

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2021 Nov. 29

FROM: DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

FILE: 61000-02

**SUBJECT: OFF-LEASH DOG FACILITY ADDITIONS AT WILLINGDON HEIGHTS
PARK AND BARNET MARINE PARK**

PURPOSE: To request approval for the creation of off-leash facilities at Willingdon Heights Park and the expansion of off-leash facilities at Barnet Marine Park as outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** approval be granted for the creation of off-leash facilities at Willingdon Heights Park and the expansion of off-leash facilities at Barnet Marine Park as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to approve the establishment of a dog off-leash enclosure at Willingdon Heights Park.
3. **THAT** Council be requested to approve an expansion of the existing dog off-leash area and a change in operational times at Barnet Marine Park, as outlined in this report.
4. **THAT** Council authorize the City Solicitor to amend the Burnaby Animal Control Bylaw No.12289 to reflect these changes at each location.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission has supported dog walking, both on and off-leash, in designated Burnaby parks over time. An early strategy to provide facilities in each quadrant of the city was enacted in 1997. By 2007 the City had grown in size and an overall review of the program facility needs was undertaken. Through the review, site selection criteria were established to define locations that might be suitable for new off-leash facilities. A public

consultation process was created and conducted to gauge the level of support for facilities that might be located in each Community area. This by-level review process continues today as new sites are considered for dog off-leash facilities.

In 2020 two new sites were considered for expansion of the dog off-leash program; Willingdon Heights Park and Barnet Marine Park. Both sites met the general site selection criteria and moved onto the public consultation through online surveys July –September of 2021. A short summary of the survey results has been included in this report.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The creation of designated dog off-leash areas within parks benefits the environment by keeping dog activities out of critical habitat zones. The encouragement of dog and human exercising also aligns with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic goals of providing: a Safe Community, a Connected Community, an Inclusive Community, and a Healthy Community.

Goal

- A Safe Community
 - Community amenity safety –
Maintain a high level of safety in City buildings and facilities for the public and City staff
- A Connected Community
 - Social connection –
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
 - Geographic connection –
Ensure that people can move easily through all areas of Burnaby, using any form of transportation
- 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
 - City facilities and infrastructure –
Build and maintain infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community

3.0 BACKGROUND

Two online surveys were conducted in July/August 2021 to gather public opinion on the development of dog off-leash facility at Willingdon Heights Park (Attachment #1), and an expansion of the existing off-leash area at Barnet Marine Park (Attachment #2). The survey respondents came from a variety of locations in the City (Attachment #3), and results (Attachment #4) show there is strong support for the proposals. A brief capture of the results is described below:

Willingdon Heights Park

- 81% of the survey responses came from residents in the V6E area surrounding Willingdon Heights Park.
- 87% of respondents support the development an off-leash area at Willingdon Heights Park.

Barnet Marine Park

- Survey responses came from a broad area, in keeping with Barnet Marine Park's status as a regional destination: 19% of responses came from the park's neighbourhood, 50% from the entire north half of Burnaby, 18% from south Burnaby, 18% from Tri-Cities (Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam), and 14% from the rest of the Lower Mainland.
- 92% support expanding the existing off-leash area.
- 91% are in favour of removing the time restrictions during the summer months to align with the open and closure hours of the park (7:00 a.m. to dusk).

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The site conditions at Willingdon Heights Park and Barnet Marine Park are quite different, suggesting unique structures and facilities need to be designed to accommodate the dog off-leash zones in each park.

At Willingdon Heights Park, an existing open area within the park would be sectioned off with fencing to demarcate the designated open grass area for dogs. Consideration will be given to making the fence taller and adding buffer planting along the Douglas Avenue street frontage to address safety issues.

