

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

9:00 am

28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

REVISED AGENDA

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. February 4, 2026 Meeting Agenda

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adopt the revised agenda for its meeting scheduled for February 4, 2026 as circulated.

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held January 14, 2026 as circulated.

pg. 5

C. DELEGATIONS

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Revised

1. 2026 Regional Parks Capital Program Update No. 1

Report dated January 23, 2026 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, and Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, Regional Parks.

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Executive Summary

This report provides a status update of the Regional Parks Capital Program with summaries for larger projects (over \$3M value) that highlight progress, schedule, budget and upcoming milestones, and an overall summary of remaining projects. As part of the Regional Parks capital planning process, the timing of each project is reviewed and updated annually based on available resources, strategic prioritization, risk to system operations and financial sustainability. Overall, the capital program is progressing on time and within budget, with some manageable scheduling impacts on two projects due to archaeological and permitting requirements.

These updates are provided three times a year for the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board in February, July and November to provide timely line of sight for the April Board Budget Workshop, input into the annual budget and five-year financial plan for October, and an end-of-year update. Individual project reports will continue to be provided as needed, particularly at key decision-making milestones.

Recommendation

THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 23, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Parks Capital Program Update No. 1."

2. **Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks**
Report dated January 12, 2026 from Paul Brar, Division Manager, Regional Parks Services.

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Executive Summary

In March 2024, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board approved a pilot program permitting alcohol consumption in designated areas of six regional parks. The pilot program was implemented during the 2024 summer season and was extended for a second season in 2025.

After two successful pilots, the program has proven to be operationally feasible with minimal impacts to visitor experience. Staff recommend proceeding with operationalizing the program by making it permanent, enabling adults to responsibly consume alcohol in clearly defined locations within select regional parks. This transition aligns with the direction taken by other jurisdictions, and supports opportunities for recreational gathering and social connection in regional parks.

Recommendation

THAT the MVRD Board direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024*, designating areas within regional parks where alcohol may be consumed on a permanent year-round basis, as proposed in the report dated January 12, 2026, titled "Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks."

Corrected

3. **Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park**
Report dated January 23, 2026 from Erin Gorby, Division Manager, Regional Parks, and Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks.

pg. 42

Executive Summary

Pacific Spirit Regional Park attracts nearly 4 million annual visitors and is a valued regional destination. An estimated one-third of visitors come with a dog, and the majority of visitors are residents of Vancouver and the UBC Endowment Lands.

Due to an increasing volume of visitors, including dogs, the park is experiencing more pressure on its trails and habitat. This creates dog-related impacts on visitor experience, public safety-incidents, and ecology. Metro Vancouver has undertaken a comprehensive review of dog management at Pacific Spirit Regional Park to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors, while protecting the park's natural resources.

To inform the review, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks conducted a technical review (Attachment 1) and engagement. The technical review found 398 documented dog-related safety incidents over five years. In addition, visitor monitoring found almost two-thirds of dogs were unleashed on leash-required trails. Engagement conducted in 2025 resulted in 5,684 online questionnaire responses and 722 emails/letters.

Questionnaire respondents with dogs reported 94% positive experiences, while those without dogs reported only 24%. Participants reported current wayfinding signage and trail designations are confusing, and shared a desire for greater enforcement.

In response to this review, commencing in May 2026, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will update the Dog Management Program at Pacific Spirit Regional Park with new signage, trail designations, education, and enforcement changes. Trail designation changes will create a simplified network where visitors can find different experiences including continuous leash-required, leash-optional, or no-dog loops. The update aims to protect natural areas and support safe, high-quality experiences for all visitors. The program review and update is supported by Pacific Spirit Park Society, stating, "Ultimately, these updates represent a thoughtful compromise between the many groups that love and use this park."

Recommendation

THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 23, 2026, titled "Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park."

4. Manager's Report – Regional Parks*pg. 100*

Report dated January 16, 2026 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks.

Recommendation

THAT the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated January 16, 2026, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

F. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Upcoming Events – February 2026***pg. 104***G. OTHER BUSINESS**

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

THAT the Regional Parks Committee close its meeting scheduled for February 4, 2026 pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

I. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its meeting of February 4, 2026.

Membership:

Chair, John McEwen, Anmore

Vice Chair, Rebecca Bligh, Vancouver

Belcarra, Jamie Ross

Bowen Island, Andrew Leonard

Burnaby, Pietro Calendino

Coquitlam, Craig Hodge

Delta, Dylan Kruger

Langley Township, Steve Ferguson

Maple Ridge, Jenny Tan

North Vancouver District, Lisa Muri

Pitt Meadows, Tracy Elke

Port Coquitlam, Darrell Penner

Port Moody, Meghan Lahti

Richmond, Michael Wolfe

Surrey, Rob Stutt

West Vancouver, Sharon Thompson



METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

9:01 am

28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, John McEwen, Anmore
Vice Chair, Rebecca Bligh, Vancouver*
Belcarra, Jamie Ross
Bowen Island, Andrew Leonard* (arrived at 9:06 am)
Burnaby, Pietro Calendino
Coquitlam, Craig Hodge
Delta, Dylan Kruger
Langley Township, Steve Ferguson
Maple Ridge, Jenny Tan
North Vancouver District, Lisa Muri
Pitt Meadows, Tracy Elke*
Port Coquitlam, Darrell Penner
Port Moody, Meghan Lahti
Richmond, Michael Wolfe
Surrey, Rob Stutt
West Vancouver, Sharon Thompson

*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by the *Procedure Bylaw*

STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer/Commissioner
Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks
Catherine Grosson, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. January 14, 2026 Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for January 14, 2026 as circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**1. November 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes****It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held November 5, 2025 as circulated.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**1. 2026 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan**

Report dated December 5, 2025 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, providing the Regional Parks Committee with its Terms of Reference, 2026 Work Plan, and Annual Meeting Schedule.

9:06 am Director Leonard arrived at the meeting.

Mike Redpath gave a presentation titled “Looking Ahead – 2026”, outlining the Regional Parks Committee’s key plans, goals, and priorities for the coming year. The presentation highlighted the Committee terms of reference, the goals of the Regional Parks Plan, upcoming regional park capital projects, operating priorities, and ongoing collaboration with member jurisdictions. It was also noted that communities surrounding regional parks account for a significant proportion of overall park visitation, underscoring the importance of planning to meet the needs of these growing populations.

Members inquired about the measures Metro Vancouver takes for regional parks that act as access points to the backcountry. Mike Redpath advised that Metro Vancouver is developing a public awareness campaign and enhanced signage regarding backcountry safety, and that it works closely with municipal emergency services and volunteer search and rescue teams to respond to incidents involving lost, injured, or unprepared hikers who have accessed the backcountry via regional parks.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regional Parks Committee:

- a) receive for information the Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference and the 2026 Annual Meeting Schedule, as presented in Attachments 2 and 3 to the report dated December 5, 2025, titled "2026 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan"; and
- b) endorse the 2026 Work Plan, as presented in Attachment 1 to the report dated December 5, 2025, titled "2026 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan."

CARRIED

2. Manager's Report – Regional Parks

Report dated December 30, 2025 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks.

Mike Redpath provided an overview of the Manager's Report, highlighting recent events and programs, the status of routine seasonal closures, and weather events that had temporarily affected access to regional parks. Members were notified that a follow-up report on the public engagement results for dog management in regional parks will be presented at the next committee meeting. It was also noted that Metro Vancouver received substantial public input, with more than 6,000 feedback submissions, indicating a high level of public interest regarding dog management in regional parks.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated December 30, 2025, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

CARRIED

F. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Development Cost Charge Waiver or Reduction for Not-for-Profit Rental Housing Amendment Bylaws**

Report dated December 1, 2025 from Theresa O'Donnell, Program Manager, Housing Policy and Planning, Regional Planning and Housing Services.

2. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Upcoming Events – January 2026**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

No items presented.

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its meeting of January 14, 2026.

CARRIED

(Time: 9:59 am)

Catherine Grosson,
Legislative Services Coordinator

John McEwen,
Chair

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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks
 Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, Regional Parks

Date: January 23, 2026

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: **2026 Regional Parks Capital Program Update No. 1**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 23, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Parks Capital Program Update No. 1."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a status update of the Regional Parks Capital Program with summaries for larger projects (over \$3M value) that highlight progress, schedule, budget and upcoming milestones, and an overall summary of remaining projects. As part of the Regional Parks capital planning process, the timing of each project is reviewed and updated annually based on available resources, strategic prioritization, risk to system operations and financial sustainability. Overall, the capital program is progressing on time and within budget, with some manageable scheduling impacts on two projects due to archaeological and permitting requirements.

These updates are provided three times a year for the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board in February, July and November to provide timely line of sight for the April Board Budget Workshop, input into the annual budget and five-year financial plan for October, and an end-of-year update. Individual project reports will continue to be provided as needed, particularly at key decision-making milestones.

PURPOSE

This report provides the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board with the first of three annual updates on the Regional Parks Capital Program.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the MVRD Board adopts a budget for the upcoming year and endorses a five-year financial plan. Regular updates on the Capital Program provide the Committee and Board with information to support good governance of the organization, decision making, project management, and financial oversight. This report provides the first of three Capital Program updates to the Committee and Board. Three Financial Performance Updates are also provided to the Board through the Performance and Audit Committee. A schedule of annual reporting is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Capital Program Reporting

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Capital Program Update		✓					✓				✓	
Additional Major Project Updates*					✓				✓			
Financial Performance Report				✓			✓				✓	

* Does not include Regional Parks projects.




MAJOR PARKS PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE

Updates on the Regional Parks Capital Program as of January 20, 2026 are outlined below. Progress, schedule and budget status for the projects are shown using a consistent scale for projects valued over \$3 million. Regional Parks projects less than \$3 million included in the approved 2026 to 2030 Financial Plan are primarily smaller projects and asset replacement. A summary of all other capital projects is also provided, and a financial update on all the projects in the capital program is included in Attachment 1.

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development




Widgeon Marsh Regional Park opened to the public in November 2025. This park spans 620 hectares and includes public amenities, parking areas, paved and accessible trails, forested slopes, meadows, wetlands, and open spaces in Northeast Coquitlam and Electoral Area A. The park management plan was approved by the MVRD Board in 2018 following extensive engagement with the public and First Nations.

The purpose of this project is to continue amenity development, infrastructure, and ecological enhancements to support public use and enjoyment. The project is progressing on time and within budget. Phase 1 site improvements — including basic staging areas, trails, furnishings, signage and other features — were completed in 2025. Park development will continue through 2026 and beyond, with public access expanding as the project moves forward. Metro Vancouver staff continues to engage First Nations as the project advances.

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development		Status
Progress	Implementation	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Phase 2 development	

Regional Park Land Acquisition

Regional Park Land Acquisition is guided by the MVRD Board-approved *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050* strategy. The goal of the land acquisition program is to expand the regional parks system into a connected network of resilient parks and greenways that protect regionally significant natural areas and provide opportunities for people to experience them. Metro Vancouver continues to acquire land to grow existing parks and establish new regional parks and greenways. Acquisition opportunities depend on land availability and market conditions and therefore vary from year to year.

Regional Park Land Acquisition		Status
Progress	Implementation – ongoing land acquisition	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Continued land acquisition in alignment with MVRD Board approved Regional Parks Plan and Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050	




Delta Nature Reserve - Delta South Surrey Greenway

Metro Vancouver is advancing several key projects in Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area (ECA) and along the Delta South Surrey Greenway to enhance public access, education, and stewardship of this unique ecological area. The Delta Nature Reserve boardwalk replacement will provide a safer, more resilient, and accessible experience for visitors. Hazard tree work is underway, with boardwalk construction anticipated to begin in summer 2026 and conclude in 2027. The new 2.1 km boardwalk will offer expanded capacity, new interpretive nodes, and opportunities for both informal and programmed education and events.

Planning is well underway to formalize the Delta South Surrey Greenway from Nordel Way to 72nd Avenue. This project will establish a multi-use route with improved flood resiliency, connecting to the Delta Nature Reserve boardwalk and establishing an important regional greenway link. Planning will continue through 2026 with construction to begin in 2027.

Together, these initiatives form an integrated plan to improve public access, education, and stewardship of Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area. Metro Vancouver is actively collaborating with City of Delta staff, continuing the long-standing interagency partnership that has supported the protection and enhancement of this vital ecosystem

Monthly updates are available on the project webpage at: [Delta Nature Reserve Boardwalk Replacement Project | Metro Vancouver](#)




Delta Nature Reserve - Delta South Surrey Greenway		Status
Progress	Hazard tree mitigation to prepare the Delta Nature Reserve for construction is underway and on track to finish at the end of February	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Construction of the Delta Nature Reserve Boardwalk	

Codd Wetland - Park Development

Codd Wetland Ecological Conservancy Area (ECA) in the City of Pitt Meadows is home to more than two hundred species of wildlife including birds, mammals, and amphibians. There is currently no public access to the conservancy area.

The purpose of this project is to complete initial site improvements to support phased public access in 2026, and to implement priority park development and conservation improvements following completion of the park management plan in subsequent years.




Work is currently underway on preliminary planning and background studies to facilitate phased public access to portions of the park. The initial opening will focus on the use of existing farm roads and routes for walking and nature viewing. Concurrently, Metro Vancouver is initiating a management planning process that will develop a long-term management plan for the entire Codd Wetland Ecological Conservation Area (ECA).

Codd Wetland - Park Development		Status
Progress	Initial planning for phased public opening	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Basic site improvements, archeology and technical studies	

Campbell Valley Park and Greenway Development

Metro Vancouver is undertaking improvements in Campbell Valley Regional Park to enhance access to nature and accommodate growing visitation. These upgrades align with the vision set out in the Park Management Plan, approved by the MVRD Board in 2020.




Planned improvements include developing new entrance areas, creating additional picnic spaces, expanding the Perimeter Trail for walking and cycling, and adding new pedestrian trails. Habitat enhancement initiatives — such as restoration planting and the creation of new wetlands — are also underway. The project is progressing, and remains on track to be delivered within the approved schedule and budget. Construction began in 2021, and by the end of 2025, 5 km of the Perimeter Trail (Regional Greenway), a significant staging area, upgrades to the dog off leash area, and a new wetland have been completed. The next phase of park development, starting in spring 2026, will include public amenities and access to McLean Pond in the north area of the park (currently closed to public access), new trails, wetland features, and continued greenway expansion. Park improvements are planned to continue to 2030.

Campbell Valley - Park and Greenway Development		Status
Progress	Ongoing Construction	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Development of McLean Pond, Trails and habitat enhancement	

Lynn Headwaters - Park Entry

The purpose of this project is to enhance the main day-use area, and replace critical infrastructure, to ensure continued access and enjoyment of Lynn Headwaters Regional Park. Key initiatives include replacing the existing main entry bridge over Lynn Creek, decommissioning unused drinking water infrastructure, and improving open spaces, trails, and amenities. These improvements will enhance safety, accessibility, and the overall visitor experience.

Concept design is complete, and detailed design — including permit submissions — is scheduled for completion in 2026. Engagement with First Nations is underway. Stakeholder engagement and public communications will proceed in 2026. Construction will begin in 2027 and conclude by 2030.

Lynn Headwaters - Park Entry		Status
Progress	Concept design completed, detailed design underway	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Detailed design and permitting	

təmtəxʷtən/Belcarra South Picnic Area




Metro Vancouver is developing public access to a previously closed portion of təmtəxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park to expand capacity, enhance nature connection opportunities, and the overall visitor experience. In 2024, the MVRD Board approved an amended plan for the təmtəxʷtən/Belcarra South Picnic Area, which retains the Bole House for public use and permits the removal of seven cabin structures. The purpose of this project is to implement that plan, and open the area to public access.

Planning and detailed design are complete. The project will be tendered once a waterline agreement is finalized and a building permit is issued by the local municipality. Construction is planned to begin in fall 2026 and conclude in 2027.

Development plans include:

- Renovating the Bole House heritage building into a bookable, multi-use facility.
- Expanding the trail network, including an accessible waterfront trail, replacing a failing bridge, and adding beach access stairs.
- Adding new site amenities such as a picnic area, amphitheater, and interpretive signage.
- Enhancing ecological conditions through creek and pond restoration, invasive species removal, replanting, and installation of protective fencing.
- Widening the existing road to support two-way traffic and fire truck access.
- Adding pocket parking to improve visitor access.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation is actively engaged in project planning, with particular focus on the development of interpretive and cultural elements.




təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra South Picnic Area		Status
Progress	Detailed design and market sounding for construction is complete. The building permit application is under review by the municipality.	
Schedule	Delayed Pending Waterline Agreement and issuance of building permit – being managed within budget	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Tendering construction	

Capilano River – Service Yard Construction

The purpose of this project is to construct a service yard facility to support both Capilano River Regional Park and Grouse Mountain Regional Park. The new facility, located at the Capilano River Regional Park, will consist of an administration building, a workshop, and a storage building.

A construction contract was fully executed in December of 2025, and a pre-construction meeting was held in early January 2026. The contractor is currently preparing required environmental management plans and construction-related documents for review and approval.

Site mobilization is scheduled for February 2026, with construction expected to commence in March 2026 and conclude in spring 2027.




Service Yard Construction		Status
Progress	Construction to begin in March 2026	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Start of construction	

Tynehead Perimeter Trail

The Tynehead Regional Park Management Plan 2004 established a vision for the development of a perimeter trail circumnavigating the entire park. The purpose of this project is to design and develop the two remaining sections required to complete the entire 8.5 km perimeter trail:

- Tynehead Perimeter South Trail – McCaskill House to Ravens Nest, approximately 0.3 km in length
- Tynehead Perimeter North Trail – Serpentine Hollow to Serpentine Fields, approximately 1.2 km in length

Environmental and arborist assessments are complete. Detailed design is underway for both the north and south trail sections. The South Trail will be tendered in spring 2026 for construction in fall 2026. The North Trail will be constructed in 2027. In addition, Metro Vancouver is working with Kwantlen First Nation on a cultural art and interpretive display project that will enhance the trail visitor experience and celebrate the unique cultural and natural heritage of the landscape.




Tynehead Perimeter Trail		Status
Progress	Detailed design	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Tendering of South Trail Section	

Grouse Mountain Trail and Amenity Improvement

The purpose of this project was to implement the park management plan approved by the MVRD Board in 2018. Through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, a partnership with the governments of Canada and British Columbia, Metro Vancouver received a \$3.5 million grant to advance implementation of the project.

Initiated in 2020 and now nearing completion, the project has enhanced park access, visitor safety, and ecological health. Upgrades include an expanded main entrance area at the trailhead, improvements to the BCMC and Grouse Grind trails, new secondary connector trails and trailheads, and ecological enhancements throughout the park. These improvements support both human and ecological well-being by protecting and enhancing forest ecosystems, while providing opportunities to learn about, explore, and be active in a coastal mountain environment.




The project has been delivered on time and on budget, with final completion expected in spring 2026.

Grouse Mountain Trail and Amenity Improvement		Status
Progress	Final completion. Deficiencies to be addressed.	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Project closeout	

Derby Reach Campground Expansion

The Edgewater Bar Campground at Derby Reach Regional Park offers a unique camping experience along the Fraser River. Easily accessible from surrounding Metro Vancouver communities, the campground is highly popular, with all 38 campsites fully booked throughout the summer season. Planning is underway for an expansion of the existing campground. The proposed expansion area lies east of Edgewater Bar, within a lawn area between Allard Crescent and the existing gravel Edge Farm Trail. The expansion will include 30 new campsites, an access road, a picnic shelter, and supporting amenities.




Campsites will be designed to minimize impacts from seasonal flooding and avoid disturbance to existing natural areas, recreational amenities, and trails. The project will incorporate as many fully accessible campsites as possible, and all picnic tables will be wheelchair accessible. In January 2025, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) approved a non-farm use application. Throughout summer 2025 environmental inventory, geotechnical, civil, and hydrotechnical assessments were completed. In fall 2025, archaeological field investigations were initiated and are ongoing. A conceptual design for the campground expansion has been developed, incorporating the outcomes of the technical studies. Further engagement with First Nations, permitting and detailed design, and interim site access improvements will continue through 2026. Construction is planned for 2027.

Derby Reach Campground Expansion		Status
Progress	Conceptual Design	
Schedule	Delayed due to archeological permitting; being managed within budget	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Detailed Design	

Fraser Riverfront Park: Regional Park Development

The purpose of this project is to plan and develop a Fraser Riverfront park site in the Township of Langley. This project will enhance motorized and non-motorized access to the Fraser River, provide new open space, trails, picnic areas, bar fishing and other day-use opportunities and a node along the Regional Greenway in line with the Board Approved Experience the Fraser Initiative and Regional Greenways 2050 Plan.

Planning and design will continue through 2026, with construction planned to begin in 2027 pending the completion of all required permitting and land requirements.

