park (west)
- 12 Fraserview Park
- 13 George Park
- 14 Hadden Park
- 15 John Hendry (Trout Lake)
- 16 Jones Park
- 17 Killarney Park
- 18 Kingscrest Park
- 19 Locarno Park
- 20 Musqueam Park
- 21 Nat Bailey Stadium
- 22 Nelson Park
- 23 New Brighton Park
- 24 Oak Meadows Park
- 25 Queen Elizabeth Park
- 26 Quilchena Park
- 27 Southeast False Creek
- 28 Spanish Banks
- 29 Sparwood Park
- 30 Stanley Park
- 31 Strathcona Park
- 32 Sunrise Park
- 33 Sunset Beach
- 34 Sunset Park
- 35 Tecumseh Park
- 36 Valdez Park

LOCAL OFF-LEASH AREAS OUTSIDE OF VANCOUVER PARK BOARD JURISDICTION:

- A Pacific Spirit Regional Park (Metro Vancouver)
- B Macdonald Beach off-leash area (City of Richmond)
- C Burnaby Heights Park (City of Burnaby)
- D David Gray Park (City of Burnaby)

History of Dog Parks in Vancouver



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF OFF-LEASH AREAS?

Benefits of off-leash areas include:



Building community: Off-leash areas are popular gathering places in neighbourhoods, both for people walking their dogs and for those who like to watch dogs. They bring people together, allowing neighbours to meet, socialize and build support networks. Off-leash areas can be particularly good for older adults who live alone because this type of park use encourages people to be active and social.



Providing places for dogs to exercise and socialize: Off-leash areas allow dog owners – especially those who live in apartments or condos – to exercise and socialize their dogs. Beyond the obvious benefits to dog health and happiness, this may also help dogs behave better on- and off-leash.



Encouraging owners to keep off-leash activity to off-leash areas: Offering off-leash areas can encourage owners to keep their dogs on-leash in areas where off-leash activity isn't allowed.



Making parks and neighbourhoods safer: Dog owners use parks every day, including in the early morning and late evening. Having these "eyes on the park" can help discourage crime and make parks feel safer for other users. Similarly, off-leash areas can also help increase usage of parks that are under-used. Increased foot traffic close to dog parks also lowers crime rates in these areas.



Discouraging conflict in shared park spaces: Creating separate dog off-leash areas may reduce conflicts from off-leash dogs in shared park spaces, by separating off-leash dogs from areas used for activities such as picnicking, playgrounds and sports.



Promoting responsible dog ownership: Cities can encourage responsible dog ownership and good animal welfare by using off-leash areas to share educational resources and provide locations for dogs to be trained and socialized. Informal education also happens at off-leash areas, since dog owners can share resources and learn from responsible dog owners.

Challenges of off-leash areas include:



Managing dog waste: Dog waste is smelly, unpleasant to look at, and has health risks if not cleaned up and disposed of properly. Owners may not always see their dog defecate in an off-leash area, possibly leaving more uncollected dog waste in these areas.



Safety concerns (people and dogs): Dogs may display bad behaviour if they are not kept under supervision of their owners. Aggressive or poorly trained dogs in off-leash areas may scare or injure people or other dogs. Without play features and places to hide, small fenced dog off-leash areas can also be intimidating for shy and small dogs, and may lead to conflicts between dogs.



Sharing limited park space: With a limited amount of park space available, people who do not use off-leash areas may worry that off-leash areas leave less space for other park uses.



Managing noise: The noise from dog off-leash areas, where many dogs and people meet, may disturb other park users or neighbourhood residents.



Increased maintenance and enforcement costs: Concentrated areas of dogs off leash can wear away turf and lead to more conflicts with other park users, leading to higher maintenance and enforcement costs.



Keeping off-leash activity to designated off-leash areas: At some off-leash sites the boundaries between on-leash and off-leash areas aren't clear, leading to more off-leash activity in surrounding park areas.



Potential environmental impacts: Dogs in general, and dogs off leash in particular, have the potential to disturb wildlife, damage sensitive habitat areas, and negatively impact water quality.

What do you think about off-leash areas in Vancouver's parks?
Please see attached survey to provide your feedback.





Educating people about bylaws governing off-leash use and other dog activity, and making sure these bylaws are followed, reduces conflict and makes parks safer and more comfortable for all users.



Education is important for promoting good etiquette for dogs and dog owners, including those who use off-leash areas. It is also important to help dogs who use off-leash areas become well-socialized and have good recall (i.e. they return to their owners when called).



Dogs can unintentionally affect the environment by disturbing wildlife or sensitive habitats. Reducing environmental impacts from dogs includes proper waste management, as well as strategies to keep dog activity away from sensitive natural areas (e.g. estuaries and mudflats; places where birds nest).



Good placement of off-leash areas in parks allows many different park users to enjoy parks at the same time. This includes locating off-leash areas away from high conflict areas (e.g. sports fields, multi-use paths and playgrounds) and environmentally-sensitive areas.

The District of North Vancouver is well-known for using funny and creative park signage to educate users about off-leash bylaws and etiquette. Humorous messaging is valued by dog owners and can help encourage people to follow the rules.

The City of Calgary offers free training classes for dog owners, and runs educational programs to teach people about the importance of picking up dog waste. In Calgary, 90 per cent of dogs are licensed and the city funds most dog-related programs with dog license revenues.

Off-leash areas in the City of Burnaby are required to be set back 30 metres from any bank of fresh water bodies, like ponds, streams and lakes.

To reduce potential conflicts between dogs and people, the City of Surrey requires off-leash areas to be located away from sports fields, school grounds, playgrounds, residential areas and environmentally-sensitive areas.



FILL IN OUR SURVEY!