The existing off-leash area at Barnet Marine Park is an unfenced walking path. The expansion of the dog off-leash area will increase the length of the trail from 400

To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission
From: Director - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: OFF-LEASH DOG FACILITY ADDITIONS AT WILLINGDON
HEIGHTS PARK AND BARNET MARINE PARK
..... Page 4

meters to 900 meters. Site changes would include updated maps and signage to clarify the off-leash area limits and clearly identify the known crabbing zone along the shoreline. Several actions to date have been put in place to mitigate conflict between crabbers and dogs. These include: addition of dog control etiquette signage, addition of garbage receptacles for crab waste and addition of washrooms for patron relief. These conflict mitigating measures will continue and be enhanced as a follow up action to the approval of the expansion of the dog off-leash area within this area of the Park.

In addition to expanding the off-leash trail at Barnet, it is recommended that the facility use hours be changed to be consistent with the general park operating hours. This change was also supported through public survey results.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

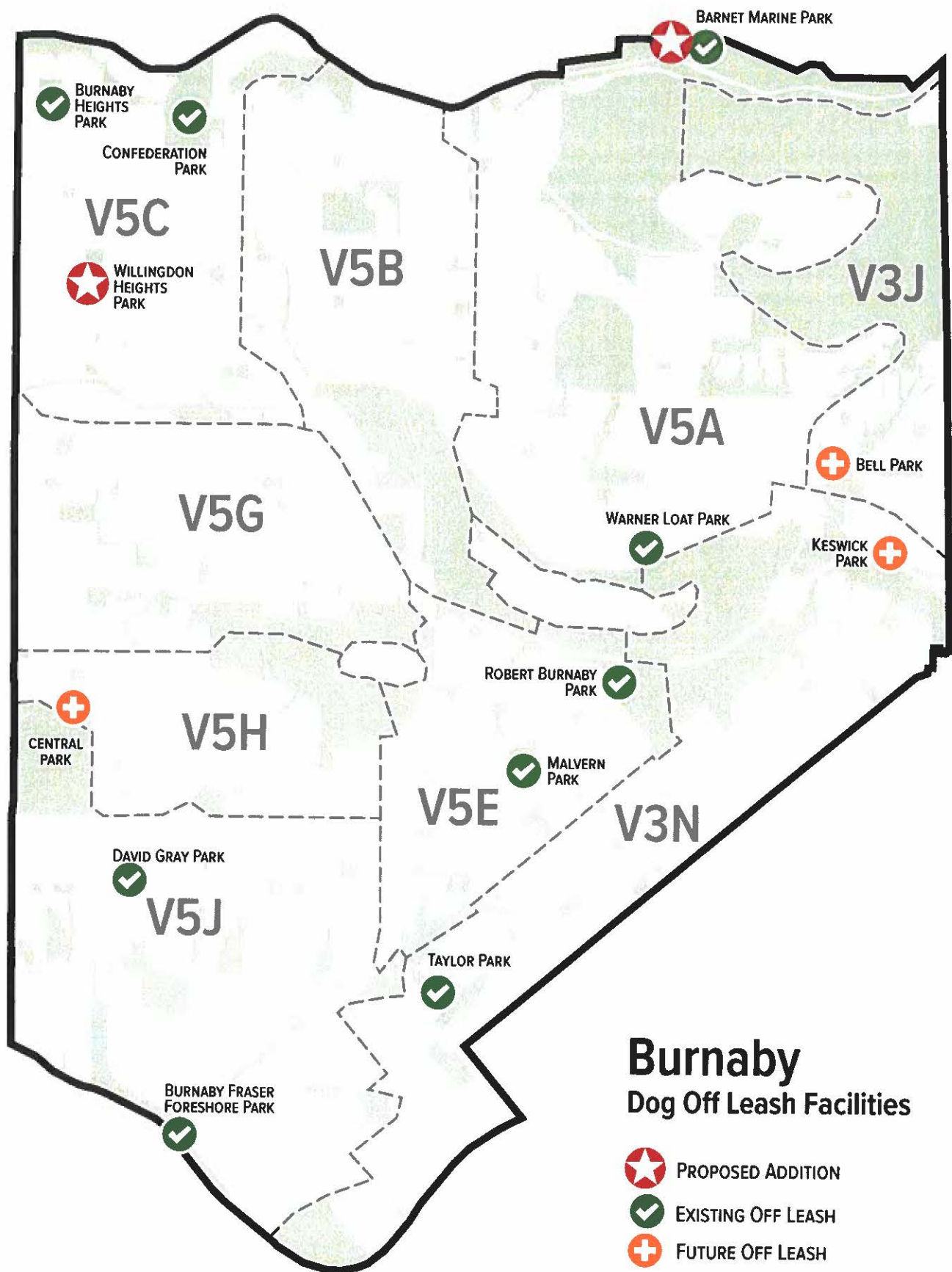
It is recommended that Council approve the establishment of a new off-leash enclosure at Willingdon Heights Park, and amend the size and hours of operation of the dog off-leash zone at Barnet Marine Park. Funds to finance the construction of the projects are available in the 2022-2026 capital budget.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