Fraser Riverfront Park: Regional Park Development		Status
Progress	Preliminary Design	
Schedule	On schedule	
Budget	On budget	
Next Milestone	Detailed design	

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As part of the Regional Parks capital planning process, the timing of each project is reviewed and updated annually based on available resources, strategic prioritization, risk to system operations and financial sustainability. The program as a whole is progressing within the approved annual expenditures. Each project is subject to its own cost review on a regular basis, as well as regular stage gate approvals. Project specific reports will be provided to the Committee and Board where warranted to provide greater detail and address any required changes to project scope, schedule or budget.

CONCLUSION

This report provides a status update of the Regional Parks Capital Program with summaries for larger projects over \$3 million in value. The report highlights progress, schedules, budget and upcoming milestones, and an overall summary of remaining projects. Generally, the capital program is progressing on time and within budget, with some scheduling impacts due to archeological and permitting requirements on two projects.

These updates are provided three times a year for the Regional Parks Committee in February, July, and November to provide timely line of sight for the April Board Budget Workshop, input into the annual budget and five-year financial plan for October, and an end-of-year update. Individual project reports will continue to be provided as needed, particularly at key decision-making milestones.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Regional Parks Capital Projects Financial Reporting.
2. Presentation re: Capital Program Update: Regional Parks.

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Capital Expenditures as of December 31, 2025 preliminary
Regional Parks

Name	Driver	Active Phase	Timeline (Start Yr - End Yr)	Total Estimated Costs	Total Actuals to Date (Dec 31*)	2026-2030 Planned Expenditures		2026 Planned Annual Expenditures (in Budget)	2025 Planned Annual Expenditures (in Budget)	2025 Updated Forecasted Expenditures (Sept 30)	2025 Actuals (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31*)	Actual Expenditures to Forecasted Expenditures (%)	Actual Expenditures to Forecasted Expenditures (\$)
Widgeon Marsh Park Development	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2020-2030	23,850,000	4,739,457	19,000,000		7,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	1,894,291	76%	(605,709)
Regional Parks Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	ongoing	-	-	100,000,000	**	20,000,000	20,000,000	4,000,000	3,626,513	91%	(373,487)
Delta Nature Reserve - Delta South Surrey Greenway	Connected Network	Planned	2023-2028	18,000,000	810,069	16,000,000		5,000,000	3,500,000	750,000	319,361	43%	(430,639)
Management Plan Implementation	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2028-2030	15,000,000	-	3,250,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Codd Wetland - Park Development	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2028-2032	12,450,000	-	1,250,000		-	200,000	100,000	-	0%	(100,000)
Campbell Valley - Park and Greenway Development	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Construction	2020-2030	12,300,000	3,800,344	8,000,000		2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,510,647	101%	10,647
Site Improvements	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	ongoing	10,050,000	350,846	1,250,000		250,000	300,000	300,000	348,324	116%	48,324
Regional Park Service Yard Replacement	Facility Replacement & Asset Management	Planned	2030-2040	8,750,000	-	250,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Lynn Headwaters - Park Entry	Facility Replacement & Asset Management	Planned	2025-2030	8,350,000	315,867	8,100,000		500,000	250,000	325,000	315,867	97%	(9,133)
Regional Park Development	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Construction	2025-2028	7,000,000	-	6,750,000		750,000	5,000,000	-	-	-	-
Campbell Valley - Nature House	Facility Replacement & Asset Management	Design	2030-2035	5,500,000	-	100,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Belcarra - South Picnic Area	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Construction	2023-2027	5,450,000	1,215,370	3,500,000		1,500,000	3,000,000	500,000	269,208	54%	(230,792)
Capilano River - Service Yard Replacement	Facility Replacement & Asset Management	Construction	2022-2027	5,000,000	653,424	4,000,000		3,500,000	500,000	250,000	172,380	69%	(77,620)
Tynehead - Perimeter Trail Extension	Connected Network	Design	2025-2030	4,750,000	44,467	4,250,000		250,000	-	250,000	44,467	18%	(205,533)
Grouse Mountain Trail and Amenity Improvement	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Construction	2019-2025	4,350,000	3,837,918	-		-	500,000	500,000	20,705	4%	(479,295)
Greenway Connection	Connected Network	Planned	2030-2035	4,000,000	-	4,000,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Burns Bog - Fire Restoration	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2028-2032	3,850,000	-	600,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Belcarra - Admiralty Heights Trail Decommissioning	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2030-2034	3,250,000	-	250,000		-	-	-	-	-	-
Derby Reach Campground Expansion	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	Planned	2025-2027	3,000,000	-	2,750,000		1,750,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total > \$3M						183,300,000		42,500,000	36,750,000	10,975,000	8,521,764	78%	(2,453,236)
Total < \$3M						21,295,000		5,350,000	7,650,000	6,479,000	4,909,590	76%	(1,569,410)
Total						204,595,000		47,850,000	44,400,000	17,454,000	13,431,354	77%	(2,117,760)

* Preliminary December 31, 2025 actuals as of January 15, 2026, final year-end results available with audited financial statements in April.
** Land Acquisition planned expenditures is \$20M per year for 2026-2030



Widgeon Marsh Regional Park

Capital Program Update: REGIONAL PARKS

Mike Redpath
Director, Regional Parks

Jeffrey Fitzpatrick
Division Manager, Regional Parks Design and Development

Regional Parks Committee meeting – February 4, 2026
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REGIONAL PARKS CAPITAL PROGRAM UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2026

Table 1. Capital Program Reporting

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Capital Program Update		✓					✓				✓	
Financial Performance Report				✓			✓				✓	

- Status update of the Regional Parks Capital Program with summaries for larger projects (\$3M + value), highlighting progress, schedule, budget, and upcoming milestones, and an overall summary of remaining projects.
- Updates will be provided three times a year to the Committee and Board to provide timely line of sight for the April Board Budget Workshop, input into the annual budget and Five-Year Financial Plan for October, and an end of year update.
- Individual project reports will continue to be provided as needed, particularly at key decision-making milestones.

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FUNCTION CAPITAL PROGRAM UPDATE – SUMMARY

Project	Progress	Schedule	Budget
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development	●	●	●
Regional Park Land Acquisition	●	●	●
Delta Nature Reserve – Delta South Surrey Greenway	●	●	●
Codd Wetland Park Development	●	●	●
Campbell Valley Park and Greenway Development	●	●	●
Lynn Headwaters Park Entry	●	●	●
təmtəmix*ten/Belcarra South Picnic Area	●	●	●
Capilano River – Service Yard Construction	●	●	●
Tynehead Perimeter Trail	●	●	●
Grouse Mountain Trail and Amenity Improvement	●	●	●
Derby Reach Campground Expansion	●	●	●
Fraser Riverfront Park: Regional Park Development	●	●	●

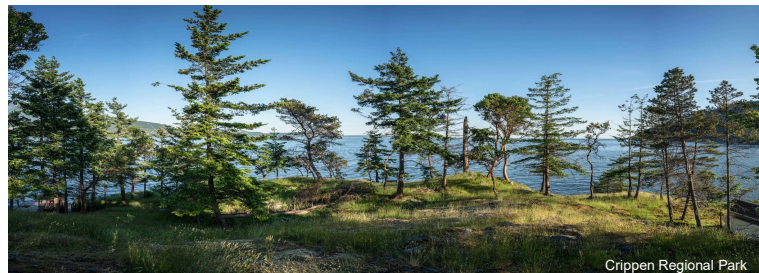
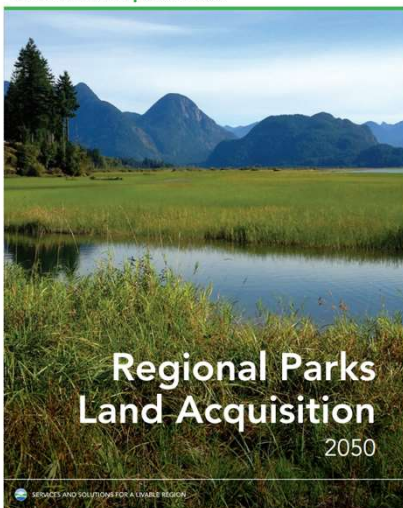
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REGIONAL PARK LAND ACQUISITION

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Crippen Regional Park

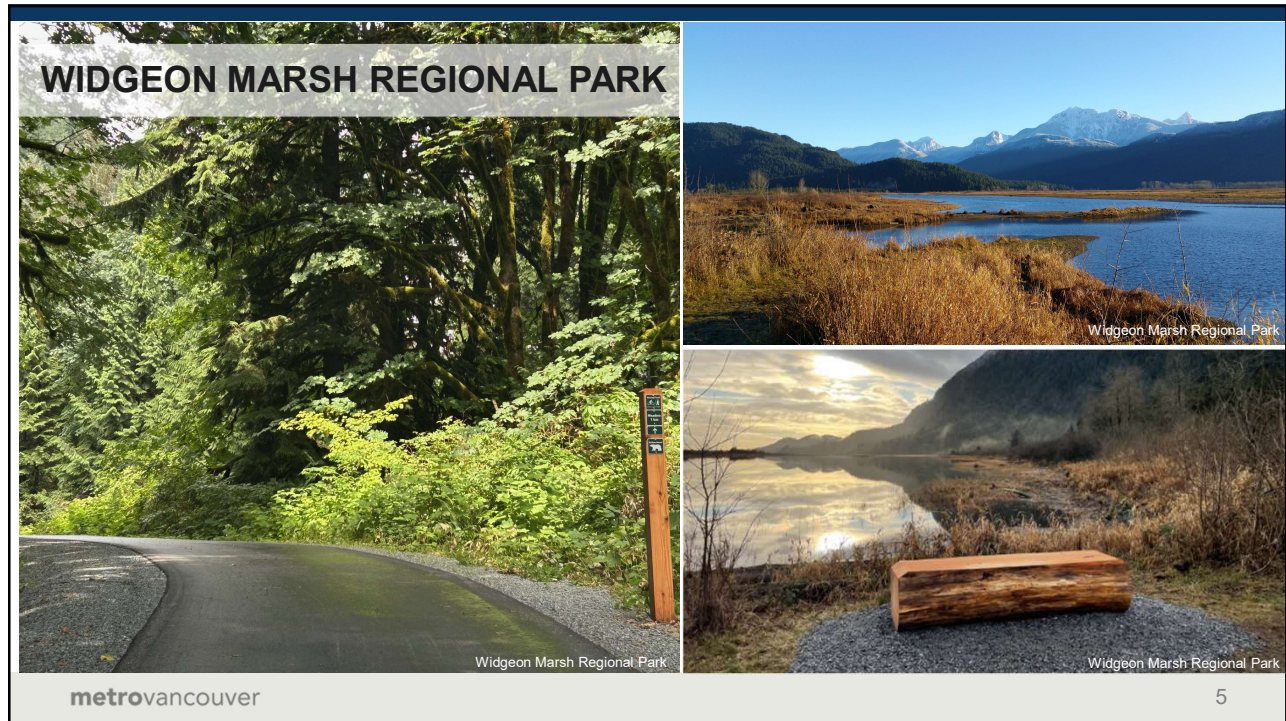


Codd Wetland ECA

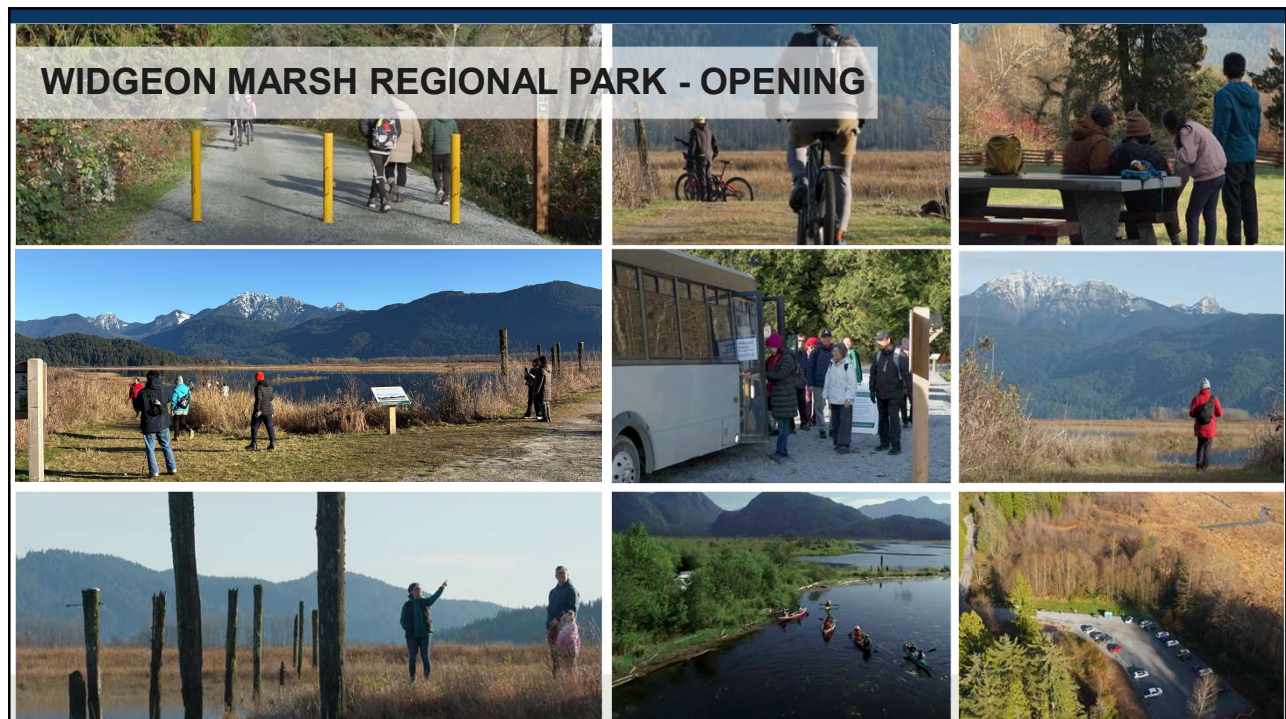
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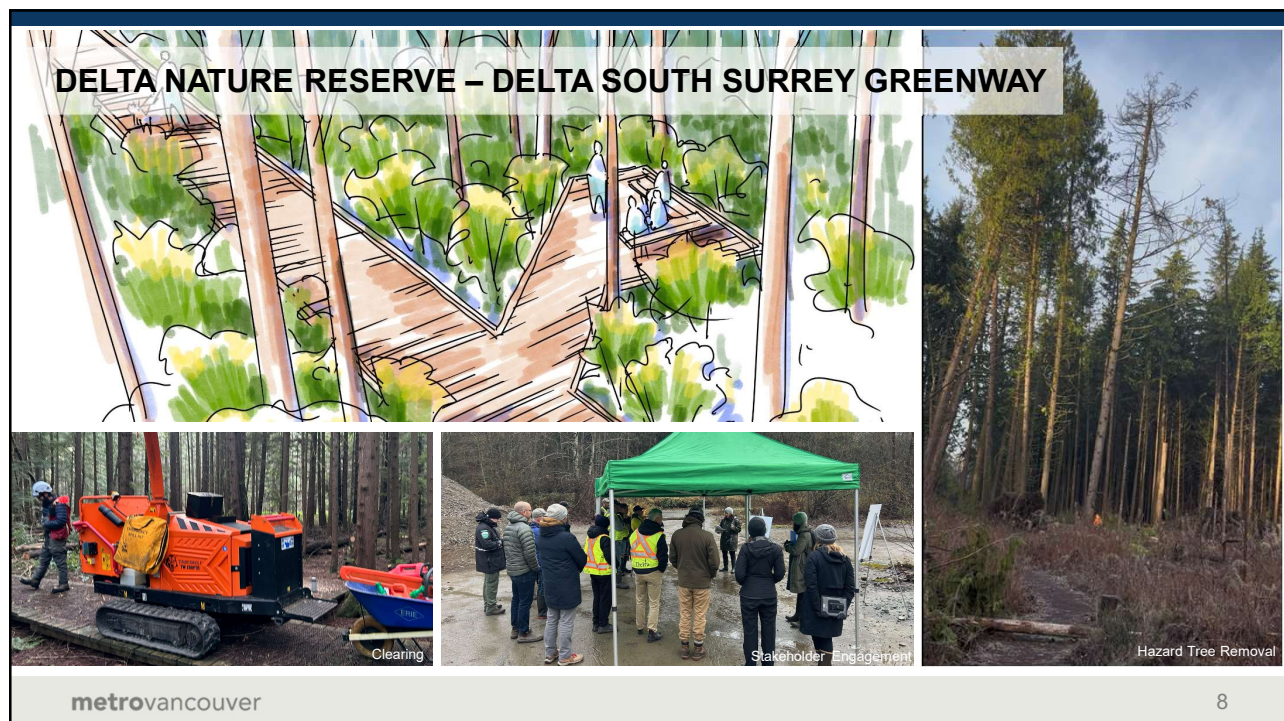
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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Paul Brar, Division Manager, Regional Parks Services

Date: January 12, 2026

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: **Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the MVRD Board direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024*, designating areas within regional parks where alcohol may be consumed on a permanent year-round basis, as proposed in the report dated January 12, 2026, titled "Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2024, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board approved a pilot program permitting alcohol consumption in designated areas of six regional parks. The pilot program was implemented during the 2024 summer season and was extended for a second season in 2025.

After two successful pilots, the program has proven to be operationally feasible with minimal impacts to visitor experience. Staff recommend proceeding with operationalizing the program by making it permanent, enabling adults to responsibly consume alcohol in clearly defined locations within select regional parks. This transition aligns with the direction taken by other jurisdictions, and supports opportunities for recreational gathering and social connection in regional parks.

PURPOSE

To seek MVRD Board direction for staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024* that would transition the two-year pilot program permitting alcohol consumption in designated areas of select regional parks into a permanent year-round program.

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, the MVRD Board passed a resolution directing staff to assess the feasibility of permitting responsible alcohol consumption in select regional parks including, but not limited to, Boundary Bay Regional Park and Derby Reach Regional Park.

Staff subsequently presented a report to the Regional Parks Committee outlining key considerations for a potential pilot program. The report included a review of similar municipal programs within the region, criteria for selecting suitable regional park sites, and an analysis of bylaw implications necessary to support implementation.

Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks

Regional Parks Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Page 2 of 4

Criteria and Site Selection

The following criteria were applied to identify regional parks suitable for inclusion in the alcohol consumption pilot program. These criteria were designed to prioritize public safety, operational feasibility, a positive visitor experience, and minimal impacts to the environment and surrounding communities:

- Locations that are highly visible, non-remote, and provide reliable emergency vehicle access.
- Geographic distribution across the region to ensure equitable public access.
- Proximity to park washroom facilities.
- Presence of features and amenities that support positive visitor experiences, such as scenic views, waterfront access, seating, and picnic infrastructure.
- Convenient access by walking, cycling, and public transit.
- Proximity to accessible parking.
- Near food services.
- Minimal impacts to natural areas.
- Minimal impacts or disruptions to program spaces where interpretive programs are held.
- Minimal impacts or disruptions to neighboring residents.
- Minimum 20-metre distance from playgrounds.
- Location not adjacent to school sites.

On May 31, 2024, the MVRD Board approved a pilot program by adopting *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024 (Attachment 1)*, which designated specific areas of select regional parks where alcohol consumption was permitted.

The pilot program ran from June 28 to October 14 in the following six regional parks:

- Boundary Bay Regional Park (Centennial Beach)
- Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway (Sapperton Landing)
- Campbell Valley Regional Park (8th Avenue Picnic Area/Order of Canada Grove)
- Capilano River Regional Park (Cleveland Dam Picnic Area)
- Derby Reach Regional Park (Day Use Area near Edgewater Bar campground)
- Iona Beach Regional Park (Picnic Area)

On April 25, 2025, the MVRD Board approved extending the pilot program for a second year to collect additional data by adopting *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Amendment Bylaw No. 1415, 2025 (Attachment 2)*. The program ran from May 16 to October 13, allowing alcohol consumption in designated areas during hours when the regional park was open to members of the public.

Analysis

The pilot program was implemented to test the feasibility of permitting alcohol consumption in regional parks, assess patterns of public use and potential impacts to visitor experience, and identify operational and enforcement requirements.

Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks

Regional Parks Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

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Public feedback was collected through QR-code signage and an online survey, receiving 145 submissions. Responses were received from both people who consumed alcohol in designated areas and those who did not. 66% of respondents rated the pilot as “Good” or “Excellent,” and 67% expressed overall support for allowing alcohol in regional parks. Satisfaction levels were also generally positive, with about 64% satisfied with visitor behaviour and 58% satisfied with enforcement and oversight.

While there were no major incidents reported, there were some challenges in implementation. One challenge was litter and washroom maintenance at Boundary Bay Regional Park, requiring staff to redirect resources to ensure a positive experience for park visitors. Another challenge was noise and inappropriate behavior related to large groups associated with weddings and party buses at Campbell Valley Regional Park, requiring staff to increase targeted enforcement.

Overall, the pilot program demonstrated that alcohol consumption can be effectively implemented with manageable impacts to operations and visitor experience. The program provided visitors with opportunities to enjoy regional parks in a new way, aligning with evolving social norms and public expectations.

