

Memo



Date: August 27, 2010
File: 6130-00
To: City Manager
From: Ian Wilson, Park Services Manager
Subject: On-leash dog park policies

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive for information the August 27, 2010 report of the Park Services Manager.

Purpose: At the July 26, 2010 Council meeting, Council directed staff to report back with a list of city parks that do not allow dogs and why dogs are not allowed in those parks; and why on-leash dog parks do not allow dogs to be taken off pathways.

Background:

Council Policy 258, Dog Walking and Dog Off-Leash Parks was originally approved in 1988 and has been updated numerous times. The policy currently lists 76 on-leash parks, trails and city properties, seven off-leash areas, and two temporary off-leash dog parks, totaling 702 ha (Table 1). Approximately 133 city owned parks, green spaces or future parks do not allow dogs (totaling 220 ha) (Table 2). By area, about 76% of City parks and green spaces allow dogs (note however that on-leash parks only allow dogs on paths). Kelowna residents also have access to another nine provincial or regional parks in the Kelowna area that allow dogs totaling 709 ha (Table 3).

There are a variety of reasons why dogs are not allowed in 133 City parks or green spaces:

- Council policy requires that on-leash parks must have a pathway and that dogs stay on pathways. The rationale for this policy is to help limit dog wastes (urine and feces) to walking areas rather than turf where park users may be playing or come into contact with dog wastes. Interior Health Authority (IHA) has noted concerns with possible transmission of disease associated with dog wastes (see attached). Keeping dogs on pathways also helps to minimize conflicts with wildlife, environmentally sensitive areas or other park uses.
- Most of the areas where dogs are not allowed are very small; typically they are neighbourhood parks where there are a variety of uses, e.g. a playground and a small passive recreation area. There is very little space in these areas to walk or exercise a dog and the potential for conflicts with playing children or other park users is high. Dogs are also not allowed on sport fields. IHA has noted concerns regarding playgrounds or children's play areas (attached).
- Dogs are not allowed at human swimming beaches or water parks for health reasons, and possible bacterial contamination of water.

- Dogs are not allowed in a few areas (e.g. Maude Roxby, Kinsmen Park) due to concerns with wildlife, or concerns from neighbours (Kinsmen Park).
- Some of these green spaces are designated for future development, and will likely allow dogs on leash once additional trails or infrastructure are developed, e.g. Tower Ranch Mountain Park.
- Although health and safety are our greatest concern, allowing dogs to urinate in parks would have an aesthetic impact on plant health with dead grass spots throughout the park. The primary function of our parks is for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors, not just dog owners.
- Bylaw enforcement resources are limited; prior to any significant increases in dog parks, staff recommend that bylaw enforcement resources are reviewed to ensure that coverage will be adequate.

The current dog policy offers a variety of options for dog owners but tries to balance public health and safety, environmental health, as well as the concerns of residents who do not wish to have dogs in all parks. In terms of off-leash dog access, Kelowna ranks very well at 8 parks per 100,000 residents; a 2009 study of the 77 largest cities in the United States by The Trust for Public Land found that Portland, Oregon, had the highest off-leash dog parks per capita (5.6 per 100,000). However public feedback received by Park Services suggests there is a deficiency of dog water access. The dog park list includes one designated dog beach (Cedar Beach). Infrastructure Planning staff will be reporting back to Council with some additional dog water options.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Internal Circulation:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:


Community & Media Relations Comments:

Submitted by:



Ian Wilson, Park Services Manager

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Director, Civic Operations

cc: Joe Creron, Director Civic Operations
 John Vos, General Manager Community Services
 Terry Barton, Manager Park Planning
 Carla Stephens, Director Community and Media Relations
 Rhoda Mueller, RDCO Chief Bylaw Enforcement Officer
 Stephen Fleming, City Clerk

Table 1. On- and off-leash City parks and greenspaces.

