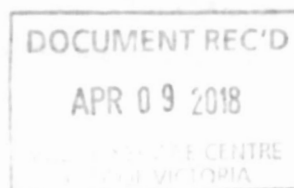


Time interaction times  
are limited to 20-30 mins

hope that work hours and police  
comes for the days for play

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated July 10, 2018 recommending

Lise Anthony  
Personal info



Re: 1st hour of hours

---

Personal info

Good Day,

I would like City Council to consider allowing dogs off leash on the fields of Central Park from 6:00-8:00 AM and from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. Especially during the mornings, the park is virtually empty and there seems to be no reason that pet owners cannot allow their dogs to have access to the fields at designated and appropriate times. I was recently told that I should take my 14 year old dog to Topaz Park. From where I live, the walk to Topaz Park would be about 20 minutes each way, something that would be impossible for my wonderful and dear old friend. Alternately, I could get in my car and drive my dog to Topaz Park, but wouldn't that be counter-productive to what the City of Victoria is trying to achieve with all of the bike lanes and encouragement to citizens to get out of their cars? I know for me personally, it completely negates my intention to only use my car when absolutely necessary.

It's wonderful that there are some off-leash areas on the city, but their location isn't always convenient for people who need to walk their pets and then get to work.

Surely there is a solution to this problem. Fining people doesn't seem to be a fair alternative. Every pet owner I know is responsible and conscientiously cleans up after their pets.

I hope you will consider my request and allow pet owners and dogs at least minimal access to the park on an off-leash basis.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Segger

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** Ken Cosgrove  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Dogs

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The agenda for Thursday's Committee meeting and the report for this specific motion is available [here](#). Committee and Council meetings are open to the public and webcast live through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Ken Cosgrove [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
Sent: May 18, 2017 12:03 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Dogs

Hello, free run dogs starting at 6:30 am are you all on pot. Good god people like to sleep in a bit, never ind barking dogs at 6:30 am.

Wonder why people have lost confidence in council.....not hard to figure out.

Régards

Ken Cosgrove

Sent from my iPad

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 30, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Lorraine Stundon  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Emailing: off leash Dog Parks, from Lorraine Stundon  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Lorraine,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan, which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing Paws in Parks program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation took place at the Committee of the Whole meeting on, Thursday, May 25 at which time Council referred the motion to staff to report back at the June 8, 2017 Committee meeting on the implications of undertaking the following work in 2017:

1. That Fisherman's Wharf Park allow dogs off leash from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a one year pilot project.
2. That Gonzales Beach allow dogs on the beach from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. during the summer months as a pilot project.
3. The feedback be gathered on both of these pilot projects through the regular channels that citizens communicate with council, specifically [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca).
4. That Council evaluate the Gonzales Beach pilot project in the fall of 2017 based on input received.
5. That Council evaluate the Fisherman's Wharf pilot project in the late spring of 2018 based on feedback received.
6. That dogs off leash be allowed in Spencer Park from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a pilot project.

The agenda for the Committee meeting scheduled for June 8 at 9 a.m. will be available on Friday through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Lorraine Stundon [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
Sent: May 29, 2017 4:52 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Emailing: off leash Dog Parks, from Lorraine Stundon

Good afternoon,

I have attached a map showing off leash Parks in surrounding areas, pardon quality .

As a resident of James Bay we as a community offer so much to the city and host a torrent of activities plus the cruise ships . It is a real hardship with all these event s to get our dogs to any other area for an off leash play. I have to even plan family events due to the amount of traffic for these events.

At this time with all the construction, events and due to the traffic light changes for the Pandora Bike Lane, Blanchard the once quick escape route is not anymore.

I think it is a small ask from the dog community in James Bay to have the use of a green space for a few hours in the early morning.

There are as you know a large portion of the population that is elderly, special needs and financial restrictions that need an areas for their dogs.

To have a large green space just sitting there waiting for the mower is not community friendly.

Lorraine Stundon

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

off leash Dog Parks

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** June 20, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** Laura Nixon  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Thank you

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Laura,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Nixon [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 2:08 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mavorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Cc: [Personal info](#)  
Subject: Thank you

Hello Mayor Helps and Members of Council. I just wanted to take the time to thank you for agreeing to allow the residents of James Bay to have an off leash dog park at Fishermans Wharf Park. Although I realize it is only a one year trial at this time I am hopeful that it will continue after this year My husband and I and all of our dog friends will do our best to be respectful of the park and our neighbours to help ensure this works for everyone. Thank you for taking the time to hear us and work with us. Sincerely;

Laura Nixon



Sent from my iPhone

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** Laura Robertson  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Dog park in James Bay

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Laura,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash areas. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan, which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing Paws in Parks program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The agenda for Thursday's Committee meeting and the report for this specific motion is available [here](#). Committee and Council meetings are open to the public and webcast live through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Robertson [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
Sent: May 9, 2017 7:19 AM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Dog park in James Bay

Dear Mayor and Council,

It has come to my attention that there will be a decision made at the end of May about whether there will be off leash hours in Fisherman's Wharf Park in James Bay. We who own dogs have been advocating for some place where we can exercise our dogs off leash without having to go a half hour's walk to the Dallas Road area in Fairfield. MacDonald Park is also ideal, but understandably there are very early games and activities there too. We are a considerate group. We do not want to disrupt other activities in the parks, so when others are there we would try to be unobtrusive or just leave if necessary.

Please give us off leash hours in a park or parks in James Bay.

