### **MEMORANDUM**

Date:

January 20, 2009

File No.:

6120-20

To:

**City Manager** 

From:

**Director, Infrastructure Operations** 

Subject:

**New Off-leash Dog Parks** 

Report Prepared by: Mark Tompkins, Parks & Community Relations Coordinator

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT Council approve an off-leash dog park within the designated area of Duggan Park (Map 15) for small dogs;

AND THAT Council approve on a temporary basis an off-leash dog park within the designated area of Rutland Recreation Park (Map 16) until such time the land is needed to accommodate other park needs;

AND THAT Council approve an off-leash dog park on Knox Mountain Park (Map 17) on a one year trial basis;

AND THAT Council not approve an off-leash dog area on a trial basis within Kinsmen Park (Map 14);

AND THAT the grassed field area within the former Kelowna Secondary School site (Map 18) be used on a trial basis between April 15, 2009 and October 15, 2009 as an off-leash dog park and that staff report back to Council on the results of the trial;

AND THAT Council Policy 258 Dog Walking and Dog Off-Leash Parks be amended to reflect the additional off-leash dog parks identified in the report of the Director, Infrastructure Operations dated January 20, 2009.

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the regular meeting of City Council held April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, City Council approved adding 14 new parks as on leash dog parks and on a trial basis between May 15 and September 15, 2008 designated a portion of 3 parks (Duggan, Rutland Recreation and Knox Mountain) as off-leash. Kelowna currently has 65 dog on leash parks and 5 dog off leash parks.

Parks staff also proposed on a trial basis between May 15 and September 15, 2008 a portion of Kinsmen Park as off-leash but City Council deferred pending a report back following input from neighbours, the Kinsmen Club, other organizations and the public.

Two on-line surveys were conducted by the City of Kelowna; one for Kinsmen Park and one for Rutland Recreation, Duggan and Knox Mountain Parks. Approximately 400 responses were received

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for the Kinsmen survey and 200 for the other on-line survey. Kettle Valley Research compiled the results on behalf of the City of Kelowna. The surveys were developed to collect public input efficiently; they are not statistically valid.

### **Knox Mountain Off- Leash Dog Park**

Ninety per cent (90%) of respondents supported the designated off-leash area in Knox Mountain Park.

During the trial period, Parks only fenced along Knox Mountain Drive as a cost saving measure. However, the need to fence along the top of bank was confirmed by the on-line survey. Therefore if the portion of Knox Mountain Park was approved as off-leash, Parks would fence the top of bank if permissible. Parks is also recommending that the Knox Mountain Park off-leash area be approved on a one year trial basis as some pedestrians have requested the fence be moved further from the road to improve safety for pedestrians. The fence was purposely set a minimum of 1.5 metres from the road to provide an area for pedestrians. Additional land may be conducive for on road parking creating a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles even if the road was signed no parking. In addition, the area for off-leash dogs is already narrow and shifting the fence further would create an area too narrow for an off-leash dog area. Recent measurements show that the area from the asphalt road to the fence is a minimum of 2 metres which Parks believes is safe. The area between the road and the fence may need to be graded to provide a more level surface for walking. Extending this trial for another year would give Parks sufficient time to determine if this area is suitable as an off-leash area while not creating a safety hazard.

The designated area was initially proposed by the Friends of Knox Mountain.

### Rutland Recreation Off-Leash Dog Park

Ninety six per cent (96 %) of respondents supported the designated off-leash area in Rutland Recreation Park. The trial was successful and supported by the community in this area. Parks is recommending this area be approved as an off-leash dog park on a temporary basis as this area may be required in the future for additional parking, a playground or field expansion.

### **Duggan Off-Leash Dog Park**

Parks administered a survey to home owners adjacent to Duggan Park in 2007. The surveys were hand delivered to more than 40 homes; 12 responses were received with 6 in favour of the small off leash Dog Park and 6 opposed. Of the 6 opposed 4 were concerned about dogs and traffic. The trial included fencing the small dog area to prevent dogs from running into traffic.

The off leash trial was implemented in 2008 and ninety–five per cent (95%) of respondents supported the designated small dog off-leash area in Duggan Park. Only 3 surveys were received by residents living immediately adjacent to Duggan Park. One resident supported the small dog area, one resident did not support the small dog area and the third resident was neutral. As the trial was successful and supported for the most part by the public, Parks is recommending that the designated area within Duggan Park be approved as an off-leash dog area for small dogs.

### Kinsmen Off-Leash Dog Park Trial

As directed by City Council, Parks solicited public input to see if Kinsmen Park would be appropriate for an off-leash dog park trial with access to the Okanagan Lake. Currently the only public access dogs have to Okanagan Lake is the off-leash dog beach at Cedar Creek Park.

Ninety three (93 %) per cent of respondents living within 100 metres of the park opposed the proposed trial while thirty-seven per cent (37 %) of community at large respondents opposed the trial. It should be noted that support for the off-leash trial was strongly polarised by whether or not respondents owned a dog or lived near Kinsmen Park.

Reasons respondents did not support the off-leash dog trial at Kinsmen Park included limited beach access for people, special access to the lake for dogs, irresponsible dog owners and disruptions to wildlife (bird sanctuary). Parks staff also requested input from the Kinsmen Club, Naturalist Club and the City's Environment Division. The Naturalist Club (Enclosure I) and the Kinsmen Club (Enclosure II) did not support an off-leash dog park trial at Kinsmen Park. The City's Environmental staff also did not support the use of a portion of Kinsmen Park as dog off-leash given its potential impact on the Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary. Therefore Kinsmen Park should not be approved on a trial basis as a dog off-leash as this park is near an environmentally sensitive bird sanctuary.