Staff recommend proceeding with directing staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024* to permit the consumption of alcohol in designated areas of select regional parks on a permanent year-round basis during hours when the regional park is open to members of the public. If adopted, staff will update signage and continue to make operational adjustments as needed to refine the program.

Bylaw Amendment

Transitioning to a permanent program will require an amendment to the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024*. This amendment would primarily update the dates and hours that alcohol consumption is permitted. The park sites and designated areas would remain unchanged.

ALTERNATIVES

1. THAT the MVRD Board direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024*, designating areas within regional parks where alcohol may be consumed on a permanent year-round basis, as proposed in the report dated January 12, 2026, titled “Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks”.
2. THAT the MVRD Board direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024* to extend the pilot program permitting the consumption of alcohol in designated areas within regional parks for the period of time between May 15, 2026 and October 12, 2026.
3. THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 12, 2026, titled “Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this report. Costs related to litter removal and updating signage are minimal and will be funded through existing operating budgets.

Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks

Regional Parks Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

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CONCLUSION

Following two successful seasons of a pilot program demonstrating safe and feasible implementation, staff recommend establishing a permanent year-round program that permits alcohol consumption in designated areas of regional parks during hours when the regional park is open to members of the public.

This approach reflects best practices in other jurisdictions and enhances opportunities for social connection and recreational gatherings in natural settings. If the MVRD Board approves this recommendation, staff will prepare the necessary bylaw amendments for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024.*
2. *Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Amendment Bylaw No. 1415, 2025.*

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METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 1385, 2024
A bylaw for consumption of liquor in regional parks

WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (the “Board”) may, pursuant to section 73(2) of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, SBC 2015, c. 19, designate a public place over which it has jurisdiction, or part of such a place, as a place where liquor may be consumed; and
- B. The Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District wishes to designate certain public places within regional parks as places where liquor may be consumed.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District enacts as follows:

Citation

1. The official citation of this bylaw is “Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024”.

Effective Date

2. This bylaw will come into effect on June 28, 2024.

Schedule

3. The following Schedule is attached to and forms part of the bylaw:
- Schedule “A”, Maps of Designated Areas.

Definitions

4. In this bylaw:

“designated area” means any portion of a regional park that has been designated under section 5 of this Bylaw as a public place in which liquor may be consumed;

“liquor” means, subject to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation, beer, wine, spirits or other products intended for human consumption and that contain more than 1% of alcohol by volume;

“Liquor Control and Licensing Act” means the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, SBC 2015, c.19, as amended;

“Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation” means the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation, B.C. Reg. 241/2016, as amended;

“park manager” means the person designated as park manager under *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012*;

“park officer” means a person appointed as a park officer under *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012*;

“park permit” has the same meaning as in *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012*;

“public place” includes a place, building or vehicle to which the public is invited or has or is allowed access; and

“regional park” means lands acquired, dedicated, held or occupied as park, including lands dedicated as regional parks or regional trails under the *B.C. Park (Regional) Act* and continued under the *B.C. Local Government Act*, lands dedicated by Metro Vancouver Regional District, water lot areas leased or otherwise held by Metro Vancouver Regional District, and all trails, greenways, ecological conservancy areas, park reserves and any other sites acquired, dedicated, held, occupied, managed, or designated as park land under the jurisdiction or administration of Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Designated Areas and Hours

5. The portions of these regional parks, listed in the table below:

Regional Park
Boundary Bay Regional Park
Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway
Campbell Valley Regional Park
Capilano River Regional Park
Derby Reach Regional Park
Iona Beach Regional Park

and as shown in Schedule A of this bylaw are designated as public places where liquor may be consumed in accordance with this bylaw.

6. Liquor may be consumed in a designated area from:
- (a) June 28, 2024, to September 2, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM;
 - (b) September 3, 2024, to September 23, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
 - and
 - (c) September 24, 2024, to October 14, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
7. A person must not consume liquor in an area of a regional park that is located:
- a) Outside of a designated area; or
 - b) Within a designated area but otherwise subject to a valid park permit;
- unless otherwise permitted under a park permit.

Sign Specifications

8. The park manager or their delegate must post signs setting out the boundaries of each designated area and the dates and hours during which liquor may be consumed in the designated area.
9. Each designated area must have at least four signs to designate the boundaries of the designated area.
10. The signs to be posted in accordance with section 8 must:
 - (a) Be at least 30 centimetres by 45 centimetres in size;
 - (b) Be affixed to posts or park infrastructure such as fences and kiosks; and
 - (c) Include a visual representation of the designated area.

Offences


11. Offences set out in the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012* apply to a person who consumes liquor in a regional park outside of:
 - (a) A designated area; or
 - (b) The hours set out in section 6 of this bylaw.

Severability

12. If any part or provision of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it will be severed and the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw will not be affected.

Read a first, second, and third time this 31 day of May, 2024.

Adopted this 31 day of May, 2024.

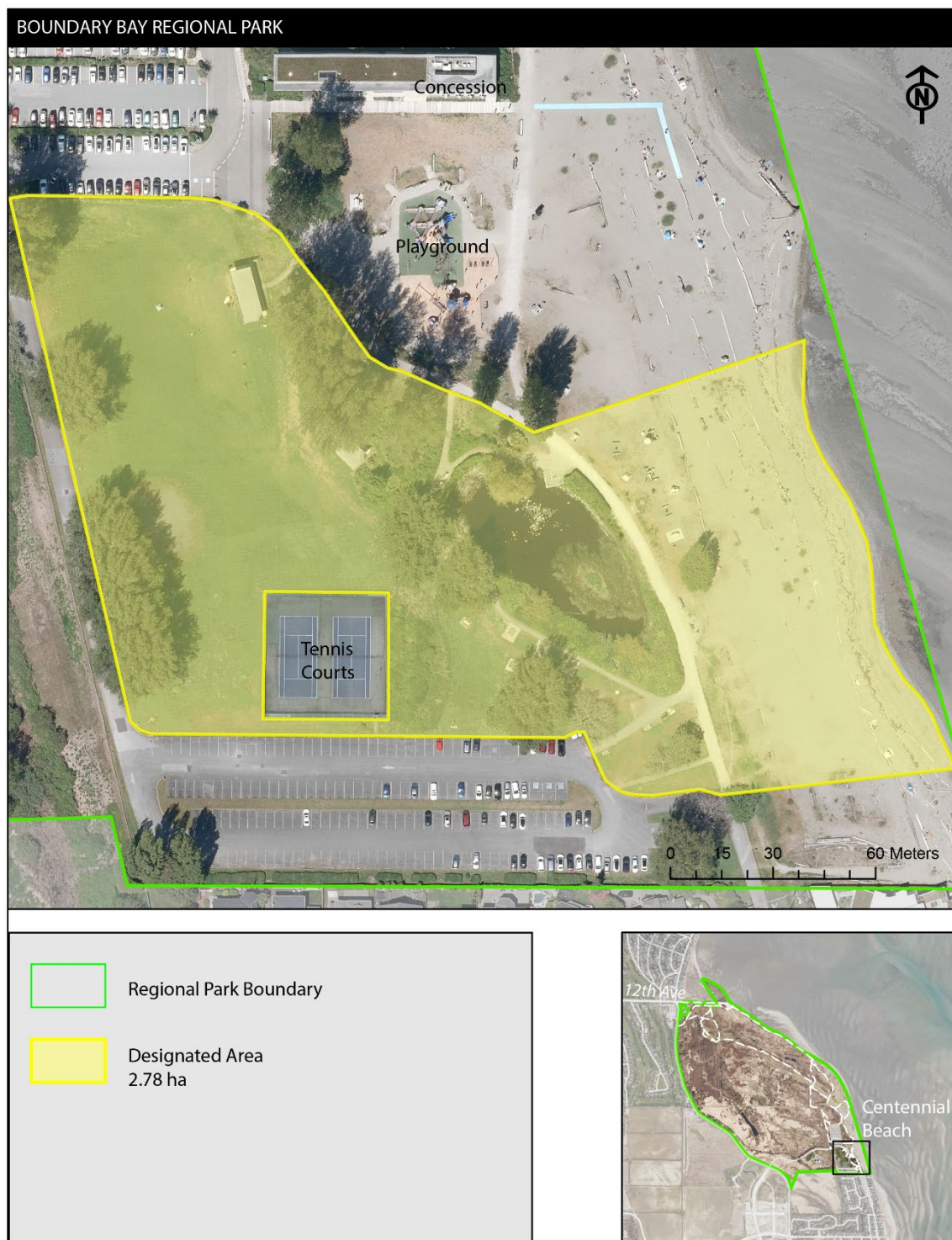

George V. Harvie, Chair


Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer

Schedule A

Maps of Designated Areas

Boundary Bay Regional Park

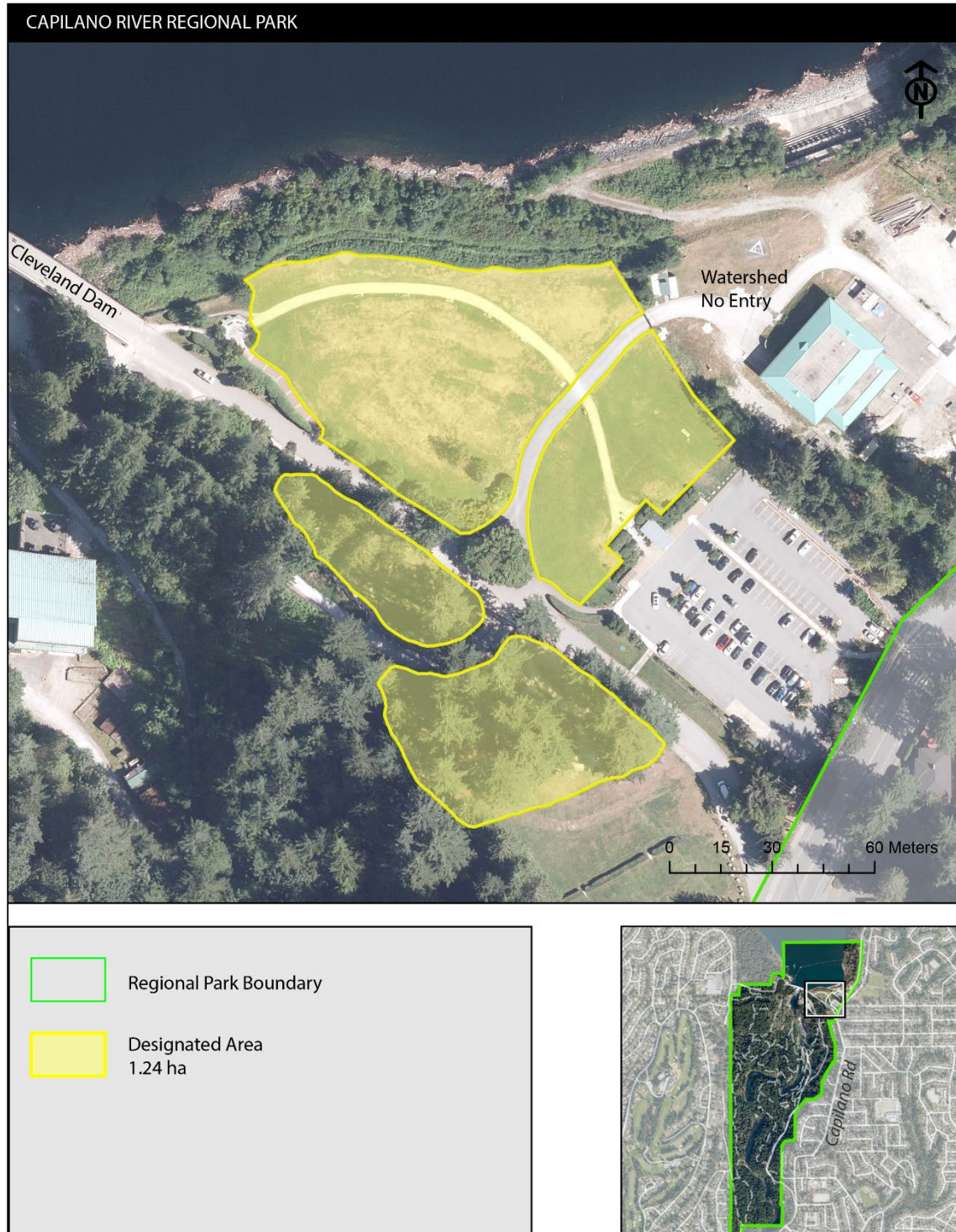


Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway



Campbell Valley Regional Park

Capilano River Regional Park



Derby Reach Regional Park



Iona Beach Regional Park



**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 1415, 2025**

**A bylaw to amend "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in
Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024"**

WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (the "Board") adopted "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024", on May 31, 2024; and
- B. The Board wishes to amend "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024".

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District enacts as follows:

Citation


- 1. The official citation of this bylaw is "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Amendment Bylaw No. 1415, 2025".

Amendment of Bylaw

- 2. "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw No. 1385, 2024" is amended as follows:
 - (a) Section 6 is deleted and replaced with the following:
 - 6. Liquor may be consumed in a designated area from:
 - (a) June 28, 2024, to September 2, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM;
 - (b) September 3, 2024, to September 23, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
 - (c) September 24, 2024, to October 14, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
 - (d) May 16, 2025 to June 2, 2025, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM;
 - (e) June 3, 2025 to September 1, 2025, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM;
 - (f) September 2, 2025 to September 22, 2025, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM; and
 - (g) September 23, 2025 to October 13, 2025, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Read a first, second, and third time this 25th day of April, 2025.

Adopted this 25th day of April, 2025.


Mike Hurley, Chair


Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer

To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Erin Gorby, Division Manager, Regional Parks
Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: January 23, 2026

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: **Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 23, 2026, titled “Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pacific Spirit Regional Park attracts nearly 4 million annual visitors and is a valued regional destination. An estimated one-third of visitors come with a dog, and the majority of visitors are residents of Vancouver and the UBC Endowment Lands.

Due to an increasing volume of visitors, including dogs, the park is experiencing more pressure on its trails and habitat. This creates dog-related impacts on visitor experience, public safety-incidents, and ecology. Metro Vancouver has undertaken a comprehensive review of dog management at Pacific Spirit Regional Park to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors, while protecting the park’s natural resources.

To inform the review, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks conducted a technical review (**Attachment 1**) and engagement. The technical review found 398 documented dog-related safety incidents over five years. In addition, visitor monitoring found almost two-thirds of dogs were unleashed on leash-required trails. Engagement conducted in 2025 resulted in 5,684 online questionnaire responses and 722 emails/letters.

Questionnaire respondents with dogs reported 94% positive experiences, while those without dogs reported only 24%. Participants reported current wayfinding signage and trail designations are confusing, and shared a desire for greater enforcement.

In response to this review, commencing in May 2026, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will update the Dog Management Program at Pacific Spirit Regional Park with new signage, trail designations, education, and enforcement changes. Trail designation changes will create a simplified network where visitors can find different experiences including continuous leash-required, leash-optional, or no-dog loops. The update aims to protect natural areas and support safe, high-quality experiences for all visitors. The program review and update is supported by Pacific Spirit Park Society, stating, “Ultimately, these updates represent a thoughtful compromise between the many groups that love and use this park.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Regional Parks Committee about the findings of the Dog Management Program review, and share the updated program for Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

BACKGROUND

The Dog Management Program review and update supports the *Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan Strategy 7: “Manage visitor use to protect natural resources and support safe and high-quality visitor experiences.”*

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is 860 hectares of parkland that protects marine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats, and connects a wide variety of visitors to these landscapes. The park is home to sensitive ecosystems, including pockets of old growth forest, an ecological reserve, an ancient bog, salmon-bearing streams, Fraser River estuary marshes, and foreshore areas. It is located within the territory of many First Nations, including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), and is adjacent to Musqueam Reserve 2.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is Metro Vancouver’s busiest regional park, attracting nearly four million annual visitors. The park is a popular destination for people of all ages and abilities to walk (with and without a dog), run, cycle, ride horses, or visit the beach. The park is widely recognized as a premier off-leash destination, with limited comparable alternatives nearby. An estimated one-third of park visitors bring a dog when visiting the park. The current Dog Management Program includes approximately 65 per cent of trails designated as leash optional, some areas designated no dogs at specific times, signage, fencing, education, and bylaw enforcement.

REVIEW FINDINGS

Ecological Impacts

A 2017 literature review conducted by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks found evidence that dogs can negatively impact ecosystems in urban parks, including wildlife disturbance, vegetation trampling, soil compaction, and impacts to water quality and overall ecosystem health. Environmental monitoring in 2017 and 2018 documented ecological impacts of dogs in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, finding damage from dogs across many trails, and many dogs regularly going off-trail. Erosion from off-trail use was the most common dog off leash impact observed, other impacts included dog waste (not being picked up) and digging.

Bylaw and Incidents

In the park, 398 dog-related incidents were reported and documented between 2020 and 2024. Incidents include injuries to park visitors such as dog bites, visitors being chased or knocked down, aggressive behaviour, injuries to other dogs, or dog related conflicts between park visitors.

Metro Vancouver conducted visitor monitoring in the park from February to May 2025, finding 63% of dogs observed were off-leash on leash-required trails. Monitoring also found an average of 20% of dogs off trail, and an average of 16% of dogs not under control on leash-optional trails in the portion of the park south of 16th Avenue.

Engagement

Metro Vancouver conducted engagement in 2025 with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, University Endowment Lands staff, eight organizations with interest or involvement in the park, and the public. Public engagement included an invitation to the public to complete an online questionnaire from May 14 to June 4, 2025, which received 5,684 responses (**Attachment 2**). From February to November 2025, Metro Vancouver received 722 emails and letters.

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm shared concerns about the impacts of dogs on the park waterways and ecosystem, particularly in culturally important creeks. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm also shared concerns about the potential for dogs to spread invasive species.

When asked on the questionnaire about their experiences with dogs in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, 94% of visitors with a dog reported having mostly positive experiences, compared to only 24% of visitors without a dog. For all questions in the questionnaire, a similar trend existed when comparing responses from visitors with or without a dog.

Throughout all forms of engagement, some participants shared how valued the park is as a unique destination to walk dogs off-leash in an extensive network of trails. Other participants reported feeling unsafe in the park due to the number of dogs, especially off-leash, and are more likely to report having had negative experiences with dogs, including injuries. Some reported no longer visiting the park due to these experiences.

There was general agreement from participants that the existing wayfinding and trail designation changes in the park are confusing. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, organizations, and many visitors want to see more education and greater and more consistent enforcement of the bylaw to manage visitors with their dogs.

PROGRAM UPDATE

The program review informed the program update, which will launch in May 2026. The updates are designed to enhance visitor safety and experiences for all visitors, ecological protection, and recreation while addressing community feedback. The changes maintain Pacific Spirit Regional Park as a park offering leash-optional trail access in various parts of the park, recognizing the importance of this amenity to the region. Clear and consistent rules that keep dogs under control, in sight, and on leash where required will reduce conflicts and support positive experiences for all visitors. The program changes are supported by the Pacific Spirit Park Society (see **Attachment 3**).

Signage

Signage in the park will be updated to improve wayfinding and communicate educational campaigns and regulatory requirements. Signage updates include new tri-colour trail markers, trail designation and expectations signs at key trailheads, and temporary signage to provide friendly etiquette reminders and education on environmental stewardship and sharing trails.

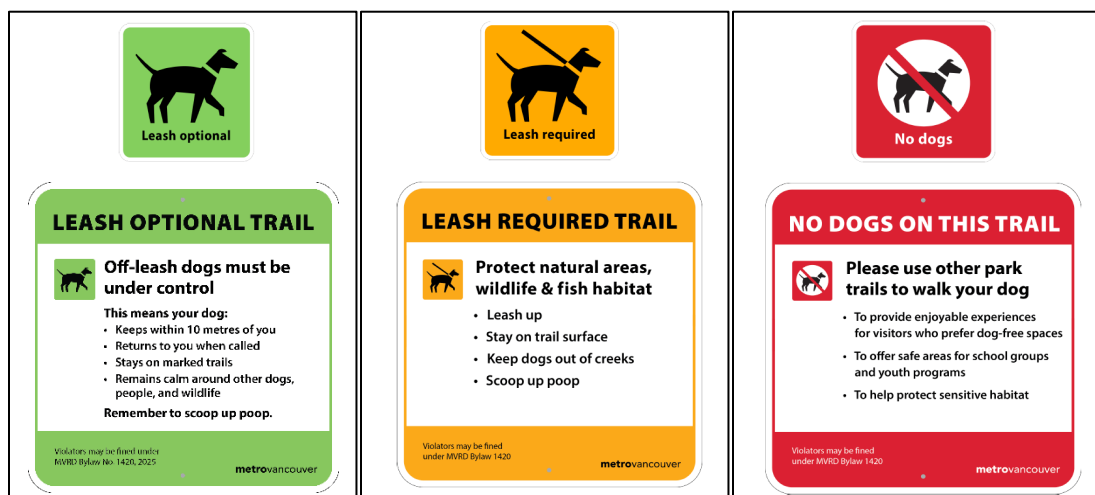


Figure 1. Updated tri-colour trail markers and new reminder signs for leash-optional, leash-required, and no-dog trails.