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Abbott Recreation Corridor	DEVELOPED	2288 Abbott St	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.72
Anchor Park	DEVELOPED	1691 Ellis St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.06
Begbie Park	UNDEV	1410 Union Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.27
Belmont Park	DEVELOPED	4444 Belmont Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.09
Ben Lee Park	DEVELOPED	900 Houghton Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	7.34
Birkdale Park	DEVELOPED	363 Prestwick St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.71
Black Mountain Recreation Corridor	DEVELOPED	1200 Black Mountain Drive	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.92
Blair Pond Park	DEVELOPED	333 Clifton Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	2.72
Brant's Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	Various (Glenmore Valley)	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.94
Calmels Park	DEVELOPED	1059 Calmels Cr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.32
Cameron Park	DEVELOPED	2345 Richter St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	2.52
Canyon Falls Park	DEVELOPED	1856 Canyon Falls Ct	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	9.67
Carney Park	DEVELOPED	1890 Capistrano Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.82
Chichester Wetland Park	DEVELOPED	250 Sumac Rd W	ON-LEASH	STORM	4.22
City Hall	DEVELOPED	1435 Water St	ON-LEASH	CITY LAND	3.00
City Park	DEVELOPED	1600 Abbott St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	14.51
Crawford Estates Bridle Paths	UNDEV	Crawford Estates Neighbourhood	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.31
Crawford Estates Bridle Paths	UNDEV	Crawford Estates Neighbourhood	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.36
Crawford Estates Bridle Paths	UNDEV	Crawford Estates Neighbourhood	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.41
Crawford Estates Bridle Paths	UNDEV	Crawford Estates Neighbourhood	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.44
Cross Glen Park	DEVELOPED	207 Biggar Rd	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.66
Davie Road Park	DEVELOPED	300 Davie Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.62
Dilworth Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	Various - Dilworth Mountain	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	9.26
Dilworth Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	Various - Dilworth Mountain	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.13
Dilworth Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	Various - Dilworth Mountain	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	115.75
Duggan Park	DEVELOPED	1494 Bernard Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.32
Fairhall Park	DEVELOPED	2448 Fairhall Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.22
Fascieux Creek Wetland	DEVELOPED	3320 Casorso Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.59
Gerstmar Park	DEVELOPED	955 Gerstmar Rd	ON-LEASH	RDCO LEASE	1.26
Gopher Creek Linear Park	FUTURE	1723 Lynrick Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.31
Harris Park	DEVELOPED	1287 Harris Ct	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.18

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Harvard Road Linear Park	DEVELOPED	2901 Harvard Rd	ON-LEASH	PUBLIC ROW	0.38
Hidden Lake Park	DEVELOPED	1188 Long Ridge Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.15
Jack Robertson Memorial Park	DEVELOPED	1655 Willow Cr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.77
Jewel Park	DEVELOPED	327 Providence Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.37
Kerry Park	DEVELOPED	1480 Mill St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.71
Knowles Heritage Park	DEVELOPED	865 Bernard Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.51
Knox Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	450 Knox Mountain Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	282.95
Lund Park	DEVELOPED	1272 Lund Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.75
Main Street Park	DEVELOPED	411 Providence Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.38
Matera Glen Park	DEVELOPED	250 Glen Park Dr	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.83
McCarren Park	DEVELOPED	347 McCarren Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.45
Mill Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	Various	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.07
Mill Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	Various	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.08
Mill Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	Various	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.06
Mill Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	Various	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.03
Mill Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	Various	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	29.87
Millard Glen Park	DEVELOPED	1840 Millard Ct W	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.50
Millbridge Park	DEVELOPED	1999 Bowes St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.17
Mission Recreation Park	DEVELOPED	4105 Gordon Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	45.84
Mission Ridge Park	DEVELOPED	900 Bullock Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	21.74
Moraine Park	DEVELOPED	700 Moraine Ct	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.28
Mugford Park	DEVELOPED	425 Stetson St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.62
Newport Glen Park	DEVELOPED	130 Applebrooke Cr	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.47
Pacific Court Park	DEVELOPED	1961 Pacific Ct	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.49
Parkinson Recreation Park	DEVELOPED	1800 Parkinson Way	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	19.49
Priest Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	315 Balldock Rd	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	3.41
Priest Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	315 Balldock Rd	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.28
Providence Park	DEVELOPED	352 McCarren Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.46
Quail Ridge Linear Park	DEVELOPED	Quail Ridge	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.29
Quarry Park	DEVELOPED	4882 Quarry Ct	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.55
Quilchena Park	DEVELOPED	347 Quilchena Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	2.78
Redlich Pond Park	DEVELOPED	1646 Gillard Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.68
Roxby Centennial Plaza	DEVELOPED	250 Highway 33 W	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.08
Rutland Bluff Linear Park	DEVELOPED	180 Froelich Rd	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.32
Rutland Lions Park	DEVELOPED	205 Gray Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	2.08
Rutland Recreation Park	DEVELOPED	375 Hartman Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	14.56
Selkirk Park	DEVELOPED	2500 Selkirk Dr	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.21
South Kelowna Centennial Park	DEVELOPED	4194 Spiers Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	3.94
South Mission Powerline Linear Park	DEVELOPED	5056 Windsong Cr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	4.97

