

AGENDA INFORMATION☒ Regular Meeting

Date: February 2, 2025

☐ Other:

Date: _____


 Dept.
Manager


 GM/
Director


 CAO

The District of North Vancouver

REPORT TO COUNCIL

January 20, 2026

File: CAPPARKS-313193949-31132

AUTHOR: Graham MacInnes, Parks Designer**SUBJECT:** People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan as detailed in the January 20, 2026 report of the Parks Designer entitled People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan is approved.

REASON FOR REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to present the draft People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan for Council's consideration.

The District's Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (2012) provides direction to "develop a dog management program with best management practices for dogs that would address and manage dog related issues in parks and trails."

SUMMARY:

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan (**Attachment 1**) responds to growing pressures in District parks and trails. With approximately one dog for every five residents and increasing park use, a proactive and coordinated approach is needed.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework that:

- Balances recreation, environmental stewardship, and safety.
- Clarifies shared responsibilities among dog owners, non-dog owners, and the District.
- Supports consistent and proactive management across the parks system.

Community Engagement:

- Engagement reached more than 4,300 participants across two phases (**Attachments 2 and 3**).
- Feedback showed strong support for the direction of the Strategic Plan, including ~80% agreement with the vision statement and guiding principles.

Implementation:

The Strategic Plan translates community values into a 10-year roadmap with 29 actions, with 8 high-priority actions in the first three years. Actions focus on the following areas:

- Improving education and enforcement
- Improving dog waste management
- Environmental protection
- Providing various off-leash opportunities
- Clarifying bylaws

This approach emphasizes education, clear expectations, and collaboration rather than blanket restrictions. It provides staff with a framework to bring forward well-scoped, evidence-based recommendations over time. Overall, the Strategic Plan supports a high quality parks system that reflects the community's values.

BACKGROUND:

The District's parks and trails are highly valued for their wide range of recreational opportunities, including areas for on- and off-leash dogs. With a growing population, park use involving dogs is increasing, presenting both opportunities and challenges.

Community engagement highlighted key concerns, including:

- Dog waste not being picked up
- Dog owners not following regulations
- Environmental impacts

To address these issues, proactive planning and updated policies are needed to balance recreation, environmental protection, and community needs.

EXISTING POLICY:

The Strategic Plan is supported by existing plans, policies, and strategies that have been approved by Council, including:

- **Official Community Plan (2011)** contains objectives for maintaining a diverse, high-quality parks and open space system that serves a range of community needs and protects the natural environment.
- **Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (2012)** identifies the need to develop a dog management program that would address dog related issues in parks and trails. Recommendations include:
 - Review options to establish fenced dog off leash areas or dog parks.
 - Review and update Dog and Tax Regulation Bylaw 5981.
 - Evaluate options to minimize environmental impacts of dogs in parks.
 - Develop operational and design guidelines for dedicated dog park areas.
- **Corporate Plan 2023-2026** identifies the need to enhance outdoor recreation by improving urban parks to meet community needs and demand in town and village centres and protect and enhance the environment through management programs and policy.

ANALYSIS:

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan was developed through extensive community engagement, background and precedent research, discussions with intermunicipal partners and interest groups, collaboration with District staff across departments, and consultant analysis and recommendations.

The Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap of initiatives for District staff to implement, with the goal of proactively addressing challenges related to dogs in parks.

Initial engagement in Fall 2023 drew over 2,900 participants and helped identify key values, challenges and opportunities, informing a draft vision and guiding principles which were shared during subsequent engagement in Fall 2025.

Vision:

The vision statement in the Strategic Plan sets the high-level direction for future progress:

District parks offer opportunities to connect with nature and promote well-being for everyone, non-dog owners and dog owners alike, by balancing recreation with ecological integrity, and encouraging shared responsibility to keep parks safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all.

Guiding Principles:

The guiding principles in the Strategic Plan support progress towards the vision. The three guiding principles are:



Wellness: District parks promote health and wellness through active living and provide people and dogs access to a variety of safe, and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities.



Environment: Recreational opportunities for dogs are supported in ways that protect the integrity and sustainability of natural landscapes and their ecological functions for future generations to come.



Community: Inclusive planning and clearly communicated, fair and enforceable regulations, promote a culture of respect, responsible dog ownership and collective stewardship in District parks.

Strategic Directions:

The Strategic Plan identifies six strategic directions that shape how the recommended actions will be implemented:

- *Distribution & Supply:*
 - *Ensure adequate supply, quality, diversity and distribution of outdoor recreation experiences and amenities including off-leash opportunities.*
- *Balance:*
 - *Practice thoughtful planning to balance the needs of various user and stewardship groups to mitigate dog conflicts and risks in parks.*
- *Ecological Integrity:*
 - *Increase awareness of environmental impacts caused by dogs in parks and implement measures to maintain ecological quality and integrity.*
- *Dog Waste Management:*

- *Improve dog waste management and demonstrate that improper disposal affects everyone's enjoyment of parks and is seen as unacceptable by both dog owners and non-owners alike.*
- **Collaboration:**
 - *Collaborate with interest groups, community partners, and local governments on dog-related initiatives, while engaging the community in decision-making.*
- **Education & Enforcement:**
 - *Enhance awareness of various recreational opportunities and effectively communicate appropriate usage, rules, and regulations related to dogs in parks through education and enforcement.*

Actions:

The Strategic Plan includes 29 actions to be implemented over the next 10 years. The actions are listed in the Strategic Plan (**Attachment 1**). There are 8 high-priority, short-term actions to be initiated over the next three years (2026-2029).

High-priority actions identified for short term implementation include:

- Implement communications programs to promote responsible dog ownership.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and update Dog Bylaw 5981.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Commercial Dog Walking Program.
- Identify locations in District parks experiencing significant dog-related challenges.
- Identify key areas to focus enforcement / education related to dogs in parks.
- Implement new fenced off-leash areas in suitable locations.
- Assess necessary upgrades to existing fenced off-leash areas.
- Investigate alternative dog waste collection systems.

Public Input

The development of the Strategic Plan included two phases of community engagement. Participants represented a broad range of perspectives, including dog owners, non-dog owners, park and trail users, interest groups, and adjacent land managers. Community input was essential in shaping the Strategic Plan.

Audiences were engaged at the *Consult* level (**Figure 1**).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM

Adapted and used with permission from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2 Federation).

Inform	Listen & Learn	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
"We will keep you informed. We will provide information that is timely, accurate, balanced, objective, and easily understood. We will respond to questions for clarification and direct you to sources of additional information."	"We will listen to you and learn about your plans, views, and issues; and work to understand your concerns, expectations, and ideas."	"We will keep you informed, and listen to and acknowledge your concerns and aspirations in developing final solutions, and we will report back to you on how your input influenced the decision."	"We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and we will report back on how your input influenced the decision."	"We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions, and we will incorporate your recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible."	"We will implement what you decide."

Figure 1: District's Public Engagement Spectrum

The first round of community engagement (Fall 2023) drew over 2,900 participants. An estimated 77% of online survey respondents identified as District of North Vancouver residents. The engagement summary report (**Attachment 2**) was shared with Council on February 22, 2024, and later posted on the project webpage. Feedback from this initial engagement helped identify the community's key values, ideas, challenges and opportunities.

Key community values were identified, including:

- The importance of opportunities to connect with nature
- Shared responsibility for creating welcoming and inclusive parks
- Concerns about dog waste and other environmental impacts

The second round of community engagement (Fall 2025) included over 1,400 participants. Of online survey respondents, an estimated 83% (1,109 of 1,332 respondents) were District of North Vancouver residents. This phase focused on gathering feedback on the draft Strategic Plan, specifically the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategic directions, while providing another opportunity for input on the draft Plan. The engagement summary report is available in **Attachment 3**.

Engagement opportunities in the second round included:

- Online survey: 1,355 respondents
- Pop-up engagement events: 130 participants, 150 postcards handed out
- Interest group discussions

Key findings from the online survey about the Strategic Plan include:

- Of respondents, 82% (1,099 of 1,343 respondents) agree or strongly agree with the vision statement
- Of respondents, the majority support the three guiding principles and six strategic directions
- The top three comment themes when asked about the Strategic Plan overall include:
 - Concerns about losing access to off-leash trails

- Desire for more bylaw enforcement
- Desire for additional off-leash areas in the District

Both rounds of community engagement were supported by a communications strategy to raise awareness about the project and opportunities to participate. Print and digital communications tactics were used with links to the dedicated webpage and online survey, including signage in parks and the community, postcards, print and digital advertising in the North Shore News and social media posts.

Committee Input:

The Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee (PNEAC) has been supportive of developing the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan, and their input has directly informed the Plan. PNEAC provided feedback at the following meetings:

- September 27, 2023: Reviewed the project scope and provided early input.
- February 21, 2024: Reviewed community engagement results and shared input on key topics for consideration during plan development.
- September 25, 2024: Reviewed and provided input on draft site selection criteria and design guidelines for fenced off-leash dog areas.
- April 16, 2025: Reviewed and supported the draft vision statement, guiding principles, and strategic directions.

Timing/Approval Process:

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan provides a guiding framework for future decision-making, including during the development and update of area-specific trail plans. It also contains an action plan to implement future planning initiatives, bylaw updates, capital projects, interest group coordination, and communication, education and enforcement campaigns. Policy recommendations would be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Concurrence:

This report has been reviewed by Parks, Bylaw Services, Communications, and Environment.

Financial Impacts:

Implementation of the Strategic Plan will be achieved through a combination of existing resources and new investments which would be brought forward for Council's consideration through the Financial Plan process.

Liability/Risk:

One of the Strategic Plan's primary goals is to provide safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities in District parks. Many recommended actions include measures to improve safety, while also balancing the community's diverse recreational needs.

Social Policy Implications:

Connecting people and dogs with nature provides health and social benefits, including improved physical well-being, social interaction, and quality of life.

Environmental Impact:

During engagement, the most valued aspect of District parks was the opportunity to connect with nature, and the top concerns shared by both dog owners and non-dog owners were dog waste not being picked up and other impacts to the environment. This Strategic Plan provides recommended actions to reduce environmental impacts associated with dogs.

Next Steps

There are several actions that would be implemented in the short term if the Strategy is approved. These actions include revision of the Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981, review of the commercial dog walking program, and education programs to address issues related to dog waste and dog etiquette. These actions would involve additional engagement and policy recommendations would be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Conclusion:

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan is a framework for a proactive and adaptive management approach to guide the shared use of District parks and trails by people and dogs. It outlines a coordinated approach to supporting positive dog-related activity in parks through strategies focused on wellness, environment, and community.

The Strategic Plan includes 29 actions to be implemented over 10 years, with the goal of balancing recreation and ecological integrity, and encouraging a shared responsibility to keep parks safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all. If approved by Council, staff will implement the Strategic Plan beginning with the short-term actions.

Options:

1. THAT the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan as detailed in the January 20, 2026 report of the Parks Designer entitled People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan is approved. **(Staff recommendation.)**
2. THAT no further action is taken. (Not recommended.)

Respectfully submitted,

Graham MacInnes

Graham MacInnes
Parks Designer

Attachment 1: Draft People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan

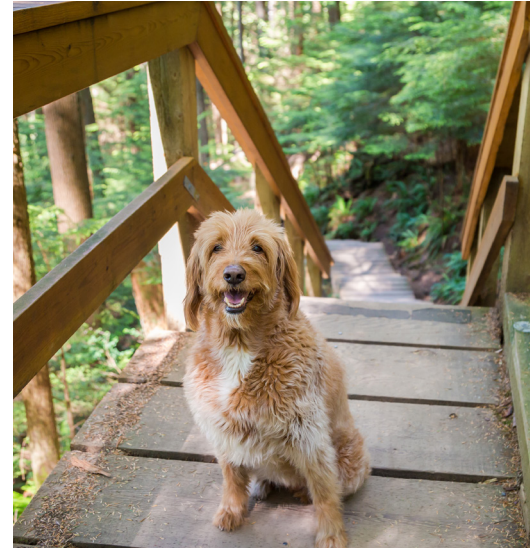
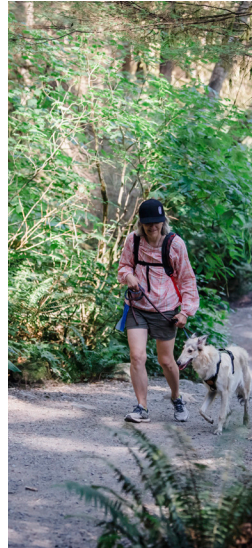
Attachment 2: People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan: Engagement 1 Summary Report

Attachment 3: People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan: Engagement 2 Summary Report

REVIEWED WITH:					
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☐ Finance	_____	External Agencies:	
☒ Bylaw Services	<u>CW</u>	☐ Fire Services	_____	☐ Library Board	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____	☐ Museum and Archives	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ NSEM	_____
☒ Communications	<u>CG</u>	☐ Integrated Planning	_____	☐ NS Health	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ ITS	_____	☐ NVRC	_____
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☒ Parks	<u>AV</u>	☐ RCMP	_____
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____	☐ Other:	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____		
☒ Environment	<u>EN</u>	☐ Solicitor	_____		
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Utilities	_____		

PEOPLE DOGS & PARKS

STRATEGIC PLAN



January 20, 2026

DRAFT



Executive Summary

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan sets out a comprehensive framework to guide the shared use of District parks and trails by people and dogs, helping ensure these spaces remain safe, inclusive and enjoyable for all.

This Strategic Plan considers the needs of dog owners, other park users, and the natural environment to guide thoughtful decision-making. It outlines a coordinated approach to supporting positive dog-related activity in parks through strategies focused on wellness, environment, and community.

The Plan includes a vision statement, guiding principles, strategic directions, and a set of recommended actions to be implemented over the next 10 years.

Guiding Principles



Wellness



Environment



Community

Actions

The following are the high-priority actions identified for implementation over the next three years:

- Implement new fenced off-leash areas in suitable locations within District parks, prioritizing sites near key growth centres.
- Assess and identify necessary upgrades to existing fenced off-leash areas.
- Identify and evaluate locations in District parks and trails experiencing significant dog-related challenges.
- Investigate alternative dog waste collection systems, including those used by other local governments.
- Identify key areas and parks to focus enforcement and education efforts to improve efficiency.
- Develop and implement targeted communications programs on a range of dog-related topics to support education, and enforcement.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and update Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the District's Commercial Dog Walking Program.



Table of Contents

Introduction 5

Process & Engagement 6

Vision & Guiding Principles 8

Action Plan 10

Detailed Action Plan 16

Metrics for Success 32

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Fenced Off-leash Area Design Guidelines 34

Appendix 2: Site Selection 36

Appendix 3: Priority Locations for Fenced Off-leash Areas in District Parks 38

Appendix 4: Decision Making Criteria for Trail Designations 39

Appendix 5: Trail Modification Measures 41

Introduction

Purpose

The District of North Vancouver is home to over 3,000 hectares of parkland and more than 120 kilometers of trails. These natural spaces are highly valued by residents and visitors for their wide range of recreational opportunities, including the opportunity for people to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs.

Dogs play an important role in the lives of many District residents. With an estimated one dog for every five people, and a growing population, the number of dogs in parks and trails is increasing.

This growing park use presents both opportunities and challenges, and the District recognizes the need to update its policies and practices to reflect increased demand and address emerging concerns.

Community engagement has highlighted a range of perspectives, including from dog owners and non-dog owners. In response, the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan sets clear direction to improve park experiences for everyone, including our four-legged friends.



Process & Engagement

Insights gathered through the community engagement process provided valuable input, helping to align strategic priorities with the community's values and aspirations.



Engagement – Round 1

The purpose of the first round of engagement was to learn more about key community values, ideas, and opportunities to inform the development of the Strategic Plan, including its guiding framework.

Over 2,900 respondents participated in at least one of the engagement opportunities. Input was shared through an online survey, three in-person pop-up engagement events, and an intercept survey with park users.

The following key themes were identified by the community during this phase of engagement:

- Connecting with nature in parks and environmental protection is highly valued.
- Everyone plays a role in making parks welcoming and inclusive.
- Parks serve as vital spaces for physical activity and wellness for dogs and people.
- Dog waste management is important for maintaining clean and enjoyable parks.
- Transparent guidelines and regulations ensure parks are safe and harmonious.

For details, visit [DNV.org](https://dnv.org) for the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan: Engagement 1 Summary Report, 2024.

Engagement – Round 2

The purpose of the second round of engagement was to collect feedback from the community on the draft Strategic Plan including the vision, guiding principles, strategic directions, and recommended actions.

Over 1,485 respondents participated in at least one of the engagement opportunities. Input was shared through an online survey, and five in-person pop-up events held at multiple parks and community centres across the District.

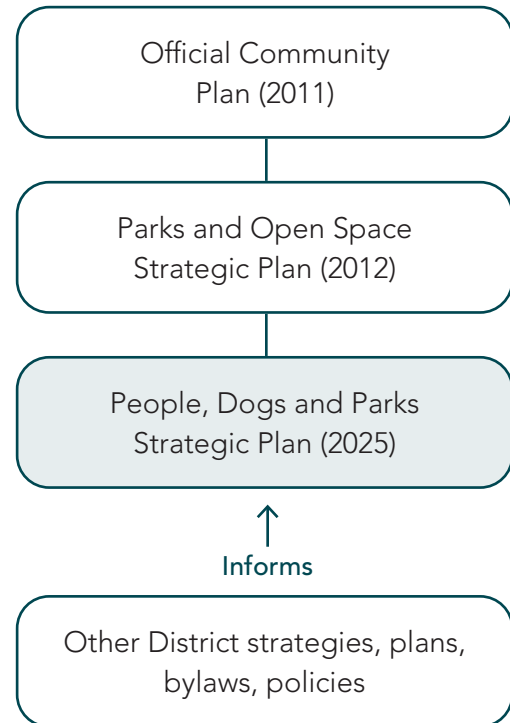
Overall, there was strong support for the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategic directions.

Of online survey respondents, an estimated 83% were District of North Vancouver residents.

For details, visit [DNV.org](https://dnv.org) for the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan: Engagement 2 Summary Report, 2025.

Policy Context

The People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan aligns with various District plans, policies, and bylaws:



- Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw, 5981
- Park Regulation Bylaw, 8310
- Fees and Charges Bylaw, 6481

Vision & Guiding Principles

Vision Statement

District parks offer opportunities to connect with nature and promote well-being for everyone, non-dog owners and dog owners alike, by balancing recreation with ecological integrity, and encouraging shared responsibility to keep parks safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all.

The vision statement is aspirational and indicates the direction in which the District seeks to progress. It is ambitious, overarching, and future-looking, and illustrates what we will work towards. The guiding principles, strategic directions, and actions in this Strategic Plan support progress towards this vision.

This vision statement is informed by values expressed through community input during the community engagement process, aligns with the vision in the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (2012), and supports the wider community vision in the Official Community Plan (2011).

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are beliefs and values that help inform decision-making and guide the implementation of initiatives to achieve the vision statement. These guiding principles are informed by values expressed through community input during the engagement process. The guiding principles are not listed in any particular order.



Wellness

District parks promote health and wellness through active living and provide people and dogs access to a variety of safe, and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities.



Environment

Recreational opportunities for dogs are supported in ways that protect the integrity and sustainability of natural landscapes and their ecological functions for future generations to come.



Community

Inclusive planning and clearly communicated, fair and enforceable regulations, promote a culture of respect, responsible dog ownership and collective stewardship in District parks.

Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are specific goals and objectives that outline the path towards achieving the vision and guiding principles. These strategic directions are informed by community input during the engagement process which included public, interest group, and staff input. The strategic directions are not listed in any particular order.

1 Distribution & Supply

Ensure adequate supply, quality, diversity and distribution of outdoor recreation experiences and amenities including off-leash opportunities.

3 Ecological Integrity

Increase awareness of environmental impacts caused by dogs in parks and implement measures to maintain ecological quality and integrity.

5 Collaboration

Collaborate with interest groups, community partners, and local governments on dog-related initiatives, while engaging the community in decision-making.

2 Balance

Practice thoughtful planning to balance the needs of various user and stewardship groups to mitigate dog conflicts and risks in parks.

4 Dog Waste Management

Improve dog waste management and demonstrate that improper disposal affects everyone's enjoyment of parks and is seen as unacceptable by both dog owners and non-owners alike.

6 Education & Enforcement

Enhance awareness of various recreational opportunities and effectively communicate appropriate usage, rules, and regulations related to dogs in parks through education and enforcement.



Action Plan

The following recommended actions outline practical steps to achieve the vision, guiding principles, and strategic directions set out in this Strategic Plan.



Action Plan

This section lists strategic actions over the short, medium, and long term and actions that are ongoing.

Short term actions should be implemented immediately to over the next three years. Medium term actions could be implemented over the next 4-6 years. These actions usually take longer to plan and implement. Long term actions are expected to take 7-10 years for long term success. Ongoing actions are sustained efforts continuously carried out over time.

Approximate costs for each recommended action are categorized as being high (\$150,000-500,000+), medium (\$25,000-150,000) or low (less than \$25,000).

Priority levels for the implementation of each recommended action are also included as high, medium or low priority, and are based on input from the community and staff.

The District will need to monitor and assess the recommended actions to determine if any course changes are needed.