Figure 2. Example of etiquette signage on sandwich boards



Figure 3. Dog trail designations and expectations sign, to be placed at major entrances at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Trail Designations

To ensure the trail network meets the needs of the park and its visitors, the program update includes changes to the trail use designations. The criteria that guided the changes to designations are ecological and cultural protection, simplicity, and providing space for all visitors. The changes will result in 51% of trails designated as leash optional and 12 fewer intersection changes that can be hotspots for conflict.

Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Regional Parks Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Page 5 of 7

Current and updated trail designations at Pacific Spirit Regional Park are shown below:

Current Trail Designations

Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Regional Parks Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Page 6 of 7

Updated Trail Designations:

These changes will impact the availability of different leash designations in the following way:

	Current	Updated	Change
Leash optional	58% to 65%	51%	-8% to -14% (↓)
Leash required	23% to 30%	35%	+6% to +12% (↑)
No dogs	5% to 19%	14%	- 3% to +8% (≈)

The changes will also lead to 12 fewer trail intersection changes.

Fencing

To further support ecological protection, select fencing or other barriers will be installed in areas of high off-trail use to encourage park visitors and their dogs to stay on-trail. Restoration planting will also occur in heavily disturbed areas to protect ecological integrity.

Education and Enforcement

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will expand existing education outreach through pop-up information stations, updated signage and website information, and a media campaign related to the program launch. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will expand existing enforcement patrol to ensure the ongoing success of the dog management program.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

The success of the program update will be monitored through key indicators showing change in compliance with the bylaw, dog-related incidents, and localized habitat conditions. Based on monitoring, staff observations, and engagement with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks may take an adaptive management approach to make future changes to the dog management program.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time. Signage upgrades, program updates and additional bylaw/regulation and compliance programs will be achieved through reallocation of existing resources.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks engaged with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and University Endowment Lands staff during the program review. The program update is intended to address concerns raised by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, particularly related to ecological impacts and potential effects on culturally significant areas.

CONCLUSION

The review found significant dog-related incidents and bylaw/compliance issues. In addition, the review confirmed impacts of dogs in the park on the ecology. Engagement found varied and polarized perspectives on dog-related issues and experiences, particularly between visitors with or without a dog.

The Pacific Spirit Regional Park dog management program update, informed by the review, will launch in May 2026. Updates to dog management in Pacific Spirit Regional Park will include updated and improved wayfinding signage and educational materials. The trail network will be adjusted to improve clarity of dog leashing requirements/designations with the goal of improving visitor experiences and reducing dog-related conflicts. Additional fencing and enforcement will be integrated into the park to ensure success of the dog management program. Ongoing adaptive management and monitoring will be implemented to determine park visitor compliance with the proposed changes and continue to ensure protection of park ecology.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Program Report: Dog Management Program Review and Update in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, dated January 12, 2026.
2. Engagement Summary: Appendix C - Dog Management Program Review and Update in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, dated January 12, 2026.
3. Letter of Support from the Pacific Spirit Park Society, dated January 23, 2026.
4. Presentation re: Dog Management Program in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Dog Management Program Review

Pacific Spirit Regional Park

FINAL REPORT
January 12, 2026

Pacific Spirit Dog Management Final Report
January 12, 2026

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pacific Spirit Regional Park attracts nearly 4 million annual visitors and is a valued destination for a variety of visitors of all interests, ages, and abilities, including walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists, equestrians, and beach users. An estimated one-third of visitors come with a dog. The park is an ecological hub within the western edge of Metro Vancouver and provides habitat supporting wildlife, plants and other species.

Due to an increasing volume of visitors, including dogs, the park is experiencing more pressure on its trails and habitat, creating challenges related to ecology, public safety, and visitor experience. Metro Vancouver is reviewing dog management at Pacific Spirit Regional Park to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors while protecting the park's natural resources.

This review identified visitor experience challenges, public safety concerns, and impacts on the ecology of the park. Over a 5-year period between 2020 –2024, 398 dog-related incidents were reported. Monitoring in 2025 found poor compliance with Metro Vancouver bylaw requirements related to dogs, including 63 per cent of dogs observed off-leash on leash-required trails. The review additionally found ecological impacts as a result of dogs, including wildlife disturbance and damage to natural resources that cannot be easily restored.

As part of the review, Metro Vancouver conducted engagement between February and November 2025. Engagement activities included an online questionnaire, public comments, and meetings with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), University Endowment Lands staff, and eight organizations with interest or involvement in the park. In total, 5,684 people responded to an online questionnaire, and Metro Vancouver received 722 emails and letters.

The feedback reflected a wide range of experiences and perspectives. Many visitors with dogs reported positive experiences and valued the park's off-leash opportunities, while visitors without dogs raised concerns related to safety, comfort, and ecological impacts. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and other organizations echoed concerns about ecological impacts, particularly in waterways. Common themes included confusion about existing wayfinding and trail designations, interest in increased education efforts, and support for more consistent enforcement of the existing bylaws related to dog management.

Program changes will be implemented in May 2026 and include:

- Updated signage to improve wayfinding and clarity of expectations and rules
- Changes to trail designations to balance ecological and cultural protection, simplicity, and the needs of different park visitors
- Installation or modification of fencing and garbage bins
- Expanded education on dog management led by MV staff and partners
- Increased enforcement staff time to provide public education and change public behaviour



2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1. Introduction

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is 860 hectares of parkland that protects marine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats and connects a wide variety of visitors to these landscapes.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is located within the shared territories of many First Nations and the core territory of xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam Indian Band). The park borders the xʷməθkʷə́yəm reserve, Musqueam No. 2 (see Figure 1). This area is of significant cultural, historical, and ecological importance to xʷməθkʷə́yəm, sustaining xʷməθkʷə́yəm for generations. This enduring relationship with the area underscores xʷməθkʷə́yəm strong interest in decisions affecting the park and the importance of incorporating their perspectives into planning and management.

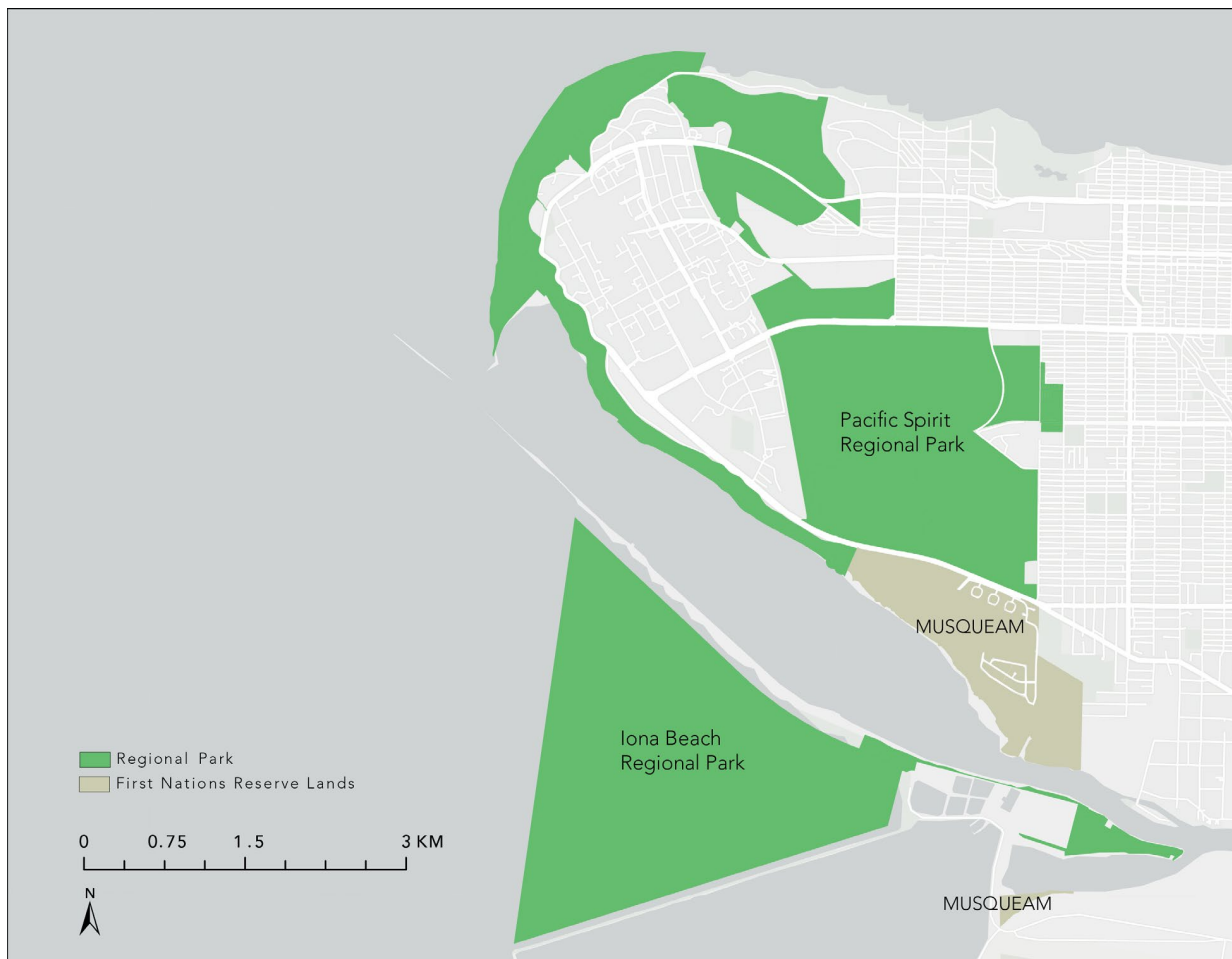


Figure 1. Map showing Pacific Spirit Regional Park and proximity to the xʷməθkʷə́yəm reserve lands.



The park is within Electoral Area A and adjacent to the City of Vancouver, University of British Columbia, and the University Endowment Lands. The park is managed by several guiding documents, including the Metro Vancouver the [Regional Parks Plan](#).

The park is home to sensitive ecosystems, including pockets of old growth forest, an ecological reserve, an ancient bog, salmon-bearing streams, Fraser River estuary marshes, and foreshore areas. It is also home to diverse wildlife, including rare and at-risk species of plants and animals, such as the Pacific great blue heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*) and Northern red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*).

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is Metro Vancouver's busiest regional park, attracting nearly four million annual visitors. The park is a popular destination for walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists, equestrians, and beach users of all ages and abilities. Visitors have access to approximately 55 kilometres of forested and beach trails. Based on the in-person 2024 Visitor Satisfaction Survey, 93 per cent of visitors were satisfied with their visit to the park. The park is widely recognized as a premier off-leash destination in media and local guides, with an estimated one-third of park visitors bringing a dog to the uplands area of the park.

In Pacific Spirit Regional Park, visitation has been increasing approximately 5.4 per cent annually between 2004 and 2024, nearly triple the regional population growth over the same period. The increasing volume of visitors, including dogs, means more pressure on the park's trails and impacts on park habitat. This creates challenges related to:

- Protecting sensitive environmental areas from increasing disturbance
- Ensuring public safety and high-quality visitor experiences
- Addressing community concerns about dog behaviour and park use

The following report includes a review of Metro Vancouver's existing dog management program to assess current challenges and presents updates to the program to improve dog management strategies. The goal of the updated dog management program at Pacific Spirit Regional Park is to protect natural areas and support safe and high-quality experiences for all park visitors. This supports the goals of the *Regional Parks Plan* and aligns closely with the *Regional Parks Plan* Strategy 7 to manage visitor use to protect natural resources and support safe and high-quality visitor experiences.

2.2. Geographic Context

Based on the 2024 Regional Parks Visitor Satisfaction Survey and an online questionnaire conducted as part of this program review (see Appendix C), most visitors to Pacific Spirit Regional Park are City of Vancouver residents. The second most frequent are University Endowment Lands/University of British Columbia residents, followed by City of Burnaby and City of Richmond residents.

While many off-leash areas exist in the western Metro Vancouver region, Pacific Spirit Regional Park is one of only a handful of parks with trails where visitors can walk their dogs off-leash in an unenclosed area (see Figure 2). In the City of Vancouver, one park - Everett Crowley park - offers off-leash trails, while the City of Richmond and City of Burnaby have a few trails designated as off-leash. All the off-leash municipal trails are short (five kilometres or less), offering a different experience than the extensive trail network at Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Only three other parks in the regional park system have leash-optional trails in unenclosed areas: Iona Beach, Capilano River and Lynn Headwaters regional parks.

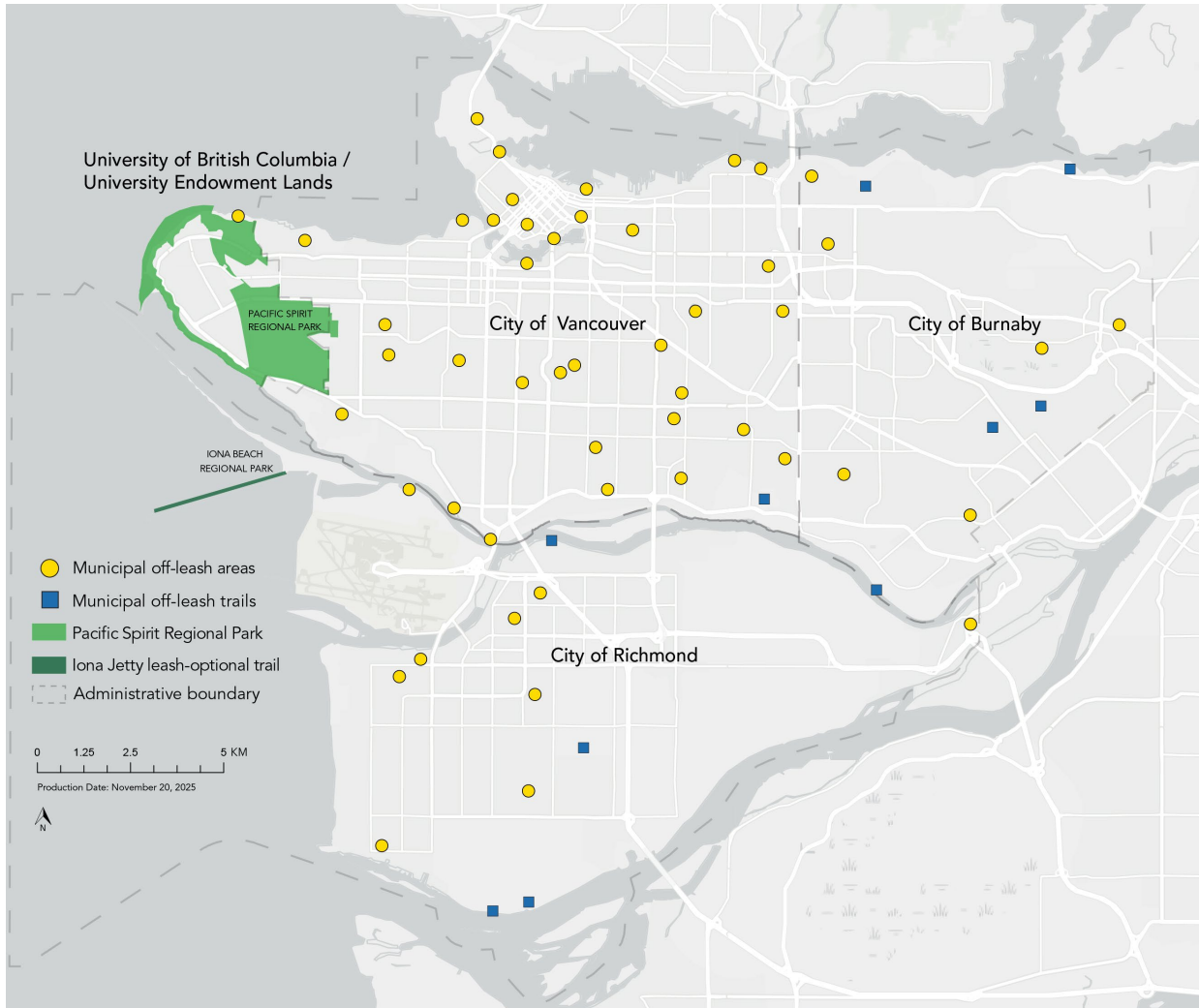


Figure 2. Map showing off-leash areas and trails for walking dogs off-leash in the City of Vancouver, City of Richmond, and City of Burnaby.



3.0 PROGRAM REVIEW FINDINGS

3.1. Current Program

Metro Vancouver developed the current dog management program in 2003 through data collection, research, and public engagement. The program includes approximately 65 per cent of trails designated as leash optional, some areas designated no dogs in specific times, signage, fencing, education, and bylaw enforcement.

3.1.1. Current Design

The park features trail designations, signs, and fences to guide visitors and manage dogs and dog owners.

Trail designations

Pacific Spirit Regional Park offers a variety of trail designations (see Figure 3). These include leash-optional trails, where dogs may be off-leash and under control. There are also leash-required trails, where dogs must be leashed at all times, and no-dog trails, where dogs are not permitted.

In the north uplands of the park, all trails are leash optional. In the central part of the park, trails alternate between leash required on weekdays and no dogs on weekends and statutory holidays. In the south, there is a network of alternating leash-required and leash-optional trails. Between Trail 6, Trail 7, and Grand Fir Trail, there is a section permanently designated as no dogs. Along the foreshore between Trail 6 and Acadia Beach, rules change seasonally: leash optional between October 1 to February 28, and no dogs between March 1 to September 30.



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Figure 3. Map of current trail designations in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Signage

Pacific Spirit Regional Park features signage that identifies trail designations, primarily through park kiosks and standardized trail marker tabs located at trailheads and intersections (see Figure 4, Figure 5). Additional signage provides guidance for visitors with dogs, including the Canine Code of Conduct.



Figure 4. Current trail designation tabs seen at trailheads and trail intersections.



Figure 5. Photo showing a typical trail intersection post with the trail designation changes in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Fencing

Pacific Spirit Regional Park has approximately 20 kilometres of fencing to protect sensitive ecosystems and for the public safety of visitors and their animals.



3.1.2. Current Education Approach

Dog program public education is currently provided on the Metro Vancouver website, park kiosks, brochures, limited signs, and by staff at pop-up information stations and on regular daily patrols.

Pop-up information stations and regular daily patrols focus on educating dog owners about respectful park use. Metro Vancouver staff or partners, including CTS Youth Society, conduct educational outreach. This outreach is well suited to providing education and positive encouragement to visitors and their dogs. In fall 2025, CTS Youth Society and Metro Vancouver staff conducted three information stations and engaged with 871 park visitors to promote responsible dog ownership and positive community engagement.

Metro Vancouver also provides passive education on the organization's expectations from the public on dog management through the Metro Vancouver website, park kiosks, and limited signage throughout the park.

3.1.3. Current Bylaw Enforcement Approach

Park officers currently conduct daily enforcement patrols to increase public awareness, understanding, and compliance with dog rules outlined in the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1420, 2025* ("the Bylaw"). Patrols target problem areas, such as busy trails that have a variety of users or where leashing designations change frequently. Enforcement patrols are intended to provide public education and to change public behaviour by taking appropriate enforcement actions. Park officers work within a bylaw compliance continuum, which prioritizes voluntary compliance through education and uses enforcement actions only when necessary.

3.2. Methods

The dog management program update is evidence-driven, and considers both data and public input, including the perspectives of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, key organizations, and park visitors.

Various data were collected and analyzed as part of the technical review, including:

- **Ecological impacts of dogs** through natural resource management monitoring and literature review (Section 3.3)
- **Dog-related incidents and Bylaw issues** through incident reporting systems and visitor use monitoring (Section 3.4)

Engagement as part of this review included:

- **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** interests and priorities (Section 3.5)
- **Park visitor perspectives** through an online questionnaire and emails/letters (Section 3.6)
- **Perspectives of organizations with interest or involvement in the park** (Section 3.6)



Best practices from related jurisdictions and staff observations also informed Metro Vancouver's understanding of various issues and possible solutions.

3.3. Ecological Impacts

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is classified as containing both sensitive and modified ecosystem types per Metro Vancouver's Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI).¹ Specifically, the park consists of young, mature, and old forest, riparian habitat, salmon-bearing streams, wetlands, a bog, and estuary areas along the Fraser River. While much of the park was historically logged, the park contains significant areas of mature forest, much of it red or blue-listed. Recent observations have even placed some trees in the park as old as 450 years in age.

The park supports a diversity of wildlife including rare plant and animal species. Along with previously mentioned species, other key species of note include Oregon fairy shrimp (*Eubrachipus oregonus*), olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), and Northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*). The park also provides critical breeding habitat for several species, including amphibian rearing ponds, tree cavity nesting sites, raptor nests, and numerous other habitat features which support breeding and nesting activity. According to the BC Conservation Data Centre, up to 144 species at risk may be present (53 red and 91 blue listed).