Sincerely,  
Laura Robertson

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** June 2, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** Brian Mason  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Dogs Off-leash Pilot

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation took place at the Committee of the Whole meeting on, Thursday, May 25 at which time Council referred the motion to staff to report back at the June 8, 2017 Committee meeting on the implications of undertaking the following work in 2017:

1. That Fisherman's Wharf Park allow dogs off leash from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a one year pilot project.
2. That Gonzales Beach allow dogs on the beach from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. during the summer months as a pilot project.
3. The feedback be gathered on both of these pilot projects through the regular channels that citizens communicate with council, specifically [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca).
4. That Council evaluate the Gonzales Beach pilot project in the fall of 2017 based on input received.
5. That Council evaluate the Fisherman's Wharf pilot project in the late spring of 2018 based on feedback received.
6. That dogs off leash be allowed in Spencer Park from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a pilot project.

The agenda for the Committee meeting scheduled for June 8 at 9 a.m. will be available on Friday through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Brian Mason [mailto:[Personal info](#)]

**Sent:** June 1, 2017 6:11 PM

**To:** Councillors <Councillors@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** Dogs Off-leash Pilot

Please, no more concessions to dog-owners. As it is, current leash laws are being honoured mostly in the breach. Dogs run loose everywhere at all times. Improved enforcement, better education and much better signage are required.

Over the past decade, the dog population in Victoria and throughout the CRD has ballooned beyond belief. Dog excrement on sidewalks, especially downtown as more people come to live there, and on trails, in parks, playgrounds and sporting fields has become a serious problem.

The challenge is not to make the environment more welcoming to dogs and dog owners, but to effectively regulate and control the large population we now have for the safety and enjoyment of all citizens.

Thank you.

Brian Mason

[Personal info](#)

Victoria, BC, Canada

## Lacey Maxwell

---

**From:** Jens Norgaard Personal info  
**Sent:** August 31, 2017 8:13 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Paws in Parks

We live right next to Barnard Park and we were thrilled with the idea that we would have a small area within the park where dogs could chase balls without being on a leash. What a disappointment when we saw that the times were limited to between 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM. We know that people living by the park will not be happy with the 6:30 AM forced start to their day. On the other hand, we doubt that any responsible dog owner will be standing out in the early morning darkness during the late fall to early spring with their dog romping somewhere in the gloaming. Hard to control what you can't see.

So the decision is a compromise between dog lovers and sleep lovers, ensuring that neither group is satisfied and the sign that went up at the entrance is an absolute waste of taxpayers money. We can only shake our heads and ask, why bother?

Aia and Jens Norgaard  
Personal info

## Lacey Maxwell

---

**From:** Murray Peters <Personal info>  
**Sent:** September 2, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** Lise Anthony; Joy Woodhams  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fw: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lise Anthony <Personal info>  
**Date:** Fri, Sep 1, 2017 at 1:10 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park  
**To:** <Personal info>

Dear Lacey Maxwell,

In response to your request for feedback on the sign in Barnard Park, that authorizes leash optional dog regulations, I am giving you my view.

Personal info

Dunsmuir Road apartments and appreciate very much the new opportunity of leash optional as I have a small dog that enjoys the park very much.

I have a suggestion to improve the use of the park. The hours of 6:30 to 8:30 am are too restrictive, because we only use the park for dog walking in the afternoon & evening (pm). How can people who work daily, walk their dog off leash in the park when they come home from work?

1. Please extend the leash optional hours to daylight hours year around.

Secondly, the area designated triangle on the signs is very small, and should be extended to the entire area south of the tennis court to the walking path, and east from the line of shrubs and trees along the Dunsmuir property to the walking path on the east side. This would allow the dogs to run without going outside the restricted leash optional area.

2. Please extend the leash optional area for the entire grassed in area described above.

3. Please keep me informed of developments regarding leash optional in Barnard Park.

Sincerely,

Murray Peters

Personal info

---

**From:** Joy Woodhams **Personal info**  
**Sent:** August 16, 2017 7:43 PM  
**To:** Lise Anthony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park

Forwarded message

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Date:** Wed, Aug 16, 2017 at 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park  
**To:** Joy Woodhams **Personal info**

Dear Joy,

Thank you for your email regarding Barnard Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the August 10, 2017 meeting of Council, Council voted to proceed with year long pilot project for a leash optional area for responsible dog owners in Barnard Park as of September 1, 2017.

It's important to note that this is a pilot project. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing.

During the pilot, maintenance requests will be accommodated through City calls-for service procedures. This means if you find dog owners are not picking up after their dogs, please call our Parks department to report these issues.

For answers to your other specific questions, they are best directed to our Parks department, as they are the lead department for this project. You can reach them by phone at [250.361.0600](tel:250.361.0600) or by email at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of

Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Joy Woodhams [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** July 28, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Barnard Park

It has come to the attention of Lise Anthony, who has addressed council, and myself that someone is saying that the park is officially offleash now

Ms. Anthony will be calling you but some clarification would be appreciated in regard to the above.

Thank you.

Joy



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Lacey Maxwell**

---

**From:** william ferris <[Personal info](#)>  
**Sent:** September 8, 2017 6:47 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Barnard park leash optional area pilot project

I am very happy about this off leash pilot project. Many local residents have dogs and are very excited about this. I hope it becomes permanent because it is a great benefit to the community.

Thanks,  
William

**Lacey Maxwell**

---

Personal info

**From:** Lise Anthony  
**Sent:** October 7, 2017 5:13 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Barnard Park Pilot Program feedback/request

Mayor Lisa Helps  
Councillor Charlayne Thornton Joe  
Councillor Jeremy Loveday  
Councillor Ben Isitt

Hello Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to have Barnard Park in the Leash Optional Pilot Program.

We are having difficulty with the posted time frame of 6:30am 8:30am and would like to request a time adjustment.

It is not working for many of the dog owners including myself.

First of all, it is dark out which is a safety issue.

Early morning is usually the time when dogs like to spend their time sniffing around and checking their mail.

The preferred playtime with their friends is midday when people get together after work and school and also early evening before and after supper.

Many dogs are alone all day and are anxious to go out and play when their owners get home.

That is the time that they need to run and wrestle and play ball.