It should be noted that seventy-eight (78%) of respondents supported additional access to Okanagan Lake on City-owned land. Not surprisingly, dog owners were significantly more likely to support additional dog access to Okanagan Lake (93 %) compared to only 50% of non-dog owners supporting additional access. After reviewing all beach accesses and beach parks staff have determined there is no appropriate area to provide additional access to Okanagan Lake within the City's current inventory.

### Central Green Off-Leash Dog Park Trial

The former KSS site which is City owned and also known as Central Green is currently undeveloped. Prior to development of the site, portions of the property are used on a temporary basis to fulfill various civic needs. As development is not expected to occur over the next two years Parks would like to use a portion of the site for an off-leash dog park including a separate area for small dogs between April 15, 2009 and October 15, 2009. During the trial period, we will seek public input and report back to City Council after the trial period.

**INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:** City Clerk

**EXISTING POLICY: BYLAW NO. 6819-91** 

### FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

There is sufficient capital budget to implement these changes in 2009.

**EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The Regional Dog Advisory Committee supports the addition of more off-leash parks.

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:**

Update dog park list on website Issue news release Include in Council Highlights

Send letter to appropriate Residents Associations, Kinsmen Club, Naturalists Club and Dog Owner Association

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:
LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:
LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:
ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Submitted by:

J Creron, Director Infrastructure Operations/Citizen Services

Approved for Inclusion:

Ge Ge

General Manager, Citizen Services

Cc:

Mark Tompkins, Parks Branch Al Dixon, Bylaw Enforcement

Carla Stephens, Director Community and Media Relations

**Enclosures** 

# Box 21128 Orchard Park RPO, Sciowna, BC, VIV 288

ENCLOSURE I

2008 May 29

Carla Stephens City of Kelowna Parks Dept 1359 KLO Road Kelowna, BC VTW 3N8

Regarding: Trial off-leash dog park proposal at Kinsman Park

Dear Ms. Stephens:

The Cental Okanagan Naturalists' Club adamantly opposes the proposal to establish an off-leash dog park area in Kinsman Park primarily due to its immediate proximity to Mud Bay and Maude-Roxby Wetland. As you are no doubt aware, our club has contributed many hours of volunteer labour and worked to raise funds to help the city create nearby Maude-Roxby wetland as a preserve for wildlife. One of the main reasons this area was favored as a wildlife sanctuary was the variety and abundance of birds that would stop to rest and feed in the adjacent shallow bay on their northward and southward migrations. Though small, the area is vital wildlife habitat, uncommon on Okanagan Lake, enabling many bird species that we would otherwise not see to migrate through our area. The combination of resident and migrant bird species is enjoyed by many people throughout the valley, from Winfield to Peachland, because of its notable diversity.

Dogs are very alarming to many bird species, so just their presence nearby would seriously negatively impact the abundance and variety of birds in Mud Bay. We therefore think it would be extremely harmful to the value of the marsh and bay for wildlife to allow dogs off-leash anywhere near this regionally significant important bird area. Members of our club have marveled at observing over 180 bird species in this area over many years. Some of these sightings are very rare, while many uncommon species, such as Trumpeter Swans and White Pelicans, are observed in Mud Bay year after year. Attached is a partial list of the bird species observed at various times of the year. We are gathering together a more comprehensive list which will be forwarded to you soon.

Please preserve the vibrancy of Mud Bay and the Maude-Roxby wetland by locating any off-leash, aquatic dog parks well away from this important bird area. The latest IUCN Red List (see <a href="http://cms.iucn.org/index.cfm?uNewsID=947">http://cms.iucn.org/index.cfm?uNewsID=947</a>) reports many bird species in decline and distress due to climate change and habitat impacts: lets' continue to support their survival by ensuring our activities respect their needs. This will keep the birds coming to our doorstep, where many people can observe and enjoy them. Birding is a growing element of tourism which this area readily supports. Adding the pressure of dogs on land and/or in the water would be one more cumulative impact which could push the wildlife species using the bay over the edge.

The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club would like to see the Kelowna Parks Department create more bird habitat on Mud Bay by replacing the concrete wall along the lake in Kinsmen Park with riparian vegetation, once this structure is no longer viable. There is also potential to add a bird blind so park users can enjoy viewing the diverse wildlife in the bay without disturbing them. We would like to explore these possibilities with parks staff.

Despite having a no dog designation at the Maude-Roxby Wetland, the Francis Avenue beach access and Kinsmen Park, people are regularly observed letting their dogs loose to chase the birds in Mud Bay. More enforcement is necessary!

We implore the Mayor and Council of the City of Kelowna to reject this proposal as being incompatible with the wellbeing of the wildlife sanctuary it borders on. Please keep us informed of your decisions, plans and actions with regard to the Kinsmen Park, Maud-Roxby Wetland and the Mud Bay area.

Yours Sincerely,

Don Guild, President

Por Guild

Attachment: Birders Comments on the Proposed Off-Leash Dog Areas in Kinsmen Park (2 pages)

CC: Mayor Sharon Shepherd and City of Kelowna Councillors

May 26, 2008

CITY OF KELDWNA 1435 Water Street Kelowna, BC VIY 1J4

Attention: Carla Stephens

Dear Carla:

On behalf of the Kinsmen Club of Kelowna. I would like to relay to City council our opposition to the proposal of sectioning off an area of Kinsmen Park on Abbott Street as a dog park. Our club has had much debate amongst our members; we have received several pieces of correspondence from concerned residents of Kelowna and we have approached the senior members of our K40 Club (who were involved in the original opening of Kinsmen Park). We have been hard pressed to come up with arguments in favor of creating a dog park area within Kinsmen Park.