A 2017 literature review conducted by Metro Vancouver found clear evidence that dogs can have negative impacts on ecosystems in urban parks (See Appendix A). Research indicates that wildlife are more negatively impacted by the presence of people with dogs compared to humans alone. Disturbance from dogs can include causing wildlife to stay away from certain areas, creating a stress response in wildlife, or transmitting diseases. The effects of disturbance by off-leash dogs are stronger than on-leash dogs with respect to the amount of wildlife habitat affected. Off-leash dogs also affect vegetation and soils directly through trampling of vegetation or indirectly through soil compaction, erosion, and dispersal of native and non-native plants.

The literature review also found that dog waste – both urination and fecal waste – affects water quality and overall ecosystem health. Protecting water quality by keeping dogs and their waste out of watercourses is an ecological priority in the park. Musqueam Creek is also one of the few salmon-bearing creeks remaining in Vancouver, making its protection of prime importance from an ecological perspective.

Environmental monitoring conducted by Metro Vancouver staff and local academic institutions took place in 2017 and 2018. This research documented the ecological impacts of dogs specifically in Pacific Spirit Regional Park and found damage from dogs across many trails and many off-leash dogs regularly going off-trail. Monitoring documented most of the identified environmental impacts in the park areas south of 16th Avenue. The most common impacts observed were urine marks, feces, digging and erosion from trail braiding.

¹ www.metrovancouver.org, search "[sensitive ecosystem inventory mapping](#)"



xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, park visitors and organizations that participated in the engagement process also raised many of these concerns (Appendix C).

3.4. Public Safety and Bylaw Contraventions

Dog-related incidents and contraventions of the Bylaw raise concerns for public safety and park visitor experiences in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Over a five-year period between 2020 and 2024, 398 dog-related incidents in Pacific Spirit Regional Park were documented. Incidents were identified through the following:

- Public comments or complaints received by Metro Vancouver
- Bylaw warnings and tickets issued by park officers
- Park incident reports

Known incidents involving dogs in the park include:

- Injuries to park visitors such as broken bones and dog bites that require stitches
- Joggers, runners, walkers (including seniors and young children), and cyclists being chased or knocked down
- Aggressive behaviour, including park visitors being startled, barked at, lunged at, jumped on, and scratched
- Dogs being bitten or injured
- Conflicts between park visitors

In addition to reviewing incident data, Metro Vancouver staff conducted visitor use monitoring between February and July 2025 on trails in the uplands of the park. Staff made observations on the number of visitors with and without dogs, the total number of dogs, and compliance with the Bylaw related to dog management (Bylaw items 44-47, see Appendix B for descriptions).

Based on visitor use monitoring, Metro Vancouver estimates that around one-third of visitors in the uplands of Pacific Spirit Regional Park visit with a dog. This number falls slightly above the estimate from the 2024 Visitor Satisfaction Survey, which found that 26 per cent of the visitors interviewed came with at least one dog. Note that while estimating the proportion of visitors that come with dogs is not the primary purpose of the Visitor Satisfaction Survey, a general comparison can be made.



The results of the 2025 visitor use monitoring were analyzed by area of the park due to their differences in leash designation and other restrictions on dog walking. The areas analyzed were north of University Boulevard, the central area between University Boulevard and 16th Avenue, and south of 16th Avenue (see Figure 3, page 6). Monitoring suggests that the area south of 16th Avenue is the most popular area of the park for dog walking, and the central area is the least popular. Only 13% of visits to the central area observed during the study included one or more dogs.

During the visitor use monitoring period, staff observed the following Bylaw contraventions:

- 63 per cent of dogs observed were off-leash on leash-required trails
- On leash-optional trails in the portion of the park south of 16th Avenue:
 - An average of 20 per cent of dogs were off trail
 - An average of 16 per cent of dogs were not under control
 - Dogs were more likely to be not under control and off-trail compared to leash-required trails

In the context of the total number of visitors this translates to an estimate of at least 450 dogs not under control and 550 dogs off-trail daily in the park.² Even a small number of off-trail dogs can negatively impact ecosystem health, as detailed above in Section 3.3. This level of non-compliance can also greatly impact the experience of other visitors, as uncontrolled dogs pose a risk of causing serious physical harm.

More background on the methods and the key findings of the visitor use monitoring program are found in Appendix B.

3.5. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Perspectives

Metro Vancouver met with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm to understand their perspectives and experiences related to the dog management program. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm primarily shared concerns about the impacts of dogs on the park waterways and ecosystem. Pacific Spirit Regional Park is home to ecologically and culturally significant creeks in Vancouver, including Musqueam Creek and Cutthroat Creek. These waterways are critically important to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm for many reasons, including cultural practices, ecological health, and the waterways connection to the Musqueam Reserve No. 2. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm raised concerns about the possible impacts of dogs on water quality in these creeks, both within the park and downstream. They also shared concerns about the potential for dogs to spread invasive species. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm shared their interest in seeing more education around the impacts of dogs on the ecology and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm cultural use in the park.

² Based on nearly 4 million annual visitors, one-third of whom visit with a dog in the uplands, Metro Vancouver conservatively estimates there are at least one million dogs that visit the park. If 16 per cent of those dogs are not under control, this translates to 160,000 dogs annually or 438 dogs daily. The equivalent for dogs off-trail would be 200,000 dogs annually or 548 daily.



3.6. Park Visitor and Organization Perspectives

Metro Vancouver conducted engagement between February and December 2025. Engagement activities included a widely-promoted online questionnaire open from May 14 to June 4, 2025, public comments, and meetings with University Endowment Lands staff, and organizations with interest or involvement in the park.

In total, 5,684 people responded to the online questionnaire, and Metro Vancouver received 722 emails and letters. Additionally, Metro Vancouver also met with University Endowment Lands staff and eight organizations with interest or involvement in the park, including Pacific Spirit Park Society and those that hold commercial dog walking permits (see Appendix C for full list). The key themes that emerged from participants through the survey, public comments, and engagement with organizations are detailed below.

3.6.1. Off-Leash Dog Access

Off-leash dog access was a central topic of engagement and participant feedback showed both support and opposition for current off-leash access in the park.

Participants that expressed support for current off-leash access stated the importance of off-leash access due to its rarity in the region, proximity to their homes, and the health benefits to themselves and their dog(s).

Participants who expressed concern around current off-leash access referenced issues encountered on multi-use trails, such as aggressive or out of control dogs, and noted safety concerns about dogs scaring or hurting vulnerable visitors, including young children and those with mobility issues. Some participants reported experiencing dogs impacting wildlife and the ecology, which can impact the visitor experience.

“There are so few places left in the city where dogs can roam freely, explore, and burn off their energy-- Pacific Spirit is one of those rare gems. For apartment dwellers without backyards, leash-optional parks aren't a luxury, they're a lifeline. Our dogs deserve space to move, socialize, and be dogs. Please help us protect and preserve off-leash access in Pacific Spirit for the well-being of our pets and the community that depends on it.”

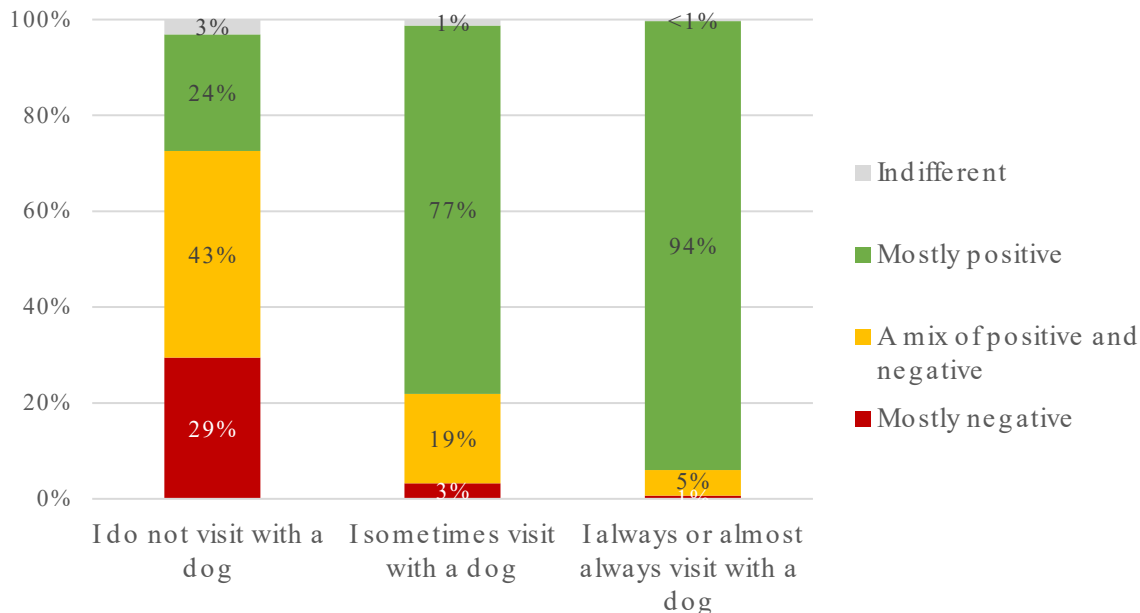
“Dogs should be required to be on leash in most of the park. There should be more “no dog” areas. Dogs cause disruption to sensitive habitats and other animals, including birds. As the parent of a 6-month-old, I am always on guard against dogs, because you can never assume that they won't bite or jump, even if they are on-leash.”



3.6.2. Experiences with Dogs

Participants reported a wide range of experiences with dogs in the park.

Figure 6. **Questionnaire Question:** How would you describe your experiences with dogs in the park?



Online questionnaire respondents that visit with a dog describe their experiences with dogs in the park as mostly positive (between 77 per cent to 94 per cent, see Figure 6). In contrast, respondents that visit the park without a dog reported lower rates of positive experiences, with 24 per cent indicating positive experiences, 43 per cent indicating a mix of positive and negative and 29 per cent indicating mostly negative experiences.

Public comments echoed these results. Some public comments stated that their experiences with other visitors with dogs were overwhelmingly positive and never or rarely witnessed issues with dogs. Other comments shared their experiences with off-leash dogs in the park, including being bitten, knocked over, or chased, sometimes on leash-required trails. A subset of these reported no longer visiting the park due to these incidents.

Visitors with or without dogs are not all the same and reported different views and experiences. Some park visitors without dogs, as well as organizations representing nature programming or conservation, reported how much they enjoyed meeting dogs at the park. Other participants that visit with dogs reported challenges with other dogs approaching their dog while out of control or aggressive.



“By and large, the dog owners are very responsible and their pets are well behaved. Misbehaving dogs are a rare anomaly, and I haven’t had any encounters I would call noteworthy.”

“As a dog owner with a reactive dog, I stay on the on leash trails but I always encounter off leash dogs on these trails. It doesn’t matter if I ask the other owners to recall their dogs, their dogs either don’t listen or they insist their dog is friendly. My dog has been attacked several times as a result of these encounters and it has driven us to spend almost no time there now.”

3.6.3. Experiences between Visitors with Dogs and Other Visitors

Participants shared positive and negative experiences related to dogs with other visitors in the park. Some participants described positive experiences, such as feeling connected to the dog-walking community or feeling safer with visitors with dogs around. Others shared concerns about poor etiquette around dogs from non-dog visitors. Some participants shared bad experiences interacting with visitors walking dogs, such as verbal conflict or lack of control of their dogs.

Many participants highlighted the need for education to remind visitors that the park is a shared space for all users. Section 3.6.7 outlines education ideas from public engagement.

“My husband, dog, and I have been daily users of the park for over 10 years. It’s more than just a trail system—it’s part of our lives. It’s where we reconnect after work, where our dog runs free and happy, and where we’ve found a strong sense of community among fellow regulars.”

Dogs--and their people--make the park feel safer. Countless times, women have asked to walk with me or my husband because they feel more secure in our presence. We always say yes--because that’s what community looks like.”

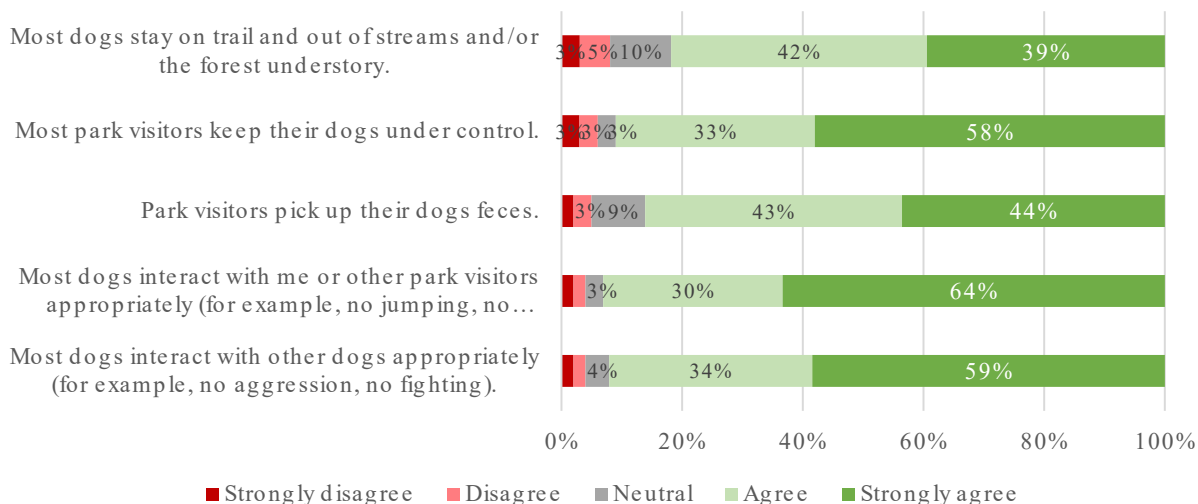
“Too many off-leash dog owners refuse to control their dogs when encountering on-leash dogs. These people also are often verbally aggressive when they are asked to keep their dogs away from an on-leash dog. Due to these concerns, we seldom use this park anymore.”

3.6.4. Specific Experiences with Dogs

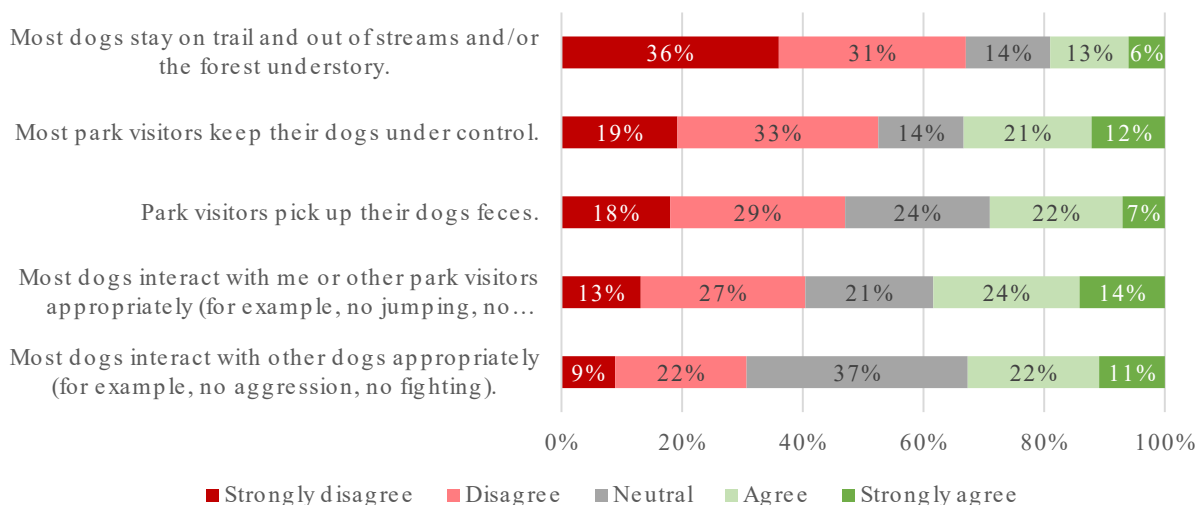
Park staff and members of the public have been observed and reported on specific issues related to dogs for years, as detailed in Section 3.4. To understand the public’s perceptions of specific experiences and issues, the online questionnaire asked respondents to note how much they agreed with a statement related to dogs’ behaviours at Pacific Spirit Regional Park (see Figure 7). These behaviours align generally with Bylaw regulations (see Appendix B).

Figure 7. Questionnaire Question: How well does the following statement reflect your experiences with park visitors and their dogs at the park:

Specific Experiences Feedback by Those That Visit with a Dog (Sometimes, Always)



Specific Experiences Feedback by Those That Visit without a Dog



The most common issues reported in the online questionnaire were dogs off-trail and not under control. When asked to agree or disagree with the statement: “Most dogs stay on-trail and out of streams and/or the forest understory” only 8 per cent of those that visit with a dog reported disagreement, while 67 per cent of those that visit without a dog reported disagreement (see Figure 7). A similar pattern holds for the four other statements when comparing visitorship with or without a dog.



Feedback shared in public comments and from organizations reflects this difference in experiences. Participants reported concerns around these five behavioural issues, including dog waste, off-trail usage, or safety concerns for their or others' well-being. In contrast, other participants, particularly those that visit with dogs, shared that they felt only a very small minority of dogs or their owners were misbehaving.

Despite the different perspectives, these online questionnaire results, alongside staff observations, visitor monitoring research, and ecological impact studies (Sections 3.3 and 3.4), show that challenges remain with some dogs and their owners. These challenges include complying with the Bylaw, sharing the trails with other visitors, and minimizing impact on the ecosystem.

3.6.5. Trail Design and Built Infrastructure

Staff heard through public comments and organizations about their experiences and needs related to the design of the trail system, signage, and other built infrastructure.

Participants shared how elements of the trail help or inhibit safe experiences for visitors. This includes sightlines, width, and slope of trails. Visitors that come with dogs and commercial dog walkers generally prefer wide trails without blind corners.

Many participants acknowledged how different groups use different areas of the park, especially programming for children. Some public comments recommend keeping leash-optional trails away from areas of high visitor use where possible.

Participants across the board generally agree that the current designation changes on trails south of 16th Avenue are confusing, hard to follow, and create a challenging experience for all visitors. For example, a major challenge to compliance with the rules is when visitors with off-leash dogs come upon a short stretch of leash-required trail that soon transitions back to leash optional. Many openly conveyed that they would not bother to leash for these stretches, despite being in contravention of the Bylaw. In contrast, for those looking to walk only on trails with leashed dogs, these stretches can generate confusion and visitor conflict. Repeatedly, Metro Vancouver heard from the public and various organizations a desire to have loops of both leash-required and leash-optional trails for visitors to walk.

Participants also agreed that signage is inconsistent, unclear, and difficult to see. Some visitors found the trail transitions themselves between leash-required and leash-optional trails poorly marked. Some also recommend warning signs or other ways to communicate trail designation changes besides the trail intersection tabs.



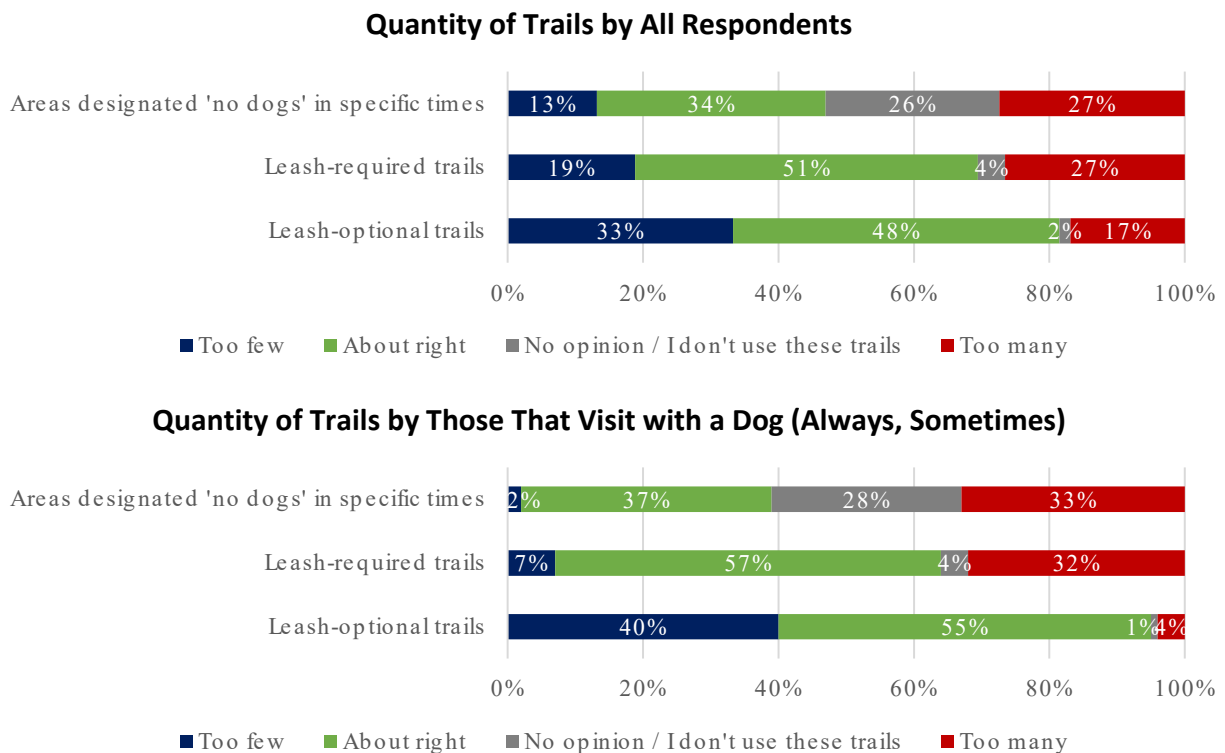
Many participants shared that access to reliable parking near leash-optional trails was important for them in visiting the park.