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
South Ridge Drive Recreation Corridor	DEVELOPED	4885 South Ridge Dr	ON-LEASH	ROAD ROW	0.84
Southridge Open Space	DEVELOPED	5010 South Ridge Dr	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.28
Southridge Open Space	DEVELOPED	5010 South Ridge Dr	ON-LEASH	STORM	3.33
Southridge Open Space	UNDEV	Various (Southridge)	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.12
Southridge Open Space	UNDEV	Various (Southridge)	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.51
Southridge Park	DEVELOPED	715 Southcrest Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.64
Still Pond Park	DEVELOPED	550 Still Pond Pl	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	4.34
Stuart Park	DEVELOPED	1430 Water St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.48
Summerside Park	DEVELOPED	3858 Summerside Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.55
Sutherland Park	DEVELOPED	700 Ellis St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.04
Sunset Drive Park	DEVELOPED	1055 Sunset Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.93
Sutton Glen Park	DEVELOPED	464 Sutton Cr	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.62
Terrace Hill Park	DEVELOPED	180 Terrace Hill Pl	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.22
Thomson Creek	DEVELOPED	4188 Lakeshore Rd	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.33
Thomson Marsh Park	DEVELOPED	4125 Gordon Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	9.59
Tulameen Park	DEVELOPED	350 Providence Ave	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.66
Valley Glen Wetland	DEVELOPED	530 Valley Rd	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.71
Waste Water Treatment Plant	DEVELOPED	951 Raymer Ave	ON-LEASH	CITY LAND	1.40
Waterfront Park	DEVELOPED	1200 Water St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	6.73
Whitman Glen Park	DEVELOPED	308 Whitman Rd	ON-LEASH	STORM	0.53
Wilson Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	(W of) Gordon Dr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.38
Winslow Park	DEVELOPED	5386 Winslow St	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.25
Wyndham Park	DEVELOPED	131 Wyndham Cr	ON-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.15
Cedar Creek Park	DEVELOPED	5200 Lakeshore Rd	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	7.00
Duggan Park	DEVELOPED	1494 Bernard Ave	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.09
Ellison Dog Park	UNDEV	4720 Old Vernon Rd	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	5.17
Enterprise Dog Park	UNDEV	2500 Enterprise Way	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	1.30
Glenmore Dog Park	UNDEV	2150 Glenmore Rd N	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	5.50
Knox Mountain Dog Park	UNDEV	450 Knox Mountain Dr	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.38
Mission Dog Park	DEVELOPED	4105 Gordon Dr	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.72
Mission Recreation Park	UNDEV	4105 Gordon Dr	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.72
Rowcliffe Park (Old KSS Site)	UNDEV	536 Rowcliffe Ave	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	2.05
Rutland Recreation Park	DEVELOPED	375 Hartman Rd	OFF-LEASH	PARKLAND	0.61
				TOTAL	702.32

Table 2. City parks and greenspaces that do not allow dogs.