HS:HE:km:tc
Off-Leash Dog Facility Additions at Willingdon Heights Park and Barnet Marine Park

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
Director Public Safety and Community Services
Director Planning and Building
Director of Corporate Services
City Solicitor
City Clerk

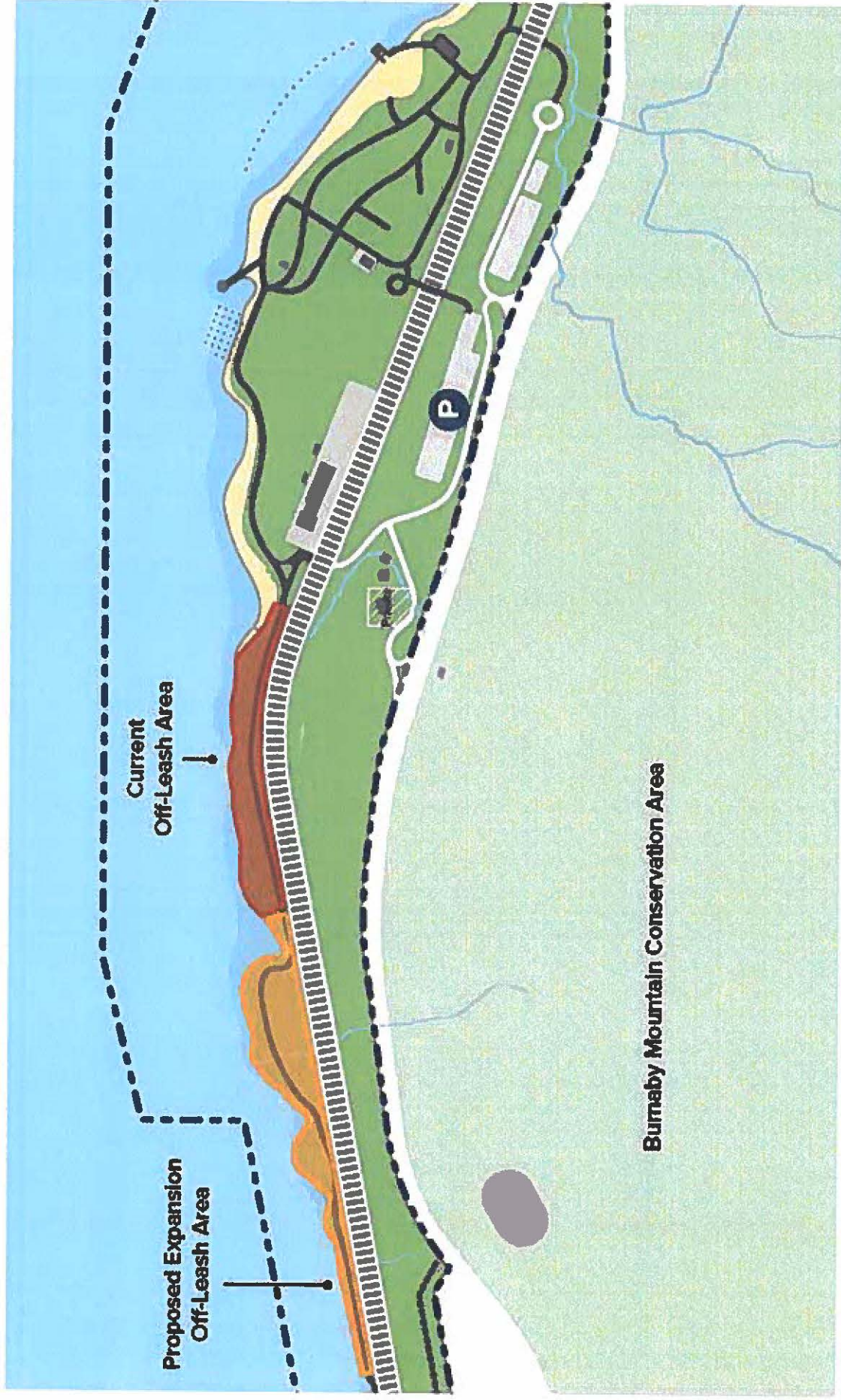


WILLINGDON HEIGHTS PARK



ATTACHMENT #2

BARNET MARINE PARK

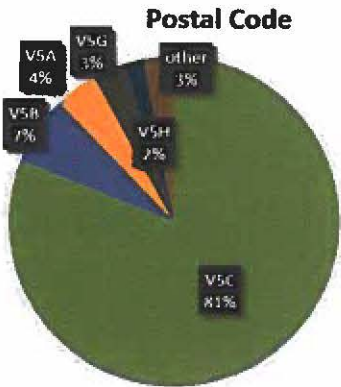


ATTACHMENT #3

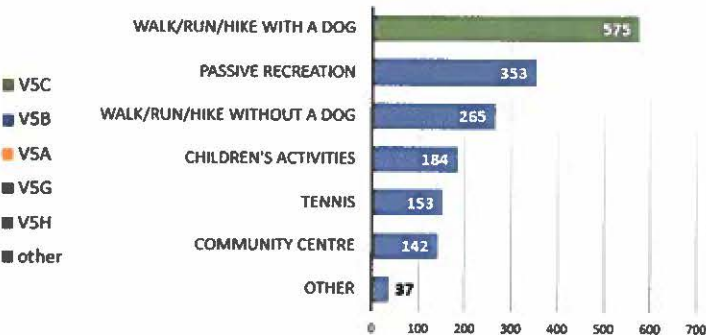