That is the time when friends and neighbors seem to run into each other and chat.

We are hoping that you can consider this feed back and make an adjustment to the posted off leash hours.

Is there a reason why only 2 hours per day was assigned?

Can more hours be given....possibly 9:00am 8:00pm?

Thank you again for all the time and attention that you have given to our park.

Sincerely,

Lise Anthony and Bond

Personal info

## Lacey Maxwell

---

### Personal info

**From:** Shane Hamer  
**Sent:** October 11, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Barnard Park Hospitalized my Grandmother

Hello,

I live in an apartment overlooking Barnard Park. Since the Leash optional sign has been put up at Barnard Park people have their dogs off leash all day and to not follow the rules on the sign at all.

**Yesterday at 1230pm my Grandmother was walking her dog ON LEASH when two other OFF LEASH dogs attacked her and her dog, this caused her to fall and break her hip and now she is in the hospital.**

How many people need to be hurt by others dogs before you realize this is not a good idea.

I expect a response immediately or will be taking this to other sources.

Shane Hamer

## Lacey Maxwell

---

### Personal info

**From:** spencer marley  
**Sent:** October 12, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Barnard dog park

The leash optional area is great! The hours are not. Please extend the hours

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Lacey Maxwell

---

**From:** Brian O | Personal info  
**Sent:** October 30, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Barnard Park - Pilot Project

Hello All,

Thank you for making this park more accessible for me and my dog. I love the idea and hope it is made permanent after September 30, 2018.

I only have one suggestion for the area: place some sort of fencing, perhaps cedar stack fencing, to make it clear how far I should let my dog wander.

Thanks, Brian Ogilvie

## Lacey Maxwell

---

### Personal info

**From:** Carina Foran  
**Sent:** January 5, 2018 8:08 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Positive feedback for leash-optional Barnard Park

Hello,

I am writing to provide very positive feedback about the leash optional dog park area at Barnard Park.

As a dog owner this is one of the only areas near my home where I can run my dog. Off leash areas are a necessary accommodation for many residents-last time I checked Vic West has the highest dog ownership rates in Victoria, so this park was very welcomed by many dog owners in the area.

I am very thankful for this space as it contributes positively to my quality of life and satisfaction in my neighbourhood.

Dog owners have been very respectful and have followed municipal by-laws.

I really do hope that this park will remain leash-optional.

Thank you for your work on this area.

Sincerely,

Carina

Sent from my iPhone

## Lacey Maxwell

---

**From:** webforms@victoria.ca  
**Sent:** January 16, 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Mayor and Council email

From: Eric Pittman  
Email **Personal info**  
Refere  
Daytime Phone **Personal info**  
Re: Off leash do

Dear Mayor and Council,

I live near Barnard Park which was recently approved for an off leash dog park between the hours of 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM on a trial basis.

While I approve of the off leash dog park, the hours are virtually unusable for many residents of the area including myself. Additionally, there are several people who live in the nearby apartments who have disabilities and guide dogs and cannot physically get to another park. I'm sure you will agree that service dogs need to be able to stretch their legs too and while their owners try to comply with the restrictions placed upon them by the time limits, it is not always possible. The real trouble begins though, when some people begin bullying these disabled people and calling Animal Control out of some sort of deranged civic duty to protect the public from off leash service dogs in the park outside of the posted hours.

While I understand the need to do a trial for a dog park to determine if it's needed and accepted in a community, the restrictive hours breed animosity and inconvenience for those who really need it.

I am writing in hopes that the hours could be extended to include more practical hours for users. Alternatively, perhaps you could initiate a "Resident Dog Pass" for those residents who live close to the park and require it's use? A "Resident Dog Pass" would keep the park from becoming a destination dog park and allow locals to enjoy it, much like resident parking passes do on some city streets.

Unfortunately, it has been my observation that people riding high horses behave worse then any of the off leash dogs and by removing time restrictions, conflict would be significantly reduced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Pittman

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The City of Victoria immediately by email at [publicservice@victoria.ca](mailto:publicservice@victoria.ca). Thank you.

IP Address **Personal info**

Hello,

We are staying at an Airbnb by the tennis courts and a trial optional off-leash dog area.

A sign posted said to email you with comments, and we would like to say we support off-leash areas. It is less stressful owning a dog if there are places to go that are off-leash, where the dog is able to move about not constrained or pulling on the leash. It is also better for our dogs as far as interacting with others, because they tend to avoid other dogs whereas on leash in a more congested area, they don't have that ability.

One of the reasons we keep coming to Victoria is because it is so dog-friendly here. We really enjoy the Beacon Park and Dallas road marine walk and probably would not be so keen to come over if it weren't for this vibrant dog friendly area.

You also have a tremendous asset in the B Love restaurant. As animal lovers, we subsist on a whole food plant based diet. The combination of having such a wonderful vegan restaurant and dog friendly atmosphere, makes Victoria a great destination for our life style and values.

We realize that not all dogs are suited to being off leash, and that dogs can harm wildlife. These are very real issues, and we appreciate your efforts in attempting to strike a delicate balance between dogs and owners that want to go off leash, those that don't, and wildlife.

--

Andrea Hegland

Personal info Washington

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Personal info

Hello,

My family just moved into Victoria area a few months ago. I've been taking my dog to numerous parks and love how many of them have very well kept trails. Many of the parks have doggie waste bags readily available for dog owners to use which is very nice. We've recently visited the leash-optional park (Barnard Park) my dog likes it there but I'm not too sure I'd let him off leash. Barnard Park isn't as bad but it's a busy park with kids running and playing nearby as well. It is much better than the off leash park at Beacon Park next to Dallas Rd. As my dog do have tendency to chase after cars and bikes and the park by Dallas Rd makes it impossible for me to have him off leash. Other parks around Greater Victoria such as Latoria Creek is nice. It's more secluded and no visible traffic from the trail which makes it safer for dogs to walk off leash. Thank you for taking the time to read our opinion.