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Aurora Property	UNDEV	245 Aurora Cr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.34
Avonlea Park	DEVELOPED	274 Avonlea Way	NO DOGS	STORM	0.15
Ballou Park	DEVELOPED	1859 Ballou Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.16
Bankhead Park	DEVELOPED	1400 Bankhead Cr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.07
Barlee Park	DEVELOPED	1898 Barlee Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.37
Beach Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	188 Beach Ave	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.06
Belgo Park	DEVELOPED	895 Belgo Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.40
Bella Vista Park	UNDEV	2342 Loseth Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.89
Bellevue Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	780 Paret Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	9.63
Bellevue Creek Linear Park	DEVELOPED	780 Paret Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.05
Benmore Court Open Space	UNDEV	5241 Benmore Ct	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.99
Black Mountain Park	FUTURE	1871 Gallagher Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.99
Bluebird Road North Beach Access	DEVELOPED	3930 Bluebird Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.10
Bluebird Road South Beach Access	DEVELOPED	4006 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.19
Braeloch Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	388 Braeloch Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.17
Briarwood Park	DEVELOPED	310 Primrose Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.20
Brighton Park	DEVELOPED	559 Milton Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.06
Burne Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	272 Burne Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.08
Cadder Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	2094 Abbott St	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.05
Caro Park	DEVELOPED	27 Caro Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.37
Cascia Linear Park	DEVELOPED	430 Cascia Dr	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.28
Cassiar Park	DEVELOPED	669 Cassiar Cr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.73
Cedar Ave & Abbott St Properties	FUTURE	3090 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.71
Cedar Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	3090 Walnut St	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.12
Central Okanagan Sail Boat Association	DEVELOPED	4220 Hobson Rd	NO DOGS	CITY LEASE	0.34
Clarence Greenspace	DEVELOPED	823 Clarence Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.16
Collett Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	379 Collett Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.03
Cook Road Boat Launch	DEVELOPED	3786 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	CITY LAND	1.64
Curlew Park	DEVELOPED	5210 Lark St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.11
Dehart Park	FUTURE	687 Dehart Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.74
Dewdney Road #1 Beach Access	UNDEV	1840 Dewdney Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.14
Dewdney Road #2 Beach Access	UNDEV	1950 Dewdney Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.11
Dewdney Road #3 Beach Access	UNDEV	2046 Dewdney Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.24
Dewdney Road #4 Beach Access	UNDEV	2182 Dewdney Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.19

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Dewdney Road #5 Beach Access	UNDEV	2254 Dewdney Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.11
Dilworth Soccer Park	DEVELOPED	950 Dilworth Dr	NO DOGS	SD LEASE	0.91
Dougall Property	FUTURE	165 Dougall Rd N	NO DOGS	CITY LEASE	0.08
Dubbin Road North Beach Access	UNDEV	2498 Dubbin Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.09
Dubbin Road South Beach Access	UNDEV	2400 Dubbin Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.21
East Kelowna Park	DEVELOPED	2741 East Kelowna Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.89
Edith Gay Park	DEVELOPED	305 Moyer Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	4.36
Eldorado Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	402 Eldorado Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.06
Ellison Centennial Park	DEVELOPED	4720 Old Vernon Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	7.42
Farris Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	4644 Farris Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.21
Finch Road Beach Access	UNDEV	4200 Finch Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.71
Francis Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	330 Francis Ave	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.14
Francis Brook Linear Park	FUTURE	(S of) 747 Fitzpatrick	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.09
Garner Pond Park	UNDEV	1687 Lewis Road	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.53
Glenmore Community Park	FUTURE	2018 Cross Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.03
Glenmore Road North Greenspace	UNDEV	259 Glenmore Rd N	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.80
Glenmore Sports Park	DEVELOPED	500 Valley Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.91
Golfview Park	DEVELOPED	810 Valley Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.81
Guisachan Heritage Park	DEVELOPED	1060 Cameron Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.01
Gyro Beach Park	DEVELOPED	3400 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.60
Hartman Park	DEVELOPED	1250 Hartman Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.23
Hartwick Park	DEVELOPED	1480 Lambert Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.36
Hobson Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	4222 Hobson Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.04
Hollydell Park	DEVELOPED	905 Hollydell Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.28
Hollywood Park	DEVELOPED	415 Hollywood Ct	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.25
Jack Brow Park	DEVELOPED	900 Guy Street	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.37
Jack Smith Lake Park	UNDEV	5010 Gordon Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	4.26
James Hockey Park	UNDEV	1000 Jame Hockey Pl	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.34
Johnson Park	DEVELOPED	2540 Johnson Rd	NO DOGS	SD LEASE	0.51
Kasugai Park	DEVELOPED	1435 Water St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.28
Kelowna Memorial Cemetery	DEVELOPED	1991 Bernard Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	24.72
Kinsmen Park	DEVELOPED	2600 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.19
KLO Sportsfields	DEVELOPED	1456 KLO Rd	NO DOGS	RDCO LEASE	1.81
Kuiper's Peak Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	S. of Frost Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	10.00
Lake Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	128 McTavish Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.12
Lakeshore Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	4100 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.11
Lebanon Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	5554 Mountainside Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	14.38
Leon Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	(S of) Swan Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.20