Dog Off Leash Survey Results

Willingdon Heights Park

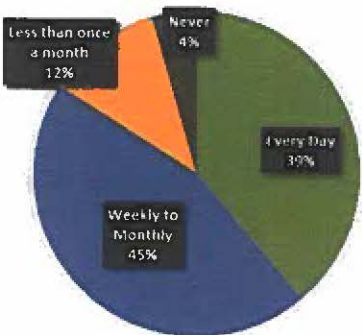
What is your postal code?



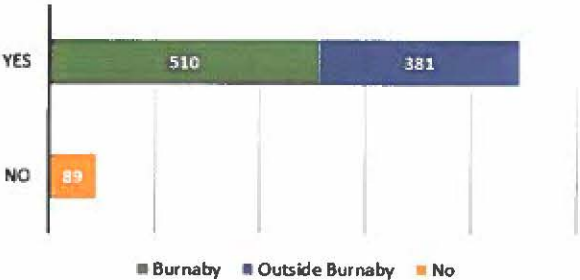
What activities do you do at Willingdon Heights Park?



How often do you visit Willingdon Heights Park?



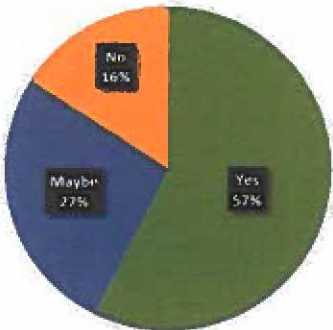
Do you currently use dog off-leash areas?



Would you support an off leash area at Willingdon Heights Park?



Should there be separate enclosures for small dogs and larger dogs?