When we consider the bird sanctuary close by, the beauty of the lake, and the calm, quiet setting of Kinsmen Park which does not have the hustle and bustle of a beach area like Gyro or Rotary Beach we feel this is an inappropriate choice for the dog park.

Our motto "Serving the Communities Greatest Need" has been put to the test on this issue. When we consider that no one has approached us in favor of the dog park and that the Club has received numerous emails, letters, etc that are opposed to the dog park, we believe that we have been diligent in taking our stance against the issue.

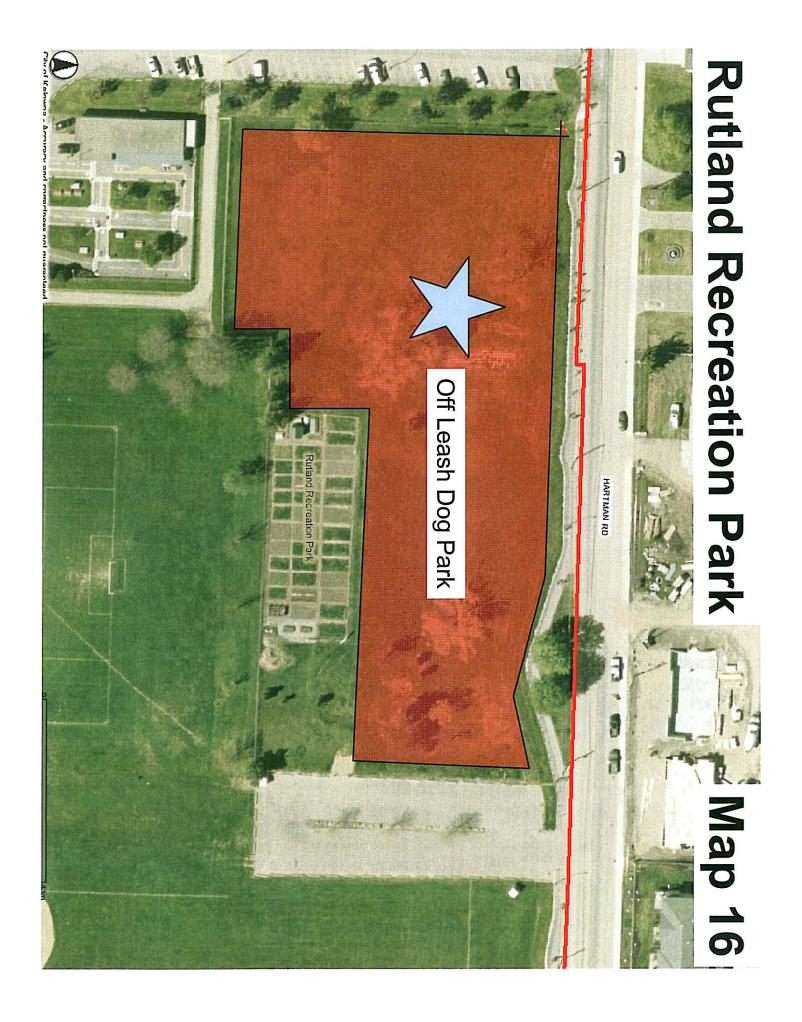
Some of our members have dogs of their own, and we all agree that dog parks are beneficial for all residents of Kelowna. They serve to keep our City's other parks, pathways and green spaces clean, fresh and beautiful. We believe that Kinsmen Park is one of those areas which should remain pristine.

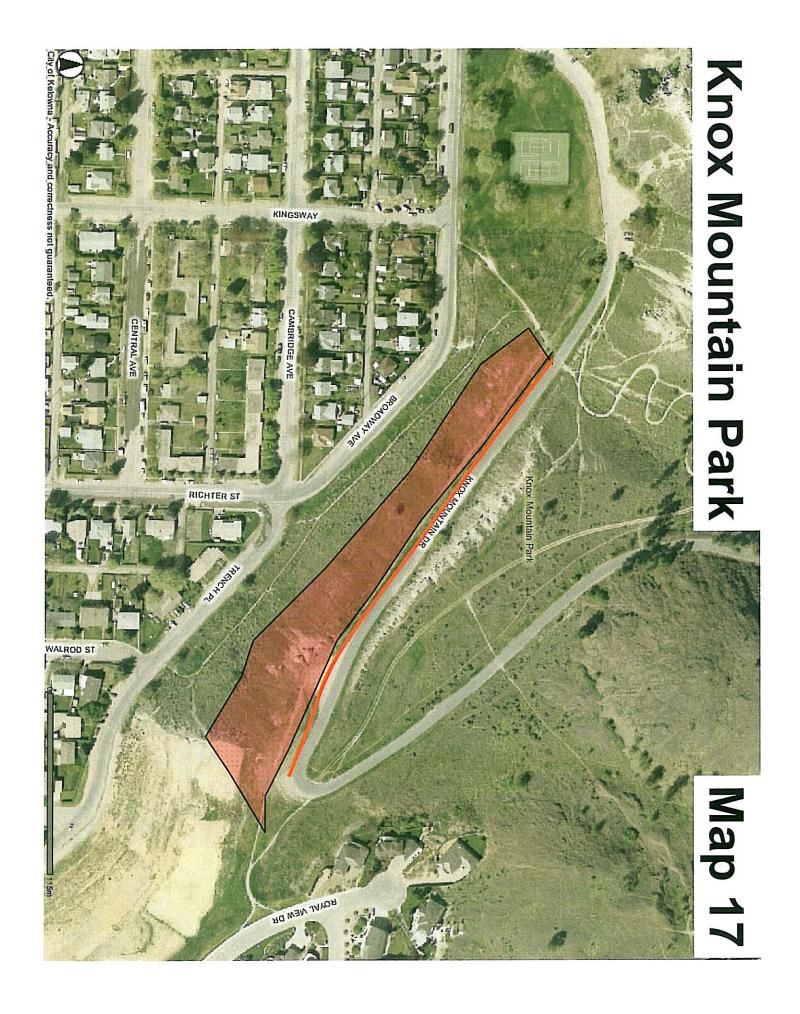
In summary, we the Kinsmen Club of Kelowna oppose the dog park in Kinsmen Park.