Sincerely,  
Christine

Thurs

Hello Mayor and Council

I want to give my experiences in the park.

Our dog is 10 lbs and approximately 11 inches tall, his name is Riley and he is 13.5 yrs old.

Oct 11 2017 while walking Riley on the north side of the tennis courts he was viciously charged by two off leash little dogs.

Riley was on the leash as he is always.

Riley was of course very frightened and the dogs and Riley wound themselves around me and I fell.

A bone in my hip was broken and I spent 2.5 weeks in the hospital and now when I go for a walk I have to use a walker.

On the afternoon of Apr 29 2018, around 3pm, the same thing happened. We were on the sidewalk on the south side of the tennis courts.

This time a huge black dog rushed Riley and a golden lab joined in, there were 5 or 6 dogs off leash at the time. The owners from the other side of the park shouted "he is friendly".

I would have fallen again but I had the walker to support me. Again on the leash Riley ran around me and ran under the walker before I could catch him.

This afternoon around 2:30pm the same thing happened. This time it was a black lab size Heinz 57. Other dogs joined in on the charge. Riley was very frightened but I managed to pick him up.

Again I would have fallen except for the walker. Riley was very frightened and his heart was beating very fast. The owner of the black dog said he is friendly but unfortunately Riley and I do not know that.

On any day there are dogs on both sides of the tennis court off leash, a few of the owners do not pick up after their dogs.

On Saturdays and Sundays there are quite a number of dogs, more than through the week.

I would like to request that the park be monitored more than it is now. I realize that the park is monitored but I don't think it is often enough.

I would also like to give my views;

1. the area is not suitable for dogs and people who don't have a dog  
there are many joggers, people with baby strollers, and people just out for walk and there is a paved sidewalk through the park
2. the sign is clear about what area is for off leash and the time of 6:30 8:30am  
but no one pays any attention to the time and many owners pay no attention to the area
3. if there is to be an off leash area for the dogs, which I have no objection to, possibly an area could be found and a fence built around it for the dogs to just run.

Except for the two little dogs on Oct 11 2017, I would like to also say all the dogs have been friendly but our little dog does not know that and he is very scared of them.

The owner of the black dog today, has just arrived to say sorry and had a bouquet of flowers for me, and Riley I guess.

Yours truly

Dola (Hamer)

Personal info

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Personal info

Dola  
Wedn

PM

**From:** Dola

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:31 PM

**To:** vacs@shaw.ca

**Subject:** re: Barnard Park optional off leash pilot project

Dear Ian

I would like to thank you for monitoring Barnard park on Friday 25 May 2018.

Since that day there has been no off-leash dogs in the park during the times I have walked my little dog.

I walk the dog 2 times a day and my daughter walks the dog when she gets home from work.

I have met only little dogs on leash and they and their owners have been using the paved path through the park.

On the weekend I saw a few teenage girls sitting on a blanket on the grass which I have never seen in the park before.

There were also quite a number of joggers and people just out for a walk using the park as well.

I appreciate that there are no longer any dogs that charge my little dog even though they are friendly, my dog and I don't know that.

I also appreciate the fact, since I am 80 yrs, that I no longer have to worry about the situation.

Once again, many thanks.

Yours truly

Dola Hamer

Personal info

cc: Mayor and Council, Victoria

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** July 31, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** Jill Robinson  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council Re: Off-leash dogs at Matson Conservation Area (Barnard Park)  
**Attachments:** Matson highlighted.JPG; Matson Lands Title Sept2014.pdf; Matson Covenant Stamped EX56865.pdf  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Jill,

Thank you for your email regarding an off-leash area at Barnard Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The City of Victoria received a petition from Vic West residents requesting that an off-leash dog park be created on a pilot basis in Barnard Park in the Vic West Neighbourhood.

Council has requested feedback from staff on impacts and advisability of allowing for a dog off-leash area in Barnard Park on a trial basis, and staff have conducted an initial assessment to determine advisability of allowing for dogs off-leash in this park. Council will discuss this proposed off-leash pilot project for Barnard Park at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 3 beginning at 9 a.m. Council and Committee meetings are held in the Council Chamber here at City Hall and are open to the public for viewing. They are also broadcast live and archived on the City of Victoria's [website](#).

As with the two other pilots recently approved by Council, the information gathered would help inform an overall strategy identified in the recently approved Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The future strategy will provide guidance to the approach for dog off-leash areas throughout the city.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Jill Robinson [mailto:jill@hat.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** July 4, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

**Cc:** Wendy Tyrrell <wendy@hat.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Off-leash dogs at Matson Conservation Area

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and City of Victoria Councilors,

My name is Jill Robinson and I am the Executive Director of Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), a conservation organization that conserves nature on South Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. On behalf of HAT, I wanted to reach out to you regarding the proposal to open Barnard Park to off-leash dogs as described in the Times Colonist this morning. We own a property adjacent to Barnard Park called Matson Conservation Area. This property is the last remaining Garry Oak ecosystem in Victoria's Harbour and is legally protected by a conservation covenant, held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the Township of Esquimalt. This property is protected to maintain its ecological health and integrity and restricts any activities on the property that may threaten these values of the property (including a restriction of any dogs on the property). In order to maintain these values, we host regular activities that promote conservation through community restoration, stewardship, and education programs throughout the year.

As a part of our due diligence to mitigate any potential threat to the conservation values of the site, I wanted to let you know that we have some concerns regarding this proposal. We anticipate that this proposed change in land use may increase dog access to our protected area. There is a narrow buffer (Esquimalt Right of Way) between Barnard Park and Matson, so hopefully no dogs would enter onto our property, but certainly this would be something to consider. The endangered ecosystem represented at Matson is very sensitive, and would be significantly impacted by the presence of dogs. This area is also home to the Victoria Harbour Marine Bird Sanctuary which hosts a number of important bird species. Any possible steps to mitigate this threat and help protect the ecological and community values of Matson Conservation Area would be really appreciated. If the plan moves ahead, we would be keen to work with you to help with education around impacts to ecologically sensitive areas through outdoor signage or community outreach.