1 Distribution & Supply

Action		Priority	Timeframe	Relative Cost
1.1	Evaluate off-leash area distribution in the District, identify gaps, and opportunities to improve access.	Low	Ongoing	Low
1.2	Advocate for the inclusion of off-leash areas and other dog-related amenities outside of District parks including in new development projects.	High	Ongoing	Low
1.3	Implement new fenced off-leash areas in suitable locations within District parks, prioritizing sites near key growth centres.	High	Short term	High
1.4	Assess and identify necessary upgrades to existing fenced off-leash areas to ensure they meet Design Guidelines, and accessibility requirements.	High	Short term	Low
1.5	Identify and evaluate potential locations to pilot 'fetching lanes' in existing parks and prepare design standards.	Low	Medium term	Low

2 Balance

2.1	Identify and evaluate locations in District parks and trails experiencing significant dog-related challenges.	High	Short term	Low
2.2	Identify and implement mitigation measures to address dog management challenges in parks.	High	Ongoing	Low



3 Ecological Integrity

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Relative Cost
3.1 Identify key environmentally sensitive areas in District parks near popular dog off-leash areas to inform planning and decision making.	Medium	Long term	Low
3.2 Identify suitable locations to provide dogs access to the water (oceanfront, creeks etc.).	Medium	Short term	Low
3.3 Implement adaptive mitigation measures to limit negative impacts from dogs on key environmentally sensitive areas.	High	Ongoing	Medium

4 Dog Waste Management

4.1 Secure permanent operating funding to maintain the separated dog waste program.	High	Medium term	Low
4.2 Use site selection criteria and data collection to evaluate and optimize the placement of dog waste bins and bag dispensers.	High	Ongoing	Low
4.3 Investigate alternative dog waste collection systems, including those used by other local governments, to identify more efficient options.	High	Short term	Low
4.4 Ensure all dog waste bags provided in District parks and trails comply with provincial regulations and are free of oxo-degradable plastics.	Medium	Ongoing	Low
4.5 Explore alternative ways to competitively procure dog waste bag supply and dog waste bin collection services in District parks and trails.	Medium	Medium term	Low



5 Collaboration

Action		Priority	Timeframe	Relative Cost
5.1	Organize a bi-annual roundtable meeting, led by the District's Parks department, with key staff involved in dog management to discuss current issues and ongoing projects related to dogs in parks and trails.	Low	Short term	Low
5.2	Hold annual or biennial meetings with the District of West Vancouver to collaborate on commercial dog walking regulations, policies, and permit fees.	Low	Short term	Low
5.3	Collaborate with trail user groups to explore innovative solutions to address challenges related to dogs on trails.	Medium	Short term	Low



6 Education & Enforcement

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Relative Cost
Signage:			
6.1 Develop standard dog regulatory and educational signs with a consistent look and messaging, using the District's unique and identifiable communication standards.	Medium	Medium term	Low
6.2 Create an inventory of existing dog-related signs in parks and trails, assess if these signs are appropriately located, and identify suitable locations for new signs.	Medium	Short term	Low
6.3 Replace all dog-related signs in parks and trails with standardized signs with a coherent look and messaging as resources allow.	Medium	Long term	High
Staffing:			
6.4 Offer dog behavior training to staff who regularly work in parks and interact with dogs.	High	Ongoing	Low
6.5 Review staffing levels and the roles of animal control officers and park rangers in managing dogs in parks.	Medium	Medium term	Low
6.6 Identify key areas and parks to focus enforcement and education efforts to improve enforcement efficiency.	High	Short term	Low



6 Education & Enforcement

Action		Priority	Timeframe	Relative Cost
Outreach:				
6.7	Consider supporting volunteer programs related to dogs in parks.	Medium	Medium term	Low
6.8	Develop and implement targeted communications programs on a range of dog-related topics to support education, and enforcement where necessary.	High	Short term	Medium
6.9	Consider implementing the Yellow Bandana Program to help identify reactive dogs and support owners.	Low	Medium term	Medium
Bylaw Amendments:				
6.10	Conduct a comprehensive review and update Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981.	High	Short term	Low
6.11	Conduct a comprehensive review of the District's Commercial Dog Walking Program, including the relevant provisions in Bylaw 5981.	High	Short term	Low

Detailed Action Plan



1 Distribution & Supply

Action 1.1

Evaluate off-leash area distribution in the District, identify gaps, and opportunities to improve access.

Based on benchmarks from other municipalities, it is recommended that the District aim to provide access to an off-leash area within 1.2 km, or approximately a 15-minute walk, of most residents¹. However, this distance may not always be feasible and may need to be adjusted based on the level of demand in an area, and the availability of suitable District parkland.

¹ Trust for Public Land, Parks on the Clock: Why We Believe in the 10-Minute Walk, 2016

Action 1.2

Advocate for the inclusion of off-leash areas and other dog-related amenities outside of District parks including in new development projects.

The District should continue to encourage the private sector to provide fenced off-leash areas and other amenities for dogs, such as rooftop relief areas, through development. To support this, the District could develop design guidelines and best practices for new multi-unit buildings, update Development Permit Area Guidelines, or consider eligibility of dog-related amenities as Community Amenity Contributions (CACs).

Additionally, the District should explore opportunities to create off-leash areas outside of District parks, including through partnerships with other landowners, as suitable sites become available.

Action 1.3

Implement new fenced off-leash areas in suitable locations within District parks, prioritizing sites near key growth centres.

As the District's key growth centres continue to develop into densely populated communities, more people are living without access to private green space. Conveniently located off-leash areas are crucial for dogs' daily exercise and relief, and can contribute to a higher quality of life.

Each of the District's town and village centres should be prioritized for the inclusion of at least one nearby fenced off-leash area, ensuring convenient access for the greatest number of residents and their dogs. Additional suitable locations for fenced off-leash areas in under-served locations should be considered as indicated by demand. Fenced off-leash areas should be piloted first to evaluate their suitability before investing in long-term infrastructure.

The District will require 6 additional fenced off-leash areas to service each of the District's town and village centres that do not currently have one. The fenced off-leash area in Belle Isle Park, built in 2025, cost approximately \$100,000 (not including taxes). This off-leash area was designed to a high specification and includes quality materials like artificial turf surfacing and metal fencing for durability and long-term use. Anticipated capital expenditures required (not including land) are estimated at between \$600,000 and \$900,000 to deliver this action.

This action is aspirational and could be phased in over several years. Funding for additional fenced off-leash areas and maintenance would be included in Capital and Operations Budgets.

See Appendix 3 for more information.

Action 1.4

Assess and identify necessary upgrades to existing fenced off-leash areas to ensure they meet Design Guidelines, and accessibility requirements.

The fenced off-leash area in Myrtle Park would benefit from upgrades to enhance accessibility, functionality, and the overall user experience. An assessment should be conducted to identify improvements that align with the Design Guidelines (see Appendix 1) and meet accessibility standards. Potential enhancements may include updated surfacing, adding double gates, additional seating, shaded areas, clear and consistent signage, and accessible pathways. Improvements should be prioritized based on immediate safety and accessibility needs, as required, while considering which upgrades can be deferred to future comprehensive park planning.

Action 1.5

Identify and evaluate potential locations to pilot 'fetching lanes' in existing parks and prepare design standards.

A fenced 'fetching lane', could provide a safe, and designated space for dogs to run and fetch, reducing the likelihood of conflicts with other park users. 'Fetching lanes' should be piloted to test location suitability and the effectiveness of the design. Single-dog access could provide an enclosed space for dogs that are reactive or in training. Signage that outlines the unique etiquette and rules of these spaces would need to be designed and installed.



2 Balance

Action 2.1

Identify and evaluate locations in District parks and trails experiencing significant dog-related challenges.

Identify locations in District parks and trails, including commercial dog walking routes, that are experiencing significant dog-related challenges, such as park user group conflicts.

Using a structured evaluation method, assess each location's level of priority for action. Prioritization could be guided by staff observations, documented infractions and conflicts, and feedback from park users and residents. This approach directs resources to locations where improvements will have the greatest positive impact.

Action 2.2

Identify and implement mitigation measures to address dog management challenges in parks.

Address dog-related challenges in priority parks and trails, including commercial dog walking routes, by identifying and evaluating feasible mitigation measures, as outlined in the Trail Modification Measures section (Appendix 5).

If mitigation measures are unlikely to adequately address challenges, use the Decision-Making Criteria for Trail Designations (Appendix 4) to determine whether a different dog-access category (e.g., on-leash, leash-optional, commercial dog walking) would be more appropriate. Proposed changes should be supported by a coordinated work plan that incorporates community engagement, enforcement, and ongoing monitoring to assess effectiveness.

The Decision Making Criteria for Trail Designations should also be applied during the planning stages of new parks and trails to help determine suitable dog access categories.

3 Ecological Integrity

Action 3.1

Identify key environmentally sensitive areas in District parks near popular dog off-leash areas to inform planning and decision making.

Use available environmental information, including the District's Biodiversity Strategy, to help identify environmentally sensitive areas that are most vulnerable to impacts from dog activity. This exercise will help guide future planning and decision-making.

Action 3.2

Identify suitable locations to provide dogs access to the water (oceanfront, creeks etc.).

Collaborate with the District's Environment Department, the North Vancouver Streamkeepers Society, and other land managers to identify appropriate waterfront access points for dogs and determine suitable seasons for use. Clear signage and fencing (where needed) should support this initiative to help protect sensitive fish-bearing waterways.

Action 3.3

Implement adaptive mitigation measures to limit negative impacts from dogs on key environmentally sensitive areas.

Collaborate with the District's Environment Department and key interest groups to develop solutions that support both dog recreation and ecological conservation goals. Assess appropriate and feasible mitigation measures (including fencing, trail improvements or rerouting, leash-required zones, access restrictions, and signage) to help protect highly sensitive ecological areas, including waterways.

4 Dog Waste Management

Action 4.1

Secure permanent operating funding to maintain the separated dog waste program.

Securing ongoing operational funding for the dog waste collection program (which features separate dog waste bins in parks and trails, and has been positively received by the community), will allow the District to continue to offer the current service, help reduce the environmental impact of dog waste, and potentially expand the program in areas of high demand.

Community engagement identified dog waste as a top concern for both dog owners and non-owners, and indicated a high level of support for improving dog waste management practices. This initiative also aligns with Metro Vancouver's regional goal to divert waste from landfills by separating waste streams.

Action 4.2

Use site selection criteria and data collection to evaluate and optimize the placement of dog waste bins and bag dispensers.

Use site selection criteria and bin volume data collected by the District's Parks Operations staff to strategically place dog waste bins and dog waste bag dispensers in areas with high demand in parks. Continue monitoring waste volumes to refine placement over time and assess additional popular dog-walking areas to identify new suitable locations, ensuring efficient waste management with minimal operational impact.



Action 4.3

Investigate alternative dog waste collection systems, including those used by other local governments, to identify more efficient options.

Research alternative dog waste collection systems used by other local governments to identify more efficient and effective methods for managing dog waste. Evaluating these systems may reveal opportunities to reduce operational costs, improve staff workload and safety, and streamline collection processes. Findings should inform whether any of these approaches are suitable for future implementation in the District.

› Supporting Action 4.3.1

Explore vehicle adaptations or other equipment for dog waste bin collection to reduce staff workload.

Collaborate with the District's Fleet Services department to explore vehicle modifications that reduce the physical demands of dog waste collection on staff. The current system is labor-intensive, and initiatives, such as vehicles equipped with mechanical loading arms, could help minimize staff contact with waste and lower the risk of injury.

Action 4.4

Ensure all dog waste bags provided in District parks and trails comply with provincial regulations and are free of oxo-degradable plastics.

As of 2024, British Columbia regulations prohibit the sale or distribution of single-use products containing oxo-degradable plastics, including dog waste bags². These plastics break down into microfragments and are often misleadingly marketed as biodegradable. The bags currently provided in District parks meet requirements, and future bags should continue to do so.

² Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation - Province of British Columbia

Action 4.5

Explore alternative ways to competitively procure dog waste bag supply and dog waste bin collection services in District parks and trails.

Currently, the District relies on a specialized contractor to remove dog waste from a centralized storage container and a separate supplier that provides dog waste bags in exchange for advertising. A formal RFP process could allow the District to competitively procure these services and make improvements to service consistency. Other municipalities have issued similar RFPs in recent years, demonstrating a growing regional interest in sustainable dog waste management practices.

5 Collaboration

Action 5.1

Organize a bi-annual roundtable meeting, led by the District's Parks department, with key staff involved in dog management to discuss current issues and ongoing projects related to dogs in parks and trails.

Improved collaboration among District departments, such as Parks, Bylaw and Animal Services, Development Planning, Fleet and Solid Waste, Environmental Protection, Community Services, Communications, and Finance, will help align efforts and foster a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities each department faces related to dogs in parks.

Action 5.2

Hold annual or biennial meetings with the District of West Vancouver to collaborate on commercial dog walking regulations, policies, and permit fees.

Coordinating commercial dog walking regulations, policies, and fees, and providing a consistent framework for commercial dog walkers to follow could help reduce confusion and improve compliance.

Action 5.3

Collaborate with trail user groups to explore innovative solutions to address challenges related to dogs on trails.

Trail user groups, including the North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA), have strong working relationships with the District and bring valuable experience to trail management. Their insights can support the development of user-informed strategies to address challenges related to dogs on trails, particularly on shared-use routes, including off-leash dogs accompany mountain bikers on rides. Collaborating with various groups can help to enhance safety and enjoyment for all trail users.



6 Education & Enforcement: Signage

Action 6.1

Develop standard dog regulatory and educational signs with a consistent look and messaging, using the District's unique and identifiable communication standards.

Inconsistent and outdated dog regulation signs across District parks can lead to confusion, causing visitors to miss or overlook important rules and information related to dogs in parks. Standardizing signage would improve clarity of information, support better compliance, and contribute to more cohesive and visually appealing parks.

› Supporting Action 6.1.1

Collaborate with other neighbouring municipalities to establish a common color code and symbols for dog-related signs.

Consistent color coding and graphics on dog-related regulation signage would reduce confusion, especially in areas where parks and trails cross municipal boundaries. Shared visual standards would improve rule recognition and contribute to a clearer, more cohesive experience for visitors across the region.

› Supporting Action 6.1.2

Incorporate humorous and engaging messages on dog-related signs.

The District has a history of using humorous messaging on regulatory signage, including dog etiquette signs. When messaging resonates with the community, it makes important rules more engaging, memorable, and more likely to be followed.

6 Education & Enforcement: Staffing

Action 6.2

Create an inventory of existing dog-related signs in parks and trails, assess if these signs are appropriately located, and identify suitable locations for new signs.

Identifying strategic locations for dog-related signage helps ensure information is shared where it will be most effective. Some areas may lack signage entirely, while others may have too much resulting in “signage clutter”. Consideration should be given to placing signage in high-use areas, transition zones where rules change, and locations prone to conflict to ensure information is being shared efficiently.

Action 6.3

Replace all dog-related signs in parks and trails with standardized signs with a coherent look and messaging as resources allow.

Replacing all outdated dog-related signs with standardized versions will help create a more consistent, recognizable signage system across District parks and trails. Based on the assessment of existing dog-related signage, avoid replacing signs in unsuitable locations and prioritize installing them where they will be most effective

Action 6.4

Offer dog behavior training to staff who regularly work in parks and interact with dogs.

Dog behavior training helps staff safely and confidently manage interactions with dogs and their owners. It reduces the risk of incidents and improves conflict resolution. Well-trained staff also help build public trust. Advanced dog behavior training could be offered to staff responsible for enforcing regulations.

Action 6.5

Review staffing levels and the roles of animal control officers and park rangers in managing dogs in parks.

Effective enforcement is essential for ensuring the safety and enjoyment of parks for people and dogs. A visible bylaw presence reinforces that dog regulations are taken seriously and encourages greater compliance. To keep pace with demand, the District should assess current staffing levels and evaluate whether additional staff may be needed, especially as new off-leash areas or trails are introduced.

Action 6.6

Identify key areas to focus enforcement and education efforts to improve enforcement efficiency.

Targeting enforcement and education in parks with frequent dog-related bylaw infractions or on-going community concerns allows the District to use resources more effectively to improve compliance. Also, providing park rangers and animal services staff access to a shared reporting system should be considered as this would enable real-time tracking of infractions, enhance interdepartmental coordination, and promote a data-driven approach to decision-making.



6 Education & Enforcement: Outreach

Action 6.7

Consider supporting volunteer programs related to dogs in parks.

Activities such as park clean-ups, dog training sessions, dog sporting club activities (e.g. flyball, agility etc.), or “Paws in the Park” style gatherings can foster community connection while promoting responsible dog ownership. These initiatives can also serve as a bridge between the community and local government. Support from the District and North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC) could help facilitate these groups by offering shared resources and coordination.

› Sub-Action 6.7.1

Consider developing a “Bark Ranger” campaign supported by volunteers to encourage responsible dog ownership.

This type of campaign would promote responsible dog ownership through peer-to-peer engagement. Volunteers, equipped with basic training and recognizable gear, could share dog-etiquette tips, answer questions, and model positive behaviour in parks and trails. This light-touch approach encourages education over enforcement and helps build a more respectful and informed community.

Action 6.8

Develop and implement targeted communications programs on a range of dog-related topics to support education, and enforcement where necessary.

Consider using a variety of tools to communicate dog-related regulations and etiquette in parks including permanent and temporary signage (placed at key locations such as off-leash areas, environmentally sensitive areas, and sites with recurring dog-related challenges), digital outreach (including online resources, educational videos, and social media campaigns), and printed handouts (featuring key information and maps of permitted off-leash areas). All communication materials should consistently follow the District's brand guidelines.

› Sub-Action 6.8.1

Allocate a budget for low-cost outreach initiatives to promote and reward responsible dog ownership.

Public outreach initiatives, like park rangers occasionally providing treats, free leashes and dog waste bags while patrolling District parks, provide opportunities for education in a non-confrontational way. This approach is easy to implement and can be supported through partnerships or small-scale funding within existing operational budgets.

› Sub-Action 6.8.2

Develop an information package or reference guide for staff, in collaboration with the Animal Services and Park Ranger teams, that clearly summarizes dog-related park regulations and enforcement best-practices.

The reference guide could include a summary of dog-related District bylaws and the rationale behind them, tips for engaging with dog owners, suggested responses to common questions or concerns, and guidance on recognizing and reinforcing positive dog ownership. It could also outline consistent procedures for documenting and tracking infractions to support data collection and enforcement efforts.

› Sub-Action 6.8.3

Update the District's website with additional resources and guidelines to encourage responsible dog ownership in parks.

To improve access to information, create a centralized online resource that includes a summary of dog-related District bylaws, a map of leash optional trails in the District, and clear dog etiquette guidelines. This hub could also link to information on dog licensing, commercial dog walking, community events, dog training resources, related park projects and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section. Including educational videos produced with the District's Communications team would also help share information with the community.



Temporary dog etiquette sign, Whistler

› Sub-Action 6.8.4

Launch targeted campaigns using temporary signage to share dog regulations and promote responsible ownership and etiquette.

Temporary signage, such as sandwich boards, can be an effective way to share information on responsible dog ownership, environmental efforts, and ongoing educational campaigns. These signs can be easily updated and relocated to address immediate dog-related challenges or initiatives. Some examples of messaging could include “children play here, please pick up dog waste”, or “salmon spawning, please keep out of waterways.”

Action 6.9

Consider implementing the Yellow Bandana Program to help identify reactive dogs and support owners.

The Yellow Bandana program signals that certain dogs need extra space, helping to prevent unwanted interactions. It supports owners in managing their pets more confidently in public spaces, and encourages responsible pet ownership.

If implemented, a strong signage and communication strategy will be key to supporting the program. Temporary signage and social media campaigns can explain the program’s purpose and promote participation. Collaborating with other neighbouring land managers would expand the reach of the Program and promote a unified regional approach.

This recommendation is supported by positive feedback from the City of Vancouver, which has successfully adopted the program

6 Education & Enforcement: Bylaw Amendments

Action 6.10

Conduct a comprehensive review and update Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981.

Conduct a full review of Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981 to identify opportunities for modernization, clarity, and improved operational flexibility. The review may include updates to definitions, alignment with current operational practices, and revisions to maps. This review will inform a bylaw amendment report for Council consideration and will include exploration of the specific bylaw amendments outlined below and any additional recommended updates.

› Sub-Action 6.10.1

Review and revise Bylaw 5981 to reduce operational details and improve administrative flexibility.

Undertake a review of Bylaw 5981 to identify operational details that could change frequently and, where possible, replace them with higher level policy statements or references to Council approved or staff maintained guidelines. This could allow updates, such as adjustments to trail designations (e.g., on-leash, off-leash, dogs prohibited, commercial dog walking), to be made administratively without requiring a full bylaw amendment. This would support more responsive and adaptive park management.

› Sub-Action 6.10.2

Explore and define options for including the term “competent person” in Bylaw 5981.

A clearer definition would address ongoing confusion about what it means to have a dog “under control” in parks and on trails, making expectations more understandable for both staff and dog owners.

› Sub-Action 6.10.3

Add a definition for “water access” to Bylaw 5981.

Include a clear definition of “water access” in Bylaw 5981 to improve the District’s ability to enforce restrictions on dogs entering creeks, rivers, and other water bodies where access is unsuitable. The Province has confirmed that the District may enforce such provisions, including leash requirements, within provincial waterways.

› Sub-Action 6.10.4

Amend Bylaw 5981 to include a requirement that all park users must have their dogs on leash for the first 50 meters from any park or trail entrance or exit.

Park and trail entrances and exits, especially parking lots and trailheads, are busy places with cars and people coming and going. Having dogs on-leash in these areas will help make the arrival and departure experience more safe and enjoyable. This initiative also encourages dog waste pick up, as dogs are more likely to relieve themselves within close proximity to a trail entrance.

This recommendation is an extension of the Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981 8.12(f)(iii) that applies to commercial dog walkers.



› Sub-Action 6.10.5

Amend Bylaw 5981 to include a requirement that all park users with a dog must have a dog waste bag with them at all times when in a District park or trail.

To promote consistent dog waste pickup in parks and reduce the negative impacts of uncollected dog waste on natural areas and other park users, it is recommended that Bylaw 5981 be amended to require all park users with a dog to carry an empty dog waste bag at all times. This measure would help ensure dog owners are prepared to clean up after their pets, supporting cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable parks for everyone.

› Sub-Action 6.10.6

Amend Bylaw 5981 to clarify that dogs are expected to remain on designated trails within parks where off-leash use is permitted, unless otherwise posted.

While Bylaw 5981 currently implies that dogs should stay on trail within parks where off-leash use is permitted, this expectation isn't always clearly stated. Clarifying that dogs are expected to remain on designated trails, unless signage indicates otherwise, would help protect sensitive natural areas and support responsible park use. Determining a reasonable offset would allow dogs some freedom while minimizing disturbances. In less sensitive areas, greater flexibility could be considered.

Action 6.11

Conduct a comprehensive review of the District's Commercial Dog Walking Program, including the relevant provisions in Bylaw 5981.