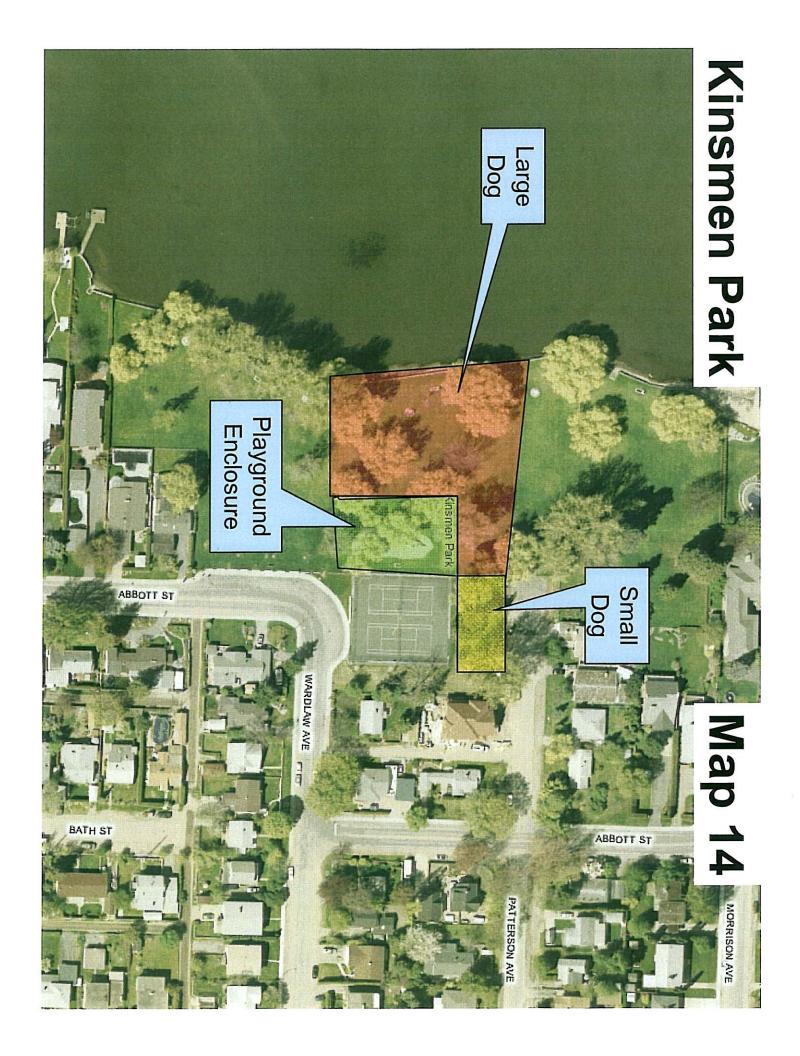
Yours truly, KINSMEN CLUB OF KELOWNA

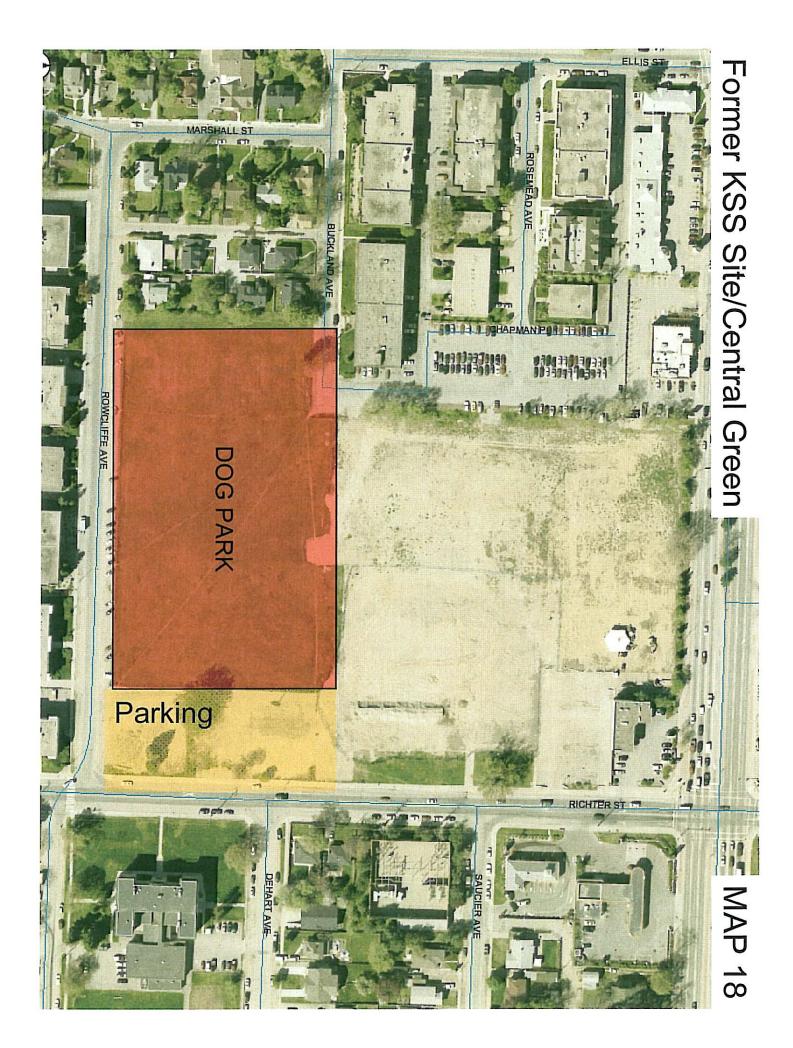
Ron Rodger President

**DUGGAN PARK 8 ЯО ОМАЈНЭІН** On Leash Area Off Leash Area Map 15











POLICY: 258 PAGE: 1 of 14

### **COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL**

APPROVAL DATE: 1998/06/22 RESOLUTION #: R327/08/04/07

REPLACING #:R1008/06/11/06; R633/06/06/26;R360/06/04/24;R1106/05/11/14;R529/05/05/30;R520/03/06/09;

R354/00/04/17; R530/99/06/21; R489/98/06/22; Policy #47 - R1111/88/07/26

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: November 2008

SUBJECT: DOG WALKING AND DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS

### ON-LEASH:

The following parks are identified as **dog walking parks** within which dogs on leash are permitted on trails, sidewalks, walkways and roadways in the park. Pathways and trails through children's playgrounds are excluded.

Anchor ParkBelmont Park

Ben Lee ParkBlair Pond Park

Brants Creek Linear Park

Calmels ParkCameron ParkCanyon Falls Park

Carney Park

Chichester Wetland Park

City HallCity Park

Crawford Bridle Paths Linear Park

Davie Park

Dilworth Mountain Park and trails

Duggan Park

Enterprise Way Park

Fairhall Park

Fascieux Creek ParkGopher Creek Linear Park

Harris Park

Havard Road Linear ParkJack Robertson Park

Jewel ParkKerry Park

KLO Creek Regional Park

Knowles Park

Knox Mountain Park

Leckie Place (Brents Mill site)Main Street Park (Kettle Valley)

McCarren Park

Mill Creek Linear ParkMission Creek Greenway

Mission Creek Regional Park

Millbridge Park

Mission Recreation Park
 Mission Bidge Bark

Mission Ridge ParkMoraine Park

Pacific Court Park

1691 Ellis Street

4444 Belmont Road 900 Houghton Road 333 Clifton Road South

Glenmore Valley

1059 Calmels Crescent 2345 Richter Street

1856 Canyon Falls Court 1890 Capistrano Drive

250 Sumac Road West 1435 Water Street 1600 Abbott Street

Crawford Estates Subdivision

300 Davie Road 2100 Chilcotin Court