Lastly, participants requested seeing more garbage bins within the park and more or higher fencing to keep dogs out of sensitive areas.

3.6.6. Different Levels of Satisfaction with Quantities of Trail Type

Pacific Spirit Regional Park has three types of trails allowing for different dog access: no dogs, leash required, and leash optional.

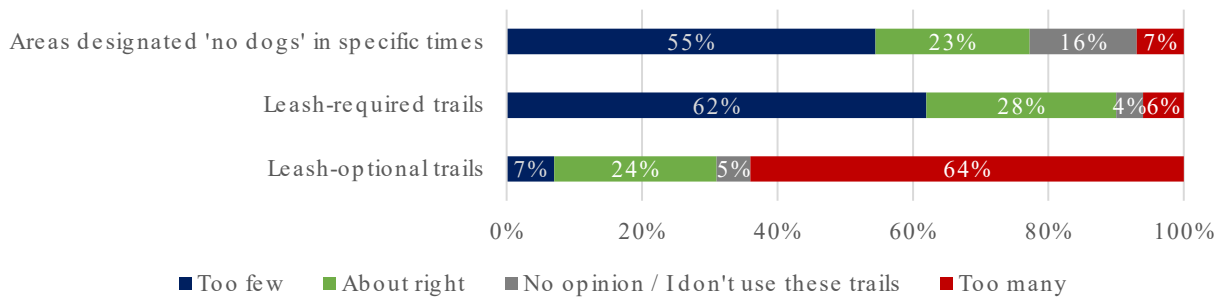
Figure 8. Questionnaire Question: We'd like your input on the types of dog access currently allowed in the park. Pacific Spirit Regional Park has:





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Quantity of Trails by Those That Visit without a Dog



For all trail types (no dogs, leash required, and leash optional), a slim majority of online questionnaire respondents said the amount of each designation was 'about right,' or they did not use that trail or have an opinion (Figure 8).

However, when comparing responses between those that visit with or without a dog, differences emerge. Visitors that come with a dog more often reported that there were too few leash-optional trails and too many leash-required and no-dog trails. On the contrary, visitors without dogs more frequently reported that there were too many leash-optional trails, and too few leash-required or no-dog trails. Figure 8 above shows the difference between visitors with or without a dog in their response to the proportion of the different trail types in the park.

This may indicate that, while the park offers a wide range of trail designation types, the current trail network is not meeting the needs of a large portion of our park visitors. This may be due to the location of the specific areas, time-specific designations, or a lack of compliance with the designations. For example:

No-dog trails – Some participants expressed a desire for areas completely free of dogs, particularly for visitors with small children or mobility constraints. Others noted that the no-dog trails in the central part of the park on weekends are rarely respected. As a result, while a no-dog region of the park exists in concept, in practice it is not functioning as intended.

Leash-optional trails – Some visitors with dogs shared their desire for beach access in the summer months, which currently prohibit dogs for the whole foreshore area of the park between March 1 to September 30 (see Figure 3, page 6).

Additionally, many participants shared their concern about the trails south of 16th Avenue becoming entirely leash required as was proposed by an independent park visitor at a Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Committee meeting. Participants highlighted the value of the area south of 16th Avenue for accessing leash-optional trails, citing its proximity to parking and residences, the flatness of the trails, and the large expanse of park available to explore. Others shared their concern that concentrating leash-optional trails in the north of the park could increase conflict.



3.6.7. Education and Enforcement

Generally, participants agreed that there is a need for more education and enforcement of rules. Some participants advocated for educational signage targeting both visitors with and without dogs, including etiquette of dogs, etiquette around dogs, and the environmental impacts of dogs.

Other participants wanted to see more enforcement of the existing rules. A small minority of commenters felt that additional enforcement or education would not address the few individuals who consistently disregard the rules and therefore was unnecessary.

3.6.8. Accessibility

The park provides many trails that are flat and wide, particularly south of University Boulevard. Those with mobility restrictions or that use mobility aids may use these trails more easily. Visitors with a wide range of access needs also reported using the park. Participants emphasized the need to maintain accessible trails for visitors with and without dogs.

Many participants shared the importance of maintaining leash-optional trails in flat parts of the park, especially south of 16th Avenue, for visitors with mobility restrictions walking their dogs off-leash. Other participants shared negative experiences between visitors with access needs and dogs, particularly off-leash dogs on leash-required trails or dogs on no-dog trails.

“My husband is a quadriplegic and these trails are the ONLY fully accessible trails he can use in Vancouver with forest. [Off leash walks are] one of the most imperative activities for my husband’s rehab and quality of life that we do and is a huge part of our lives. Our dog is always on leash in his regular activities at home all day and this is one of the only ways he can have off leash time. My husband and I value this so much and to remove these trails would be heartbreaking for all of us.”

“While I understand and appreciate the joy dogs bring to their owners, I believe [the issue of off-leash dogs in leash-required trails] poses serious safety and accessibility challenges—especially for individuals with disabilities. Unleashed dogs, even those that are friendly, can present a significant barrier for people who use mobility aids, have visual impairments, or live with anxiety disorders. An unexpected approach by a dog—no matter how well-meaning—can cause distress, risk of injury, or even deter someone from using the park altogether. Public parks should be inclusive and welcoming to all residents, including those with disabilities.”

3.6.9. Out-of-Scope Findings

Although the focus of public engagement was on dog management, many park visitors took the time to provide feedback on other challenges in the park. Visitors shared their concerns around conflict with other users, particularly cyclists and occasionally joggers. The primary concern shared was the speed with which cyclists move through the trail system. Because the dog management program review did not include a review of other user groups, no major updates will be made regarding other user groups as part of the dog management program update.



However, in limited instances, infrastructure changes such as signage addressing cyclists may be installed.

4.0 PROGRAM UPDATE

Insights gathered through the program review, including engagement with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and public engagement, provided key input to help inform the program update.

The updates are designed to enhance visitor safety and experiences for all visitors, ecological protection, and recreation while addressing community feedback. The changes maintain Pacific Spirit Regional Park as a park offering leash-optional trail access in various parts of the park, recognizing the importance of this amenity to the region. Clear and consistent rules that keep dogs under control, in sight, and on leash where required will reduce conflicts and support positive experiences for all visitors.

These changes support all five goals of the *Regional Parks Plan*, but particularly:

- Goal 1: The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.
- Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.
- Goal 3: Regional Parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.

The changes also support Metro Vancouver meeting Strategy 7 of the *Regional Parks Plan* to manage visitor use to protect natural areas and support safe and high-quality visitor experiences.

4.1. Park Design

4.1.1. Signage

New signage in the park will improve wayfinding and communicate educational campaigns and regulatory requirements. The approach will be multi-layer. Signage updates:

1. **Updated tri-colour trail markers** will help improve clarity and visibility (Figure 9)
2. **Reminder signs** will remind visitors of the expectations at the start of each trail (Figure 9)
3. **Trail designation and expectations sign** will help introduce the three dog-related trail designations to visitors, and remind dog walkers of the expectations relating to each one (Figure 11)
4. **Etiquette signage** on sandwich boards will act to provide friendly reminders and educate on environmental stewardship and sharing trails (Figure 10)

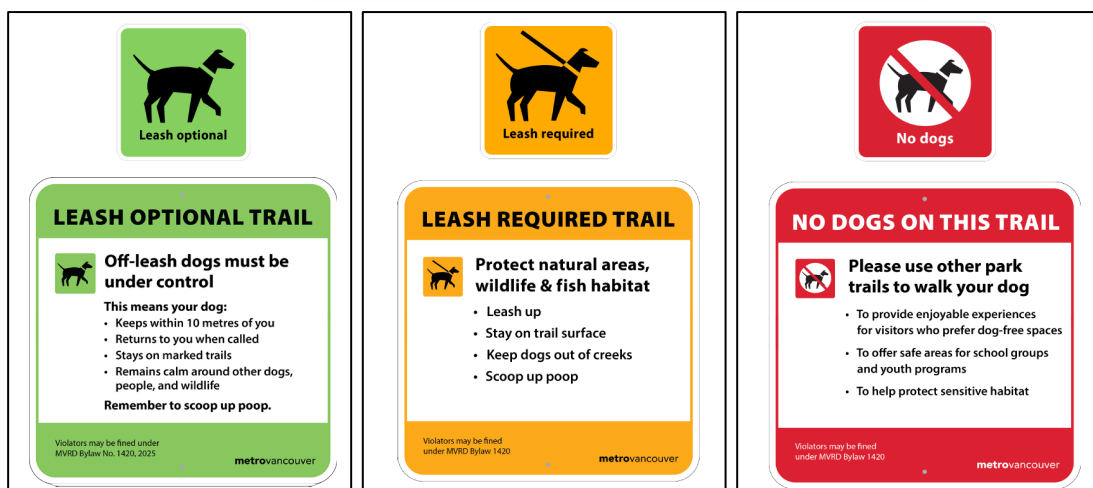


Figure 9. Updated tri-colour trail markers and new reminder signs for leash-optional, leash-required, and no-dog trails.



Figure 11. Dog trail designations and expectations sign, to be placed at major entrances at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.



Figure 10. Example of etiquette signage on sandwich boards

Section 4.2 details how the signage will contribute to the education campaign.

4.1.2. Trail Designations

To ensure the trail network meets the needs of the park and its visitors, the program update includes changes to the trail use designations (see Figure 12). Three key criteria guided the changes. These criteria were not applied in isolation, but balanced based on the overall context. In some cases, one criterion may take priority over another to achieve the best overall outcome.

1. Ecological and cultural protection

As dog use can negatively impact habitat quality, as outlined in Section 3.3, protecting sensitive areas from off-trail dog use is important for long-term ecosystem management and cultural protection. In general, areas of cultural importance or with contiguous and sensitive habitat were designated as no dog or leash required.

2. Simplicity

Trails were designated to ensure an overall simple network with reduced intersection changes and leash-required and leash-optional loops. This simplification will improve visitor experience, promote compliant behaviour, reduce visitor conflicts, and enhance safety.

3. Space for all visitors

The park was considered overall to ensure that all park visitors can find a space to visit the park that meets their needs. Unique visitor experiences in different areas of the park, proximity to transportation and residences, and terrain/trail design and accessibility were considered to maximize something for everyone, whether they are looking to walk their dog off-leash or encounter no dogs or only on-leash dogs.



Figure 12. Trail designation changes as part of the 2026 dog management program update at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

These changes will impact the availability of different leash designations in the following way:

	Current ³	Updated	Change
Leash optional	58% to 65%	51%	-8 to -14% (↓)
Leash required	23 to 30%	35%	+6 to +12% (↑)
No dogs	5 to 19%	14%	- 3 to +8% (≈)

The changes will also lead to 12 fewer trail intersection changes.

³ Designation percentages vary depending on the time of year or time of week. Percentages calculated by kilometre.



4.1.3. Fencing and Garbage Bins

Barriers or fencing can also be effective to keep dogs on-trail on shorter stretches, including on both leash-optional and leash-required trails. For example, the leash-required designation and boardwalk fencing at Camosun Bog has been effective at keeping dogs out of the most sensitive sections. Conservation-based organizations with whom Metro Vancouver engages have also echoed the effectiveness of this approach.

To further support ecological protection, select fencing or other barriers will be installed in areas of high off-trail use to encourage park visitors and their dogs to stay on-trail. Restoration planting will also occur in heavily disturbed areas to protect ecological integrity.

Staff are reviewing the current 35 waste bin locations and making minor adjustments to support the trail designation changes. This will include moving some existing cans and possibly adding some new locations.

4.2. Education

As part of this dog management update, Metro Vancouver will continue current education outreach (see Section 3.1.2), as well as an expanded education campaign on dog management through the following:

- Pop-up information stations focusing on positive encouragement and educating dog owners and their dogs. These will occur on a regular basis for the first year of the new program by Metro Vancouver staff and occasionally in partnership with other organizations, including CTS Youth Society
- Updated signage and website information (see Section 4.1.1)
- Media campaign related to the program launch

The main goals of the education campaign are to:

- Connect with park visitors through clear communication
- Encourage shared trail use and respectful behaviour among all park users
- Explain the trail designation changes, why they're being made, and how to comply
- Clarify expectations for dog owners, including what "under control" means
- Show how public input shaped decisions

4.3. Enforcement

Based on the results of the engagement process, Metro Vancouver will continue and expand their existing enforcement patrols to provide public education and change public behaviour by taking appropriate enforcement actions within the Bylaw compliance continuum. There will be an increase in staff time committed to the updated program to ensure Bylaw compliance and to support the ongoing success of the dog management program.



5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Launch

The dog management program will launch in May 2026 to coincide with the start of the summer season and increased staff capacity.

5.2. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

The success of the program update will be monitored over a minimum 3-year period through key indicators showing the change in Bylaw compliance, dog-related incidents, and localized habitat conditions as well as reach to the public.

Metro Vancouver takes an adaptive management approach to dog management in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Adaptive management provides flexibility to learn from the success and challenges of the updated dog management program. Based on monitoring, staff observations, and engagement with x̣ṃəθḳəỵəm, future changes to the dog management program may occur to address any issues and expand elements of the program such as signage.

APPENDIX A: ECOLOGICAL REFERENCES

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APPENDIX B: VISITOR MONITORING

Methods

Metro Vancouver staff conducted monitoring of all sanctioned trails in the uplands of Pacific Spirit Regional Park between February 12 and July 11, 2025. Staff conducted visitor observations on each trail on both a weekend and weekday, once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

The visitor type observation categories were:

- Person with dog (identified by number of leash(s) carried)
- Person without dog (identified by no leash carried)
- Number of dogs
- Commercial Dog Walker (CDW) (identified by high-visibility vest for permit holders)

The behavioural observation categories are based on definitions within the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1420, 2025*, shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Items related to dogs in the Metro Vancouver Regional District Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1420, 2025.

Item	Shorthand
44. A <i>person</i> who has control of an <i>animal</i> must:	
have the animal <i>under control</i> at all times;	"Not under control"
"under control" means, in respect of any animal, leashed or unleashed, such circumstances where the animal:	
(a) when on a leash-optional trail or off-leash area, is within 10 metres and in sight of the person who has care and control of the animal;	
(b) when called or signalled, immediately returns to the person who has care and control of the animal;	
(c) is not annoying, harassing or attacking any person or animal; and	
(d) is not running off-trail	
subject to section 47, have the animal on a leash at all times;	"Off leash"
45. A <i>person</i> who has care and control of an <i>animal</i> must not cause, permit, or allow the <i>animal</i> to:	
travel off-trail or anywhere that may cause damage to a natural park feature or regional park property.	"Off trail"

Staff conducted monitoring in three geographical blocks –south of 16th Avenue ("South"), between 16th Avenue and University Boulevard ("Central"), and north of University Boulevard ("North"). This study did not include monitoring of the beaches.

Staff conducted statistical analyses to examine whether trail designation, time of day, or time of week impacted: the per cent of dogs in contravention of bylaw, per cent of dogs off leash, or the per cent of visitors coming to the park with a dog.

Key Findings

Proportion of Visitors with Dogs

In this study, one observation is one visit to the park. Any individual, pair, or group walking together counts as one observation. Due to this study design, it is not possible to calculate the exact number of individuals that come to the park with dogs, or the number of dogs each individual brings with them. However, two metrics that approximate the number of individuals coming to the park with dogs can be calculated:

- Per cent of visits to the park that include a dog: Of all 'visit instances' in the park, e.g. one person, two friends walking together, a family walking together, what proportion of these instances included at least one dog?
- Number of dogs per 100 people: For each person in the park at a given time, how many dogs are in the park?

Two metrics were used to approximate the per cent of visitors coming to the park with one or more dogs.

- Across the whole park, 30 per cent of visits to the park included one or more dogs.
- The dog-to-person ratio across the park was 0.35. This means for every 100 people in the park at a given time, there are 35 dogs. Assuming one visitor brings one dog, this ratio would translate to just over a third of park visitors bringing a dog to the park.

Using these two metrics, Metro Vancouver estimates that around one-third of park visitors bring a dog to the uplands of the park.

Looking at these metrics by area of the park suggests differences in their popularity for dog walking. The South area of the park appears to be the most popular for dog walking, followed by the North. In the central area, only 13 per cent of visits included a dog.

Table 2. Total observed metrics to approximate proportion of visitors coming to the park with at least one dog during the monitoring period.

Area	Per cent of Visit Instances that Included Dog(s)	Person:Dog Ratio
North	24%	27:100
Central	13%	13:100
South	35%	40:100

Leashing Compliance

South of 16th, staff observed 33 per cent of dogs leashed on leash-required trails. Across the whole park, staff observed 37 per cent of dogs off leash on leash-required trails.

Table 3. Average proportion of dogs leashed on leash-required trails, by area. N=number of dogs observed during the monitoring period. The North of the park is not included, as there are no leash-required trails.

Area	% Leashed
Central (n=50)	62%
South (n=582)	35%
Total (n=632)	37%

Bylaw Contraventions in the South

To examine differences in other bylaw contraventions by leash designation, staff statistically compared leash-optional and leash-required trails in the South area of the park. Staff analyzed this subset because the South area is large, popular for dog walking, and has a nearly even split of leash-optional and leash-required trails. The following paragraphs refer to this area only.

The proportion of dogs “not under control” and “off trail” were both significantly higher on leash-optional trails compared to leash-required trails (Figure 13). This means there are higher rates of Bylaw contravention on leash-optional trails.

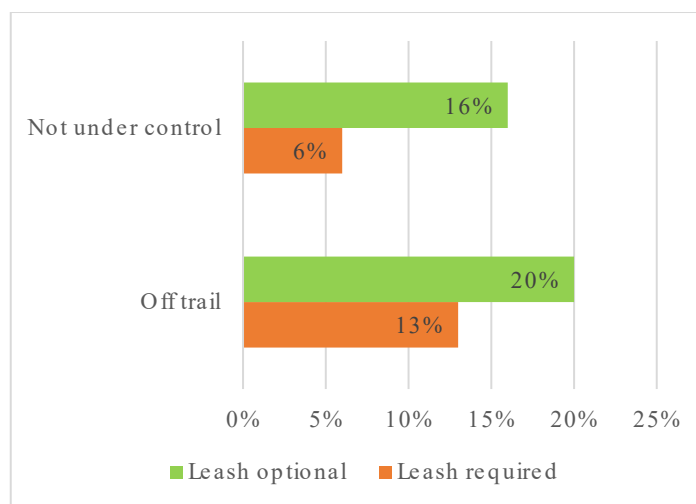


Figure 13. Per cent of dogs off trail and not under control by trail designation. Statistical significance was determined by t-test (per cent off trail $p < 0.01$, per cent not under control $p < 0.01$.)

The proportion of dogs “not under control” and “off trail” were both significantly higher on weekends than on weekdays (Figure 14), indicating that more visitors contravene the Bylaw on the weekends.

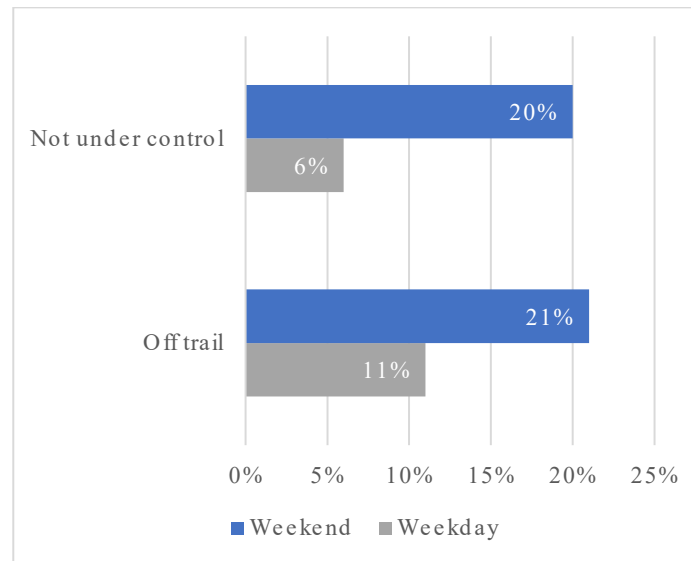


Figure 14. Per cent of dogs off trail and not under control on weekends vs. weekdays. Statistical significance was determined by t-test (per cent off trail $p < 0.01$, per cent not under control $p < 0.0001$.)

