



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.