1494 Bernard Avenue - See Map

2500 Enterprise Way 2448 Fairhall Road

Richter Street and Casorso Road - See Map

1723 Lynrick Road 280 Sumac Road W. 4538 Gaspardone Road 1655 Willow Crescent 327 Providence Avenue

1480 Mill Street 3730 Field Road

865 Bernard Avenue & 888 Lawrence Avenue

540 Broadway Avenue 2135 Leckie Place 411 Providence Ave 347 McCarren Ave

Mill Creek (portions where there is a trail) From Lakeshore/Truswell to Ziprick Road

2345 Springfield Road 1999 Bowes Street 3975 Gordon Drive

End of Bullock Road - See Map

700 Moraine Court 1955 Pacific Court



POLICY: **258** PAGE: 2 of 14

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DATE OF LAST REVIEW: November 2008

SUBJECT: DOG WALKING AND DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS

### ON-LEASH: - Cont'd

Parkinson Recreation Centre

Powerline Linear Park

Providence Park

Quail Ridge Linear Park

Quarry Park

Redlich ParkRoxby Centennial Park

Rutland Lions ParkRutland Sportsfields

Scenic Canyon Regional Park

Still Pond Park

Stuart Park

Selkirk Park

South Kelowna Centennial Park

Southridge Park and Open Space

Summerside Park

Sunset Drive Park

Stuart Park

Thomson Creek Linear Park

Tulameen Park

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Wilson Creek Linear Creek

Winslow Park

Wyndham Neighbourhood Park

Waterfront Park

1800 Parkinson Way

5056 Windsong Crescent

352 McCarren Ave

2500 Quail Place

640 Southridge Drive

1646 Gillard Drive

250 Highway 33 West

205 Gray Road - See Map

425 Hartman Road

3801 Field Road

1198 Long Ridge Drive

1420 Water Street

2500 Selkirk Drive

4194 Spiers Road

5045 Southridge Drive

3858 Summerside Drive

1055 Sunset Drive

1420 Water Street

4105 Gordon Drive

347 Quilchena Drive

951 Raymer Road - See Map

4186 Lakeshore Road

5386 Winslow Street

131 Wyndham Court

1200 Water Street

 Including the waterfront promenade between City Park and Sunset Drive (Note: This does not include the boardwalks and trails of Rotary Marsh).