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Lillooet Park	DEVELOPED	2180 Summit Dr	NO DOGS	SD LEASE	2.40
Lochview Road Beach Access	UNDEV	190 Lochview Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	1.12
Lombardy Park	DEVELOPED	1320 Wilson Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.95
Loseth Park	DEVELOPED	1535 Loseth Dr	NO DOGS	STORM	0.42
Luxmoore Linear Park	DEVELOPED	3603 Luxmoore Rd	NO DOGS	PUBLIC ROW	0.49
Manhattan Dr & Guy St Property	FUTURE	808 Manhattan Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.05
Manhattan Drive Beach Access	DEVELOPED	842 Manhattan Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.10
Mappin Court Park	DEVELOPED	2673 Mappin Ct	NO DOGS	PROV	0.04
Martin Park	DEVELOPED	1434 Graham St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.54
Mary Ann Collinson Memorial Park	DEVELOPED	1250 Pridham Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.21
Maude Roxby Wetland	DEVELOPED	340 Francis Ave	NO DOGS	PROV	1.73
McKinley Landing Park	DEVELOPED	2186 Bennett Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.22
McKinley Road Beach Access	UNDEV	1678 McKinley Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	3.68
McTavish Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	122 McTavish Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.04
Meikle Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	252 Meikle Ave	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.04
Merlin Court Greenspace	UNDEV	244 Merlin Ct	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.11
Mount Royal Open Space	UNDEV	807 Ethel St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	7.17
Munson Pond Park	FUTURE	2855 Burtch Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	9.82
Naito Park	DEVELOPED	115 Naito Ct	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.25
Osprey Park	DEVELOPED	2600 Richter St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.06
Poplar Point Drive #1 Beach Access	UNDEV	264 Poplar Point Dr	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.26
Quail Place Park	DEVELOPED	2500 Quail Pl	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.27
Queensway Boat Launch	DEVELOPED	238 Queensway	NO DOGS	CITY LAND	0.24
Recreation Avenue Park	DEVELOPED	552 Gaston Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	4.44
Redridge Park	DEVELOPED	4805 Westridge Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	2.11
Rembler Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	5052 Chute Lake Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.90
Richmond Park	DEVELOPED	1625 Richmond St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.16
Rockview Park	UNDEV	(S of) Rockview Lane	NO DOGS	CITY LAND	7.79
Rotary Beach Park	DEVELOPED	3726 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.50
Rotary Marsh Park	DEVELOPED	1050 Sunset Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.12
Royal Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	2188 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.07
Sarson Beach Park	DEVELOPED	4398 Hobson Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.10
Skyland Open Space	UNDEV	119 Skyland Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.24
Sonora Park	DEVELOPED	1634 Sonora Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.76
St. Paul Park	FUTURE	1311 St. Paul St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.21
Stillingfleet Park	DEVELOPED	1250 McBride Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.43
Stockley Open Space	UNDEV	1035 Stockley St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	5.27
Strathcona Park	DEVELOPED	2290 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.74