Review the District's Commercial Dog Walking Program, including relevant sections of Bylaw 5981, to ensure the program is clearly defined, enforceable, and aligned with current operational practices. The review will assess the program's effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement. The review should include engagement with commercial dog walking businesses, and coordination with the District of West Vancouver to better align the two programs, supporting a unified approach that improves clarity and consistency of rules and regulations across municipal boundaries.

› Sub-Action 6.11.1

Consider amending Bylaw 5981 to address areas that are currently signed to allow commercial dog walking but are not recognized in the bylaw.

Consider housekeeping amendments to Bylaw 5981 to align it with current signage and online information regarding commercial dog walking trails. As a first step, identify all locations where signage permits commercial dog walking but are not currently recognized in the Bylaw 5981. Addressing these inconsistencies will reduce confusion for commercial dog walkers, other trail users, and enforcement staff, and ensure the bylaw accurately reflects on-the-ground conditions.

› Sub-Action 6.11.2

Clarify the number of commercial dog walkers permitted under each Annual Park Use Permit in Bylaw 5981.

It can be understood that each District Park Use Permit allows a business up to four commercial dog walkers. This could result in 160 individual walkers on District trails at a time despite a cap of 40 permits. In contrast, West Vancouver limits one walker per Park Use Permit. Clearer language could reduce confusion.

› Sub-Action 6.11.3

Determine if the current number of commercial dog walkers permitted on District trails is appropriate.

Assessing whether the current number of commercial dog walkers permitted on District trails is appropriate would help determine if current limits are sustainable or need adjustment. This evaluation could involve collaboration with Parks staff, commercial dog walking businesses, and the District of West Vancouver to ensure any changes reflect both operational realities and community expectations.

Following the review, consider amending Bylaw 5981 to limit the number of Annual Park Use Permits issued to any one business. Currently, there is no cap, which can lead to inequities and administrative challenges.



› Sub-Action 6.11.4

Clarify the titles of permits for different fee categories issued to commercial dog walking businesses and amend the District Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481 and the Dog Tax and Regulations Bylaw 5981 accordingly.

Work with Legal, Bylaw Services, and Finance to revise the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481 and Dog Tax and Regulations Bylaw 5981 to clearly distinguish between permit types and associated fees for commercial dog walking businesses. Currently, similar permit names cause confusion. For example, businesses must obtain an Annual Park Use Permit and pay an Annual Fee per dog walker, but the naming does not reflect these differences.

› Sub-Action 6.11.5

Develop a bylaw amendment report for Bylaw 5981 for Council consideration that incorporates findings from the comprehensive bylaw review and commercial dog walking program review.

A bylaw amendment report should be prepared for Council consideration, consolidating findings from the comprehensive review of Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981 and the Commercial Dog Walking Program. The report will outline recommended updates and proposed amendments.



Metrics for Success

Indicators and targets are key to evaluating the Strategic Plan's success and impact over time. They help monitor progress, inform adjustments, and ensure resources are directed where they're most needed.



To evaluate the effectiveness of the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan, a set of indicators and targets has been established to monitor progress.

These may be refined or expanded during implementation to reflect evolving needs or new data. The indicators are informed by community feedback collected during the initial engagement phase, as summarized in the Engagement 1 Report (February 2024).

Each indicator's baseline level of concern is classified into one of three tiers: high (targeting a 10% reduction), moderate (targeting a 5% reduction), or low (maintain or reduce current low levels). This tiered approach ensures that resources are allocated in proportion to the community's level of concern.

Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Desired Direction	Target Reduction
Percentage of park users who express concern about dog waste not being picked up or properly disposed.	90% of non-dog owners and 76% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.	Decrease in concern over time, indicating improved conditions and perceptions.	10% reduction for non-dog owners (to 81%), and 10% reduction for dog owners (to 68%) within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about impacts to the environment (other than dog waste).	66% of non-dog owners and 52% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		10% reduction for non-dog owners (to 59%), and 5% reduction for dog owners (to 49%) within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about dog owners not following regulations.	82% of non-dog owners and 51% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		10% reduction for non-dog owners (to 74%), and 5% reduction for dog owners (to 48%) within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about conflicts with other dogs or dog owners.	76% of non-dog owners and 45% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		10% reduction for non-dog owners (to 68%), and 5% reduction for dog owners (to 43%) within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about not having enough enforcement or regulations.	75% of non-dog owners and 41% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		10% reduction for non-dog owners (to 68%), and 5% reduction for dog owners (to 39%) within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about not enough signs or information about regulations or etiquette.	62% of non-dog owners and 38% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		5% reduction for non-dog owners (to 59%), and maintain current low levels for dog owners within 3 years.
Percentage of park users who express concern about commercial dog walking.	52% of non-dog owners and 23% of dog owners are somewhat/very concerned.		5% reduction for non-dog owners (to 49%), and maintain current low levels for dog owners within 3 years.

Appendix 1

Fenced Off-leash Area Design Guidelines

These design guidelines support the creation of safe, inclusive, and enjoyable fenced off-leash areas. Informed by best practices and community input, they offer a flexible framework with recommended materials and amenities to guide implementation and future improvements.

Summary of Design Elements

- 01 Fencing:**
 - Steel
 - Chain link
 - Post and rail (with wire mesh infill)
- 02 Gates:**
 - 2a Double-gated entrance
 - 2b Service gate
- 03 Surfacing:**
 - Artificial turf
 - Crushed gravel
 - Engineered wood fiber / mulch
- 04 Circulation / Pathways:**
 - Concrete / asphalt (accessible)
 - Crushed gravel (accessible)
- 05 Signage:**
 - 5a Notice board
 - 5b Entry signs (bylaws, contact info.)
 - 5c Educational signs (etiquette, dog behaviour)

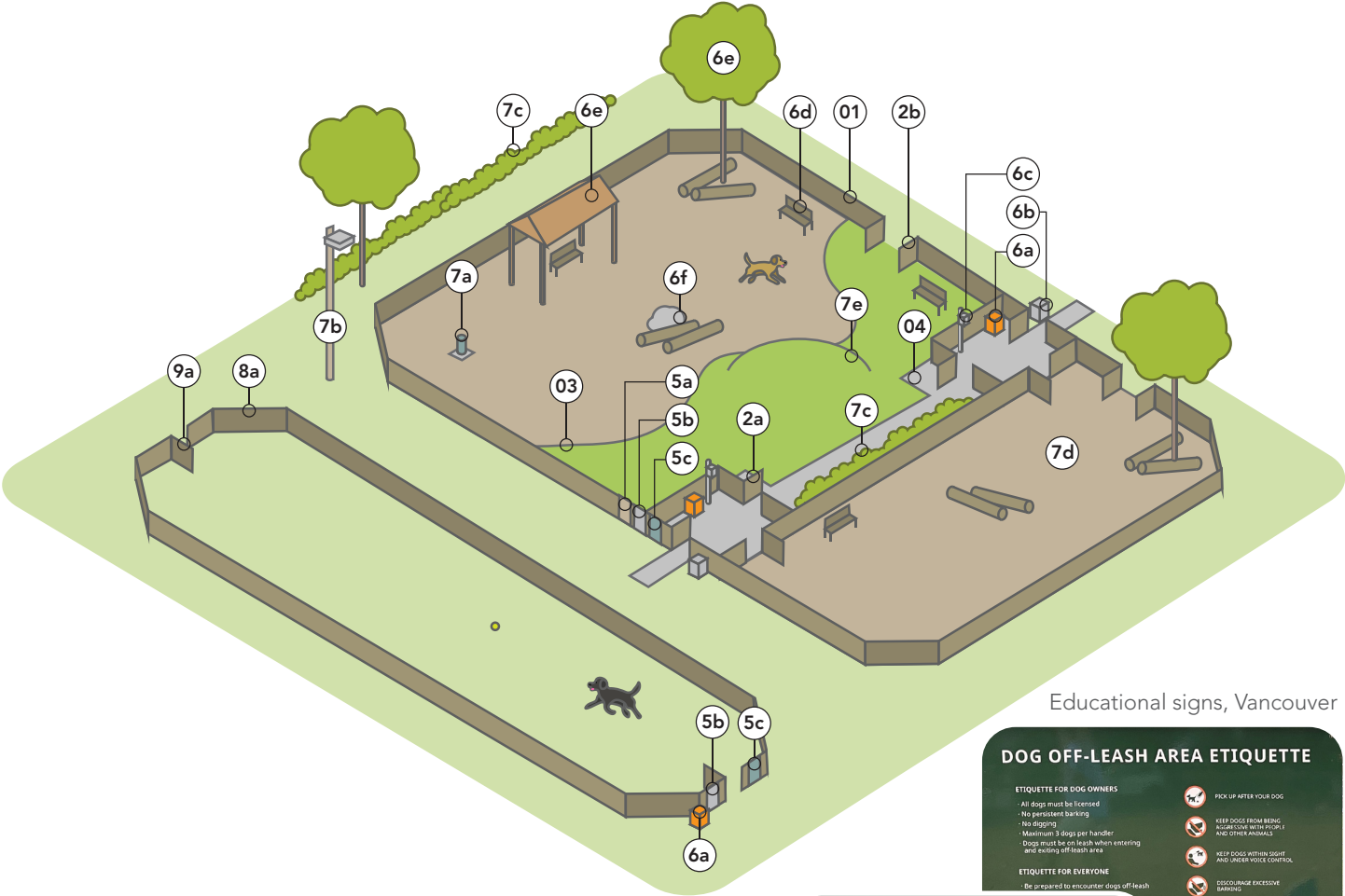
Summary of Amenities

- 06 Standard Amenities:**
 - 6a Dog waste bin
 - 6b Standard waste bin
 - 6c Dog waste bag dispenser
 - 6d Seating
 - 6e Shade / shelter
 - 6f Natural features (logs, boulders)
- 07 Optional Amenities:**
 - 7a Water / hose
 - 7b Lighting
 - 7c Vegetated buffers
 - 7d Separate area for small dogs
 - 7e Small hills and mounds

Summary of Design Elements for Dog Runs

(Temporary / Pilot Project)

- 08 Fencing:**
 - 8a Temporary metal panels
- 09 Gates:**
 - 9a Temporary gated metal fence panel



Educational signs, Vancouver

DOG OFF-LEASH AREA ETIQUETTE

ETIQUETTE FOR DOG OWNERS

- All dogs must be licensed
- No persistent barking
- No digging
- Maximum 3 dogs per handler
- Dogs must be on-leash when entering and exiting off-leash area

ETIQUETTE FOR EVERYONE

- Be prepared to encounter dogs off-leash

- PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG
- KEEP DOGS FROM BARKING AGGRESSIVELY AT PEOPLE AND OTHER ANIMALS
- KEEP DOGS WITHIN SIGHT AND UNDER VOICE CONTROL
- DISCOURAGE EXCESSIVE BARKING
- NO DIGGING. OWNERS MUST FILL ANY HOLES DUG BY THEIR DOG

Owners are not responsible for injuries to dogs or off-leash area is at your own risk.
© 2018 CITY OF VANCOUVER BY-LAW NO. 9103
AND CONCERNED CALL 3-1-1

IS IT PLAY?

Dogs love to play with other dogs, but sometimes play can get out of hand. Dogs that don't play well can cause other dogs to feel scared or hurt. Look for some of these behaviours to read dogs' body language and know when to intervene.

NERVOUS
NEEDS INTERVENTION

FEARFUL
THIS DOG WANTS SPACE

PLAYFUL

AGGRESSIVE
READY TO FIGHT

NOT TO BE: These are not signs of play. If you see these signs, it's time to intervene. If a dog is barking, growling, or showing any of these signs, you should step in. If you see a dog that is barking, growling, or showing any of these signs, you should step in. If you see a dog that is barking, growling, or showing any of these signs, you should step in.

TO BE: These are signs of play. If you see these signs, it's time to step in. If a dog is barking, growling, or showing any of these signs, you should step in. If you see a dog that is barking, growling, or showing any of these signs, you should step in.

© 2018 CITY OF VANCOUVER BY-LAW NO. 9103
AND CONCERNED CALL 3-1-1



Double-gated entrance, Vancouver



Belle Isle Park, District of North Vancouver

Appendix 2

Site Selection

Site selection criteria were developed to help identify and select suitable sites for new fenced off-leash areas, ensuring decisions were made in a transparent and objective way and sufficient regard was given to alternative options.



Site Selection Criteria

Consideration was given to a wide range of criteria to assess which sites within District parks are 'suitable' for the development of new off-leash areas.

The goal was to identify sites with the highest potential to provide a positive and safe experience for both dogs and their owners and minimize impacts on existing park users and residents where feasible.

A sieving exercise using Selective, Evaluative, and Informative Criteria considered every District owned park and ranked potential sites through the application of a rating process.

- Selective Criteria were used to identify and filter out unsuitable choices early on, ensuring that only viable options were evaluated further.
- Evaluative Criteria were used to assess and compare the suitability of different sites, helping to rank each site based on its merits and drawbacks to ensure the most suitable options were shortlisted.
- Informative Criteria were used to provide additional insights to help inform decisions but were not used to disqualify or rank sites.

The site selection criteria were determined based on research, interviews with other municipalities, and best practices.

See Appendix 3 for Priority Locations for Fenced Off-leash Areas in District Parks.

Selective Criteria

1. **Park Size:** To be considered, sites need to be capable of accommodating an off-leash area at least 0.04 hectares.
1. **Available Open Space:** To be considered, sites need to be “open space” currently used for passive, unstructured activities.
2. **Topography:** To be considered, most of the site must be relatively flat and not exceed 8% slope.
3. **Sensitive Ecosystems:** To be considered, the site must not include riparian areas, wetlands, or ponds.
4. **Environmental Restoration Areas:** To be considered, the site must not include areas that have undergone environmental restoration.

Evaluative Criteria:

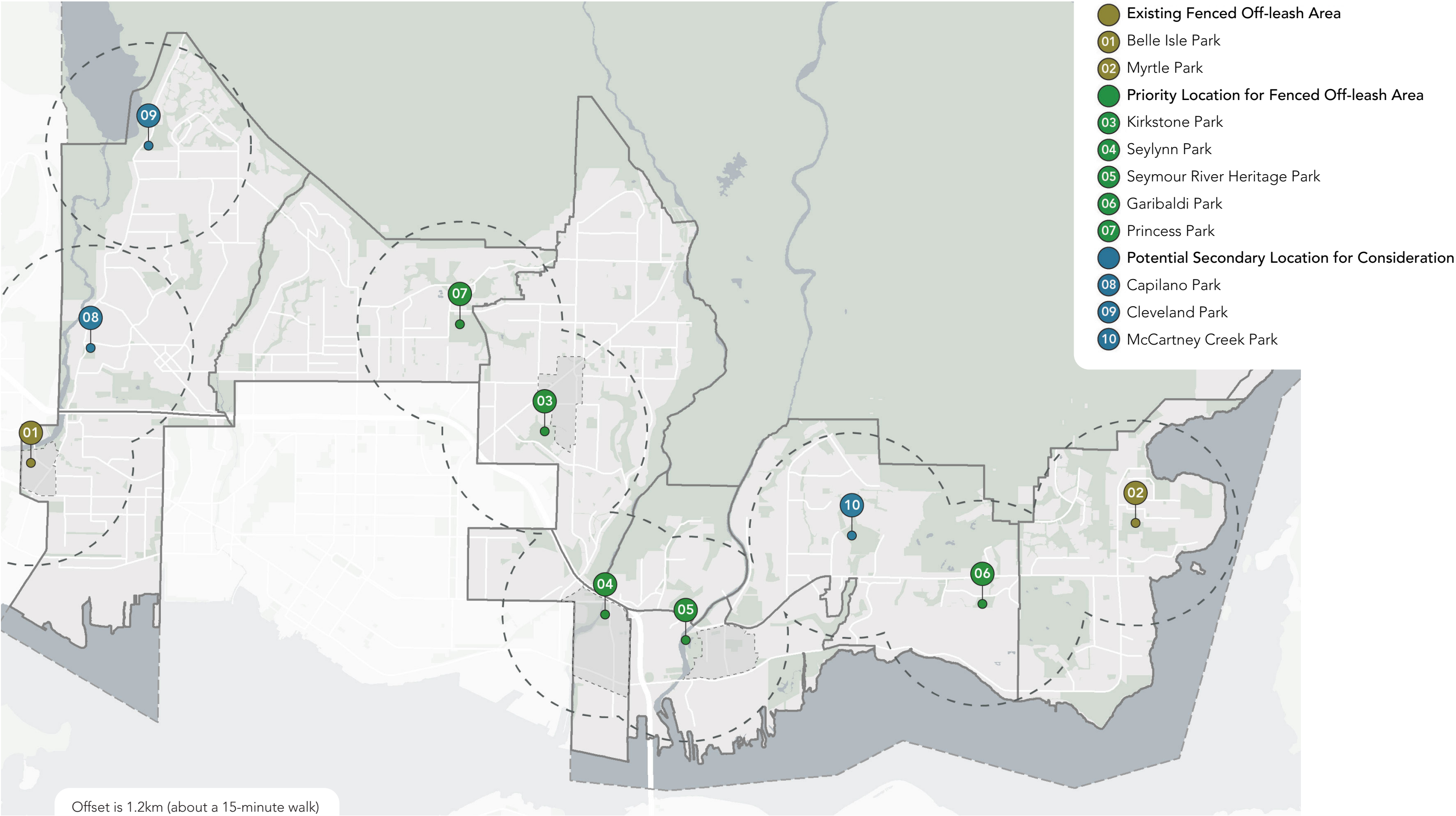
5. **Open Space Size:** Prioritize sites with more available open space over ones with less.
6. **Type of Open Space Available:** Prioritize open space characterized by maintained lawn, grass and/or with minimal trees and vegetation.
7. **Access:** Prioritize sites that are easily accessible by the public, service vehicles etc. (connected to existing pathways).
8. **Visibility:** Prioritize sites that are highly visible to passersby and have clear sightlines for user safety.
9. **Distance from Existing Fenced Off-leash Areas:** Prioritize sites that are further away from an existing fenced off-leash area (in either District of North Vancouver or City of North Vancouver parks).
10. **Areas with High Potential Demand:** Prioritize sites in areas with high population density, high number of apartment buildings, and near the District’s town and village centres.

Informative Criteria:

11. **Land Ownership:** Consider the sites’ ownership.
12. **Exiting Park Amenities:** Consider if the site is within a park that has existing amenities (off-street parking, fencing, washrooms etc.)
13. **Existing Bylaw Designation:** Consider the park’s designation within the Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw 5981.
14. **Site Drainage:** Consider the site’s level of soil permeability and drainage patterns.
15. **Streamside Protection:** Consider the level of impact the off-leash area could have on adjacent hydrographic features (creeks, ponds, wetlands etc.).
16. **Natural Areas:** Consider the level of impact the off-leash area could have on sensitive natural areas, species of concern and important habitats and ecosystems.
17. **Amount of Park Space Occupied:** Consider the amount of park space that the off-leash area would occupy and how much space would remain available for other park users.
18. **Existing Utilities:** Consider if the site has existing utilities (storm, sanitary, water, electricity etc.) that could be impacted (if an off-leash area is developed on top or adjacent them) or utilized for future amenities.

Appendix 3

Priority Locations for Fenced Off-leash Areas in District Parks



Appendix 4

Decision Making Criteria for Trail Designations

The appropriate dog access category for each District trail should be determined based on safety, trail conditions, user experience, and environmental conditions. This section outlines various criteria to support informed decision-making.



In the District, dogs must be leashed in public places unless they are in a designated off-leash area, park, or trail.

To help determine a District trail's most appropriate dog access category/designation, such as on-leash, leash-optional, dogs-prohibited, or commercial dog walking, it's important to consider a wide range of trail conditions and contextual factors.

This section outlines a set of criteria, to help determine the most appropriate dog access category/designation for a trail, with the goal of promoting safe and enjoyable experiences for all users, while also minimizing environmental impacts.

The site selection criteria were determined based on research, staff input, and best practices.

The following criteria are provided to inform the process and are listed in no particular order.

Informative Criteria

1. **Trail Activities:** Consider the types of permitted trail use, such as hiking, mountain biking, or equestrian activities, the most common uses and whether trails are optimized for specific activities.
2. **Trail Usage Levels:** Consider overall trail usage levels, including peak times and seasonal variations.
3. **Trail Conditions:** Consider existing trail conditions, such as trail width, slope, surface material, level of trail degradation, erosion etc.
4. **Trail Length and Connectivity:** Consider the length of the trail and its connectivity to the broader trail network.
5. **Trail Distribution:** Consider the location and geographic distribution of trails with different designations and assess equitable access across the District.
6. **Trail Visibility:** Consider sightlines and potential blind spots along the trail and assess the risk of unexpected encounters or conflicts between trail users.
7. **Trail Conflicts:** Consider documented incidents or patterns of conflict involving dogs and other trail users.
8. **Trail Regulations / Historic Use:** Consider past patterns of trail use and existing regulations or designations.
9. **Trail Designation of Adjacent Routes:** Consider the category/designation of nearby or connecting trails and assess whether a consistent designation is suitable.
10. **Proximity to Environmentally Sensitive Areas:** Consider the trail's proximity to ecologically sensitive areas and assess the potential impact on wildlife, vegetation, and environmental stewardship efforts.
11. **Proximity to Areas with Wildlife Critical Periods:** Consider the trail's proximity to areas where wildlife undergoes critical life cycle events, such as ground bird nesting or fish spawning.
12. **Proximity to Areas with Conflicting Park Use:** Consider the trail's proximity to areas that could have conflicting uses or areas where dogs are not permitted (busy roads, playgrounds, sports fields etc.).
13. **Parking:** Consider the availability, proximity, and capacity of parking near trailheads.

Appendix 5

Trail Modification Measures

When deciding the dog access category for a District trail, it's useful to consider whether modifications, such as signage, fencing, or design changes, could inform the chosen designation.



When determining the appropriate dog access category for trails in District parks, it's important to consider the range of trail conditions and contextual factors (as outlined in Appendix 4: Decision Making Criteria for Trail Designations), various potential trail modification measures, and the unique characteristics of each site.

The following modification measures may help reduce trail user conflicts, improve safety, reduce the impact of dogs, or enhance the suitability of a trail for dog use, including off-leash access where appropriate.

Ultimately, the feasibility of implementing trail modification measures may significantly influence a trail's dog access category.