NOTE: Dogs are NO LONGER PERMITTED within Sutherland Bay Park



POLICY: 258 PAGE: 3 of 14

### COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

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R354/00/04/17; R530/99/06/21; R489/98/06/22; Policy #47 - R1111/88/07/26

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: November 2008

DOG WALKING AND DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS SUBJECT:

### **OFF-LEASH:**

The following parks are designated as dog off-leash parks within which dogs are permitted to run at large while under the control of a person capable of controlling the dog at all times:

Cedar Creek Park

Duggan Park (SMALL dogs only)

Glenmore Road North Dog Park

Ellison Fields

Enterprise Way Park Knox Mountain Park

Mission Recreation Park

Rutland Recreation Park

5200 Lakeshore Road - See Map 1494 Bernard Ave - See Map

2150 Glenmore Road North - See Map 4680 Old Vernon Road - See Map

2500 Enterprise Way 450 Knox Mountain Drive – **See Map** 

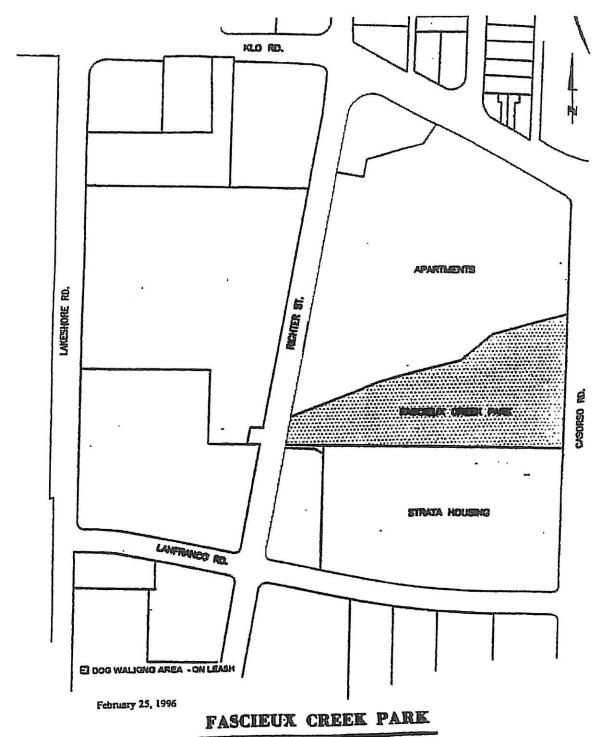
West of the Mission Greenway parking lot and East of Micahel brook wetland. 3975 Gordon Drive

375 Harman Road - See Map

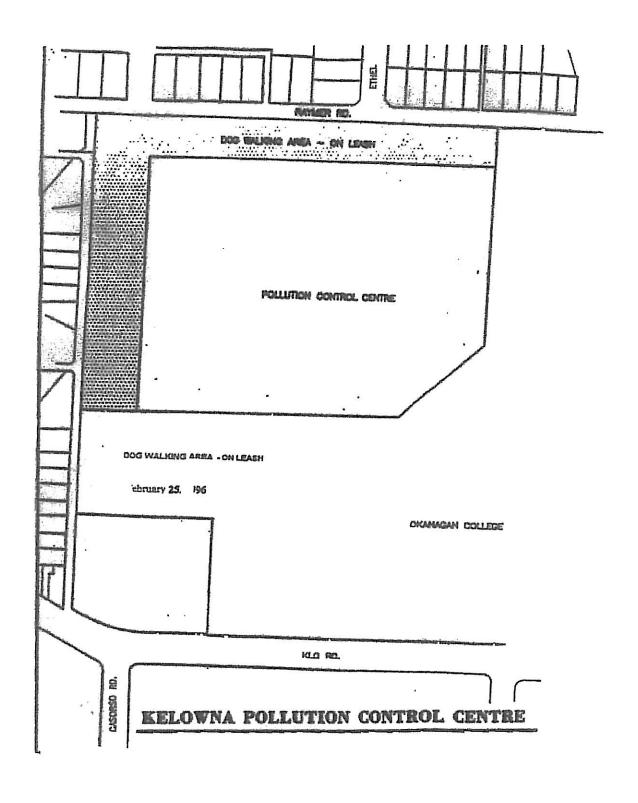
REASON FOR POLICY: To identify parks where owners may walk their dogs.

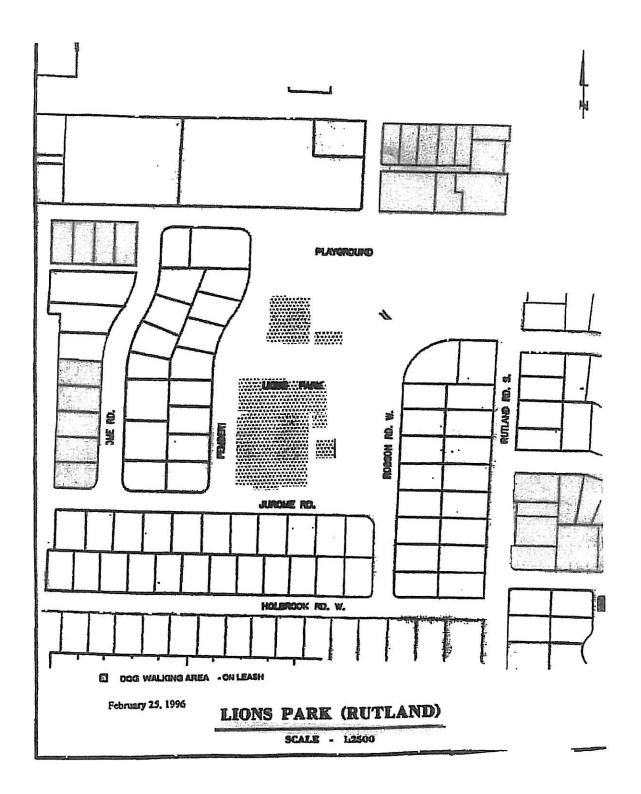
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 6819-91.