Dog Management Program Review for Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Appendix C - Engagement Summary

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who provided input on updates to the dog management program at Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation to provide sustainable regional services, contributing to a livable and resilient region, and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations. The purpose of this engagement was to inform updates to the dog management program for Pacific Spirit Regional Park to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors while protecting the park's natural resources.

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous Peoples, including 10 local First Nations: ᑕᓄᓐᑦ (Katzie), ᑕᓄᓐᑦᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Kwantlen), ᑕᓄᓐᑦᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Kwikwetlem), ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Matsqui), ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Musqueam), ᑕᓄᓐᑦᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Squamish), ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Tsawwassen), and ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ (Tsleil-Waututh).

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January 2026

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About the Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Metro Vancouver is reviewing the Dog Management Program at Pacific Spirit Regional Park to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors while protecting the park's natural resources.

The review responds to growing visitation at the park, including a high volume of visitors with dogs. The review aims to address challenges related to public safety, visitor experience, and environmental protection. The update is guided by an evidence-based approach that combines data collection, qualitative research, and engagement with xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam Indian Band), University Endowment Lands (part of Electoral Area A), organizations with interest or involvement in the park, and the general public. The changes to the dog management program include signage, trail designations, public education, and bylaw enforcement.

Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver conducted engagement between February and November 2025. Engagement activities included an online questionnaire, public comments, and meetings with xʷməθkʷə́yəm, University Endowment Lands, and eight organizations with interest or involvement in the park.

In total, 5,684 people responded to an online questionnaire, and Metro Vancouver received 722 emails and letters. Additionally, Metro Vancouver held three meetings with xʷməθkʷə́yəm, two meetings with University Endowment Lands staff, and engaged with eight organizations with interest or involvement in the park via meetings and email correspondence.

Online questionnaire respondents represented park visitors from across Metro Vancouver and number of visit frequencies. The feedback reflected a wide range of experiences and perspectives. Many visitors with dogs reported positive experiences and valued the park's off-leash opportunities, while visitors without dogs raised concerns related to safety, comfort, and ecological impacts. Common themes included confusion about existing wayfinding and trail designations, interest in increased education efforts, and support for more consistent enforcement of the existing bylaws related to dog management.

About the Engagement Program

Public engagement took place from February to November 2025, including a widely promoted online questionnaire open from May 14 to June 4, 2025.

Metro Vancouver engaged with park visitors, xʷməθkʷə́yəm, University Endowment Lands staff (part of Electoral Area A), and organizations with interest or involvement in the park to understand visitor perspectives, current issues, and possible solutions related to dog management at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Engagement focused on:

- How different park visitors experience Pacific Spirit Regional Park
- Key concerns regarding safety for park visitors, protecting nature, and equitable park access
- Reflections on current dog management policies and potential areas for improvement
- Support for possible changes, such as signage, trail designations, public education, and bylaw enforcement

First Nations Engagement

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is located on the traditional territory of xʷməθkʷə́yəm and adjacent to Musqueam Reserve 2. This area is of significant cultural, historical, and ecological importance to xʷməθkʷə́yəm, sustaining xʷməθkʷə́yəm for generations. Metro Vancouver engaged with xʷməθkʷə́yəm to better understand their interest in the park and take in feedback on the management program approach.

Summary of Engagement Activities by Audience

Activity	Audience	Timing	Medium
Meetings with xʷməθkʷə́yəm	xʷməθkʷə́yəm	February 12, 2025 August 4, 2025 October 21, 2025	Virtual
Meetings with University Endowment Lands	University Endowment Lands staff	February 3, 2025 February 26, 2025	Virtual
Engagement with organizations with interest or involvement in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Spirit Park Society • CTS Youth Society • Wreck Beach Preservation Society • Southlands Riding Club • British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society • Commercial Dog Walking permit holders • 2 organizations that hold permits to operate educational programming in Pacific Spirit Regional Park 	February to August 2025	In-person, email, or telephone

Online questionnaire	Park visitors	May 14 – June 4, 2025	Metro Vancouver website, social media, in-park posters
Invitation to provide public comment via email	Park visitors	February – November 2025	Project webpage on Metro Vancouver website, in-park posters, on-site staff engagement with visitors

Engagement Promotion

The Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park was promoted through various online and in-park channels, including the Metro Vancouver website, social media, and posters at park entrances and key trailheads. Metro Vancouver also provided on-site information to park visitors about how to share their feedback.

Website

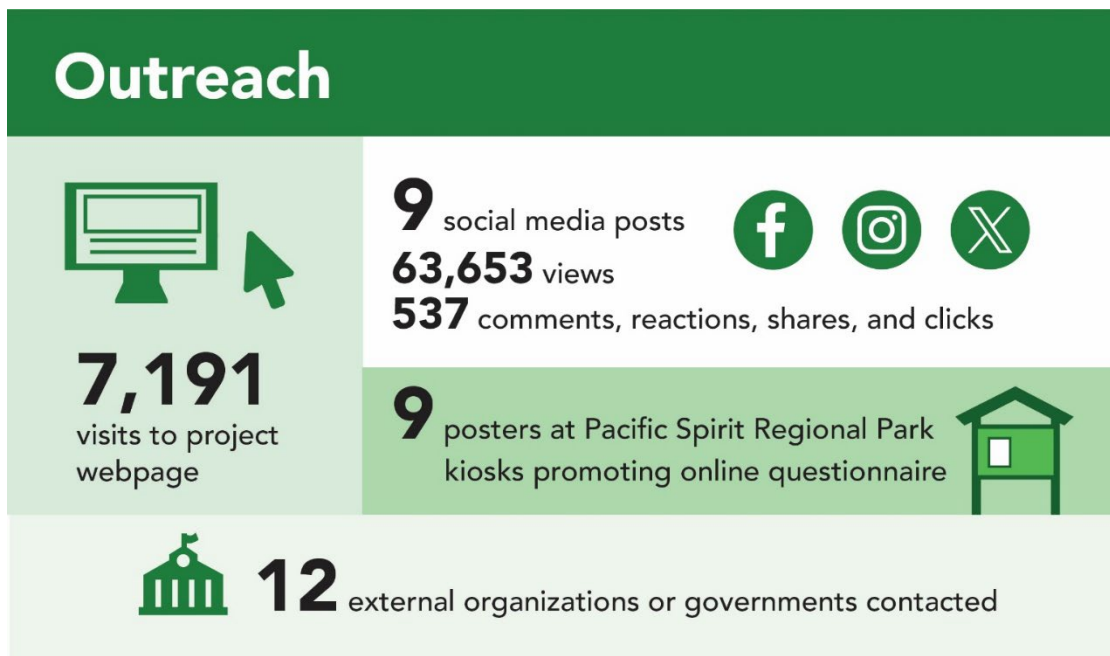
A dedicated project webpage provided information about the Dog Management Program Review. The engagement opportunity was also featured on the main Metro Vancouver website and on the events calendar webpage. During the engagement period, the project webpage received more than 7,191 views and from 4,778 unique users.

Social Media

The engagement opportunity was promoted on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook through a series of organic posts intended to build awareness and encourage feedback and sharing.

Emails

Staff reached out to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, University Endowment Lands staff, and organizations with interest or involvement in the park by email to inform them of the review and invite them to provide input. In total, 12 organizations were contacted and 10 contributed their perspectives.



Engagement Participation

Activity	Date	Participation
Online questionnaire	May 14 – June 4, 2025	5,684 respondents
Emails and letters	February – November 2025	722 emails or letters
Meetings with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm	February 12, August 4, and October 21, 2025	3 meetings
Meetings with University Endowment Lands	February 3 and 26, 2025	2 meetings
Engagement with organizations with interest or involvement in the park	February – August 2025	8 organizations

Online Questionnaire

Metro Vancouver received 5,684 responses from park visitors. The online questionnaire consisted of seven questions and a space for general comments. Respondents primarily lived in the region: 82 per cent were from the City of Vancouver, 7 per cent from Electoral Area A, 2 per cent from the City of Richmond, and 2 per cent from the City of Burnaby. Nearly 60 per cent of respondents visit once a week or more frequently, and just over a quarter visit one to three times a month.

Emails and Letters

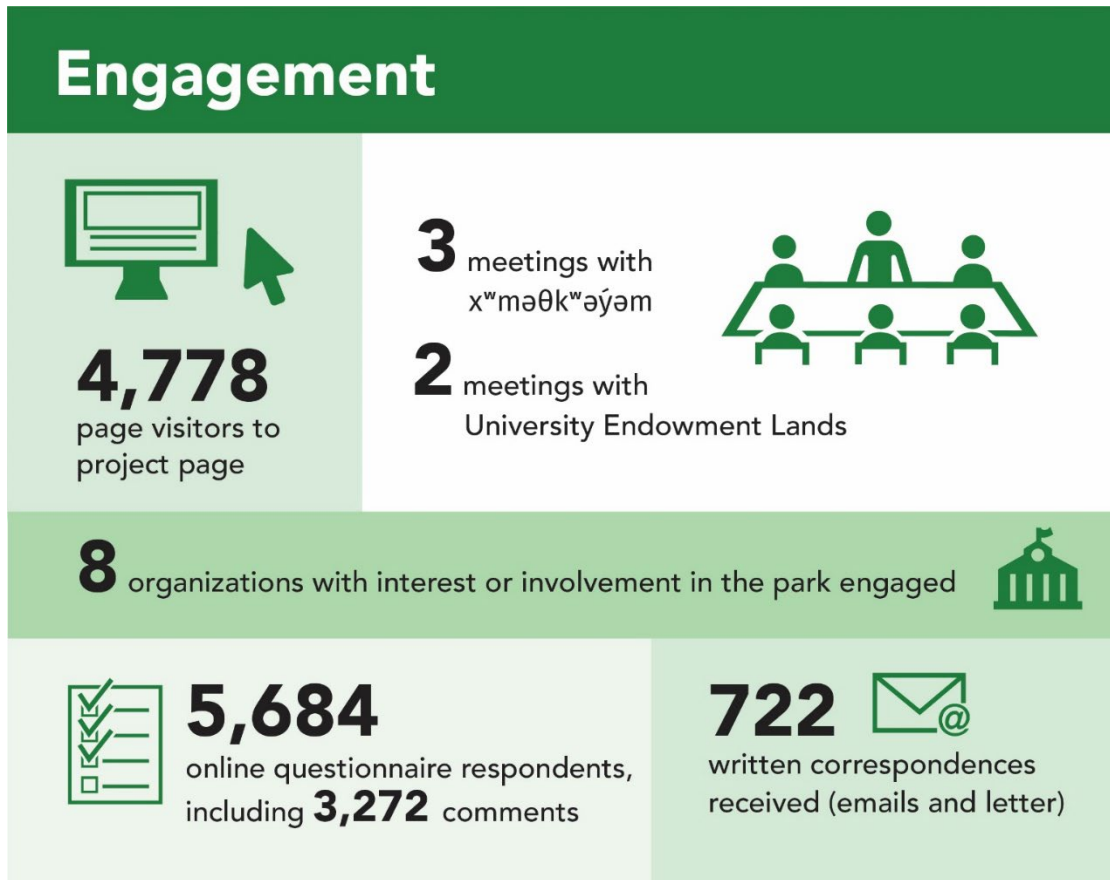
Metro Vancouver invited the public to provide comment by email or letter from February to November 2025 and received a total of 722 emails or letters related to the dog management program update.

Meetings with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm

Metro Vancouver met with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm staff three times between February and October 2025 to discuss the dog management program review.

Meetings with University Endowment Lands Staff and Organizations with Interest or Involvement in the Park

Metro Vancouver engaged University Endowment Lands staff and representatives from eight organizations, including, Pacific Spirit Park Society, CTS Youth Society, Wreck Beach Preservation Society, Southlands Riding Club, British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society, and permit holders in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, including commercial dog walkers. Engagement occurred via email, phone call, and in-person meetings.



What We Heard

Online Questionnaire

Two-third of respondents (68 per cent) reported they always or almost always visited the park with a dog, 10 per cent sometimes visited with a dog, and 22 per cent did not visit with a dog. Metro Vancouver monitoring data estimates that around one-third of visitors in the Pacific Spirit Regional Park uplands typically visit with a dog; therefore, the online questionnaire disproportionately over-represents visitors who bring dogs.

Online questionnaire results showed notable differences between visitors with and without dogs:

- 94 per cent of visitors that always visit with a dog reported mostly positive experiences
- 77 per cent of visitors that sometimes visit with a dog reported mostly positive experiences
- 24 per cent of visitors without a dog reported mostly positive experiences

A similar divergence in responses between visitors with and without a dog was consistent across online questionnaire questions. When asked whether statements describing a dogs' behaviours reflected visitors' experiences (E.g., "most dogs stay on-trail and out of streams and/or the understory" or "most park visitors keep their dogs under control".):

- 81 to 93 per cent of visitors with a dog agreed or strongly agreed
- only 19 to 28 per cent of visitors without a dog agreed or strongly agreed with those same statements

Views on the quantity of leash-optional trails also differed:

- Among visitors with dogs, 40 per cent of visitors said there were too few leash-optional trails, and 4 per cent said there were too many

- Among visitors without dogs, 7 per cent of visitors said there were too few, and 64 per cent said there were too many

Public Comments via Email and Letters

Key themes included:

- Strong support for, and strong opposition to, current off-leash access in the park
- Appreciation for the park as a unique destination for walking dogs off-leash in an extensive network of trails
- Comments describing the importance of the park for personal, community, and their dog's well-being
- Concerns about ecological impacts
- Visitors expressed feeling unsafe in the park due to the number of dogs, off-leash dogs, and negative experiences with dogs including injury. Some visitors reported no longer visiting the park due to these experiences

Participants also expressed interest in trail options that support diverse needs, including:

- Accessible, flat trails for off-leash and accessibility use
- Trails where only on-leash dogs are expected
- Trails where no dogs are permitted

Some participants shared concern about losing access to leash-optional trails south of 16th Avenue, which are preferred by many visitors due to proximity to parking and the relatively flat trails.

Across comments, there was general agreement that existing wayfinding and trail designation changes are confusing. Many visitors also want to see more education and greater and more consistent enforcement of the existing bylaws to manage visitors with dogs.

Meetings with x^wməθk^wəyəm

Key themes included:

- Concerns about the impacts of dogs on the ecology of the park, particularly on the spread of invasive species
- Concerns about the impact of dogs on the water quality of waterways, particularly from dog waste
- Concerns about the impact of dogs on cultural use of the area
- Interest in expanding education around the impacts of dogs on the ecology and cultural use of the park, and opportunities to collaborate on signage wording

Meetings with University Endowment Lands Staff and Organizations with Interest or Involvement in the Park

Organizations provided feedback on various elements of dog management at the park. Key themes included:

- Confusion around the current trail designation system and signage, with suggestions for the creation of loops for leash-required and leash-optional trails and clearer signage
- More education around environmental impacts, rules, and behaviour around dogs
- More enforcement of the existing bylaws
- Concerns about dogs impacting the environment, including trampling, disturbance to wildlife, and dog waste
- User-specific concerns, including dogs spooking horses or disruption to programming
- User-specific positive interactions, including dogs with program participants or mobility users

How Feedback Will Be Used

Feedback gathered through the public engagement process has been reviewed alongside Metro Vancouver's internal technical analysis to understand current challenges and inform updates to the Dog Management Program.

Program changes will be implemented in May 2026 and include:

- Updated signage to improve wayfinding and clarity of expectations and rules
- Changes to trail designations to balance ecological and cultural protection, simplicity, and the needs of different park visitors
- Installation or modification of fencing and garbage bins
- Expanded education on dog management led by Metro Vancouver staff and partners
- Increased enforcement staff time to provide public education and change public behaviour

The updates are designed to enhance visitor safety and experiences for all visitors, ecological protection, and recreation while addressing community feedback.



**PACIFIC SPIRIT
PARK SOCIETY**

January 23, 2026

Dear Teresa Maddison and the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Team,

On behalf of myself and the Board of the Pacific Spirit Park Society, I am writing to respond to the dog management program update for Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Looking back at our engagement session between your team and our past/current board members, we are very pleased to see how this program has evolved. It is evident that Metro Vancouver has undertaken a comprehensive effort to engage with the community, and we really appreciate the depth of your technical review, as well as the consideration given to all of the questionnaire respondents. The public has certainly been heard, and that was very important to us.

The transition to more contiguous trail designations is a significant improvement that addresses one of our major concerns regarding visitor clarity. By grouping leash-required and leash-optional zones, especially in the areas south of 16th Avenue, the requirements become much more intuitive for all park users. We believe the reduction of twelve intersection changes and the introduction of the new tri-colour signage system will minimize the confusion and conflict that can occur at transition points.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the new program for our society is the enhanced protection for Camosun Bog. Our volunteers have dedicated over thirty years in some cases to the careful restoration of this unique ecosystem and designating it as a leash-required zone that connects to broader on-leash areas is an extremely important step in preserving it for future generations. This decision, alongside the strategic use of fencing in high-impact areas, aligns perfectly with our long-term conservation goals.

Ultimately, these updates represent a thoughtful compromise between the many groups that love and use this park. While Pacific Spirit remains a premier destination for the dog-walking community, the increased clarity and designated dog-free spaces ensure that birders, students, and nature-seekers also have a safe and serene environment to enjoy. Really, this is what it's all about – finding ways that we can share this space and work together for the benefit of all. We look forward to the launch and are ready to support your upcoming educational outreach and pop-up information stations. Please, just let us know how we can help and we'll have our boots on, ready to go!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micheal Jerowsky".

Micheal Jerowsky

President, Pacific Spirit Park Society



Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Pacific Spirit Regional Park Dog Management Program

REVIEW AND UPDATE

Teresa Maddison
Park Planner I, Regional Parks – West Area

Erin Gorby
Division Manager, Regional Parks – West Area

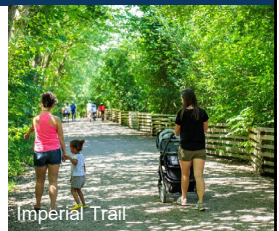
February 4, 2026 – Presentation to the Regional Parks Committee
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OVERVIEW

- Increasing visitors, pressure on park
 - 3.9M annual visitors
 - One-third with dogs
- Challenges:
 - Sensitive and rare ecosystems
 - Public safety and visitor experience
 - Concerns about dog behavior and park use



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GOALS

Program goal: Protect natural areas and support safe and high-quality experiences for all park visitors.

Supports *Regional Parks Plan*:



Goal 1

The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.



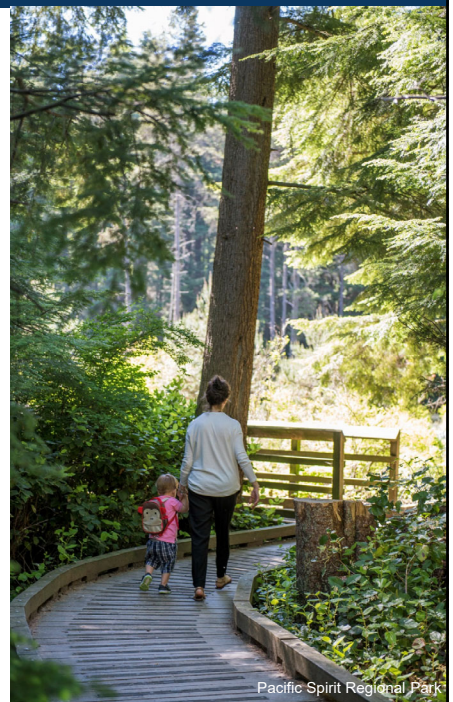
Goal 2

Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.



Goal 3

Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.