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Type	Area (ha)
Sumac Park	DEVELOPED	372 Sumac Rd E	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.41
Summit Park	DEVELOPED	2280 Summit Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.31
Surtees Property	FUTURE	4629 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	1.81
Swick Road Beach Access	UNDEV	162 Swick Road	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.16
Tower Ranch Mountain Park	UNDEV	2205 Day Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	18.92
Upper Canyon Open Space	UNDEV	1367 Clear Pond Ct	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.62
Vernon Creek Linear Park	UNDEV	120 Bubna Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	3.77
Vimy Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	176 Vimy Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.06
Walrod Park	FUTURE	825 Walrod St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.98
Water Street Boat Launch	DEVELOPED	1354 Water St	NO DOGS	CITY LAND	0.24
Waterfront Walkway - El Dorado Hotel/Manteo Resort	DEVELOPED	510 Cook Road	NO DOGS	PUBLIC ROW	0.12
Waterfront Walkway - Kinsmen Park to Strathcona Park	FUTURE	2358 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.17
Waterfront Walkway - Mission Shores	DEVELOPED	3882 Truswell Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.11
Waterfront Walkway - Royal Avenue	FUTURE	(W of) Royal Ave	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.33
Watt Park	DEVELOPED	3175 Watt Rd	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.38
Watt Road Beach Access	DEVELOPED	3274 Watt Road	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.18
West Avenue Beach Access	DEVELOPED	340 West Ave	NO DOGS	ROAD ROW	0.11
West Avenue Park	DEVELOPED	2955 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.08
West Avenue Park	DEVELOPED	2955 Abbott St	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.27
Wigglesworth Park	DEVELOPED	444 Wigglesworth Cr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.41
Wilden Ridge Pond	UNDEV	182 Skyland Dr	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.53
Windermere Park	DEVELOPED	3545 Windermere Rd	NO DOGS	PARKLAND	0.20
				TOTAL	220.55

Table 3. Dog status in Kelowna parks that are not operated by the City.

Name	Status	Address	Dog Status	Owner	Area (ha)
Bertram Creek Regional Park	DEVELOPED	5680 Lakeshore Rd	NO DOGS	RDCO	16.84
Hollywood Road South & Teasdale Road Property	UNDEV	2015 Hollywood Rd S	NO DOGS	PROV	3.26
Robert's Lake Regional Park	DEVELOPED	956 Curtis Rd	NO DOGS	RDCO	2.00
Wenric Crescent Greenspace	UNDEV	2445 Springfield Rd	NO DOGS	RDCO	0.62
Woodhaven Regional Park	DEVELOPED	4711 Raymer Rd	NO DOGS	RDCO	9.06
Cedar Mountain Regional Park	UNDEV	5511 Chute Lake Rd	ON-LEASH	RDCO	65.18
KLO Creek Park	DEVELOPED	3730 Field Rd	ON-LEASH	CITY LEASE	17.37
Mission Creek Greenway	DEVELOPED	Various	ON-LEASH	CITY LEASE	28.99
Mission Creek Regional Park	DEVELOPED	2363 Springfield Rd	ON-LEASH	RDCO/CITY	94.69
Myra Bellevue Provincial Park	DEVELOPED	(E of) Sallows Rd	ON-LEASH	PROV	114.25
Okanagan Mountain Park	DEVELOPED	5902 Lakeshore Rd	ON-LEASH	PROV	81.81
Rutland Centennial Park	DEVELOPED	180 Rutland Rd N	ON-LEASH	PUBLIC ROW	3.27
Scenic Canyon Regional Park	DEVELOPED	3801 Field Rd	ON-LEASH	RDCO	192.03
Stephens Coyote Ridge Regional Park	UNDEV	2050 McKinley Rd	ON-LEASH	RDCO	111.74



July 29, 2010

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER HEALTH GUIDANCE STATEMENT ON: PARK USE BY DOGS

For many people, dogs provide an irreplaceable source of companionship, friendship and security. In Canada, approximately one third of all households own a dog (Ipsos Canada, 2001). Increasing urbanization and a growing urban dog population contributes to pressures on park space where both people and dogs can exercise, play and socialize.

In response to a request from the City of Kelowna, Interior Health Medical Health Officers have been asked to comment on the public health impacts of dogs in parks. In the City of Kelowna there are 259 parks. Dogs are permitted in 81 of them, 7 of which are designated as off-leash dog parks.

The review of the issue is hampered by the relative lack of baseline information, much of the data is suggestive of problems but good data collection has not apparently been undertaken.