I have attached a map, property title and a copy of the conservation covenant for your consideration. I have also cc'd Wendy Tyrrell, our Habitat Management Coordinator who is responsible for management activities on all of our protected lands and can answer any further questions you may have regarding the property.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration!

Your partner in conservation,

*Jill Robinson, MSc, Executive Director*

**Habitat Acquisition Trust**

Victoria's local land trust

250.995.2428 | [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca)

Office: 825 Broughton St. Victoria, BC

Mailing Address: PO Box 8552 Victoria, BC V8W 3S2

HAT General Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/bL2hcn>

Volunteers Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/bMgPBv>

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Nancy Johnston  
**Sent:** May 25, 2018 8:08 AM  
**To:** Leigh Campbell  
**Subject:** FW: Barnard Park leash optional area 6:30-8:30 am

Hi Leigh,  
Not sure if you got this regarding Barnard Park.  
When are all the pilot projects up and is there anything that I need to be doing?  
Thanks  
Nancy

**From:** Bylaw Services  
**Sent:** May 25, 2018 12:05 AM  
**To:** Nancy Johnston <NJohnston@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Barnard Park leash optional area 6:30-8:30 am

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Personal info

**From:** "Dola"  
**Date:** May 24, 2018 at 15:50:38 PDT  
**To:** <[bylawservices@victoria.ca](mailto:bylawservices@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Barnard Park leash optional area 6:30-8:30 am

Dear Bylaw Manager

Animal Control suggested I send the following email to you and the City Manager.  
Animal Control said they only have 2.6 staff and are unable to monitor parks only slightly because of the staff shortage and the number of other issues they have to investigate.  
Thank you

Yours truly

Dola (Hamer)

**From:** [Dola](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)  
**Subject:** Barnard Park leash optional area 6:30-8:30 am

Hello Mayor and Council

I want to give my experiences in the park.  
Our dog is 10 lbs and approximately 11 inches tall, his name is Riley and he is 13.5 yrs old.

Oct 11 2017 while walking Riley on the north side of the tennis courts he was viciously charged by two off leash little dogs.

Riley was on the leash as he is always.

Riley was of course very frightened and the dogs and Riley wound themselves around me and I fell.

A bone in my hip was broken and I spent 2.5 weeks in the hospital and now when I go for a walk I have to use a walker.

On the afternoon of Apr 29 2018, around 3pm, the same thing happened. We were on the sidewalk on the south side of the tennis courts.

This time a huge black dog rushed Riley and a golden lab joined in, there were 5 or 6 dogs off leash at the time. The owners from the other side of the park shouted "he is friendly".

I would have fallen again but I had the walker to support me. Again on the leash Riley ran around me and ran under the walker before I could catch him.

This afternoon around 2:30pm the same thing happened. This time it was a black lab size Heinz 57. Other dogs joined in on the charge. Riley was very frightened but I managed to pick him up.

Again I would have fallen except for the walker. Riley was very frightened and his heart was beating very fast. The owner of the black dog said he is friendly but unfortunately Riley and I do not know that.

On any day there are dogs on both sides of the tennis court off leash, a few of the owners do not pick up after their dogs.

On Saturdays and Sundays there are quite a number of dogs, more than through the week.

I would like to request that the park be monitored more than it is now. I realize that the park is monitored but I don't think it is often enough.

I would also like to give my views;

1. the area is not suitable for dogs and for people who don't have a dog, there are many joggers, people with baby strollers, and people just out for walk, and there is a paved sidewalk through the park
2. the sign is clear about what area is for off leash and the time of 6:30 8:30am but no one pays any attention to the time and many owners pay no attention to the area
3. if there is to be an off leash area for the dogs, which I have no objection to, possibly an area could be found and a fence built around it for the dogs to just run.

Except for the two little dogs on Oct 11 2017, I would like to also say all the dogs have been friendly but our little dog does not know that and he is very scared of them.

The owner of the black dog today, has just arrived to say sorry and had a bouquet of flowers for me, and Riley I guess.

Yours truly

Dola (Hamer)  
Personal info

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** July 31, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** Personal info  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park off leash trial  
  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email regarding an off-leash area at Barnard Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The City of Victoria received a petition from Vic West residents requesting that an off-leash dog park be created on a pilot basis in Barnard Park in the Vic West Neighbourhood.

Council has requested feedback from staff on impacts and advisability of allowing for a dog off-leash area in Barnard Park on a trial basis, and staff have conducted an initial assessment to determine advisability of allowing for dogs off-leash in this park. Council will discuss this proposed off-leash pilot project for Barnard Park at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 3 beginning at 9 a.m. Council and Committee meetings are held in the Council Chamber here at City Hall and are open to the public for viewing. They are also broadcast live and archived on the City of Victoria's [website](#).

As with the two other pilots recently approved by Council, the information gathered would help inform an overall strategy identified in the recently approved Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The future strategy will provide guidance to the approach for dog off-leash areas throughout the city.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Personal info  
**Sent:** July 4, 2017 7:23 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Cc:** Leigh Campbell <LCampbell@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Barnard Park off leash trial

Hi, my wife and I have resided in a complex beside Barnard Park in Vic west for 4 years. We are very pleased at how well this beautiful park is maintained. We witness every day seniors, families and pet owners enjoying

the park and its facilities. A majority of the dog owners who currently access the park are respectful and follow the posted rules. Occasional appearances by Animal Control officers do an ok job of reminding all dog owners that the Barnard Park is not an off leash area.

