

## COMMISSION REPORT

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

**DATE:** 2019 Jan 10

**FROM:** DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 61000-02

**SUBJECT: OFF-LEASH DOG WALKING FACILITY STRATEGY - NORTHEAST  
BURNABY FACILITY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**PURPOSE:** To provide information regarding a public consultation process to assess support for, and obtain feedback on several potential sites for a local off-leash dog walking facility within the Lougheed Town Centre and Forest Grove areas of Northeast Burnaby.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received as information.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In 1984, the Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission began exploring and testing facility models that would permit dog walking, both on and off-leash, in designated Burnaby parks, or within designated areas in certain parks. The first comprehensive facility master plan for off-leash dog walking was prepared in 1997 through a city wide public consultation process. The Commission adopted master plan provided for one facility in each of the four quadrants of the City; at Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, Confederation Park and Robert Burnaby Park. These four facilities proved to be popular with users, but did not fully address the matter of unauthorized off-leash dog activity in other city parks.

In an effort to better manage unauthorized off-leash dog activity and to address the additional expressed demand for off-leash facilities, the facility master plan was revisited in 2007. Site selection criteria were reviewed and revised to reflect current environmental policies, user safety and operational considerations and

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the criteria were used to aid in the identification of additional sites throughout the city.

The 2007 Strategy for Off-leash Dog Walking included a plan for expansion and/or improvements at the four existing sites, and introduction of new facilities. The sites were vetted through Commission and a comprehensive public consultation process. Additional off-leash facilities were installed at:

David Gray Park (built 2007);  
Taylor Park (built 2007).  
Malvern Park (built 2007);  
Warner Loat Park (built 2008);  
Confederation Park (built 2009);  
Burnaby Heights Park (built 2012);

To date, the established facilities have been well used by the public. To extend hours of use and improve comfort for dog walkers, there have been requests for lighting, shade structures, and bench seating at the facilities. Each of the existing facilities will continue to be maintained and upgraded as budget allows.

## **2.0 NORTH-EAST BURNABY SITE SELECTION**

Identification of a suitable site for an off-leash dog walking facility to serve the Lougheed Town Centre and Forest Grove neighbourhoods of Northeast Burnaby has not been realized to date. The potential sites investigated as part of the 2007 planning process were not found to be viable.

A site within Bell Park has now been identified for consideration. Bell Park is centrally located within the target service area at a hub on the Urban Trail network and provides opportunities for parking on East Lake Drive. Provided it is built as a fully fenced enclosure and set back 15 metres from top of bank from Stoney Creek and Tributary 1, this location meets the site selection criteria.

Also identified for consideration is the potential separation and distinction of a dog off leash zone at Keswick Park.

Before proceeding with selection of the most appropriate site for a facility for off-leash dog walking to serve the Lougheed Town Centre and Forest Grove Area of Northeast Burnaby, consultation with the local community to assess the level of support is recommended.

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Two public open house sessions are planned to be held at Cameron Recreation Centre on Sunday, April 07 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm. and on Wednesday, April 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The open houses will be advertised in the local paper, on the City web site, and via the posting of information posters at local parks, recreation centres, library, and schools.

Public consultation/feedback will be collected through a survey process at the open houses and the display panels and survey questionnaire will be posted on the city website. A future report summarizing the results and staff recommendations will be brought forward to the Commission for review and consideration.

### **3.0 POLICY SECTION**

The provision of facilities for walking dogs off-leash is aligned with the City of Burnaby Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan.

#### **Goal**

- A Safe Community
  - Transportation safety
  - Community amenity safety
- A Connected Community
  - Social connection
  - Geographic connection
- An Inclusive Community
  - Serve a diverse community
  - Create a sense of community
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy life
  - Healthy environment
  - Community involvement
- A Dynamic Community
  - City facilities and infrastructure

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#### **4.0 SUMMARY**

A public consultation process to assess support for and obtain feedback on several potential sites for a local off-leash dog walking facility within the Lougheed Town Centre and Forest Grove areas of Northeast Burnaby is planned, as outlined in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Ellenwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

ATS:HE:km  
Off-Leash Dog Walking Facility Strategy - Northeast Burnaby Facility Public Consultation