Public parks have an important role to play in facilitating physical activity. Environment is critical for increasing opportunities for exercise and is an important area to address sedentary behaviours associated with a variety of chronic illnesses (Cohen *et al.*, 2007). Dog owners complete significantly more minutes of walking and total physical activity. Parks which are open to dogs provide for animal socialization activities, physical and mental stimulation and exercise for active dogs.

Having a pet dog improves both physical and mental wellbeing (Wells, 2007). Directly, there is the obvious effect of increased physical activity, however there are important indirect effects of pet ownership brought on by increased social contact and the possibility that the human-dog bond provides a psychological buffer against stress. Additionally, pets can have a positive influence on a child's development and self esteem (Lang & Klassen, 2005)

Dog owners perceived that they had more social support to walk and do other forms of physical activity and reported higher neighbourhood cohesion than did non-owners (Cutt *et al.*, 2008). Additionally, there are educational advantages and opportunities for owners to learn about dogs through observation and discussion with more experienced owners when interacting at public parks.

Effectiveness of current enforcement of City by-laws designed to reduce negative consequences of dog ownership.

Currently, the City of Kelowna outlines the responsibilities of dog owners to clean up after their dogs, train their dogs to obey commands, license and vaccinate their dogs, use a leash no longer than 2 meters and stay at least 10 meters away from playgrounds. These bylaws are often not enforced, and much of the public health concerns of allowing dogs in

all of Kelowna's parks can be managed by promoting strong local ordinances and uniform enforcement, as well as by implementing community-wide education programs. Ultimately, dog owners must take the initiative to be responsible and conscientious, ensuring that their actions support the privilege of sharing parkland and open spaces with the community.

While most dogs are friendly with no intentions to cause harm to anyone, at times, some dogs may act aggressively towards humans or other dogs. Dog bites are a serious and often underestimated medical and public health problem, and continue to be a source of preventable injury (Shuler *et al.*, 2008; Voelker, 1997).

While most dogs may be well intentioned and trained, dogs may bite humans under a variety of conditions. The peak incidence of dog bites is from June to August. The likelihood of a child sustaining a dog bite in their lifetime is approximately 50% (Beck & Jones, 1985).

In Canada, 81% of reported dog bites occur in children aged 14 years or younger (CHIRPP, 2006). Children aged 5-9 represent the higher risk group for dog attacks (Lang, 2005). The psychosocial consequences of trauma caused by a dog bite can affect the quality of life of the injured child and his or her family (Kahn *et al.*, 2003). Injuries to the upper body occur more frequently in younger children and the body part most often affected is the face (40.5%) (CHIRPP, 2006). Scarring is a common consequence related to dog bites, and the resulting emotional distress should not be underestimated, particularly for face wounds (Schmitt, 1998).

Most injuries are caused by a dog known to the victim (Lang & Klassen, 2005). While dog bites are a concern in public parks, most injuries occur at the victim's own home (34%) or other home (30%) with 3% of injuries occurring in a public park.

Prevention is the best method for avoiding injury. It has been suggested that the risk of bite injuries reinforces the need for owners to be vigilant about socializing and training their dogs. Prevention strategies should focus on public education and training of dogs and their owners.

Current compliance with existing City of Kelowna bylaws on the use of leashes to control dogs is not known but anecdotally, it is less than ideal. While many animals can be well trained, all dogs have the potential in certain circumstances to become aggressive. Even the best trained of animals, such as guide animals and police animals are maintained on-leash. Off-leash parks should be limited for the purposes of dogs without other human activities occurring in such areas.

While most dogs are friendly, some people can have exacerbations of underlying disease when exposed to dogs, others may become anxious or fearful when approached by a dog.

Dog bites represent an unwanted interaction between humans and dogs who are misbehaving. Some people have health concerns that would be impacted by a close interaction with the best trained animals. Asthma and dog specific allergies can be exacerbated. The prevalence of these diseases are respectively about 11% and 4% of

child populations. The risk for exacerbation of underlying disease of individuals can vary considerably and consideration must be given to the most sensitive and high risk persons in policy development. Some persons may become fearful or avoid interactions with specific animals, including dogs. The prevalence of phobias or discomfort amongst persons approached by a dog is not known.