Decision and Implementation

- Completing an initial assessment of a District trail using the Decision Making Criteria for Trail Designations (Appendix 4) and evaluating potential trail modification measures, helps staff to decide the most appropriate dog access category.
- Implementing a new dog access category or modification measures for a trail would involve developing a communication plan or community engagement program to collect input and build awareness.
- Once in place, enforcement efforts and ongoing monitoring should be carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of the modifications, assess the suitability of the chosen dog access category, and identify whether further adjustments or adaptations are needed.

Modification Measures

1. Signage & Communication:

- Permanent signage (e.g., trail rules, dog etiquette)
- Seasonal or temporary signage (e.g., education on wildlife, stewardship initiatives)
- Wayfinding signage

2. Education & Enforcement:

- On-site education campaigns (e.g., volunteer ambassadors)
- Enforcement patrols or presence during peak times

3. Physical Infrastructure:

- Permanent fencing (e.g., to protect sensitive environmental areas)
- Temporary or seasonal fencing (e.g., during wildlife critical periods, stewardship initiatives)
- Trail rerouting (e.g., to avoid conflict zones, sensitive habitats)

4. Trail Design Enhancements:

- Trail edging improvements to define boundaries and reduce off-trail wandering
- Trail surfacing improvements (e.g., to accommodate high trail usage levels)
- Trail widening (e.g., to reduce user conflicts)
- Clear separation of multi-use zones (e.g., off-leash dogs vs. mountain bikes)

5. Access Management:

- Leash-required zones or trail sections (permanent or seasonal)
- Time-based access (e.g., feasibility of off-leash access allowed during early morning hours)

People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan

Engagement 1
Summary Report
February 2024

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
OVERVIEW & PURPOSE	5
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	6
APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY.....	7
APPENDIX B: INTERCEPT SURVEY	21
APPENDIX C: POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS	28
APPENDIX D: OTHER INPUT RECEIVED	29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the first engagement for the People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan is to learn more about key community values, ideas, and opportunities from a broad range of audiences to inform the development of the plan.

Participation

There were 2,933 interactions with people in at least one of the engagement opportunities. Engagement opportunities included an online engagement survey (completed by 2,511 respondents), three pop-up engagement events in the plazas outside of Parkgate Library, Lynn Valley Library, and Delbrook Community Centre (attended by 270 participants), and an intercept survey with park users (completed by 152 respondents).

Notification

The District promoted the engagement opportunities using the following methods: District of North Vancouver website, District of North Vancouver online engagement survey site, signs in parks throughout the District, print and digital advertisements in the North Shore News newspaper, and emails to current and recent parks permit holders and groups (such as sports field users, commercial dog walkers).

Key findings and themes¹

Percentages are shown in the Executive Summary. Both numbers and percentages are provided in the Appendices, starting on page 7.

Online survey key findings

- A total of **2,511 respondents completed the online survey**
- 93% of respondents were from North Vancouver
 - An estimated 77% of respondents were from the District of North Vancouver

Dog owner and non-dog owner respondents shared common opinion on several topics:

- **Opportunities to connect with nature** was the most important aspect of District parks for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike, followed by **amenities and facilities, cleanliness, and environmental protection and wildlife habitat**. [Q1]
- Statements strongly supported (70%+) by dog owners and non-dog owners alike include:
 - **We all share responsibility for welcoming and inclusive parks** (over 90%)
 - **Provide dog-appropriate spaces** (over 80%)
 - **Improve dog waste management practices** (over 80%)
 - **Protect sensitive environmental areas** (over 80%)
 - **Communicate guidelines and rules** (over 70%)
 - **Parks provide important spaces for dogs** (70%+) [Q3]
- **Dog waste** was the top concern for dog owners and non-dog owners alike, followed by **impacts to the environment besides dog waste**. [Q2]

Dog owner and non-dog owner respondents differed in opinion on some topics:

¹ Note that when dog owners and non-dog owners are referred to in this report, this means those respondents that chose to participate and share their thoughts and opinions on this topic.

- The statement about **whether dogs may be off leash if under control** had the largest difference in opinion, with 92% of dog owners who agreed compared to 52% of non-dog owners who agreed. [Q3]
- **Not following regulations, not enough enforcement, and conflicts with dogs or their owners** was of greater concern to non-dog owners (over 75%), than to dog owners (around 40-50%). [Q2]
- **Supporting rules and regulations through education and enforcement** was supported by 85% of non-dog owners and 65% of dog owners. [Q3]

Dog owner respondents shared:

- Many visit District parks with their dog on most days (65%)
- Top 2 reasons to visit District parks with a dog were to:
 - Exercise together (77%)
 - Exercise the dog (73%)
- Most walk their dog both on leash (82%) and off-leash (86%)
- Many would like more enclosed off-leash areas (55%), with Lynn Valley and Upper Lonsdale / Delbrook indicated as the top two areas
- Commonly suggested features for off-leash areas include: large & open space, off-leash trails, and dog waste bins.
- Most have one dog (67%)

When asked if there was anything else we should consider, respondents commonly mentioned a need for more off-leash areas and trails, more and improved enforcement, and concerns and issues with dogs not under control.

Intercept survey key findings:

- A total of **152 respondents participated in the intercept survey**
- 82% of respondents identified as residents of the District
- Top reason both dog owners and non-dog owners were visiting the park was for exercise
- 87% of respondents see other dogs in District parks every time they visit
- While most respondents report they never or rarely experience conflicts with dogs in District parks (75-79%), some respondents experience conflicts sometimes (15%-21%)
 - Of those who said they experience conflicts, the top two conflicts were dog waste and dogs off-leash where not permitted
- Many dog owner respondents visit a few times a week or more frequently (70%)
- When asked for suggestions to improve the experience for people and dogs in parks, respondents commonly mentioned a need for more off-leash areas and trails, more dog waste bins and bags

Pop-up events

The top three comment themes from the pop-up events include:

- Support for off-leash trails and areas
- Concern about dog waste not picked up and need more dog waste bins
- Concern about losing access to dog off-leash trails

Who we heard from

North Vancouver residents represented 93% of online survey respondents (by postal code). For the intercept survey, 85% of respondents identified as North Vancouver residents with 82% identifying as District residents. Refer to the demographic sections of Appendix A and B for further information.

Next steps

Key themes emerging from this engagement will be considered along with background research and analysis as the draft plan is developed. Further engagement opportunities will be available when the draft plan is prepared.

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The District is developing a People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan to provide a framework for how people and dogs can share District parks in a fun, responsible and respectful way.

To learn more about key community values, ideas, and opportunities, the District conducted public and stakeholder engagement in fall 2023. This report summarizes feedback received through the **Phase 1** engagement.

The process to develop the plan is outlined below.



There were a total of 2,933 interactions with people at one or more of the engagement opportunities, which included an online survey, pop-up events, and intercept survey.

- Online survey: 2,511 respondents completed the survey
- Pop-up events: 270 participants
- Intercept survey: 152 participants

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement program to inform the community and collect feedback on the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan took place in November-December 2023.

There were a total of 2,933 interactions with people at one or more of the engagement opportunities, which included an online survey, pop-up events, and intercept survey.

The District promoted the engagement opportunities using the following methods:

Notification Method	Description	Dates
District of North Vancouver website	New page with project information and link to the online survey.	Webpage launched on November 14, 2023
Online engagement survey	Site including background information about the project and survey questions. There were 2,511 online survey respondents.	Engagement open from November 14 to December 5, 2023
Intercept survey	Intercept surveys were conducted by Park Rangers and District staff in November 2023 at 19 different parks. There were 152 respondents to the survey.	November 2023
Pop-up events	Pop-up, drop-by events were held at three locations across the District in the plazas outside of Parkgate Library, Lynn Valley Library, and Delbrook Community Centre. There were 270 participants.	November 15, 21, 22, 2023
Social media	Facebook, Instagram and X (formally known as Twitter) posts to promote the online survey. Combined total: 863 engagements; 12,075 impressions/reach. 8,809 Facebook post reach, 2,662 Twitter link views, 604 Instagram post reach.	November 14, 17, 20, 22, 30 and December 5
Information signs	Fifty 2' x 2' information signs posted throughout District parks.	Signs installed on November 15, 2023
Newspaper advertisements	Digital and print advertisements in the <i>North Shore News</i> . Digital ads targeted to District residents resulted in 32,964 total impressions and 38 clicks.	One ¼ page print ad ran Nov. 22, 2023 Digital ad ran on <i>North Shore News</i> website on Nov. 15 – Dec. 1, 2023

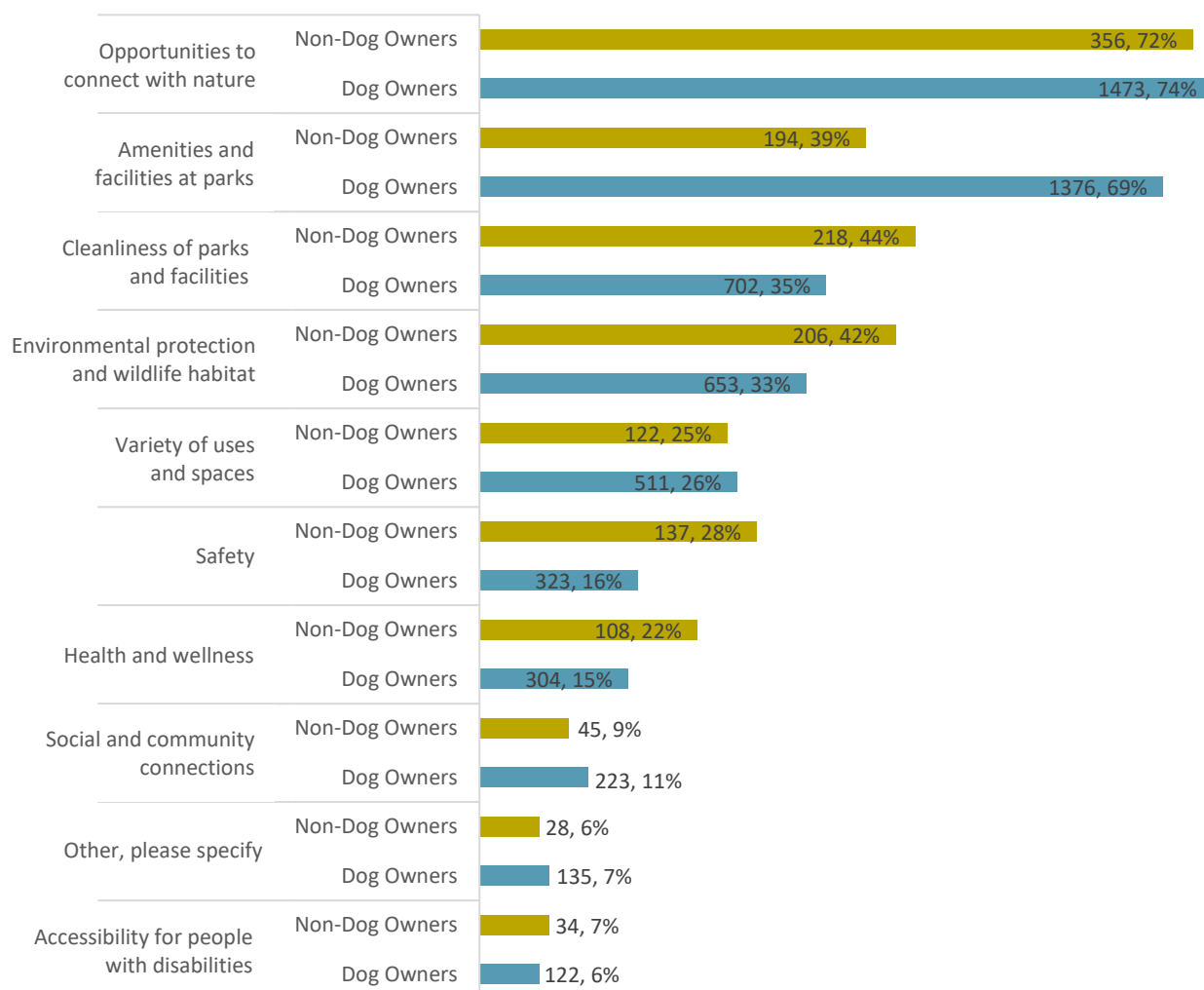
APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY

A total of 2,511 respondents completed the online survey, which was available online through the ZenCity Engage platform. Paper copies of the survey were available upon request (there were 0 requests).

Q1. When thinking about District parks generally, what are the top three most important considerations for you?

Total respondents: 2,491

Respondents could select up to three options. Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q6. Percentages show the number of respondents (dog owners or non-dog owners) who selected that option.



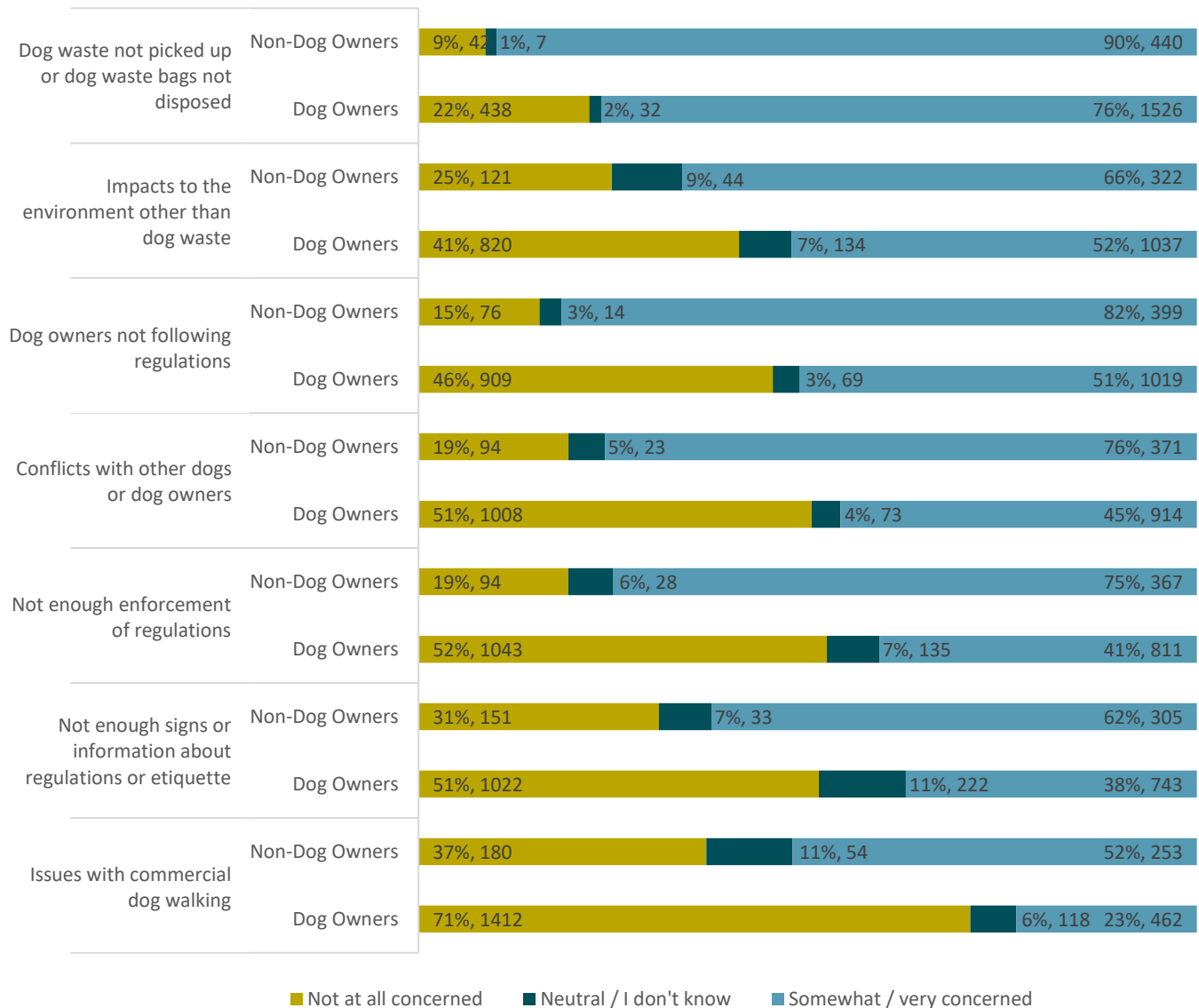
“Other” response themes with 10 or more responses reported below:

- Access to off-leash areas / trails – 38
- More off-leash areas / trails – 27
- Park and trail maintenance – 11

Q2. Please tell us how concerned you are about the following topics.

Total respondents: 2,495

Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q6.



Did we miss any concerns in the list above? If so, please tell us what they are.

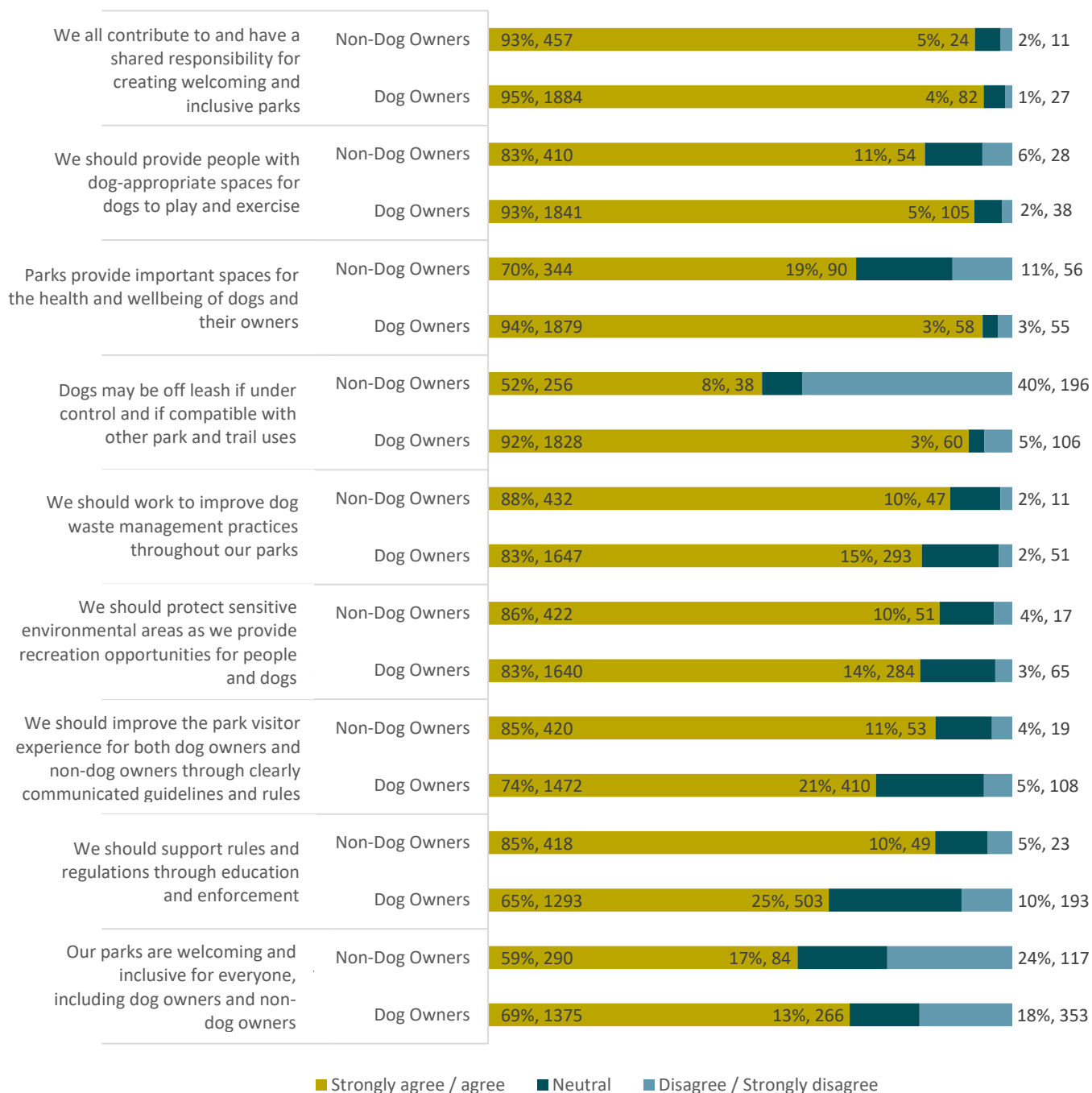
Response themes with 20 or more responses reported below:

- Need more off-leash areas / trails – 120
- Concerns / issues with mountain bikes / cyclists – 89
- Dog waste not picked up – 73
- Need more / improved enforcement – 69
- Off-leash dogs in on-leash / prohibited areas – 56
- Dog waste bins are good, need more – 45
- Concerns / issues with dogs not under control – 42
- Do not want to lose access to existing off leash areas – 39
- Commercial dog walkers provide a necessary service / are respectful – 31
- Concerns / issues with dogs injuring people (biting, scratching etc.) – 31
- People should accept / understand that they will encounter dogs in parks – 23
- Conflicts with dog owners / non-dog owners (interpersonal) – 21
- Dogs should be allowed more places / too many restrictions – 21

Q3. Please read the following statements and tell us if you agree.

Total respondents: 2,492

Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q6.



Q4. Is there anything else we should consider for the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan?