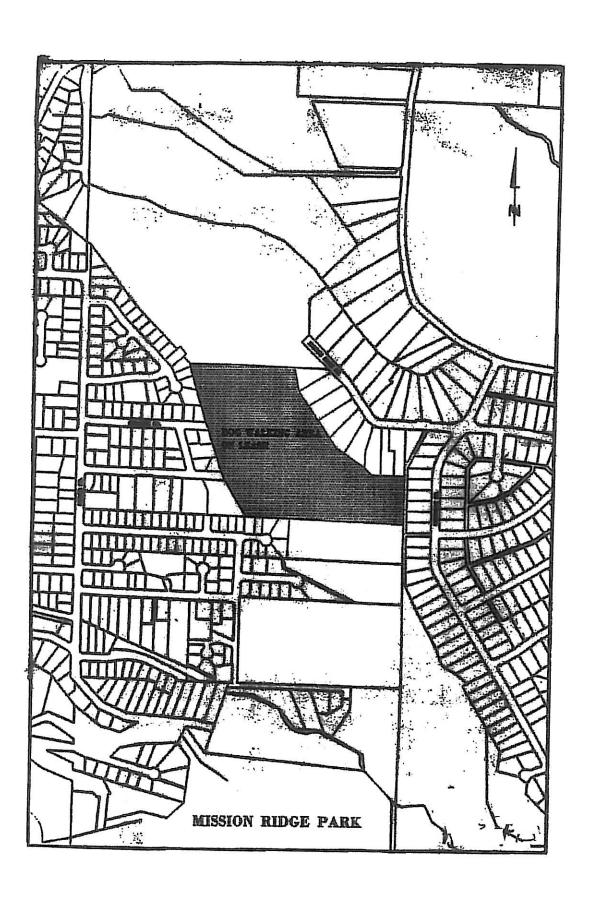
PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION: Amendments to this policy are through the Parks Division of the Parks & Leisure Services Department.

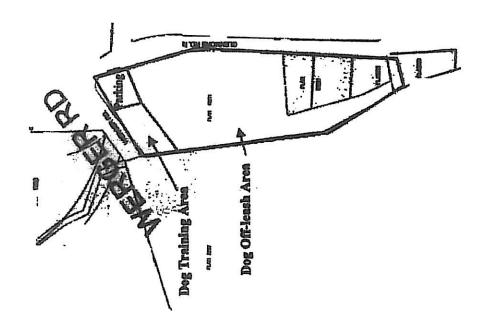


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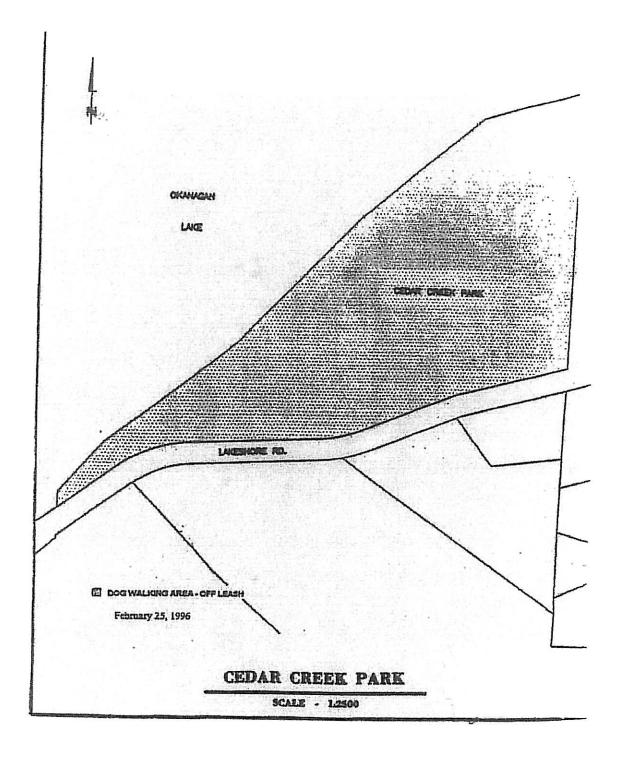