We recently have heard there is a campaign to change the park into a "leash optional " area. Not only is Barnard Park too small an area to allow this, allowing off leash dogs will disturb neighbouring residents, wildlife and park patrons who use the tennis courts, children's playground, jogging paths and grass areas on a daily basis.

There is currently 3 off leash area options close by that do not house tennis courts and a children's playground.

Please don't let this Park get taken over by free running dogs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Riddel

Personal info

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** August 16, 2017 4:29 PM  
**To:** Joy Woodhams  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Barnard Park

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Joy,

Thank you for your email regarding Barnard Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the August 10, 2017 meeting of Council, Council voted to proceed with year long pilot project for a leash optional area for responsible dog owners in Barnard Park as of September 1, 2017.

It's important to note that this is a pilot project. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing.

During the pilot, maintenance requests will be accommodated through City calls-for service procedures. This means if you find dog owners are not picking up after their dogs, please call our Parks department to report these issues.

For answers to your other specific questions, they are best directed to our Parks department, as they are the lead department for this project. You can reach them by phone at 250.361.0600 or by email at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Joy Woodhams [mailto:[Personal info](#)]

**Sent:** July 28, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Barnard Park

It has come to the attention of Lise Anthony, who has addressed council, and myself that someone is saying that the park is officially off-leash now -

Ms. Anthony will be calling you but some clarification would be appreciated in regard to the above.

Thank you.

Joy

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** August 17, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** Eva Craycroft  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Document1 Barnard Park  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx  
  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Eva,

Thank you for your email and letter (attached) regarding Barnard Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the August 10, 2017 meeting of Council, Council voted to proceed with year long pilot project for a leash optional area for responsible dog owners in Barnard Park as of September 1, 2017.

It's important to note that this is a pilot project. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing.

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For answers to your other specific questions, they are best directed to our Parks department, as they are the lead department for this project. You can reach them by phone at 250.361.0600 or by email at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Eva Craycroft [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** August 2, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Document1

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**From:** Eva Craycroft [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 3:31 PM

**To:** 'mayorand'  
**Subject:** Document1

**Lacey Maxwell**

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Personal info

Personal info

**From:** on behalf of Anne Troost  
**Sent:** November 27, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Dog park pilot project/ Fisherman's Wharf

To whom it may concern;

I have concerns regarding the pilot project for the off-leash dog park at Fisherman's Wharf. **I have once stepped into dog excrement, left behind when off-leash dogs are running around, without their owners close behind.** Instead, the owners are socializing with one another, and miss the dog's deposit altogether.

On other occasions, I have had to avoid stepping in excrement. It is a problem that did not used to occur with such frequency.

As well, I have had to experience **the adrenaline rush of a dog running full speed towards me, out of the control of its owner.** Frightening for myself, stepping out of my home first thing in the morning to head off to work. **The nature of the landscaping at the park, with shrubbery and steep hills means that a running dog can take an individual walking by surprise (frightening!).** The owners allow the dogs to chase each other and to chase toys, and they are often not in control at that time (as they would be if they had a leash on).

I live at Fisherman's Wharf with my family, and have enjoyed the solace of one of the few ocean-side parks that does not allow dogs. I am nervous of dogs running off-leash, and I can only hope that there will be one space where I can enjoy a quiet moment without off leash dogs running around wildly, leaving deposits.

I hope that you will consider my letter, and leave a few parks near the water for the people to enjoy without having to tolerate dogs, and their messes off-leash.

Thank you,  
Anne Troost

Good day,

Just a note of appreciation for the trial period for the off leash times at Fisherman's Wharf. There are many of us who enjoy the play time for our dogs.

It would be beneficial to the local area to make this a permanent thing at this park. I would even suggest to fence off half the field (with a tasteful looking fence, not chain link) to enforce the permanence and to make make it 24/7. With the cruise ship tourists 7 months of the year, fencing off a dog area might be prudent.

Usage for this park in the morning is well attended. The only other legal alternative is Dallas road, which is quite a walk for many. Others use MacDonald Park irrespective of it's on leash only by-law (which doesn't make sense!). Most ignore this by law to their detriment...sometimes.

If that is not possible then I would recommend the off leash times as 0600-0900 daily.  
Again, thank you for this. Me and my poodle appreciate it!

Brent Carney

Personal info

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Personal info

Hi there,

I live in James bay and wanted to say how grateful I am for the off leash dog park nearby. It's nice to have a place to take her to run around that's not full of tourists, such as along Dallas road.

I hope that the city keeps this and it was an affective pilot project.

Thanks for your time and for your great work in our city parks.

Cheers,

Kayleen VanderRee

Good Morning Victoria Mayor & Council –

I understand that Mayor & Council are overseeing the pilot project for the off leash park at Fisherman's Wharf. I understand that there is or will be an evaluation of the project and the conclusion of this review is end of June 2018.

Can you please clarify the process of the review? Also, the criteria that you are using to evaluate its effectiveness and the decision making schedule for the final decision as to the parks future with respect to dogs. I face the park and I am concerned with the following:

- Most mornings dogs are off leash well beyond 8:30 am; and late afternoons daily - dogs are off leash.
- Many mornings dogs are barking with owners yelling for dogs to return to them
- Enforcement is almost impossible due to inadequate resources – and when citizens ask dog owners to leash their dogs that are running at them barking or off leash beyond the approved times – dog owners rudely reply often name calling and swearing (Dallas Road park is now an exemplary example of this problem reducing pedestrian traffic and really is now a dog park). I am aware that responsible dog owners are also treated this way when requesting that other dog owners abide by the rules

The rationale for such a small park becoming off leash is of concern – as residents we never received any indication of this change in the park policy – a simple communications to residents living around the park would have been appreciated. Also their input.

Of note is that this change was done quickly we understand at the request of dog owners – many of whom respect the rules and people in the park and are in control of their dogs. This is in sharp contrast to numerous requests to the City and Police for traffic calming speed reader boards on Erie Street for the past 5 years – just can't seem to get that done at the request of residents.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you.