Response themes with 20 or more responses reported below:

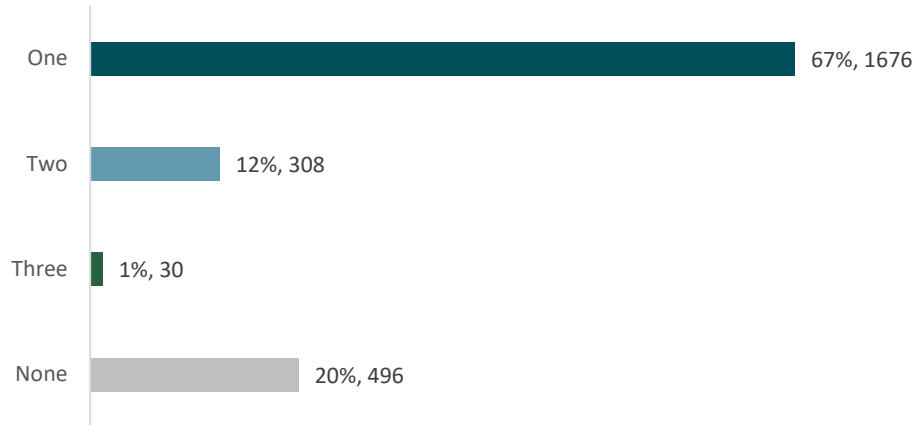
- Need more off-leash areas / trails – 119
- Need more / improved enforcement – 103
- Concerns / issues with dogs not under control – 79
- Fenced-in off-leash areas are not the solution – 75
- Educate people on trail etiquette / dog ownership etiquette / bylaws – 66
- Concerns / issues with mountain bikes / cyclists – 58
- Dog waste not picked up – 48
- Off-leash trails / areas are good – 47
- Off-leash dogs in on-leash / prohibited areas – 46
- Dog waste bins are good, need more – 40
- Most dog owners are respectful / a few “bad apples” – 40
- Dogs should be allowed more places (patios, playgrounds, etc.) / fewer restrictions – 40
- Need more fenced off-leash areas – 38
- Need more signage for etiquette and bylaws – 38
- Do not want to lose access to existing off leash areas – 34
- All dogs should be on-leash unless in designated areas – 30
- Concerns / issues sharing trails with multiple user groups – 28
- Commercial dog walkers provide a necessary service / are respectful – 27
- Concerns / issues with dogs injuring people (biting, scratching, etc.) – 24
- Off-leash dogs are okay if under control and well behaved – 24
- People should accept / understand that they will encounter dogs in parks – 22
- Concerns with dogs in areas with kids (playgrounds) – 21
- Consider seasonal and time-based bylaws / restrictions on dogs – 21
- Need both fenced and non-fenced off-leash areas – 20

Q5 Are you a commercial dog walker?

Of 2,491 respondents, 2% (57 people) shared that they are commercial dog walkers.

Q6. How many dogs do you currently have in your household?

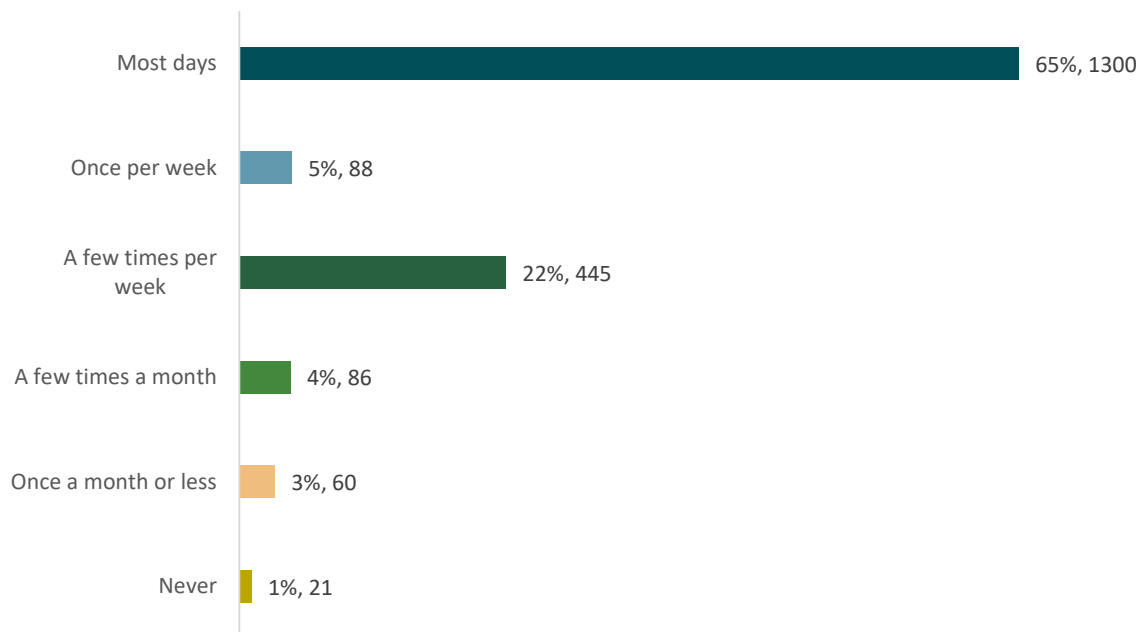
Total respondents: 2,510



If a respondent indicated they currently have one or more dogs in their household, they were asked to respond to Q7-14.

Q7. How often do you visit District parks with a dog?

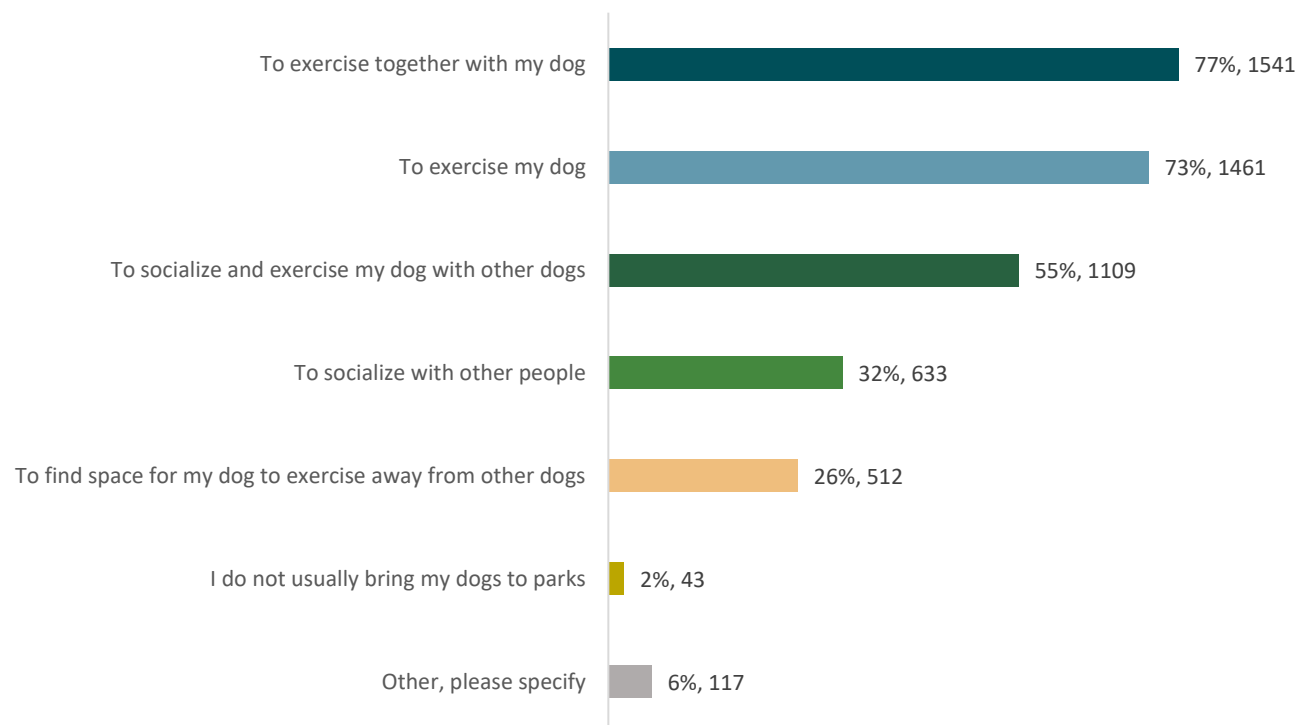
Total respondents: 2,000



Q8. If you bring your dog to District parks, what are the specific reasons? Select all that apply.

Total respondents: 2,002

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity.



Other, please specify:

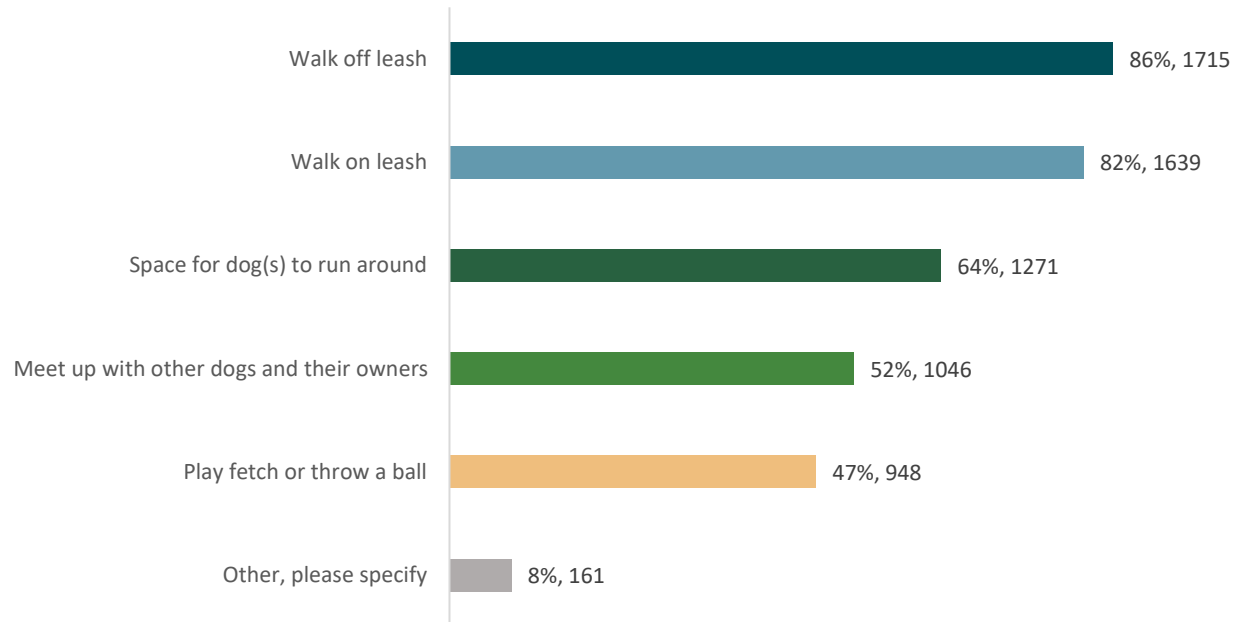
Response themes with 10 or more responses reported below:

- Enjoy nature / outdoors with my dog – 23
- Enjoy nature / outdoors – 22
- Socialize with others with my dog – 13
- Exercise my dog – 11

Q9. What activities do you do with your dog? Select all that apply.

Total respondents: 2,001

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity.



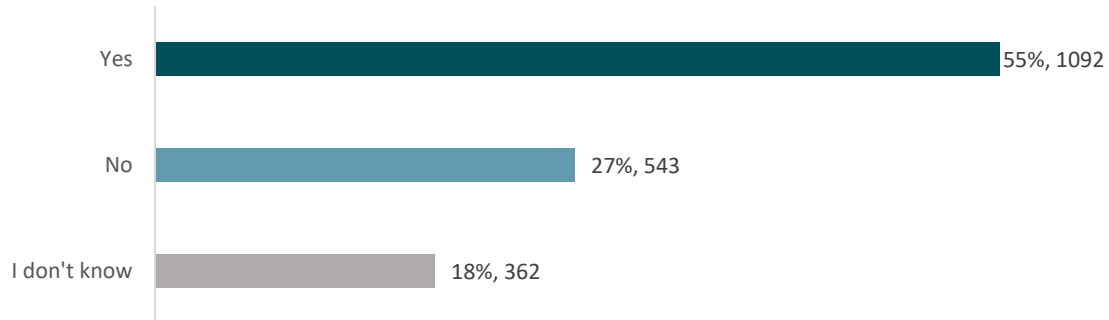
Other, please specify:

Response themes with 10 or more responses reported below:

- Swimming – 32
- Mountain biking / cycling – 26
- Running / jogging – 23
- Training dog – 22
- Walking / hiking – 15
- Hiking / exploring – 13

Q10. Would you like to see more enclosed off leash areas in the District?

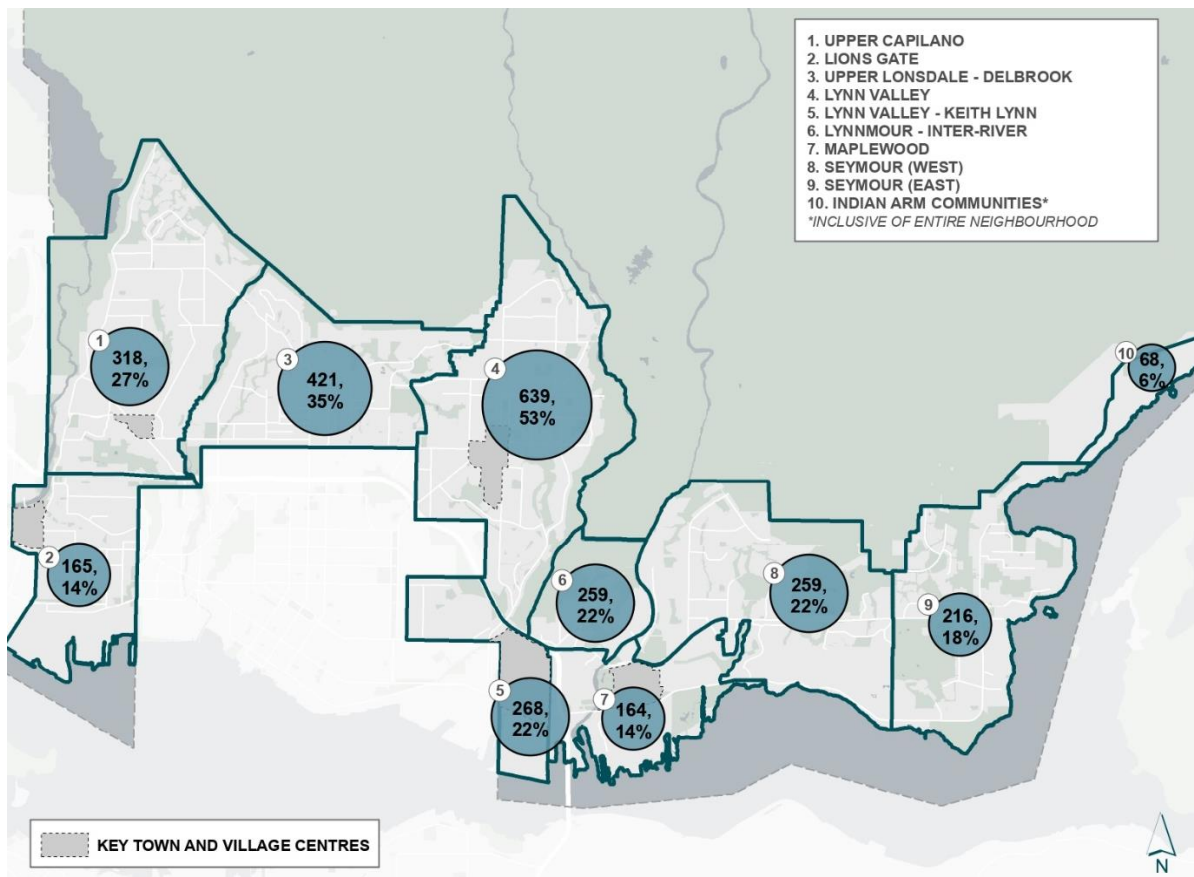
Total respondents: 1,997



Q11. If you answered "yes" to the above question, where would you like to see more off leash areas?

Total respondents: 1,195

Respondents could select up to three options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that option.



Map of neighbourhoods survey respondents would like to see more off leash areas

Q12. Thinking about off leash areas, what features or design elements do you suggest we consider?

Total respondents: 1,172

Response themes with 20 or more responses reported below:

- Don't want / like / use fenced-in off-leash areas – 209
- Large, open space – 193
- Off-leash trails are good, need more – 164
- Dog waste bins are good, need more – 140
- Water / beaches for swimming – 138
- Enclosed area – 113
- Separate areas for large and small dogs – 108
- Natural features (trees, logs, vegetation) – 106
- Water fountain with drinking water – 100
- Trails – 92
- Surfacing that doesn't get muddy or dusty – 65
- Shade / shelter – 63
- Dog waste bags – 58
- Grass fields – 56
- Agility equipment and obstacles – 52
- Double-gates – 39
- Need signage for etiquette / bylaws / education – 38
- Seating / benches – 37
- Lighting – 30
- Need both fenced and non-fenced off-leash areas – 24
- Separated / buffered from roadways – 21
- Need more / improved enforcement – 21

Q13. Do you have outdoor space on the property where you live for your dog (for example, a backyard, dog run, or a washroom area)?

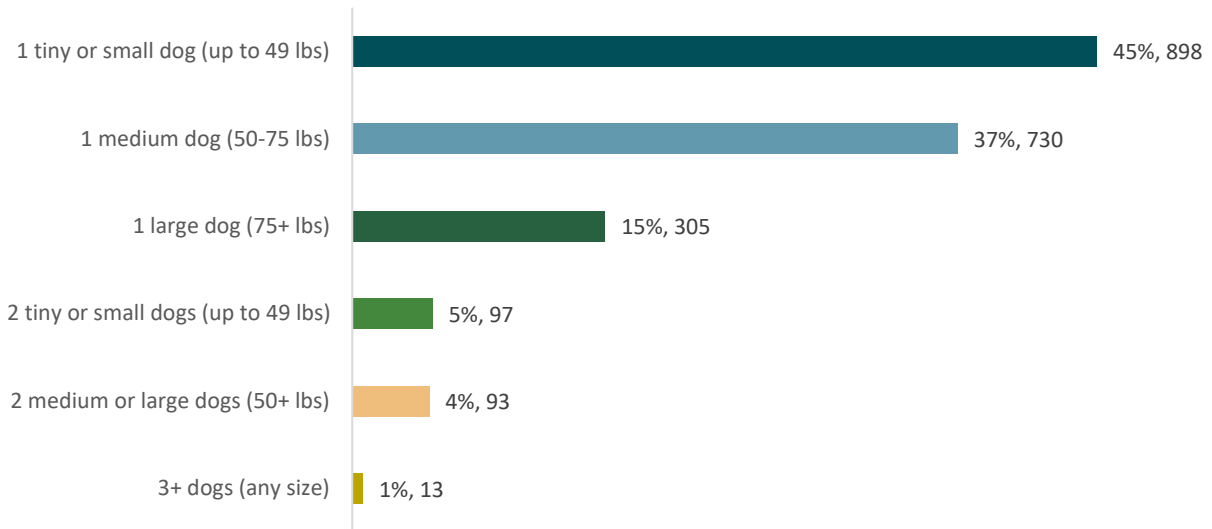
Of 1,992 respondents, 65% (1,295 people) answered "yes".

Q14. If you have a dog, please tell us how many in your household?

Total respondents: 1,976

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that option. Responses with 1% and above shown.

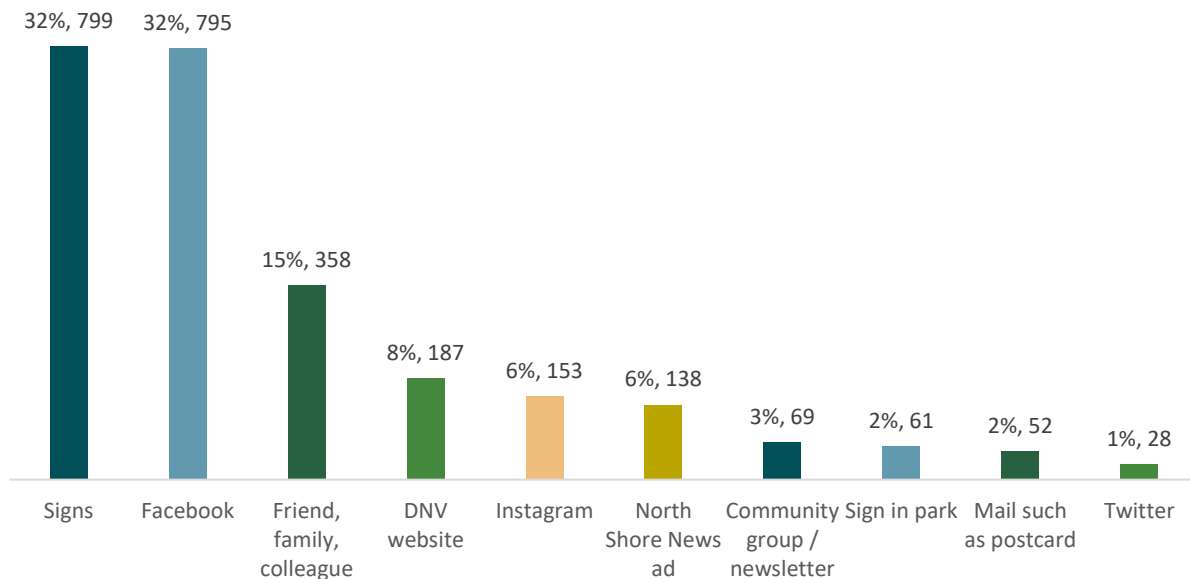
Of respondents, 45% had at least 1 tiny or small sized dog, and 37% had at least 1 medium sized dog.



Q15. How did you hear about this engagement? Please select all that apply.

Total respondents: 2,460

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that option.