As part of the first round of public consultation, we want to know what you think about dogs in parks! Fill out this survey to tell us what's important to you about dogs in Vancouver's parks, including opportunities and challenges for the City's off-leash areas, and outside of the off-leash areas. Please submit your feedback by October 14, 2016.

Your feedback will help inform the recommendations for planning, designing and managing Vancouver's parks, beaches and dog off-leash areas.

As in many other major North American cities, Vancouver's urban dog population is growing. With population growth and people living in smaller spaces, it's now more important than ever to balance different uses of parks and public spaces.

The Vancouver Park Board wants to develop a comprehensive strategy for dogs and people to guide well-planned parks that are designed to accommodate all park users.

Q1 What is most important to you about people and dogs sharing Vancouver's parks and beaches?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All
Safety for people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety for dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waste management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bylaw education and enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education of dog owners and dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location of off-leash areas within parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location and distribution of off-leash areas within neighbourhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Noise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash area boundaries (e.g. signage, vegetation, wood posts, fencing or other methods where appropriate)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amenities for people and dogs (e.g. seating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Partnership opportunities (e.g. volunteers and sponsors)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: _____				

2 What do you think are the top three **BENEFITS** of having designated dog off-leash areas? (See page 9 for full descriptions).

Please check up to three.

- ☐ Building community
- ☐ Providing places for dogs to exercise and socialize
- ☐ Encouraging owners to keep off-leash activity to off-leash areas
- ☐ Making parks and neighbourhoods safer
- ☐ Discouraging conflict in shared park spaces
- ☐ Promoting responsible dog ownership
- ☐ Other: _____

3 What are the top three **CHALLENGES** of having designated dog off-leash areas? (See page 10 for full descriptions).

Please check up to three.

- ☐ Managing dog waste
- ☐ Safety concerns (people)
- ☐ Safety concerns (dogs)
- ☐ Sharing limited park space
- ☐ Managing noise
- ☐ Increased maintenance and enforcement costs
- ☐ Keeping off-leash activity to designated off-leash areas
- ☐ Potential environmental impacts
- ☐ Other: _____

Q4

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Dog off-leash areas are an acceptable use of public parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are enough places for dogs to be off leash in Vancouver parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog off-leash areas in Vancouver are of good quality overall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The distribution of off-leash areas meets my needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog off-leash areas help reduce conflicts between off leash dogs and other park users	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog off-leash areas should have clear boundaries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog off-leash areas should be separated from other park activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog owners and walkers do an adequate job of picking up dog waste from Vancouver parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are enough waste bins in Vancouver parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is enough enforcement of dog activity in Vancouver parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5

What amenities would you like to see in Vancouver's off-leash areas?

Please check up to three.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> More waste bins | <input type="radio"/> Secure fencing |
| <input type="radio"/> Drinking water for dogs | <input type="radio"/> Seating |
| <input type="radio"/> Drinking water for people | <input type="radio"/> Walking paths |
| <input type="radio"/> Shade | <input type="radio"/> Dog bag dispensers |
| <input type="radio"/> Separated large and small/shy dog areas | <input type="radio"/> Play features for dogs |
| <input type="radio"/> Open areas for running and fetch | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ |

Q6

If you are a dog owner or handler, where do you currently let your dog(s) off leash?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Dog off-leash areas
- ☐ City park or beach without a designated dog off-leash area
- ☐ School grounds
- ☐ Other: _____

If you let your dog(s) off leash outside of dog off-leash areas, why?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ It's more convenient
- ☐ Non off-leash areas have a nicer atmosphere/better amenities
- ☐ Have had problems or anticipate problems at dog off-leash areas
- ☐ Off-leash areas are too crowded
- ☐ Other: _____

If you let your dog(s) off leash outside of dog off-leash areas, which parks or public spaces in Vancouver do you use?



How far are you willing to regularly walk and/or drive to get to a dog off-leash area?

Please select the most applicable for **walking**.

- ☐ Under 10 minutes
- ☐ 10 – 20 minutes
- ☐ 20 – 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 minutes +

Please select the most applicable for **driving**.

- ☐ Under 10 minutes
- ☐ 10 – 20 minutes
- ☐ 20 – 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 minutes +



Which of the following types of off-leash areas do you think should be a priority?

Please select the most applicable.

- ☐ Neighbourhood off-leash areas (i.e. small off-leash areas within neighbourhood parks that are typically accessed by walking)
- ☐ Destination off-leash areas (i.e. large off-leash areas in key parts of the city that are typically accessed by walking or driving, and may have more amenities, such as a dog wash station and agility features)
- ☐ Neighbourhood and destination off-leash areas should be of equal priority
- ☐ No preference



If you have a dog, is your dog licensed?

Please select the most applicable.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If no, why not?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Didn't know it's legally required
- ☐ Don't see the benefit
- ☐ Other: _____



Do you have any additional comments?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DEMOGRAPHICS

It's extremely important to us that we hear from a diversity of people and perspectives. The following questions help us to determine how the feedback we receive represents the community. Please note that individual responses are treated as anonymous and demographic information is always kept separate from personal identifiers.

Do you identify as...

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> None of the above. |
| <input type="radio"/> Female | I identify as _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Transgender | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

Which age group do you belong to?

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 19 years and younger | <input type="radio"/> 50-59 |
| <input type="radio"/> 20-29 | <input type="radio"/> 60-69 |
| <input type="radio"/> 30-39 | <input type="radio"/> 70+ |
| <input type="radio"/> 40-49 | |

What is your home postal code? _____

Do you walk dogs in Vancouver parks?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Are you a dog owner?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Optional: To receive updates on the *People, Parks & Dogs* strategy, including notification of upcoming consultation, please complete the following information. You may opt out at any time.

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____



Thank you for participating!
Please submit your feedback by October 14, 2016