



Third Pilot Off-Leash Dog Park Open

October 5th, 2010- The City of Nanaimo opened a pilot 'off leash' park at Diver Lake last Friday (October 1st). Dogs are now permitted off leash all day on an underutilised sports field at the park. The 'off leash' site is flat and grassy, and is connected to a wooded trail system and other park amenities where dogs may be walked on leash. Diver Lake Park is accessible from Labieaux Road and Black Franks Drive. The park is centrally located, and has ample parking.

The new site is being considered for possible classification as a winter 'off leash' park. April through September the sports field will be used as such, due to demand for this field being much higher during the spring and summer seasons. Other municipalities, such as the City of Victoria, have begun similar practices of off-leash winter use on sports fields.

Diver Lake Park is the third pilot off-leash park to open in 2010. Other dog off-leash parks opened as test sites in May 2010. Beaufort Park is an off-leash site all day. Dogs are only permitted off leash at the upper Colliery Park Dam between 6 AM and 10 AM. Dogs must be on a leash at all other times of the day.

The public process to identify new locations and potential improvements for dog off leash parks began in July of 2009. Throughout the 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 sites.

All three of the dog 'off leash' areas are being tested as pilot projects and will be re-evaluated in the spring of 2011. Feedback about 'off-leash' use at these sites is welcome. Improvements are expected to begin at the Beban off-leash dog park during the fall of 2011 and more off-leash pilot projects are expected to be tested in 2011.

Feedback from the public on these additional off-leash parks 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.

-30-

Media Contact

Kirsty MacDonald
Parks and Open Space Planner
250-755-7506
Kirsty.MacDonald@nanaimo.ca