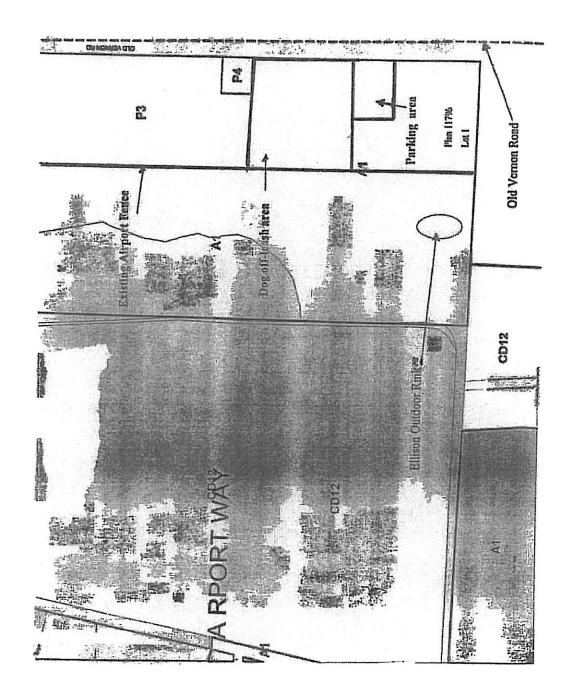




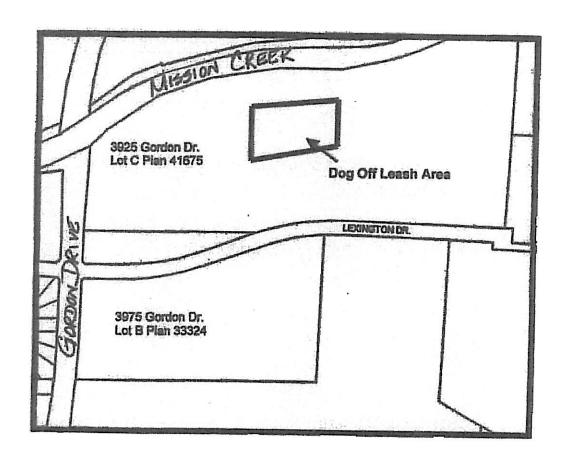
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AREA ACROSS FROM GLEMORE ANDFILL





ELLISON FIELDS



MISSION RECREATION PARK N

Off Leash Area On Leash Area **DUGGAN PARK** 



Rutland Recreation Park Off Leash Dog Park HARTANN RD The E



POLICY: 258 PAGE: 1 of 14

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Duggan Park

Enterprise Way Park

Fairhall Park

Fascieux Creek Park

Gopher Creek Linear Park

Harris Park

Havard Road Linear Park

Jack Robertson Park

Jewel Park

Kerry Park

KLO Creek Regional Park

Knowles Park

Knox Mountain Park

Leckie Place (Brents Mill site)

Main Street Park (Kettle Valley)

McCarren Park

Mill Creek Linear Park

Mission Creek Greenway

Mission Creek Regional Park

Millbridge Park

Mission Recreation Park

Mission Ridge Park

Moraine Park

Pacific Court Park

1691 Ellis Street

4444 Belmont Road

900 Houghton Road

333 Clifton Road South

Glenmore Valley

1059 Calmels Crescent

2345 Richter Street

1856 Canyon Falls Court

1890 Capistrano Drive

250 Sumac Road West

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1600 Abbott Street

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2448 Fairhall Road

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1480 Mill Street

3730 Field Road

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540 Broadway Avenue

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Mill Creek (portions where there is a trail)

From Lakeshore/Truswell to Ziprick Road

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SUBJECT: DOG WALKING AND DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS

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Powerline Linear Park

Providence Park

Quail Ridge Linear Park

Quarry Park Redlich Park

Roxby Centennial Park

Rutland Lions Park

**Rutland Sportsfields** 

Scenic Canyon Regional Park Still Pond Park

Stuart Park

Selkirk Park

South Kelowna Centennial Park

Southridge Park and Open Space

Summerside Park

Sunset Drive Park

Stuart Park

Thomson Creek Linear Park

Tulameen Park

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Wilson Creek Linear Creek

Winslow Park

Wyndham Neighbourhood Park

Waterfront Park

1800 Parkinson Way

5056 Windsong Crescent

352 McCarren Ave

2500 Quail Place

640 Southridge Drive

1646 Gillard Drive

250 Highway 33 West

205 Gray Road - See Map

425 Hartman Road

3801 Field Road

1198 Long Ridge Drive

1420 Water Street

2500 Selkirk Drive

4194 Spiers Road

5045 Southridge Drive

3858 Summerside Drive

1055 Sunset Drive

1420 Water Street

4105 Gordon Drive

347 Quilchena Drive

951 Raymer Road - See Map

4186 Lakeshore Road

5386 Winslow Street

131 Wyndham Court

1200 Water Street

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NOTE: Dogs are NO LONGER PERMITTED within Sutherland Bay Park



POLICY: 258 PAGE: 3 of 14

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DATE OF LAST REVIEW: November 2008

SUBJECT:

DOG WALKING AND DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS

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Glenmore Road North Dog Park

Ellison Fields

**Enterprise Way Park** 

Mission Recreation Park

5200 Lakeshore Road - See Map

1494 Bernard Ave - See Map

2150 Glenmore Road North - See Map

4680 Old Vernon Road - See Map

2500 Enterprise Way West of the Mission Greenway parking lot and East of

Micahel brook wetland, 3975 Gordon Drive

The following parks are designated as TEMPORARY dog off-leash parks within which dogs are permitted to run at large while under the control of a person capable of controlling the dog at all times:

Kelowna Secondary School site (April 15/09 - Oct 15/09) 1079 Raymer Ave - See Map

Knox Mountain Park (Feb/09 – Feb/10)

450 Knox Mountain Drive - See Map

Rutland Recreation Park

375 Harman Road - See Map

REASON FOR POLICY: To identify parks where owners may walk their dogs.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 6819-91.

PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION: Amendments to this policy are through the Parks Division of the Parks & Leisure Services Department.

# Map Rutland Recreation Park Off Leash Dog Park HARTMAN RD

# Map Knox Mountain Park KINGRMYA