Pacific Spirit Regional Park

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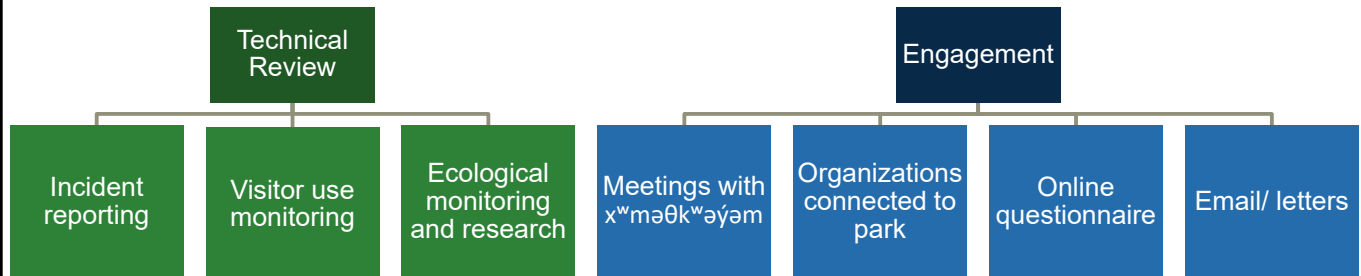
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Program Review & Key Findings

Pacific Spirit Regional Park

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TECHNICAL REVIEW AND ENGAGEMENT



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ENGAGEMENT – FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER 2025

Meetings with xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm	3 meetings
Organizations connected to park	9 organizations engaged, including UEL
Online questionnaire	5,684 respondents
Emails and letters	722 emails/letters

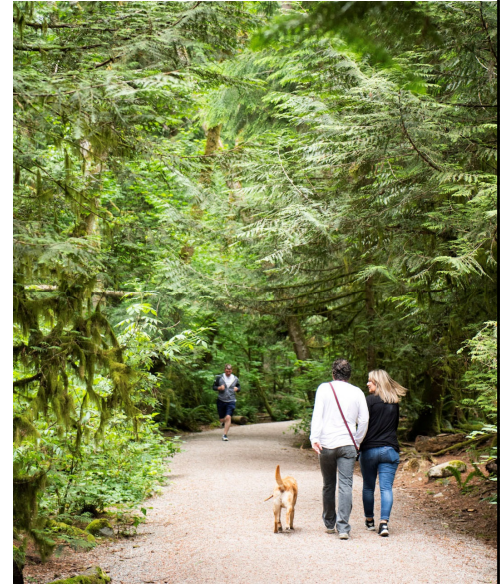
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KEY FINDINGS FROM TECHNICAL REVIEW

- **398** dog-related incidents (2020-2024)
- **63%** of dogs off-leash on leash-required trails (2025 monitoring)
- Documented impacts of dogs on park ecology



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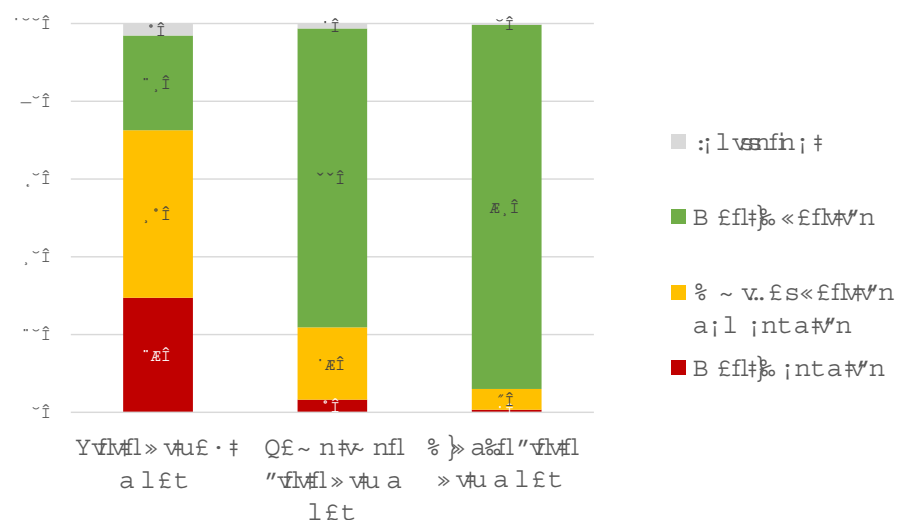
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KEY FINDING: VISITOR EXPERIENCES

How would you describe your experiences with dogs in the park?

Different visitors have different experiences with dogs in the park.

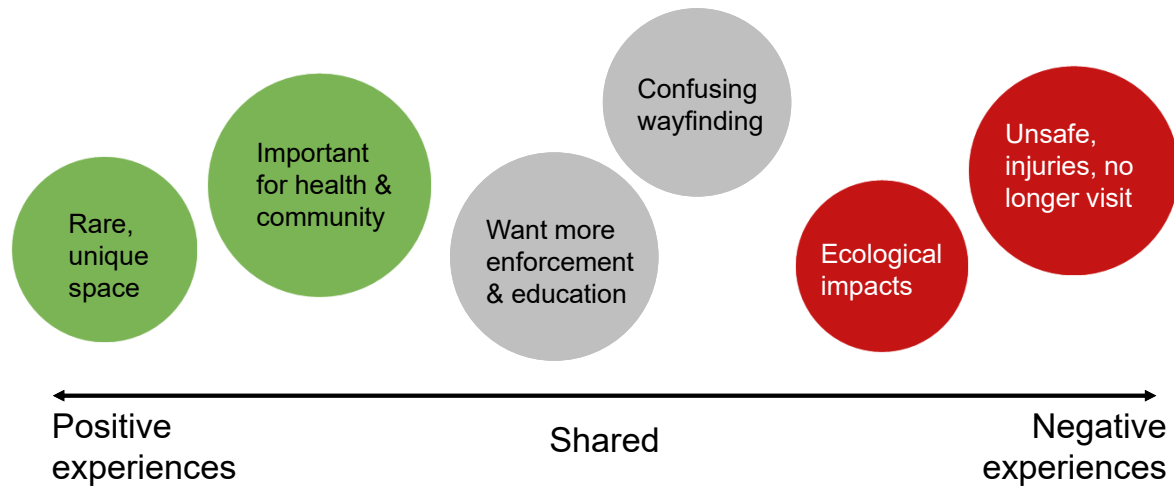


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KEY FINDING: VISITOR PERSPECTIVES



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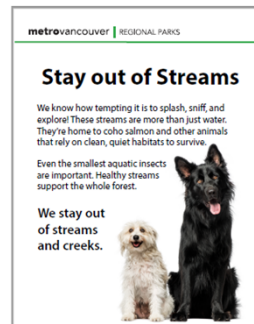
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SIGNAGE UPDATES



Etiquette signage

Dog Walking

in Pacific Spirit Regional Park

There are three types of trails in this park



Leash Optional

Dogs may be off-leash on these trails if they are under control at all times. Remember to carry a leash with you.



Leash Required

Dogs must be on-leash at all times on these trails to protect wildlife habitat. Please share the trail.



No Dogs

These trails are not designated for dog walking. They are used by school groups and provide dog-free spaces for visitors.

Rules are posted at the start of each trail.



For more information about dogs in regional parks, scan the QR code, or go to metrovancover.org and search 'dogs in regional parks'.

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Trail designations and expectations sign

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New tri-colour tab and reminder sign system

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TRAIL DESIGNATION UPDATES

1. Ecological and cultural protection
2. Simplify
3. Space for all visitors

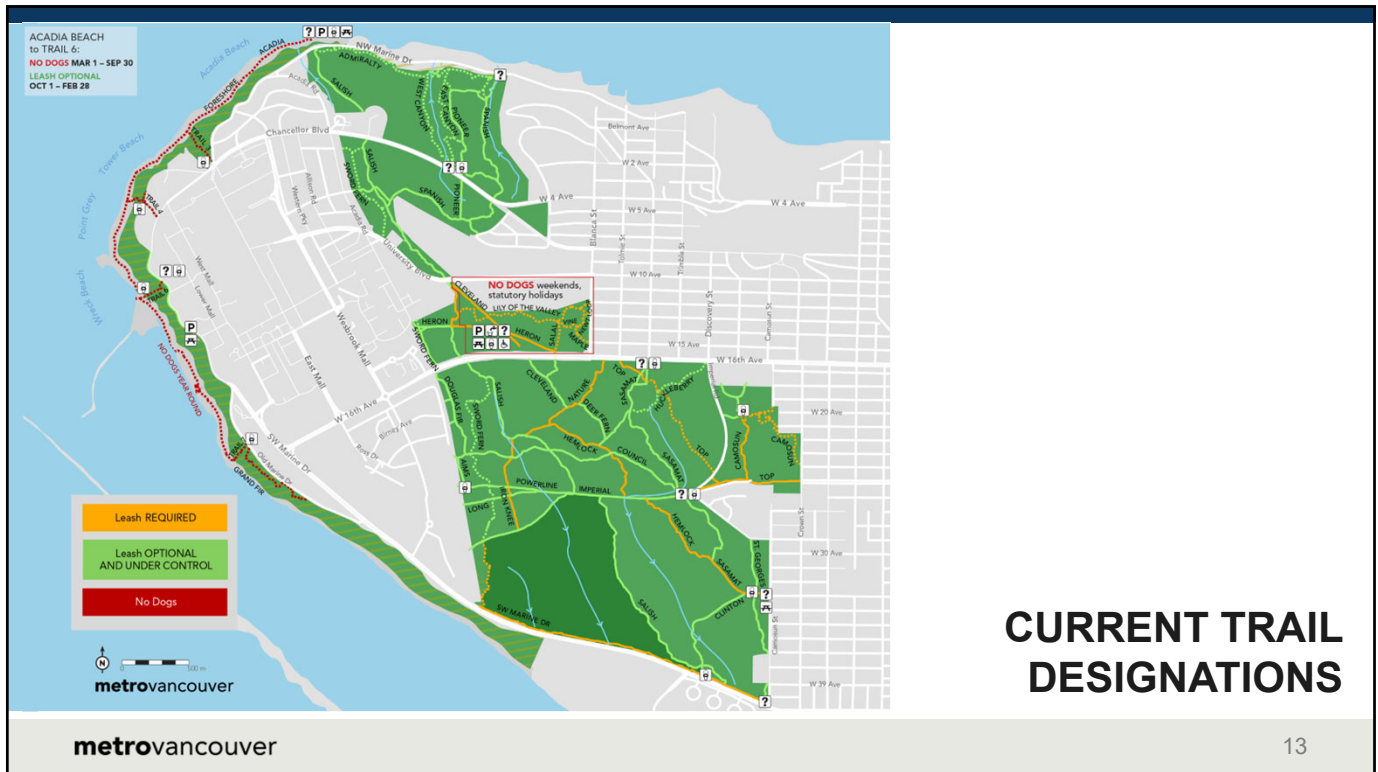


Existing signage at intersection, Pacific Spirit Regional Park

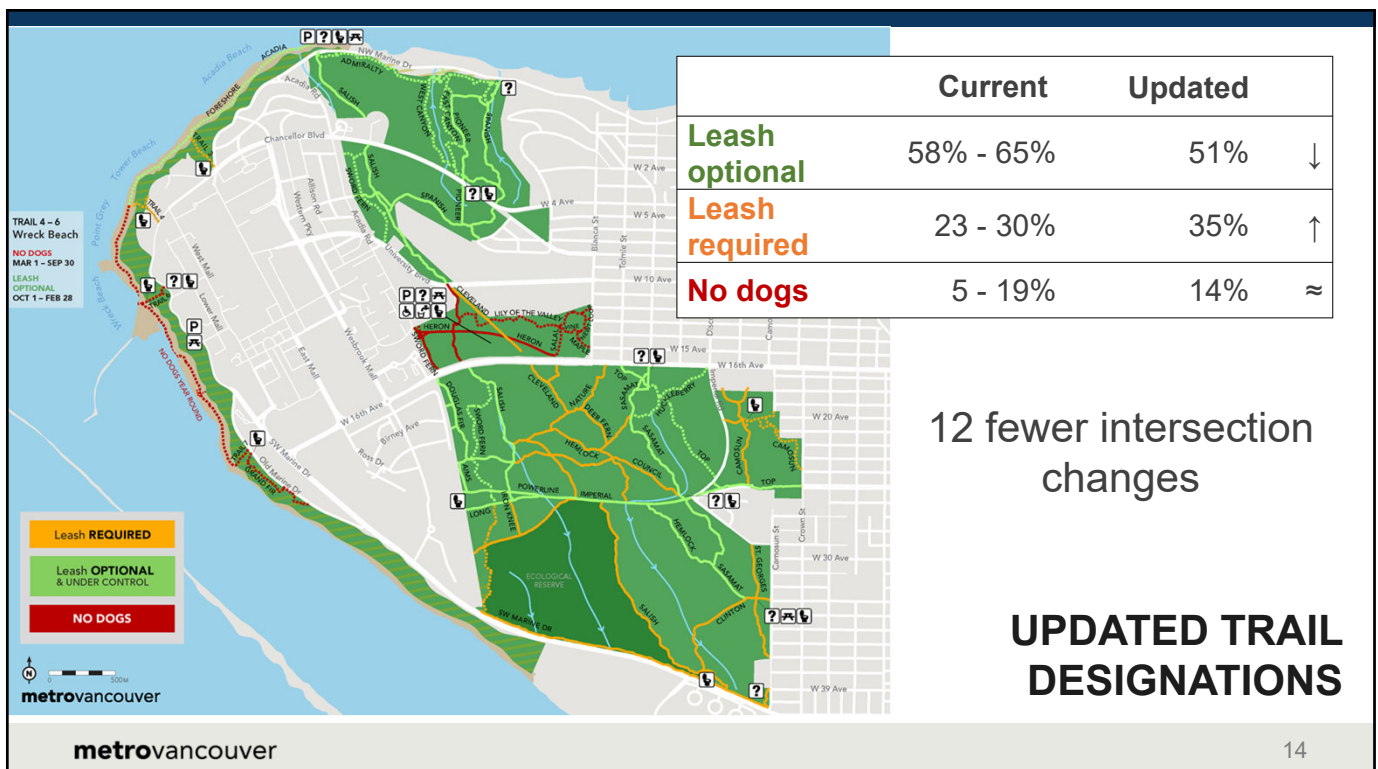
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EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATES

- Daily patrols
- Information booths and partnerships
- Compliance focus
- Enforcement ramp up



Education booth with CTS Youth Society, October 2025

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NEXT STEPS

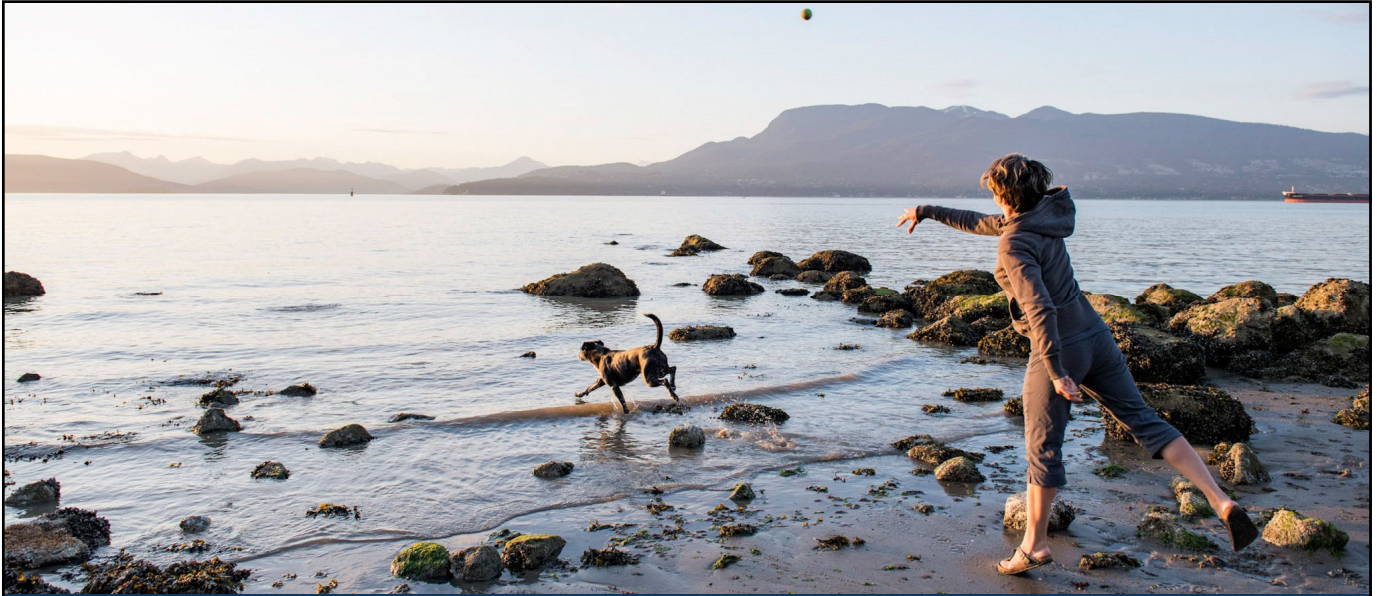
- Implementation in May 2026
- Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management



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Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Thanks!

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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: January 16, 2026

Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: **Manager's Report – Regional Parks**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated January 16, 2026, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

NATURE PROGRAM GUIDE

The Regional Parks *Nature Program Guide* is published three times per year (spring, summer, and fall/winter) to promote events and activities for all ages. The guide supports public engagement by encouraging people to learn about, connect with, and enjoy nature through a wide range of programs offered across the regional parks system.

The guide is distributed through multiple channels, including household mailouts, park kiosks, community centres, libraries, and city halls. This multi-channel approach ensures broad and equitable access for communities throughout the region. Each edition continues to see strong uptake. More than 6,000 people receive the guide directly by email, and an average of 24,933 hard-copy guides are distributed per season.

This year's spring issue invites residents to plan outdoor adventures as the season changes. Programs include birding walks, photography outings, and guided explorations of spring plants, with many activities offered at little to no cost to maximize public participation.

The guide also showcases several signature events, including Night Quest at Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Enchanted Forest at Aldergrove Regional Park, and Critter Capers at Minnehada Regional Park. These events encourage families and individuals to experience nature in engaging and accessible ways, from lantern-lit trails to hands-on mysteries.

The Nature Program Guide continues to be an effective tool for connecting residents with nature-based experiences, supporting public enjoyment of regional parks, and fostering awareness and stewardship of the region's natural environments.



Manager's Report – Regional Parks

Regional Parks Regular Meeting Date: February 4, 2026

Page 2 of 2

RECONNECT IN NATURE THIS FAMILY DAY

Family Day is a time to slow down, reconnect, and appreciate moments together, and there is no better setting than the great outdoors. On Monday, February 16, 2026, put on your boots, gather the people who are important to you, and enjoy a refreshing walk and a campfire in a regional park.

A simple walk, shared together followed by a campfire can become a memorable Family Day tradition. A walk in nature does wonders for both body and mind. Breathing in the fresh forest air can lift your mood and support your immune system, making every step feel restorative.



Pacific Spirit Regional Park



Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Participants will gather around a Family Day Campfire at Pacific Spirit Regional Park to listen to nature tales and songs between 9:30 am to 2:15 pm. Visitors can also drop in for a self-guided walk at təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park and warm up by the welcoming glow of a cozy campfire with stories and song from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

DEAS ISLAND REGIONAL PARK – FRASER RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE

Preparatory construction works for the Province of BC's Fraser River Tunnel Project has commenced at Deas Island Regional Park, which involves tree clearing and temporary construction fence installation. Trail closures are required to facilitate the construction of the Fraser River Tunnel, however park staff are exploring potential options for establishing a temporary bypass trail. If feasible, this would allow park visitors to continue to experience a looped trail connection either from Riverside Walk to Island Tip Trail and/ or Dyke Loop Trail.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Regional Parks Committee 2026 Work Plan.

Regional Parks Committee 2026 Work Plan

Report Date: January 16, 2026

Priorities

1 st Quarter	Status
Regional Parks Committee Priorities and 2026 Work Plan	Completed
Dog Management Program Review at Pacific Spirit Regional Park	In Progress
2026 Regional Parks Capital Program Update #1	In Progress
Permitting Alcohol Consumption in Designated Areas of Regional Parks	In Progress
Burns Bog Ecological Conservation Area - Delta Nature Reserve Update, and Delta South Surrey Greenway Update Project Definition	Pending
Belcarra South Day Use Area Concept Implementation	Pending
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Update	Pending
təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park – Admiralty Heights Plan- Phase 1 Engagement	Pending
2 nd Quarter	Status
Regional Parks Buildings Strategy	Pending
MVRD Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Amendment Bylaw	Pending
Visitor Use Management Strategy Update (Report)	Pending
Derby Reach Campground Concept Plan + Implementation	Pending
Regional Parks Annual Report 2025	Pending
Filming in MVRD Regional Parks Update (Report)	Pending
Aquatic Safety in Regional Park (Sasamat Lake)	Pending
Codd Wetland Management Plan- Initiation	Pending
George Ross Legacy Stewardship Grant Update	Pending
Regional Parks Capital Projects Update	Pending
Backcountry Safety Awareness Campaign	Pending
Draft Burnaby Lake Management Plan	Pending
3 rd Quarter	Status
Draft 2027 - 2031 Capital Plan Overview	Pending
MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw	Pending
Kanaka Creek Association Presentation	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Agreement	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Update	Pending
Pacific Spirit Park Association Presentation	Pending
Amendment to MVRD Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw 1426	Pending
Natural Resource Management Program Stewardship Program Update	Pending
Regional Parks Fees and Charges 2027	Pending

4 th Quarter	Status
2027 - 2031 Five Year Financial Plan and 2027 Budget	Pending
Regional Parks Asset Management Plan	Pending
CTS Youth Society Update	Pending
Regional Parks Nature Programs Access Pass	Pending
Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update	Pending

Status = Pending, In Progress or Completed

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

Upcoming Events

February 2026

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
10 FEB 2026	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
16 FEB 2026	Family Day Campfire PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
16 FEB 2026	Family Day Hike & Campfire təmtə́míxʷtən/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK
22 FEB 2026	Making History KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK

**Note: For more information on Regional Parks Programs & Events, please visit <https://metrovanancouver.org/events/events-calendar>*