"Other" response themes reported below:

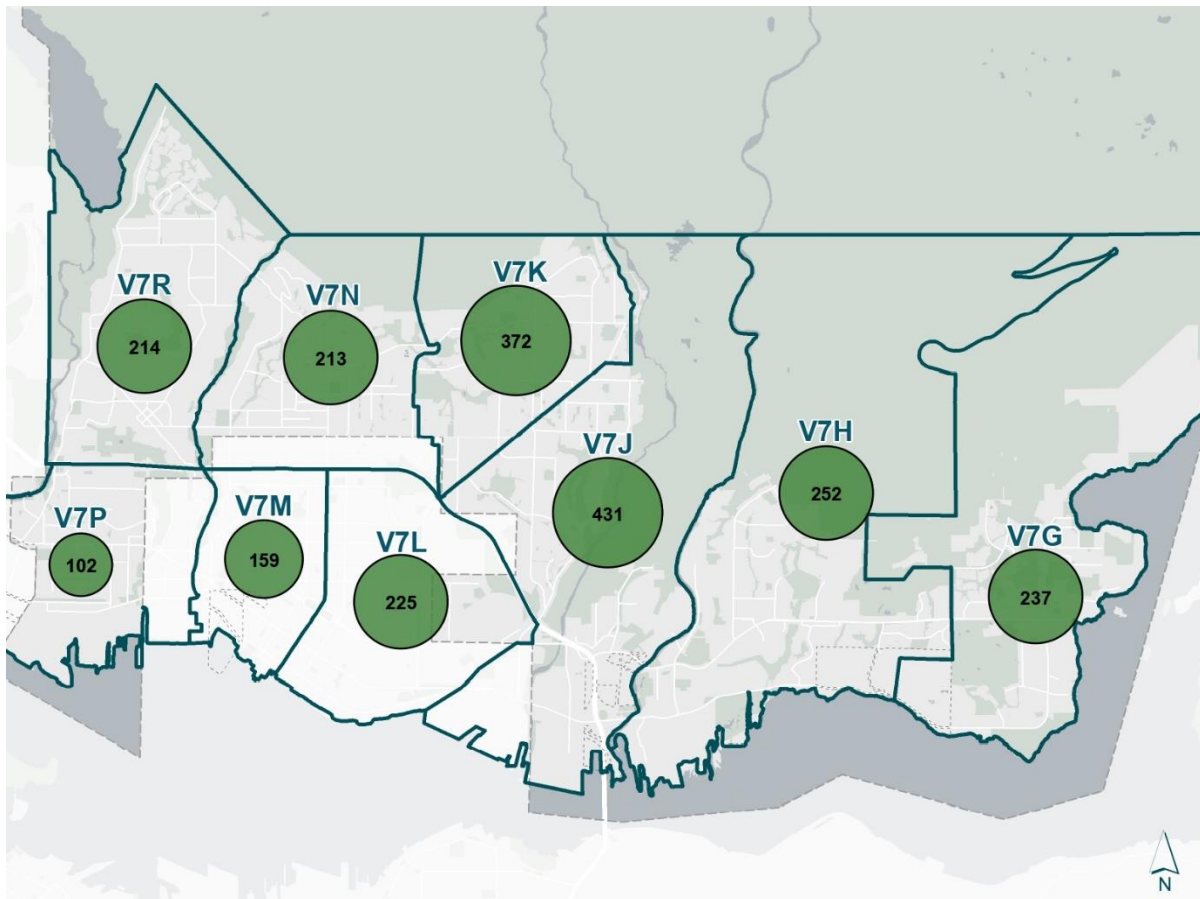
- District of North Vancouver staff – 31
- Social media (LinkedIn, Nextdoor) – 19
- Pop-up event – 16

Q16. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code?

Total respondents: 2,376

Total respondents from North Vancouver: 2,205 (93%)

Total estimated respondents from the District of North Vancouver: approximately 1,821 (77%) – note this is a general estimate only.



Map of respondent postal codes

Respondents from outside of North Vancouver: 171

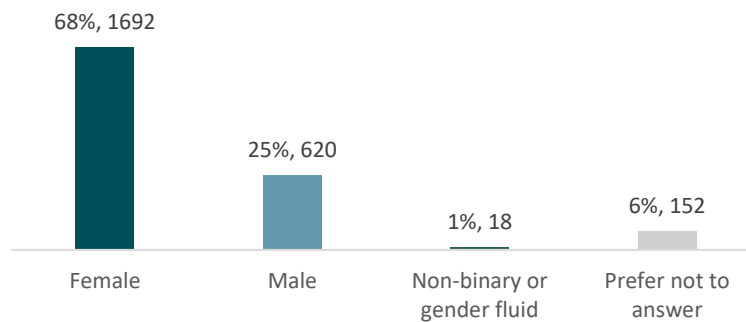
- Vancouver – 82
- West Vancouver – 40
- Burnaby – 21
- New Westminster – 4
- Port Moody – 3
- South of the Fraser River - 7
- Outside Lower Mainland - 9
- Outside BC – 5

Who we heard from: demographic questions

The District asks respondents to share demographic information to help determine if the District's outreach efforts are reaching a balanced and diverse range of populations in the District.

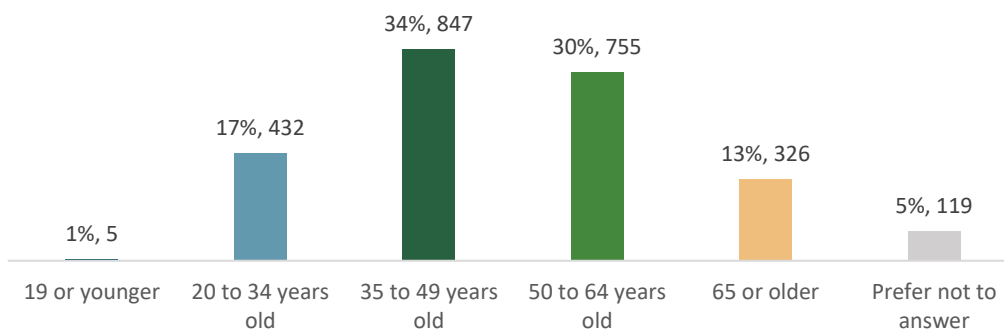
Q17. What is your gender?

Total respondents: 2,482



Q18. What is your age range?

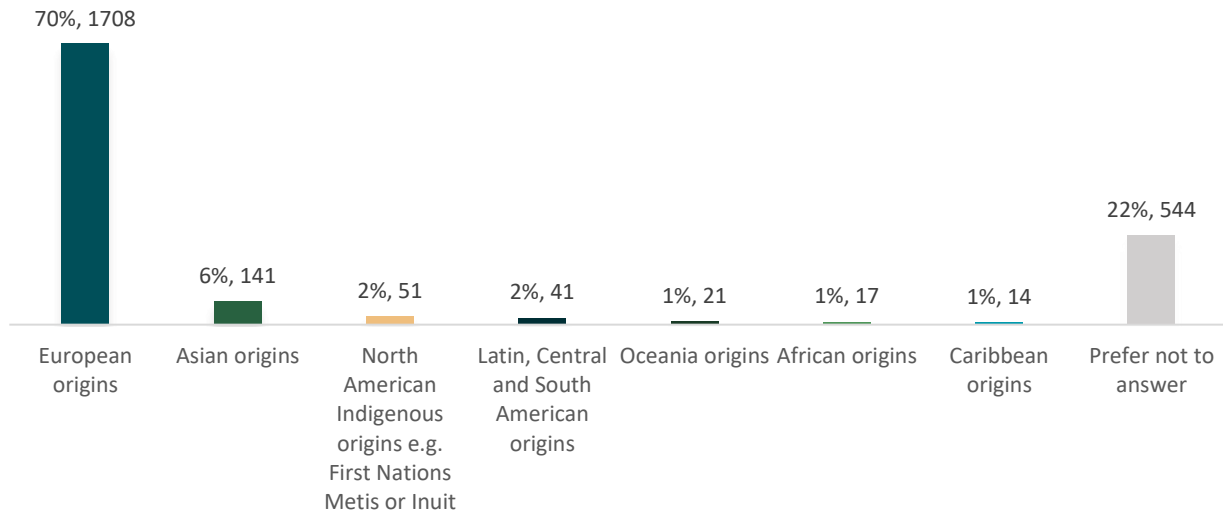
Total respondents: 2,484



Q19. What is your ethnic origin? Please select all that apply.

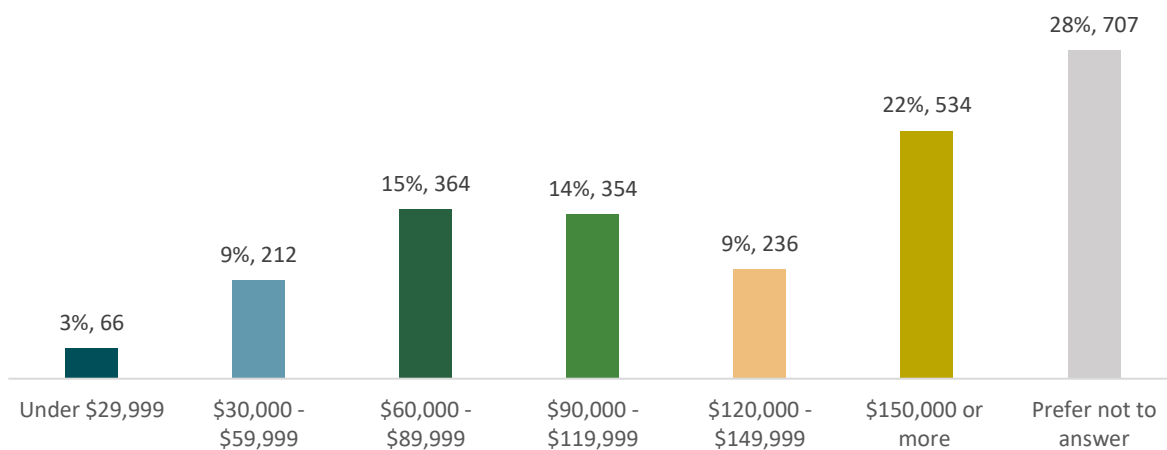
Total respondents: 2,447

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity.



Q20. Which best describes your individual annual income?

Total respondents: 2,473



APPENDIX B: INTERCEPT SURVEY

Format & methodology

The purpose of the intercept survey was to collect input from park users to get an understanding of the existing challenges and potential opportunities related to people and dogs sharing District parks.

Intercept surveys are intended to reach passerby audiences, with the goal of hearing from different user types and demographics than other engagement methods. It is intended to complement the results of the online survey.

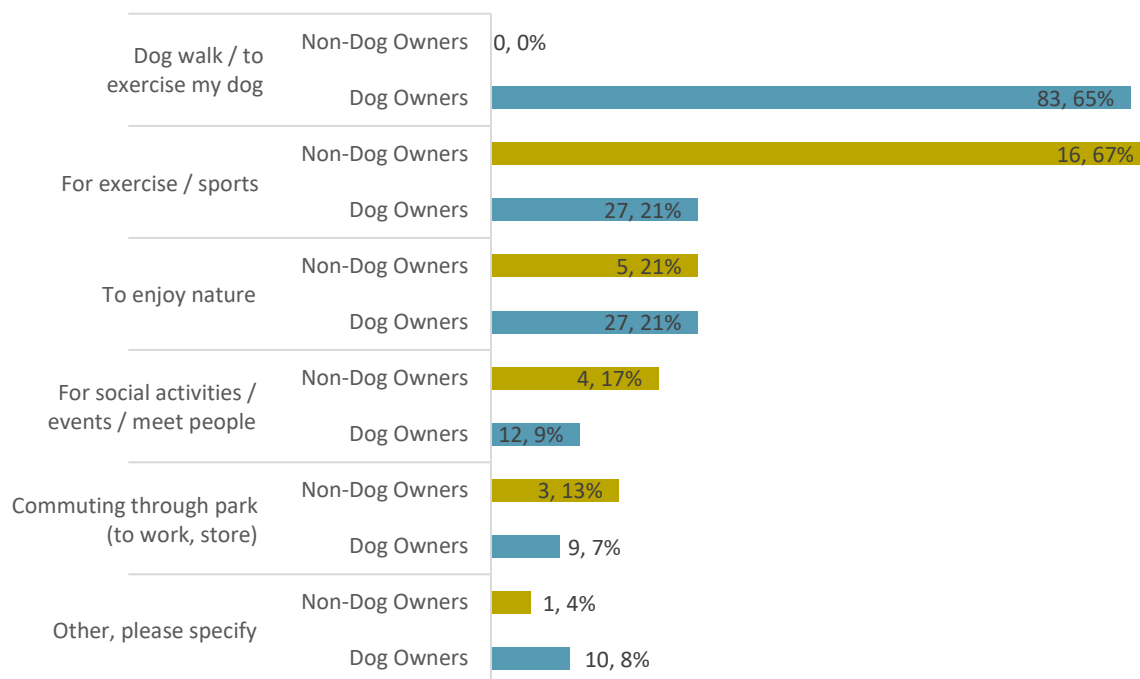
Intercept surveys were conducted by Park Rangers and District staff throughout the month of November 2023 at 19 parks across the District. Each location was surveyed for approximately 1 hour during both weekdays and weekend days and at different times of the day. Participation in the survey was voluntary. Respondents were asked survey questions verbally and staff recorded the responses.

In total, there were **152 respondents**.

Q1: What brings you to the park today?

Total respondents: 151

Respondents could mention one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity. Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q2.



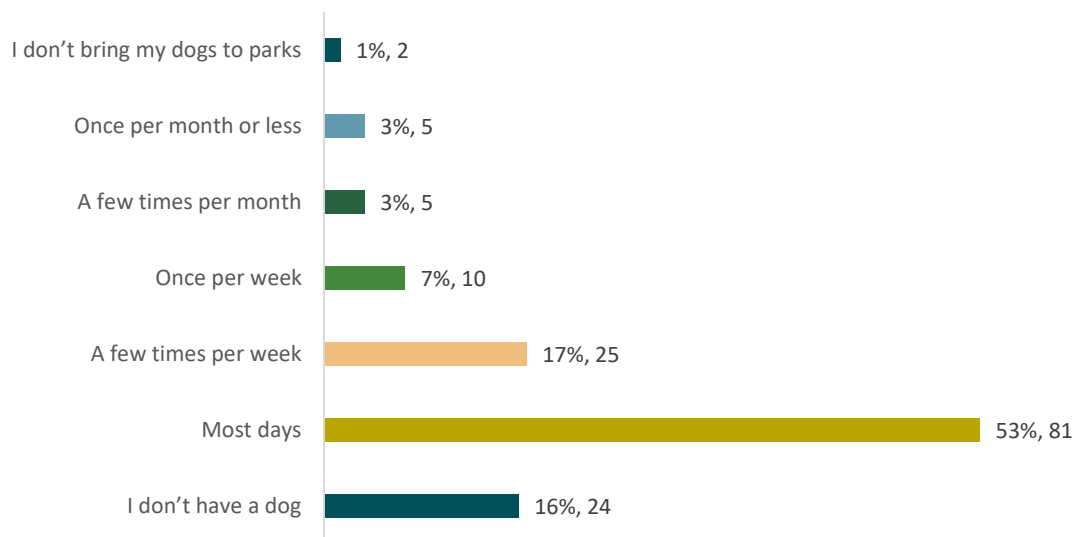
Other, please specify:

Response themes with 2 or more responses reported below:

- Playground – 2
- Volunteering – 2
- Flying club – 2

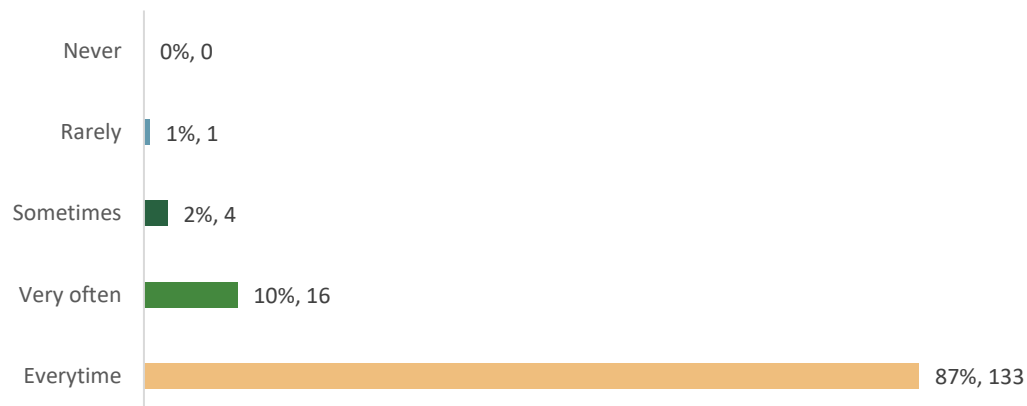
Q2: How often do you visit parks in the District of North Vancouver with a dog?

Total respondents: 152



Q3: When you visit parks in the District of North Vancouver, how often do you see dogs (besides your own)?

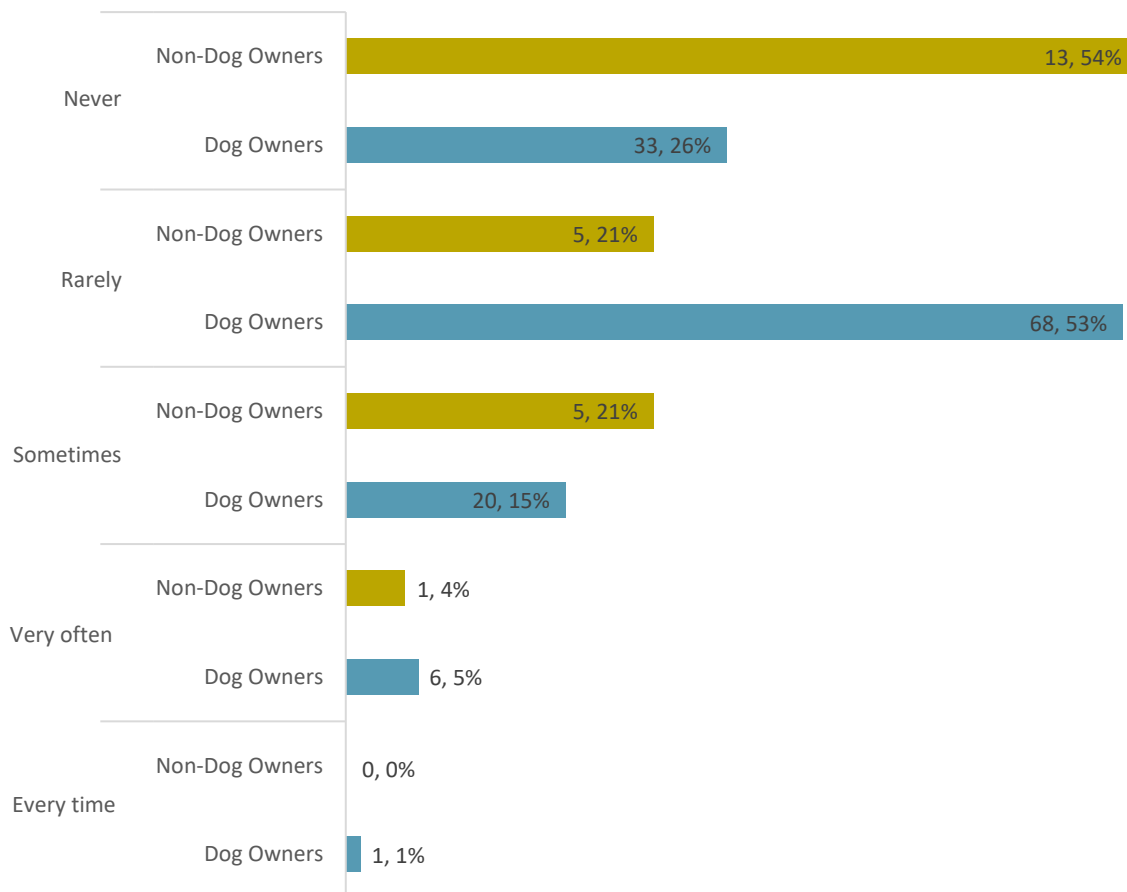
Total respondents: 152



Q4: When you visit parks in the District of North Vancouver, how often do you experience conflicts with dogs?

Total respondents: 152

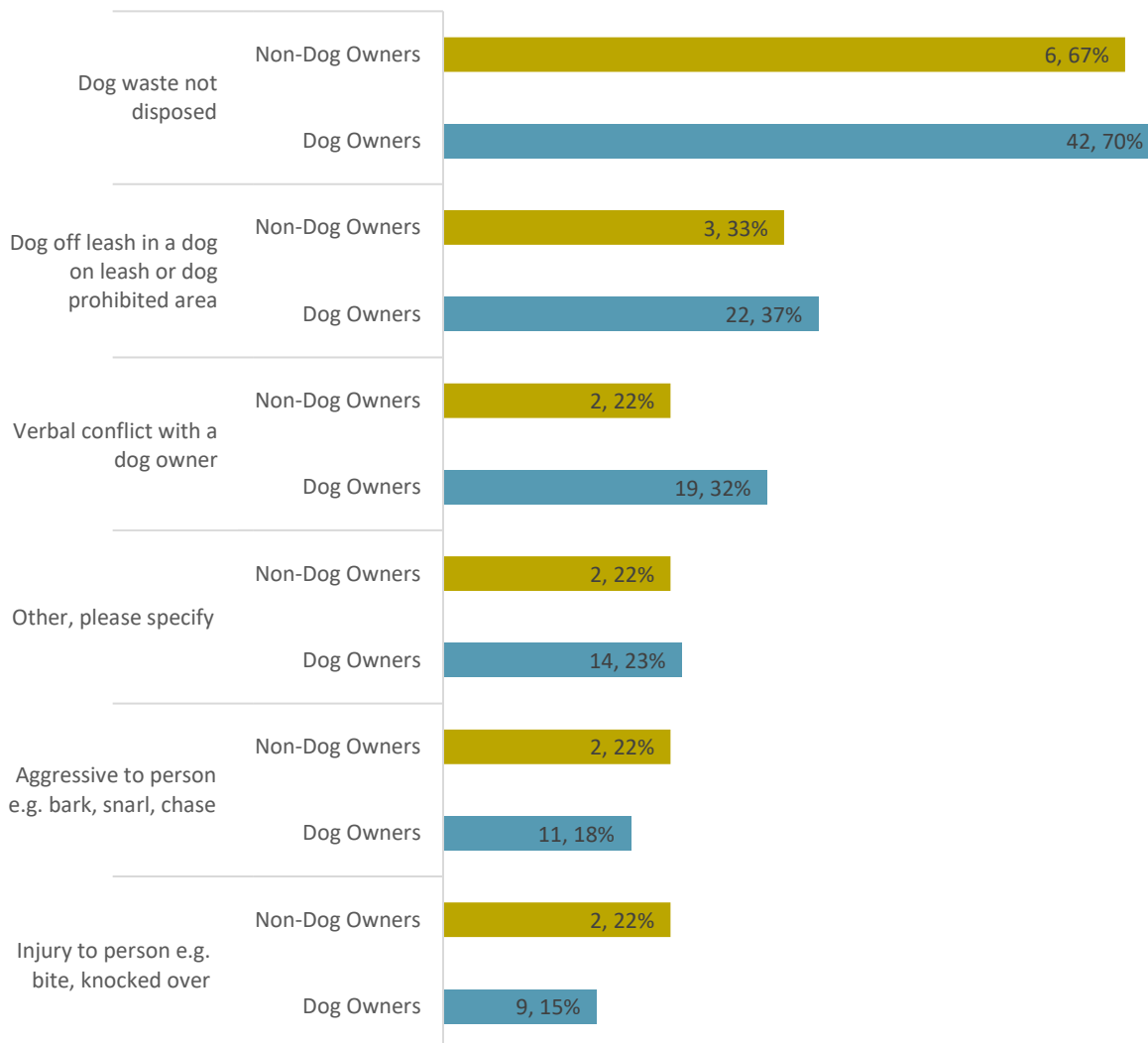
Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q2.