Don Reed

Personal info

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** The Mark Imhoff Group  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Letter of Support - Fisherman's wharf  
**Attachments:** letter of support for an off leash park Mark.docx.pdf

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email and letter (attached) regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The agenda for Thursday's Committee meeting and the report for this specific motion is available [here](#). Committee and Council meetings are open to the public and webcast live through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** The Mark Imhoff Group [mailto:info@homesalesvictoria.com]  
**Sent:** May 23, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - Fisherman's wharf

Good morning,

Please see attached letter of support.

Sincerely,

Miranda Worthy  
Office Manager



Sotheby's International Realty Canada

The Mark Imhoff PREC Sotheby's International Realty Canada  
1ST CLASS SERVICE BACKED BY KNOWLEDGE

207 Menzies St. Victoria BC V8V 2G6  
office 250.590.1775 | brokerage 250.380.3933  
HomeSalesVictoria.com

Mark Imhoff (direct): 250 883 1995  
Victoria Cao (direct): 250 891 8578  
Miranda Worthy (direct): 778 678 3965  
Louisa Feary (direct): 250 216 9529

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## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Personal info  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Off Leash Dog Parks  
  
**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan, which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing Paws in Parks program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

- At Fisherman's Wharf Park for off-leash between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The agenda for Thursday's Committee meeting and the report for this specific motion is available [here](#). Committee and Council meetings are open to the public and webcast live through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's bi-weekly newsletter, visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Personal info  
Sent: May 23, 2017 7:15 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Fwd: Off Leash Dog Parks

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Kathy & Gary Rankin" **Personal info**

To: "mayor" <mayor@victoria.ca>

Cc: "cth Thornton-joe" <cth Thornton-joe@victoria.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:07:50 PM

Subject: Off Leash Dog Parks

I was surprised to read the Times Colonist article about your plans to include Fisherman's Wharf Park as an off leash dog park between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The morning time slot is understandable; but I disagree with the evening time slot (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.). A large amount of money has been spent recently to improve this park with native plantings, bridge walkway, benches, etc. With the rolling hills that have been landscaped, it would be very difficult for a dog owner to "have control" of their pet or see where their pet goes poop, as many areas are out of view. Children enjoying the playground equipment should not have to dodge dog poop while there.

Many people use the park area to enjoy dinner either on the grass or on one of the benches overlooking the water. Especially during the summer, visitors and residents often purchase dinner at Barbs Fish & Chips or other food vendors on the wharf, and move up to the grassy area with their children.

I am a responsible dog owner, but just feel that dogs in Fisherman's Wharf Park should be on leashes especially between 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Perhaps another area in James Bay (with a flatter surface and no playground equipment) could be considered. Is McDonald Park being considered?

It was mentioned that visitors staying in hotels would like to have more off leash areas close to downtown. But I think a visitor to our city (who may not know the area) would feel more comfortable in an area where their dog is clearly visible (which isn't the situation at Fisherman's Wharf Park).

I wonder if either of you (or any council members) have been down to the park during the hours you are considering to see how busy it is with families and seniors. It might be a good idea to do this before making a decision.

Thanks for listening to my concerns.

Kathy Rankin

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 30, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Daryl West  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Off leash park: Fisherman's wharf park  
**Attachments:** Off Leash park May17.pdf

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Daryl,

Thank you for your email and letter (attached) regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan, which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing Paws in Parks program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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3. The feedback be gathered on both of these pilot projects through the regular channels that citizens communicate with council, specifically [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca).
4. That Council evaluate the Gonzales Beach pilot project in the fall of 2017 based on input received.
5. That Council evaluate the Fisherman's Wharf pilot project in the late spring of 2018 based on feedback received.
6. That dogs off leash be allowed in Spencer Park from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a pilot project.

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Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Daryl West [mailto:d.west@coasthotels.com]

**Sent:** May 25, 2017 9:49 AM

**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor) <mayor@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** Off leash park: Fisherman's wharf park

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached letter of support with regards to an off leash park at Fisherman's wharf.

Sincerely,

Daryl

Daryl West  
Hotel Manager  
Coast Victoria Hotel & Marina by APA  
146 Kingston Street, Victoria, BC  
V8V 1V4  
d. 250.940.1123  
c. 250.893.0270  
f. 250.360.1418  
e. [d.west@coasthotels.com](mailto:d.west@coasthotels.com)



*refreshingly local.™ Each one of our hotels is as unique as the cities they're located in.*

*Home of the Award-Winning*



Think Green, keep it on the screen! Print only if necessary.

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 31, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** Tom Coyle  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Proposed Off Lease At Fisherman's Wharf Park

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Tom Coyle [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:29 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Proposed Off Lease At Fisherman's Wharf Park

The proposal for off lease hours at FWP is in my new a terrible idea. I live across from FWP and up to a couple of years ago I had a dog and took her every day to off leash area on Dallas Road ( which was not difficult to do) . Designating this an off leash park will attract many more dogs from all over James Bay.

I use this park every day and I'm quite well aware of the activities that take lace in the park.

- Young children use the playground and the large sand area by the walk way all times of the day. Off leash dogs will cause both a safety and sanitary issue
- The edible garden will have dogs running through it, probably causing damage and a sanitary issue. Once off leash, dogs cannot be controlled
- Many of us grab a coffee and enjoy the park in the morning especially spring through fall season. Off lease dogs will prevent this. You will be spoiling the park for other park users
- If you look at the off leash area along Dallas Road , you can imagine how the grass area and plants will be destroyed

There is no need for this park to be off leash he area as the Dallas Road off leash area is very close and easily accessible. Please do not ruin this great park so that a few dog owners don't have to walk or drive a few extra minutes.

