



Public Process to Identify Dog Off-Leash Sites Continues

October 2, 2009- City of Nanaimo parks staff and residents continue to work on finding Fido more places to roam as the selection process for additional off leash parks continues. An initial public open house held in July was attended by over 200 residents. A second open house is being planned for Thursday, October 22nd from 4:30-8:00 PM at the Rotary Field House (850 Third Street, parking off of Jingle Pot Road). Suggested implementation strategies for the development of off leash parks over the next 5 years, based on input received from the first open house, will be presented for public review and input.

The upcoming presentation will focus on the potential development of additional dog off-leash parks at the following areas: Diver Lake Park, Colliery Dam Park, Beaufort Park, the Nanaimo Ice Centre, Northfield Rest Area, and an expanded off leash area at Beban Park. The possibility of future off leash park development at Neck Point Park, Groveland Park, and Linley Valley Park, will also be tested at this open house and at neighborhood and stakeholder meetings over the coming months.

A survey conducted by the parks department has found that residents support the concept of additional dog parks throughout the City. Respondents would like to see more amenities within existing and future parks such as the provision of shade, drinking water and access to bodies of water to allow for swimming. The survey results also indicate that residents would like a variety of dog off leash parks including more natural settings and fenced, urban settings such as the Beban Park Dog Park.

For those that cannot attend the second open house, display boards and comment sheets will be added to the City website mid October. For more information about dog off leash parks and the upcoming open house, please contact Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks at 250-755-7503 or jeff.ritchie@nanaimo.ca.

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