

From: Mary Vickars [REDACTED]

Sent: February-18-21 1:45 PM

To: Mayor; Calendino, Attilio Pietro; Dhaliwal, Satvinder; Johnston, Dan; Jordan, Colleen; Keithley, Joe; Wang, James

Subject: City of Burnaby ByLaws of On Leash Only Walks

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I am a City of Burnaby resident, homeowner, voter since 1990. I am and have been a dog owner for over 25 years.

I am addressing the inadequate off leash dog areas in Burnaby.

Dogs and their owners need off leash areas where they can both

- get exercise
- destress
- and enjoy the outdoors

Yes there are designated enclosed, semi enclosed areas but these are unhealthy areas that

- breed diseases
- encourage aggressive dog behaviour - dogs are cliquish and will gang up on other dogs, especially if timid (personal experience)
- limit the amount of exercise dog & owner can enjoy - once a dog has "circled" the enclosed area they get bored as we dog owners do. Some dogs enjoy chasing a ball or frisbee and there is inadequate space to do this without hitting someone in the enclosed area.

I do not want to stand around policing other people's dogs.

I am disappointed at the designated off leash area on the west side of Foreshore Park (access from Byrne Road). There is a wide open UNTREED field designated off leash area HOWEVER -it is NOT suitable in the summer or during hot weather because of the intense heat and NO SHADE. Again this is limited to the amount of exercise and interest to dogs & owners. And after about 15 minutes it is time to move on.

There is an off leash path that leads next to the Toxic recycling area. All the trees were cut down (or did they die from toxicity?). It is a VERY INHOSPITABLE walking path in the summer:

- no access to water (I wouldnt trust that water next to the toxic recycling area)
- no shade for dog or dog owner

Note:

The Fraser River Port Authority regulations prohibited dogs from swimming in the river at the time the dog park was established. The underwater hazards posed by log boom storage were recognized as a physical danger and impediment to both humans and dogs. The on land facilities will be reviewed in 2021 and the addition of shade and rest features will be considered. Staff have contacted the writer to advise.

Pedestrians and cyclists have SO MANY OPTIONS to walk, why are dogs & dog owners being targeted? We as City of Burnaby residents should be able to enjoy the outdoors as well with our dogs off leash in designated healthy environments.

YOUR RECENT SIGNS STATES:

"dogs are considered predators to wildlife". For the most part this is ridiculous! In the 25 years I have walked at Foreshore Park I have NEVER seen a dog go after "birds, small mammals and other wildlife". Perhaps your Bylaw officer could be addressing this concern on their patrol.

"Feet off-trail (dogs & humans) trample vegetation" - this could be remedied by requesting that all dogs & humans stay on the designated paths.

"Dogs can collect and spread invasive plant seeds in their fur" Yes they can, so does the wildlife you are protecting. If they are freely roaming are they too not spreading invasive plant seeds in their feces or feathers or fur? This is a very weak argument for a domestic dog.

"Dogs poop harms native plants" the majority of dog owners / walkers are picking up their poop. Have you seen how full the waste container is at the entrances? In my personal experience I have RARELY seen dog feces left. Have your ByLaw officers give out compostable poopie bags or ensure dog walkers have bags! And whether or not a dog is on a leash there is still poop and is a reflection of the dog owner!

I recently walked at Everett Crowley Park in Vancouver off Kerr Rd. I was so delighted to see that in the middle of a Sunday afternoon families were walking on a path and dogs were walking off leash. What a beautiful family scene: cooperation & community!
At this park there are off leash paths & on leash.

In North Vancouver at the watersheds there are two designated paths: one for off leash and one designated for on leash only.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO START WITH:

Robert Burnaby needs some designated off leash paths.

The Foreshore Park area that leads in from the Correction Facility should be designated off leash.

This has a path that ends at a lovely spot for dogs to swim. Dogs & owners can enjoy this area in the summer heat and in the winter. And with people who don't mind dogs off leash.

The Foreshore Park area that is at the base of Byrne Road should have a path that follows the river's edge as well. At least a kilometer or so where there is access to a "dog beach".

PLEASE we are City of Burnaby residents!!! We, as dog owners, should be able to free walk our dogs!!

Your ByLaw officers would be better utilized:

- ensuring that dogs have their rabie shots and are licensed.
- distribute compostable poopie bags
- police cyclists who disregard the safety of wildlife and pedestrians (personal experience).
- ensuring that groups of cyclists do not harrass people enjoying nature and limit their numbers
- removing cyclists entirely as they are more likely than dogs to do what you appear to fear.

I would like to see this ByLaw modified to add some off leash dog areas.

Thank you for your time & attention.

Kindest regards to all for your consideration,

Mary Vickars

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