Q5: If you answered sometimes or more [in Q4], what type of conflicts do you experience with dogs?
Select all that apply.

Total respondents: 69

Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity. Results are shown by respondents who indicated they are dog owners and non-dog owners in Q2. Note some respondents who did not select “sometimes” or more in Q4 also answered this question.



Other, please specify:

Response themes with 5 or more responses:

- Dogs not under control / acting aggressively – 8

Q6: Do you have any suggestions to help us improve the experience for people and dogs in parks?

Total respondents: 147

Response themes with 10 or more responses reported below:

- Need more off-leash areas – 26
- Need more dog waste bins – 19
- Need more dog waste bags – 17
- No issues – 15
- Need more / improved enforcement – 15
- Dog waste not picked up – 14
- Need more signage (bylaws, etiquette) – 12

Q7: I noticed your dog is off leash in this area, without any judgement or consequence, could you tell me why you chose to bring your dog to this place today?

For this question, staff would approach park users with dogs that were off-leash in an area that is on-leash or prohibited to dogs to understand about their use of the area.

Total respondents: 30

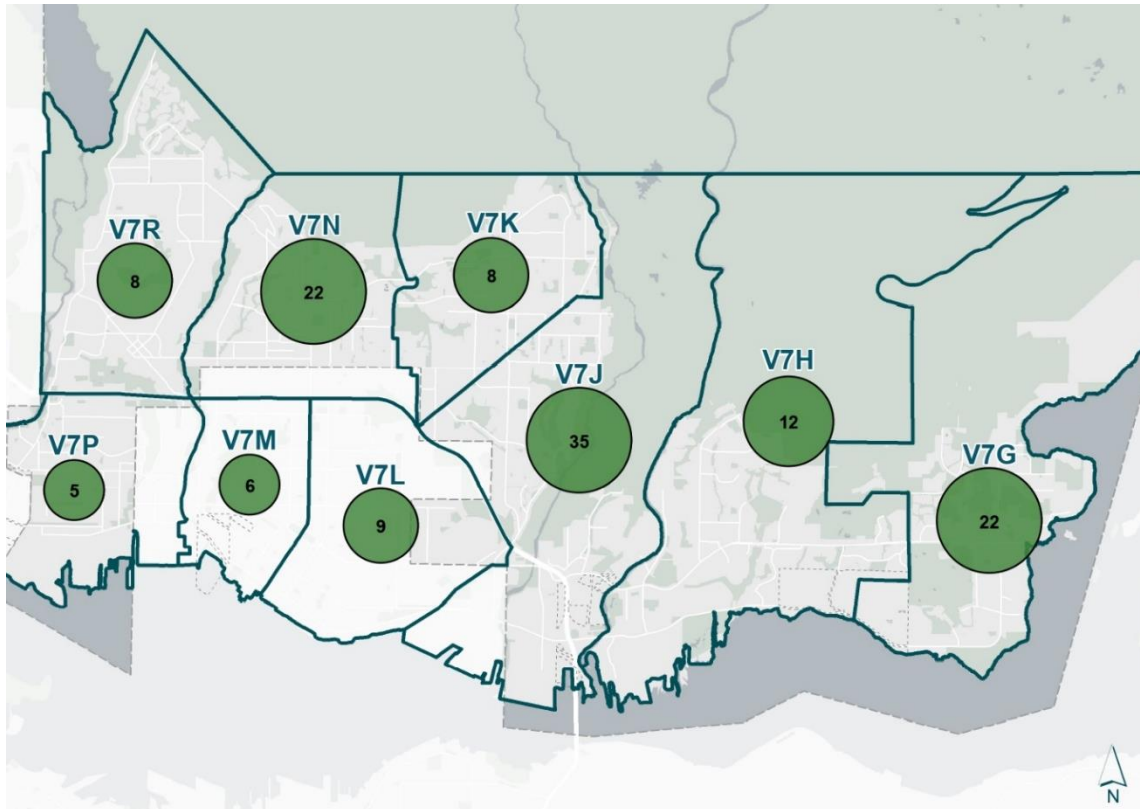
Response themes with 2 or more responses reported below:

- Accessible / convenient / close to home – 7
- No one else is around – 5
- Few other options – 5
- Rules aren't clear / don't make sense – 4
- Sports field / large open space for dog to run – 4
- Area used to be off-leash – 3
- Dog is well trained / good recall – 3
- Passing through – 3

Q8: What are the first three digits of your postal code?

Total respondents: 149

Total respondents from North Vancouver: 127 (85%)



Map of respondent postal codes

Respondents from outside of North Vancouver: 22

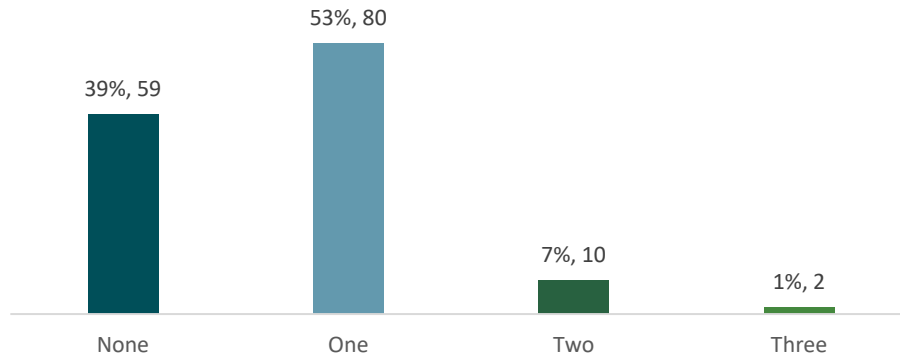
- Vancouver – 10
- Burnaby – 3
- New Westminster – 2
- West Vancouver – 1
- Other areas in the Lower Mainland – 5
- Outside BC – 1

Q9: Are you a resident of the District of North Vancouver?

Of 151 respondents, 124 (82%) were residents of the District.

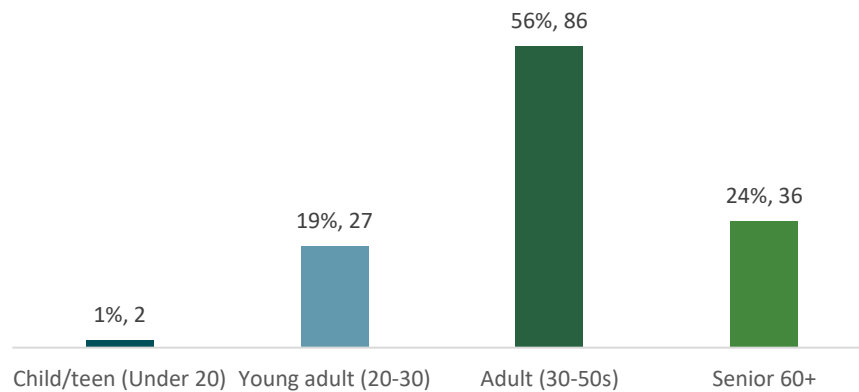
Q11: How many dogs with the respondent?

Total respondents: 151



Q12: Age guesstimate of the respondent.

Total respondents: 151



APPENDIX C: POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Format & methodology

The purpose of the pop-up engagement events was to meet with community members to learn more about key issues, opportunities and ideas for planning spaces for people and dogs in District parks, and to promote the online survey by handing out postcards. The pop-up engagement events were intended to reach passerby audiences, which may result in hearing from different user types or demographics than other engagement methods. It is intended to complement the online survey.

Three pop-up engagement events were conducted by District staff. In total, there were **210 participants** that interacted with staff at the pop-up events.

The events were held at:

- Parkgate Library / Community Centre, Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 10:00 am – noon (2 hours)
- Lynn Valley Public Library, Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 12:00 – 2:00 pm (2 hours)
- Mount Fromme trailhead, Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm (2 hours)

Locations and times for the events were selected for having high visibility, high likelihood of pedestrian passersby, and a variety of days and times (during daylight).

Summary of main themes

Participants were able to provide comments that were recorded on sticky notes. Themes with 3 or more responses reported below.

- Off-leash trails and areas are good / need more - 13
- Dog waste not picked up / need more dog waste bins - 9
- Concerned about Princess Park (forest restoration signs are unclear, fencing, not engaged) - 8
- Off-leash dogs in on-leash / prohibited areas - 6
- Need more / improved enforcement - 5
- Engage dog owners regarding changes - 5
- Like having parking at dog off-leash parks - 3
- Improve dog bylaw signage - 3
- Concerns with mountain biking - 3
- Concerns with off-leash dogs injuring people - 3

APPENDIX D: OTHER INPUT RECEIVED

Three emails were received with comments for the People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan.

Comments themes:

- Concern about dogs and dog waste on sports fields
- Support enforcement of dog waste bylaws
- Support for more dog waste bins
- Support enforcement of dog licencing
- Support for additional fenced off-leash areas, and with higher fences
- Support for fenced off-leash area for small dogs
- Suggestion for some parks and trails where dogs are not allowed
- Suggestion to expand the off-leash area in Inter River park, e.g. an area for throwing balls
- Suggestion of features within fenced off-leash areas, e.g. hills, trees, logs, not gravel surfacing

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan

Engagement 2
Summary Report
December 2025

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
OVERVIEW & PURPOSE.....	4
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	5
APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY.....	6
APPENDIX B: POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS.....	19
APPENDIX C: INTEREST GROUP DISCUSSIONS.....	20

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the second round of engagement for the People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan was to gather input and feedback from the community on the draft plan. This input will inform the development of the final Strategic Plan. Overall, engagement participants were highly supportive of the Strategic Plan.

Participation

There were approximately 1,485 participants across various engagement opportunities. Engagement opportunities included an online survey (completed by 1,355 respondents), five pop-up events held at Princess Park, Kirkstone Park, Seylynn Park, Delbrook Community Centre, and Parkgate Community Centre (attended by 130 participants). Overall, we heard from both dog-owners, non-dog owners, residents and visitors, various local organizations, and land managers.

Notification

The District promoted the engagement opportunities through a variety of channels, including the District's project webpage, signs at parks and trails throughout the District, digital and print advertisements in the North Shore News, advertisements and posts on the District's social media accounts, postcards (with a link to the project webpage and online survey), and emails to various interest groups (such as commercial dog walkers, community associations etc.) and local First Nations governments (Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Key Findings and Themes

Key findings and themes from the online survey:

- A total of 1,355 respondents completed the online survey.
 - Of respondents, an estimated 83% were District of North Vancouver residents.
- Of respondents, 82% agree or strongly agree with the vision statement.
- A majority of respondents (76–87%) agree or strongly agree with the three guiding principles.
- A majority of respondents (64–93%) support the six strategic directions
- The top three comment themes when asked about the Strategic Plan overall include:
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails, and using fenced areas
 - Need more enforcement
 - Desire for additional off-leash areas in the District

Key findings and themes from the pop-up engagement events:

- The top three comment themes when asked about the Strategic Plan overall include:
 - Support having off-leash areas in parks
 - Need more enforcement
 - Concerned with mountain biking (trail conflicts)

Who We Heard From

Of online survey respondents, an estimated 83% were District of North Vancouver residents (based on postal code). Refer to the Demographic Questions section for further information.

Next Steps

Feedback from this round of engagement will help inform the development of the final Strategic Plan.

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The District is developing the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan to provide a framework for how people and dogs can share District parks in a responsible and respectful way.

This report summarizes feedback received through the second round of engagement in fall 2025.

The process to develop the Plan is outlined below:



The first round of community engagement was conducted in fall 2023 to learn more about key community values, ideas, challenges and opportunities. This engagement summary is available at [DNV.org/dog-plan](https://dnv.org/dog-plan).

The second round of community engagement focused on gathering feedback on the draft Strategic Plan including the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategic directions and provided another opportunity for input.

There were 1,485 interactions with people in at least one of the engagement opportunities, which included an online survey, and pop-up events.

- Online survey: 1,355 respondents completed the survey
- Pop-up events: 130 participants, handed out 150 postcards (with a link to the project webpage and online survey)

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The second round of engagement took place from October 14 to November 2, 2025.

There were 1,485 interactions with participants at one or more of the engagement opportunities, which included an online survey, and pop-up events.

The District promoted the engagement opportunities using the following methods:

Method	Description	Dates	Participants
Project Webpage	Information about the second round of community engagement was added to the District's project webpage.	The webpage was updated with additional information on October 6, 2025.	-
Online Survey	The online survey was launched on the project webpage, and the draft Strategic Plan was available for review.	The online survey and the draft Strategic Plan were posted on October 14, 2025.	There were 1,355 online survey respondents.
Pop-up Events	Pop-up events were held at five locations across the District at various times of day.	Pop-ups were held at Princess and Kirkstone Parks on October 20, Seylunn Park on October 21, Delbrook Community Centre on October 22, and at Parkgate Community Centre on October 23.	There were 130 participants. Also, 150 postcards were handed out to passersby and about 350 were left at the front desks of several NVRC community centres and libraries.
Social Media	Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn posts were published to promote the online survey. This included paid advertisements.	Posts were published on October 14, 24, 30, and November 2 and 3.	There were 1,535 engagements (reactions and link clicks), and posts were viewed a total of 35,599 times.
Information Signs	Temporary signs (with a link to the project webpage, and online survey) were posted District-wide.	Signs were posted from October 14 until November 2.	48 signs were posted at various parks and trail-heads across the District.
Newspaper Advertisements	Digital and print advertisements were posted in the <i>North Shore News</i> .	One ¼ page print ad ran on October 15, and digital ads ran from October 14 to November 2, 2025.	Digital ads, targeted to District residents, resulted in over 55,500 impressions (total number of ads displayed), and 84 clicks.

APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY

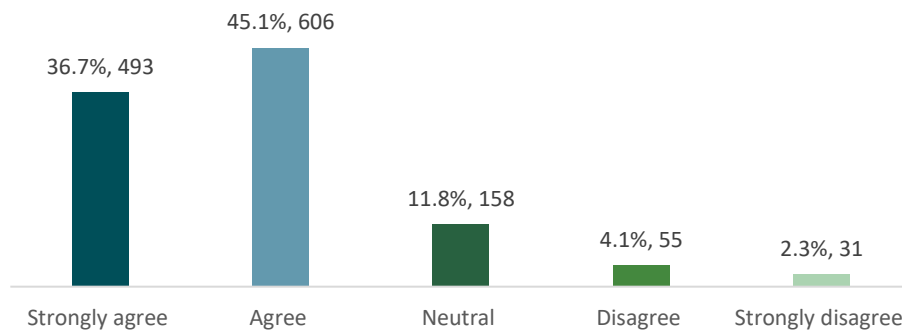
A total of 1,355 respondents completed the online survey available from October 14 to November 2.

P2 Q1: To what extent do you agree with the draft vision for the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan?

Total respondents: 1,343

This question provided the draft vision statement:

District parks offer opportunities to connect with nature and promote well-being for everyone, non-dog owners and dog owners alike, by balancing recreation with ecological integrity, and encouraging shared responsibility to keep parks safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all.



P2 Q2: Do you have any additional comments about the vision statement?

Total respondents: 427

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.¹

- Frequently raised themes:
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails
 - Vision statement is too generic, needs more clarity
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Concerns about dog-owners not respecting on-leash requirements, dogs not under control
 - Need more off-leash areas / trails
 - Concerns with dog waste not being picked up
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Concerns about fenced off-leash areas
 - Consideration of environment and wildlife is good
 - Vision statement is good

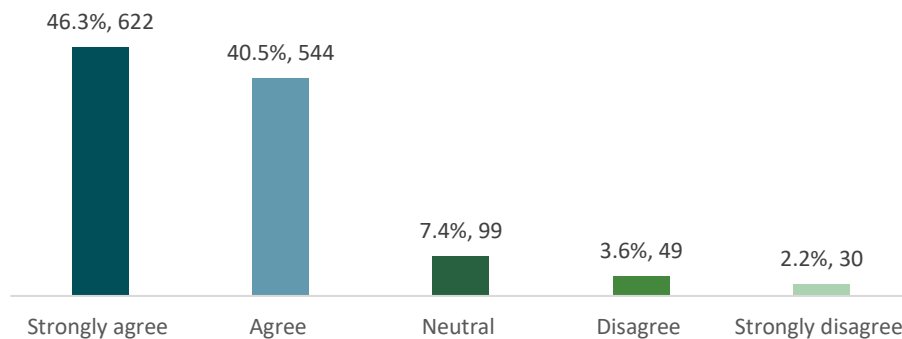
¹ For all open-ended questions, a structured sampling method was used to identify common themes.

P3 Q1: To what extent do you agree with the Wellness draft guiding principle?

Total respondents: 1,344

This question provided the statement:

District parks promote health and wellness through active living and provide people and dogs access to a variety of safe, and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities.

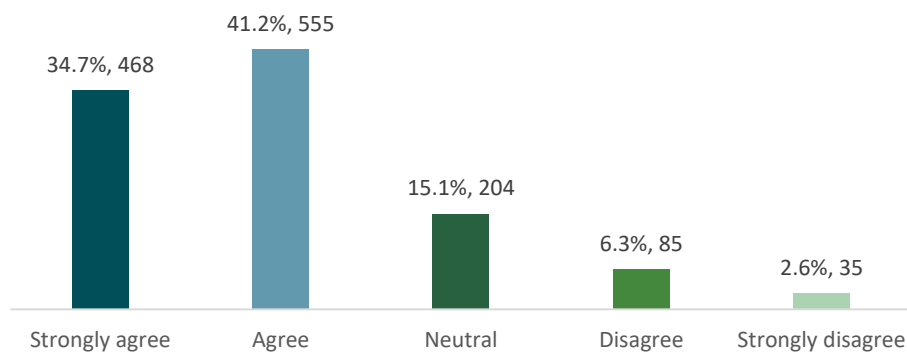


P3 Q2: To what extent do you agree with the Environment draft guiding principle?

Total respondents: 1,347

This question provided the statement:

Recreational opportunities for dogs are supported in ways that protect the integrity and sustainability of natural landscapes and their ecological functions for future generations to come.

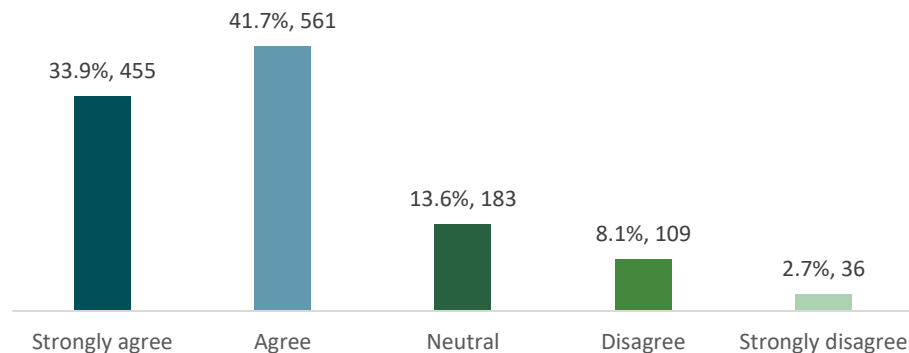


P3 Q3: To what extent do you agree with the Community draft guiding principle?

Total respondents: 1,344

This question provided the statement:

Inclusive planning and clearly communicated, fair and enforceable regulations, promote a culture of respect, responsible dog ownership and collective stewardship in District parks.



P3 Q4: Do you have any additional comments about the draft guiding principles?

Total respondents: 416

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

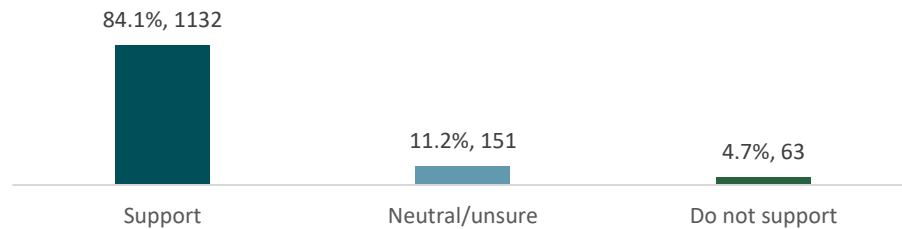
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails
 - Need more enforcement
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Consider dogs to have less impact on the natural environment than people
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Concerns about dog-owners not respecting on-leash requirements, dogs not under control
 - Guiding principles are unclear

P4 Q1: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #1?

Total respondents: 1,346

This question provided the statement:

1. Distribution & Supply: Ensure adequate supply, quality, diversity and distribution of outdoor recreation experiences and amenities, including off-leash opportunities.



P4 Q2: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #1?

Total respondents: 455

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

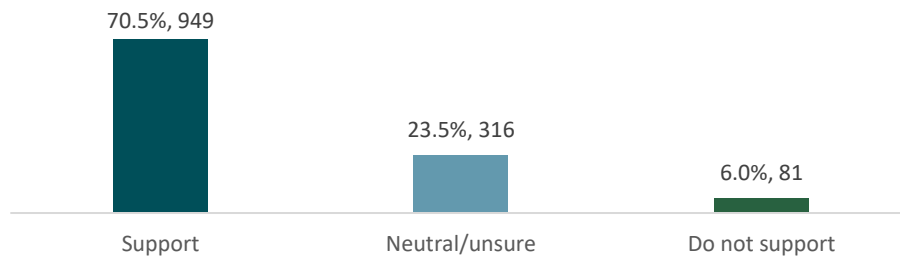
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Need more off-leash areas / trails
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Strategic direction is unclear
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Concerns about dog-owners not respecting on-leash requirements, dogs not under control
 - Concerns about bias against dog owners
 - Concerns about fenced off-leash areas

P4 Q3: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #2?

