



Pilot Off-Leash Dog Parks Opening May 1, 2010

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2010- The City of Nanaimo is pleased to announce the opening of two new off leash dog parks on May 1st, 2010. The new off leash parks are located in specific areas of both Beaufort and Colliery Dam Parks.

Starting this Saturday, dogs will be allowed off-leash all day in an under-utilised part of Beaufort Park, accessible from Waddington Road and Chelsea Crescent. This park is centrally located, and has ample parking. The off leash site is flat and grassy, and is connected to a wooded trail system where dogs may be walked on leash.

Dogs will also be allowed off-leash around the upper dam of Colliery Dam Park starting this weekend. However off-leash access at this location is only permitted between 6 AM and 10 AM. Dogs must be on a leash at all other times of the day.

Both new dog off-leash areas are being tested as one year pilot projects and will be re-evaluated after that time. Feedback will be welcomed during this time frame.

The public process to identify new locations and potential improvements for dog off leash parks began in July of 2009. Two public open houses were held in 2009 to assess the support of additional dog off leash parks and to propose new locations for potential development over the next 5 years. Throughout the public process, there was overwhelming support for the development of more dog parks throughout the City, as well as a desire to see more amenities in existing dog parks, including shade, drinking water and access to swimming.

Two more off leash areas are expected to open in the fall of 2010. A grassy portion of Diver Lake Park will begin testing off leash use in October. Expansion of the existing dog off-leash park at Beban Park is also expected to begin in the fall of 2010.

Feedback from the public on these sites can be emailed to parks@nanaimo.ca. For more information about the pilot off leash dog parks, please contact Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner at 250-755-7506.

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