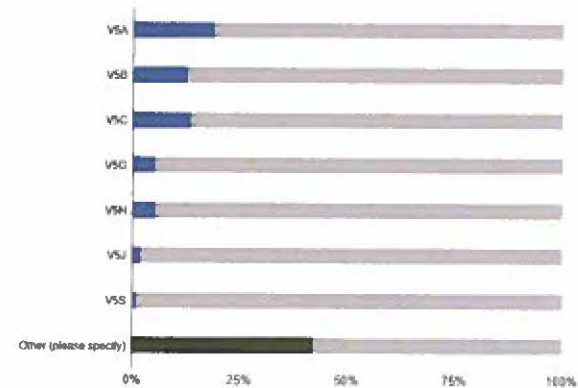


Dog Off Leash Survey Results

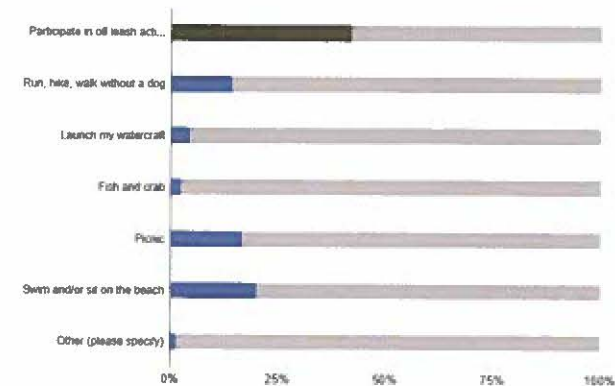
Barnet Marine Park

ATTACHMENT #4

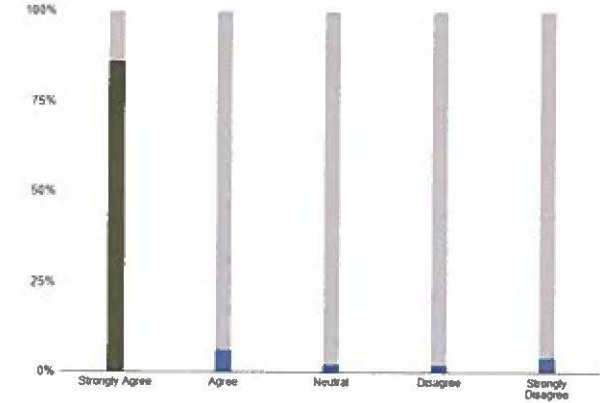
What is your postal code?



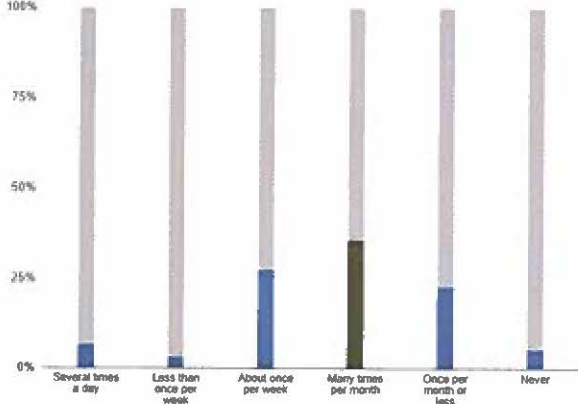
What activities do you do at Barnet Marine Park?



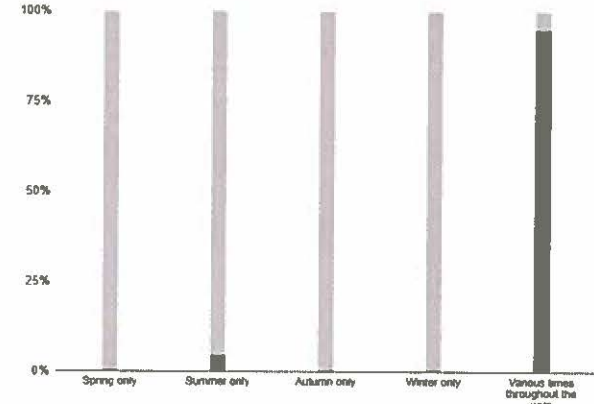
Do you agree with this expansion?



How often do you visit?



In what season do you use the off-leash area?



What time do you use the off-leash area?