Even when dogs are not aggressive, some animals get excited and can run towards, jump on or sniff other visitors to the park. Injuries other than bites may result although data are lacking on the frequency of such circumstances. While some people enjoy the opportunity to play with a friendly dog, others do not and may feel it is an intrusion of their own enjoyment of the public park. There is a lack of data in the literature on the public park experiences of people who do not own dogs, however this should be considered when evaluating the use of public parks for all community members.

Uncollected dog waste (fecal and urine) can negatively affect park aesthetics as well as public health and safety. In natural parks or along the edge of water bodies, accumulating dog waste can adversely impact sensitive habitat areas. Where animal wastes are left in public parks, risk for zoonotic disease is increased.

Kelowna Dog Regulation and Impounding Bylaw (No. 5880-88) require that all owners pick up their dog's fecal waste; however these rules are not always followed, particularly when dogs are off-leash (Holland *et al.*, 1991). Public education has greatly increased awareness of the connection between uncollected feces and zoonotic disease, yet a proportion of pet owners, even if in the minority, do not pick up their pets' waste. Dog urine has the potential to carry pathogens that can cause human illness. Exposure by persons is more likely from activities that involve other than walking across an area (e.g. lying on beaches, picnicking, sport and fun games). Children are more likely to be exposed to such pathogens (Seah *et al.*, 1975).

The risk of these diseases can be reduced by strict enforcement of existing bylaws concerning dogs. The current effectiveness of by-laws in eliminating canine fecal contamination is not known for Kelowna.

Hand-washing is important in reducing the risk for infection in a park utilized by dogs and appropriate washing facilities should be available where dogs are permitted.

Public health impacts of dogs in parks are a factor of how a park is actually used by pet owners, rather than simply the accessibility of the area to animals (Ludlam & Platt, 1989). Providing dog waste bags and conveniently placed receptacles in popular dog walking areas can increase the rate of compliance with dog waste bylaws. Dog waste left in public spaces can contribute to tension between those park users with and those without dogs.

As previously indicated to the City of Kelowna, good beach operation should include efforts to reduce fecal contamination from all sources. The 2007 study by the City of Kelowna demonstrated the contribution of *E. Coli* in beach recreational water attributable to canines was of the order of 15%, second only to geese (24%). Further, the use of beaches by persons playing or lying on the ground is a strong rationale for excluding dogs from beaches used by humans.

Summary:

Policy development on expanding access to parklands by dogs is compromised by the lack of information related to:

- Public opinion and public preferences.
- Current compliance with municipal bylaws related to use of leashes and removal of dog feces.
- Impact on behaviour and concerns of non-dog owners who may actively avoid contact with areas where dogs frequent.
- Risks to persons with underlying health conditions.

Changes in policy should be accompanied by evaluation of impacts on persons affected by the policy change.

While the majority of dog owners are responsible, the current effectiveness of signage, enforcement and education activities is questioned in respect to dog owners who do not comply with expectations outlined in bylaws.

Recommendations:

1. Pet ownership should be encouraged as a health promoting activity, both from the perspective of the intrinsic value of companionship as well as the increased physical activity incurred, particularly amongst dog owners.
2. Dogs should be prohibited from playgrounds, locations where children frequent for play purposes (playing fields, school yards etc.) and beaches with their adjacent park strips that are used by people.
3. Information on public opinions, public behaviours of non-dog owners and current compliance with leash and clean-up bylaws should be obtained to help inform policy changes.
4. If increased access to park space is to be provided to dogs, that this be undertaken in a measured fashion, so that impacts can be monitored on the majority of persons who are not dog owners.
5. Sufficient resources for education and enforcement should be dedicated to ensure that the benefits of expanding access to parks by dogs exceed the risks.
6. Parks where dogs can be permitted should also provide good hand-washing facilities.
7. Off-leash parks should be limited for the purposes of dogs without other human activities occurring in such areas.

¹ References available