Total respondents: 1,346

This question provided the statement:

2. Balance: Balance the needs of various user and stewardship groups to mitigate dog conflicts and risks in parks.



P4 Q4: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #2?

Total respondents: 365

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

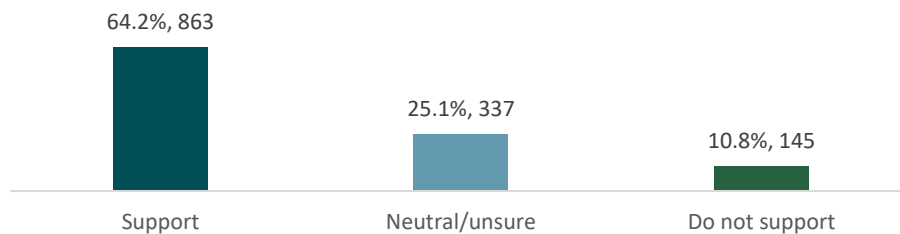
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Concerns that irresponsible dog owners could lead to stricter rules for everyone
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Concerns about bias against dog owners
 - Concerns about dog-owners not respecting on-leash requirements, dogs not under control
 - Concerned with mountain biking (trail conflicts)
 - Need more enforcement
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Rarely see conflicts with dogs in parks
 - Need to make bylaw information more accessible
 - Strategic direction is unclear

P4 Q5: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #3?

Total respondents: 1,345

This question provided the statement:

3. Ecological Integrity: Increase awareness of environmental impacts caused by dogs in parks and implement measures to maintain ecological quality and integrity.



P4 Q6: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #3?

Total respondents: 342

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

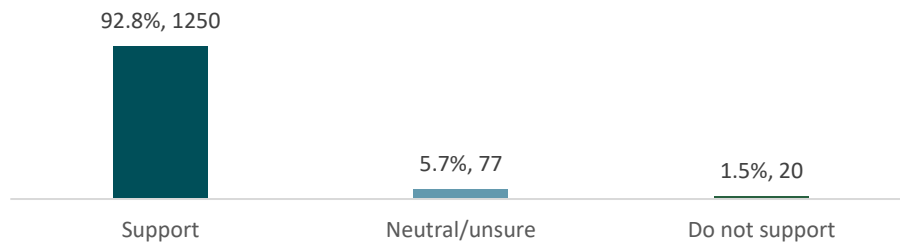
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Consider dogs to have less impact on the natural environment than people
 - Concerns with dog waste not being picked up
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Need more education on environmental impacts
 - Need a better understanding of the environmental protection measures being considered
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Concerns with dogs in fish-bearing waterways

P4 Q7: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #4?

Total respondents: 1,347

This question provided the statement:

4. Cleanliness: Improve dog waste management and demonstrate that improper disposal affects everyone's enjoyment of parks and is seen as unacceptable by both dog owners and non-owners.



P4 Q8: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #4?

Total respondents: 408

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

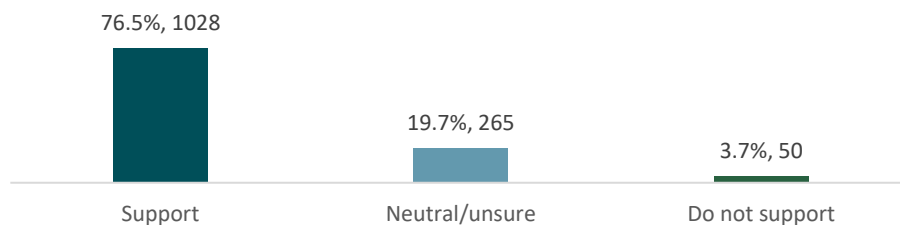
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Need more dog waste bins / bags
 - Need more enforcement
 - Concerns with amount of dog waste and dog waste bags left on trails
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Need more education on negative impacts of dog waste

P4 Q9: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #5?

Total respondents: 1,343

This question provided the statement:

5. Collaboration: Collaborate with interest holders, community partners and local governments on dog-related initiatives, while engaging the community in decision-making.



P4 Q10: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #5?

Total respondents: 208

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

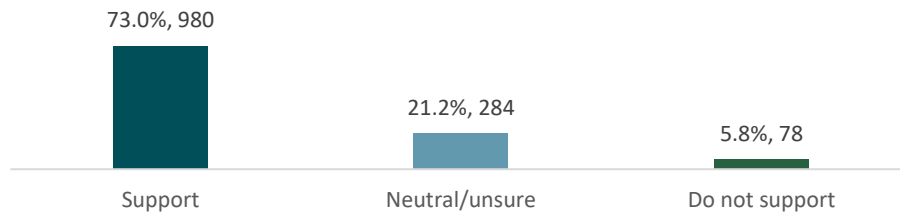
- Frequently raised themes:
 - Concerns about bias (i.e. certain user groups getting “more say” than others)
 - Ensure appropriate level of community engagement
- Commonly noted themes:
 - There are bigger priorities
 - Commercial dog walkers provide an important service

P4 Q11: To what extent do you agree with strategic direction #6?

Total respondents: 1,342

This question provided the statement:

6. Education & Enforcement: Enhance awareness of various recreational opportunities and effectively communicate appropriate usage, rules and regulations related to dogs in parks through education and enforcement.



P4 Q12: Do you have additional thoughts to share about strategic direction #6?

Total respondents: 345

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

- Frequently raised themes:
 - Need more enforcement
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Need more signs
 - Concerns about bias against dog owners
 - Concerns about dog-owners not respecting on-leash requirements, dogs not under control

P5 Q1: When determining whether a trail should be designated on-leash, off-leash or dogs prohibited, what do you think are the most important factors to consider?

Total respondents: 1,102

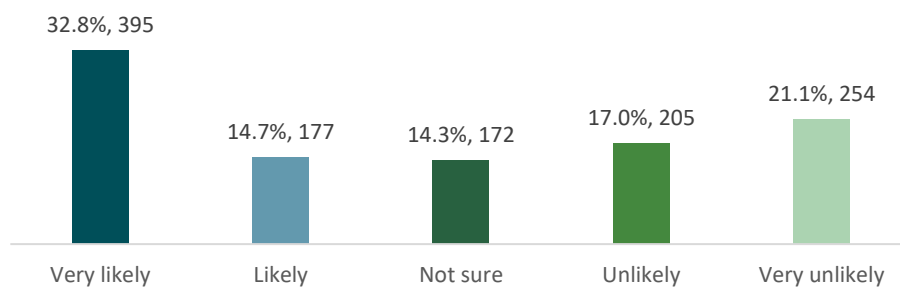
Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

- Frequently raised themes:
 - Protect sensitive ecological areas
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Ensure safety for all users
 - Consider how busy the trail is
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Need more enforcement
 - Consider trail conditions (width, surface material)
 - Consider trail proximity to roads
 - Consider separating conflicting trail uses (bikes, dogs, runners)
 - Focus on responsible trail use (dogs under control, good recall)
 - Equitable access the trail network
 - Keep off-leash areas away from playgrounds, schools etc.

P5 Q2: If you are a dog owner, how likely are you to visit one of these fenced off-leash areas?

Total respondents: 1,203

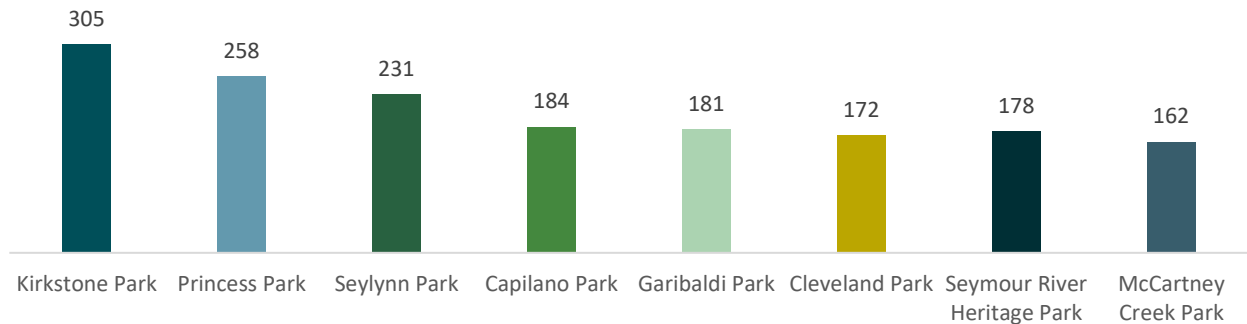
This question provided a map showing the locations included in question P5 Q3 (below).



P5 Q3: Which of the following proposed locations would you be most happy to see a fenced off-leash dog area added? We're looking for answers from both non-dog owners and dog owners.

Total respondents: 802

This question provided a map showing each of the locations in the chart below.



P5 Q4: Tell us more about your answers above.

Total respondents: 448

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

- Frequently raised themes:
 - Preference for off-leash trails
 - Visit to this park often, lots of dog owners in the area
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Concerns about fenced off-leash areas
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Fenced off-leash areas are useful (for dog relief, fetching)
 - Need more enforcement
 - Don't need additional fenced off-leash areas
 - Prioritize adding fenced off-leash areas in the most populated areas
 - Desire for separated small dog areas

P6 Q1: Do you have any other comments to share about this draft plan?

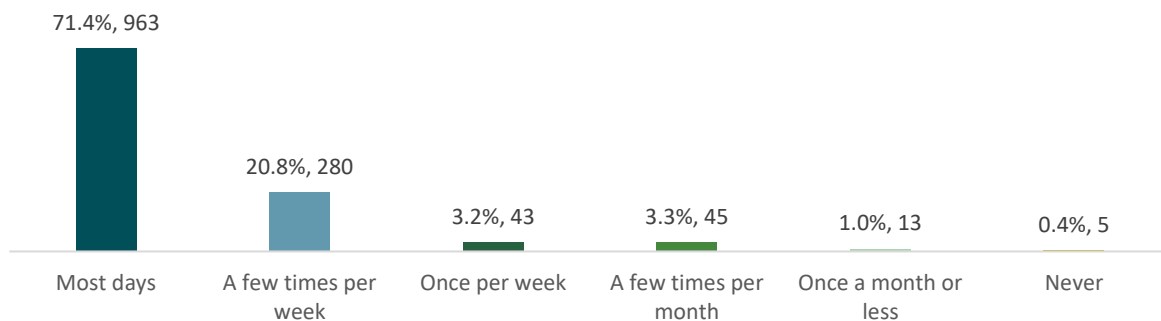
Total respondents: 641

Comments were reviewed to identify common themes.

- Frequently raised themes:
 - Concerns about losing access to existing off-leash trails
 - Concerns about fenced off-leash areas
- Commonly noted themes:
 - Need more enforcement
- Occasionally mentioned themes:
 - Desire for additional off-leash areas in the District
 - Appreciation for the opportunity to provide input
 - Importance of trail access for commercial dog walkers
 - Concerns about rule compliance
 - Need to consider parking availability at off-leash areas
 - Preference for off-leash use only in fenced areas

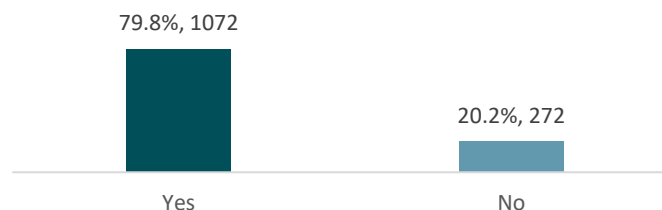
P7 Q1: How often do you usually visit District parks and/or trails?

Total respondents: 1,349



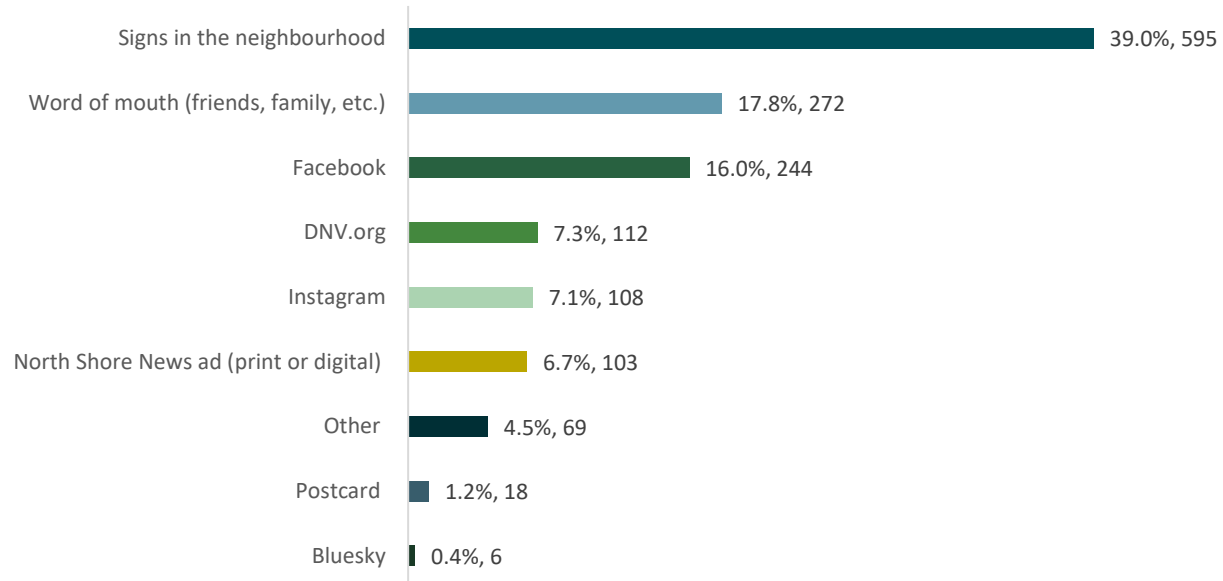
P7 Q2: Do you own a dog? Either way, your perspectives are important to us.

Total respondents: 1,344



P7 Q3: How did you hear about this engagement? Please select all that apply.

Total respondents: 1,270



Who We Heard From: Demographic Questions

The District asks respondents to share demographic information to help determine if the District's outreach efforts are reaching a balanced and diverse range of populations in the District.

P7 Q4: Please provide the first three digits of your postal code to help us understand who is responding to this survey

Total respondents: 1,332. Excluding 23 non-valid postal codes entered.

Total estimated respondents from the District of North Vancouver: approximately 1,109 (83.3%).

Note: this is a general estimate only.

Respondents from North Vancouver: 1,279

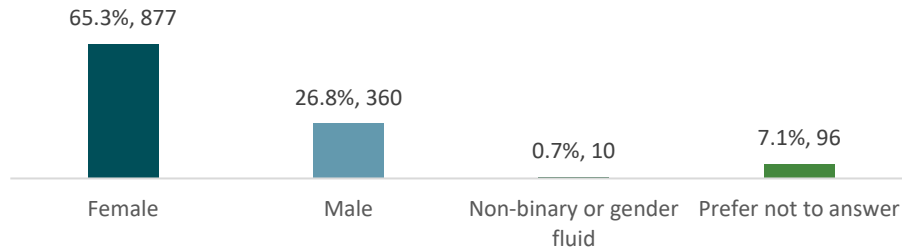
- V7K: 193
- V7G: 168
- V7H: 150
- V7N: 147
- V7R: 119
- V7L: 111
- V7P: 65
- V7M: 59

Respondents from outside of North Vancouver: 52

- Vancouver: 23
- West Vancouver: 15
- Burnaby: 7
- Coquitlam: 1
- Rural BC: 1
- Sechelt: 1
- Outside BC: 2

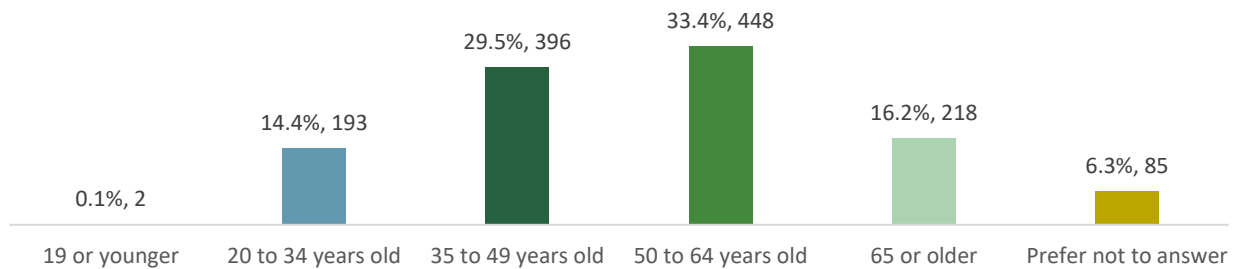
P7 Q5: What is your gender?

Total respondents: 1,343



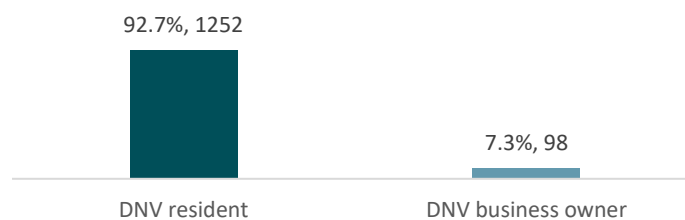
P7 Q6: Which of the following ranges includes your age?

Total respondents: 1,342



P7 Q7: DNV resident (Which of the following options best describes you? Select all that apply)

Total respondents: 1,350



APPENDIX B: POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Format & Methodology

The purpose of the pop-up engagement events was to connect with community members in person to gather feedback on the draft Strategic Plan, provide an opportunity for staff to answer questions, and promote the online survey by distributing postcards. The pop-up engagement events were intended to reach passersby, which may result in hearing from different user types or demographics than other engagement methods. It is intended to complement the online survey.

Five pop-up engagement events were conducted by District staff. In total, there were around 130 participants that shared ideas or asked questions about the Strategic Plan, and around 150 postcards handed out to passersby.

The pop-up events were held at:

- Princess Park: Monday, October 20 - 10:00am -12:00pm
- Kirkstone Park: Monday, October 20 – 1:00 - 3:00pm
- Seylynn Park / Lynn Creek Community Centre: Tuesday, October 21 - 10:00am -12:00pm
- Delbrook Community Centre: Wednesday, October 22 - 12:00 - 2:00pm
- Parkgate Community Centre: Thursday, October 23 – 2:00 - 4:00pm

Pop-up events were scheduled at various locations across the District and at different times during daylight hours, with the aim of engaging a high number of people.

Although the pop-up events were held on weekdays during common working hours, the online survey (with the same content) was available throughout the engagement period, offering a convenient way for participants to share their input at any time.

Postcards were left at the front desks at Delbrook, Karen Magnussen, Lions Gate, Lynn Creek, Lynn Valley, Parkgate, and Ron Andrews Community Recreation Centres, North Vancouver Tennis Centre, Maplewood Farm, North Vancouver Municipal Hall, and Lynn Valley, Capilano, and Parkgate Libraries. Each location was given around 30 postcards for a total of about 350.

Summary of Main Themes

Participants recorded comments on sticky notes. Comment themes with 5 or more responses are reported below.

- Support having off-leash areas in parks - 10
- Need more enforcement - 8
- Concerned with mountain biking (trail conflicts) - 8
- Prefer fencing-in picnic areas and playgrounds rather than dog areas - 7
- Concerned with dogs off-leash in prohibited areas - 6
- Concerned with dog waste not being picked up – 5

APPENDIX C: INTEREST GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Various District of North Vancouver community groups and local recreation organizations were notified by email about the engagement program and encouraged to complete the online survey or attend one of the pop-up engagement events.

In addition, the Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee (PNEAC) has been consistently supportive of developing the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan, and their input has directly informed the process. PNEAC provided feedback at the following key meetings:

- September 27, 2023 – Reviewed the project scope and provided early input
- February 21, 2024 – Reviewed community engagement results and shared input on key topics
- September 25, 2024 – Reviewed and provided input on draft guidelines
- April 16, 2025 – Reviewed and supported the draft vision statement, guiding principles, and strategic directions

Interest Group Meetings

Meeting with interest groups included a presentation about the Strategic Plan, followed by opportunities for participants to ask questions and provide feedback. The following meetings were attended:

- North Shore Parks Coordination Meeting – November 6, 2025
 - Attendees: Metro Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- North Shore Stream Keepers – November 20, 2025
- North Shore Mountain Bike Association – November 27, 2025

Summary of Main Themes

The following broad themes emerged during discussions:

- Strong interest in maintaining shared access to parks and trails for a variety of user groups.
- Recognition of the need to manage potential conflicts between different types of users.
- Support for measures that protect natural environments and sensitive areas.
- Emphasis on education and collaboration as key strategies for successful implementation.

People, Dogs & Parks Strategic Plan

Council Meeting
February 2, 2026

Background



- Need identified in 2012 through the District's Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan.
- Strategic Plan development began in 2023.
- Goal: Guide park and trail planning and management to keep these spaces safe and enjoyable.

Approach



- Assess current conditions and trends related to dogs in parks.
- Identify community values, priorities and challenges.
- Create a Strategic Plan with goals and recommended actions.

Existing Challenges



- More people and dogs sharing parks and trails.
- Community engagement highlighted key concerns:
 - Dog waste not being picked up.
 - Dog owners not following regulations.
 - Environmental impacts.

Goal of the Strategic Plan



- Continue to provide safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.
- Recommended initiatives to be implemented over 10 years.
- Proactively mitigate existing and potential future challenges.

Public Input



- Over 4,300 participants during two rounds of community engagement.
- About 80% of online survey respondents were District residents.
- Key community values identified:
 - Opportunities to connect with nature.
 - Shared responsibility for creating welcoming and inclusive parks.
 - Existing off-leash trails are highly valued.

Implementation



- There are several actions to be implemented over the next 10 years.
- Some quick-win, high-priority actions identified for short term implementation.

Staff Recommendation

- THAT the People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan as detailed in the January 20, 2026 report of the Parks Designer entitled People, Dogs and parks Strategic Plan is approved.