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Director's Report No.....	9
Meeting .....	2018 Oct 24

## COMMISSION REPORT

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE  
COMMISSION

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 611000-01  
*Reference: Burnaby Fraser  
Foreshore Park*

**SUBJECT: BURNABY FRASER FORESHORE PARK – PETITION FOR AN  
OPTIONAL PART-TIME OFF-LEASH DOG PARK**

**PURPOSE:** To provide information to the petitioner regarding off-leash facilities for  
dog walking at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park.

### RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Shelley Hamilton for information.

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 2018 September 19 Commission received correspondence, forwarded by City Council, from Ms. Shelley Hamilton, containing a petition requesting that an optional part-time off leash dog park be created at the foot of Fraser Park Drive to the GVRD Junction Chamber (pump house) at the east end of Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. This report is intended to provide information related to the petitioner's request.

The lands at the east end of Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, located at the big bend of the Fraser River's north arm, are unique as they are rare intertidal marsh habitat within the Fraser River estuary. Recognizing the uniqueness and environmental values of this threatened habitat, the City acquired the lands for the purposes of establishing an ecological park reserve within Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. The first 40 acre parcel was acquired in 1991. The second 43 acre parcel was acquired in 2004.

After acquisition of the first 30 acre parcel, in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the City made improvements to enhance the environmental values of the site by adding inter-tidal channels to expand and enhance salmonid habitat, and a meadow to enhance habitat for raptors and other wildlife. An

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environmental study for this area of the park was commissioned by Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services after purchase of the ecological reserve lands was completed. The environmental assessment noted that the presence of dogs, especially off-leash, is detrimental to the health of the sensitive plant communities and wildlife at this unique site. Therefore off-leash dog activity is not a compatible use in this area of the park.

This easterly area of the park is separated from the rest of the park by the CN Rail corridor, ramp and bridge as illustrated on the attached map of the park (Attachment #1). The public make use of the Metro Vancouver service access to cross railway property to access the big bend area of the park. The separation provided by the railway corridor creates a defined boundary between the ecological preservation area and the remainder of the park to the west, which is used for a variety of active and passive recreational activities, including an off-leash trail along the Byrne Creek dyke, and large open lawn area for off-leash dog use (Attachment #2).

Managing off-leash activity in Burnaby's parks is an ongoing challenge. Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is making incremental advances to set policy, educate the dog walking public about the dog off-leash code and dog walking etiquette, increase resources for enforcement and education, and to improve and provide more facilities for dog walking both on and off-leash. To this end, a Strategic Plan for Dog Walking in Burnaby Parks was prepared in consultation with the Burnaby community and adopted by Commission in 2007. The plan included planned expansion and improvements to existing facilities for off-leash dog walking and the provision of additional off-leash facilities throughout the city. Although a desire for water play opportunities for dogs was expressed by some dog walkers, at present, no feasible opportunities for water play were identified in the Strategic Plan.

When the existing off-leash facilities at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore were planned, Fraser River Port Authority regulations prohibited dogs from swimming in the River. The hazards posed by the ongoing log boom storage activities along the park foreshore were also recognized as an impediment to water play along the foreshore for both humans and dogs. For these reasons, no water play opportunities for dogs are provided at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park.

A review of the petition indicates that 40% of the petitioners are residents of other Metro Vancouver cities, including New Westminster, Vancouver, Surrey, Coquitlam, Richmond, Delta and the North Shore. There are existing water play opportunities for dogs in Vancouver, Surrey, Port Moody, and the North Shore for these dog walkers.

Planning for new facilities, sites and their implementation in Burnaby's parks is still underway and staff will continue to keep the expressed demand for water play opportunities for dogs in mind as the process moves forward.

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## **POLICY SECTION**

### **Goal**

- **A Safe Community**
  - **Transportation safety –**  
Make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer
  - **Community amenity safety –**  
Maintain a high level of safety in City buildings and facilities for the public and City staff
- **A Connected Community**
  - **Digital connection –**  
Provide online access to core City services and information
  - **Social connection –**  
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
  - **Partnership –**  
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and government
- **An Inclusive Community**
  - **Serve a diverse community –**  
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
  - **Create a sense of community –**  
Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- **A Healthy Community**
  - **Healthy life –**  
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being
  - **Healthy environment –**  
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- **A Dynamic Community**
  - **Community development –**  
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging
  - **City facilities and infrastructure –**  
Build and maintain infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community
- **A Thriving Organization**
  - **Organizational culture –**  
Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery

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- Communication –  
Practice open and transparent communication among staff, Council and the community

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Shelley Hamilton for information.

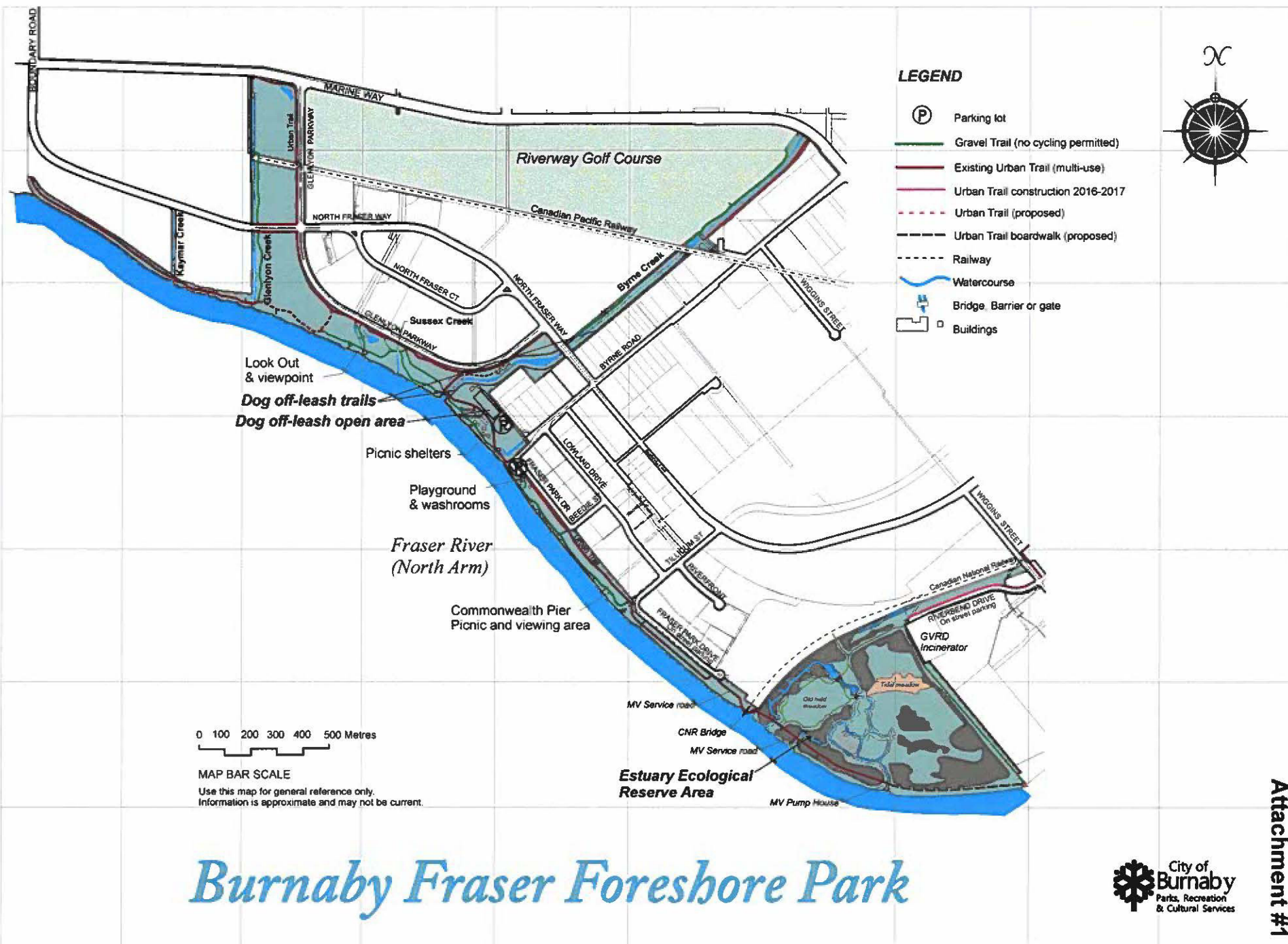


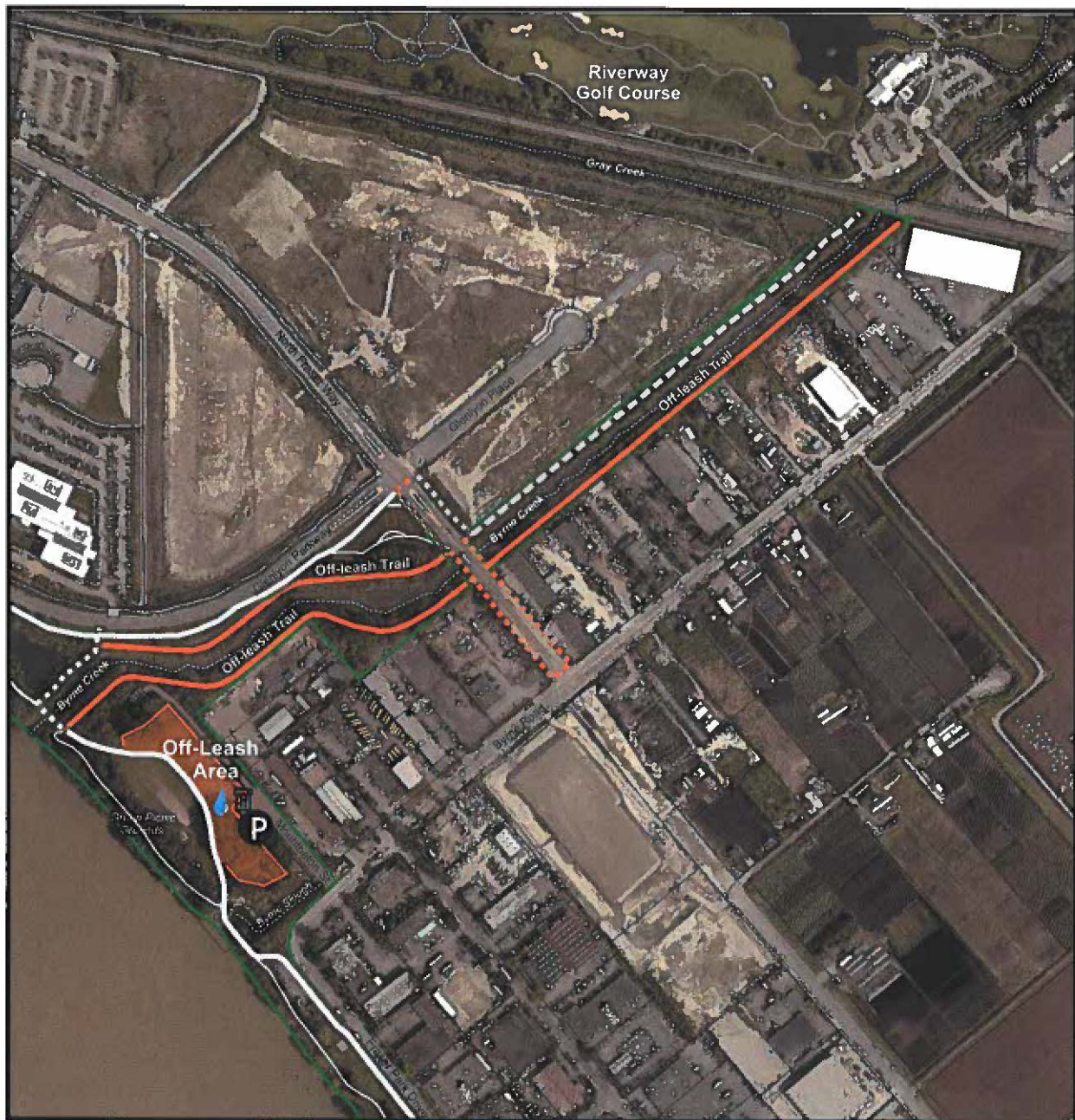
Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

ATS:ats:tc

Attachments (2)

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**Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park:  
Byrne Creek Dyke  
Off-leash Trail & Open Area**

4551 Byrne Rd., 7255 Mountbatten St.,  
and 7255 & 7260 North Fraser Way

Open Area Size: +/- 0.68 hectares (1.70 Acres)  
Trail Length: +/- 1,440 metres

**Legend:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Park Boundary                |  Entry/Exit Gates  |
|  Off-Leash Area               |  Pedestrian Trail  |
|  Off-Leash Trail (shared use) |  Parking           |
|  On-leash Connections         |  Waste Bin         |
|  Pedestrian/Cycle Trail       |  Drinking Fountain |