Tom Coyle  
[ [Personal info](#) ]

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** June 21, 2018 2:15 PM  
**To:** Councillors  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council FW: Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Dogs

Good afternoon,

Please see the below email to Mayor and Council regarding the leash optional pilot program.

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Samuel Maroney <[Personal info](#)>  
Sent: June 20, 2018 11:59 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
Subject: Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park

Please keep the Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park around, it builds community and my dog loves it!!!!

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 30, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Jill Roberts  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Dog Play Time at Fishermans Wharf Park

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Jill,

On behalf of Mayor Helps, thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

The first was a request to allow dogs on Gonzales Beach in the summer months during the early morning. The second was a request for time specific off leash opportunities at Fisherman's Wharf Park. To aid and provide information into the development of this strategy, and in response to residents, Council brought forward a recommendation for a one-year pilot project for dogs, and their owners, as follows:

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- Gonzales Beach for dogs allowed on the beach in the summer months between 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Discussion on this recommendation took place at the Committee of the Whole meeting on, Thursday, May 25 at which time Council referred the motion to staff to report back at the June 8, 2017 Committee meeting on the implications of undertaking the following work in 2017:

1. That Fisherman's Wharf Park allow dogs off leash from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. as a one year pilot project.
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Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

From: Jill Roberts [mailto:Personal info]  
Sent: May 28, 2017 8:42 PM  
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor) <mayor@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Dog Play Time at Fishermans Wharf Park

Mayor Helps,

I've been out of town and missed signing a petition signed by citizens interested in obtaining permission to designate 2 times daily at Fishermans Wharf Park - early morning and early evening - for responsible dog owners to enjoy the park playing with and exercising their dogs.

I understand Council is in the process of considering this request and I would like to add my wholehearted voice of support to this idea.

Here's hoping you and Council members will find that - in the interests of making our parks accessible to everyone - you will give approval to this request.

Thank you for your thorough consideration of a worthy and reasonable request, Jill Roberts James Bay resident and responsible dog-owner

Personal info

MUCH APPRECIATED :)

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 11:11 AM  
**To:** jackson avio  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Fisherman's Wharf Park Off-Leash Agenda  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Jackson,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan, which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing Paws in Parks program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



---

**From:** jackson avio [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** May 21, 2017 11:13 PM  
**To:** Councillors <Councillors@victoria.ca>; Lisa Helps (Mayor) <mayor@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Fisherman's Wharf Park Off-Leash Agenda

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and the businesses at Fisherman's Wharf. The park at Fisherman's Wharf (as per discussed at previous James Bay Neighborhood Association Meetings) has been established as a multi-use park and I strongly believe it should remain for this purpose. By introducing off-leash times this will exclude any people who wish to use the park for recreational purposes such as picnics, recreational sports, etc. As a business owner at Fisherman's Wharf I strongly believe that this park would benefit from keeping it a on-leash area and would recommend that the city refuses the proposal to make this an off-leash area. As one of the food vendors we have noticed that people enjoy bringing their food up to the park to eat. Permitting dogs to be off leash will inhibit their ability to enjoy the park as an eating area. I speak on behalf of myself and other food vendors here at Fisherman's Wharf.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jackson Avio

Owner

Jackson's Ice Cream and Smoke and Anchor

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 30, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Barry Hobbs  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Fisherman's Wharf Park

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

**From:** Barry Hobbis [mailto:bhobbis@victoriaharbourferry.com]

**Sent:** May 25, 2017 8:22 AM

**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor) <mayor@victoria.ca>

**Cc:** Marianne Alto (Councillor) <MAlto@victoria.ca>; Chris Coleman (Councillor) <ccoleman@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <BIsitt@victoria.ca>; Jeremy Loveday (Councillor) <jloveday@victoria.ca>; Margaret Lucas (Councillor) <mlucas@victoria.ca>; Pam Madoff (Councillor) <pmadoff@victoria.ca>; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor) <cthorne-joe@victoria.ca>; Geoff Young (Councillor) <gyoung@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** Fisherman's Wharf Park

Mayor & Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the use of Fisherman's Wharf Park as an off leash area for dogs. The current proposal to use the park for this purpose will degrade its enjoyment by the majority of users and put families and other visitors in harm's way.

I am a dog owner who frequents off leash areas in the City. My dog is always on a leash, for the simple reason that off leash dogs can often be unruly, sometimes aggressive, beyond the control of the owners, and a serious threat to bodily injury for seniors, young children and other dogs. The blame lies with the owner, not the animal. In my experience, by the time an off leash dog has become a threat, the owner is unable to regain control and the damage is done. The surprised explanation "this is SO out of character for my dog" represents the proverbial famous last words.

Aside from the behavioural issues, there can be significant health concerns. Off leash areas often mean that a dog can be hundreds of feet away from its owner, and able to defecate without the owner's knowledge, or if the owner happens to notice, he or she is unable to locate the excrement so there it lies. For users other than dog owners, and particularly families with young children playing in the grass, the excrement is a serious health hazard. In addition, off leash dogs get wet, muddy, dusty – and are not welcome in this state when they bound up to "say hello" to me or my dog.

Add to all of this the fact that within a short walk of Fisherman's Wharf Park there is a large area of land available for use by off leash dogs. Why does the city need another one? What is the problem you are trying to solve?

Finally, please note an article from a well known and respected dog trainer...

*This may be breaking news to some, but not all dogs want to say hi to every dog they see every day. Do you – as a verbal human – always want to say hi and hug everyone you see? I didn't think so.*

*Also, here are just a few things that can happen to your roving un-leashed Rover:*

- *He can be hit by a car.*
- *He can jump on an elderly person and knock them over.*

- He can harass wildlife.
- He can mow down children.
- He can get in the face of every other dog out that day, some of whom will respond with aggression.
- He can get in a dog fight that will frighten both dogs and will likely result in an expensive vet bill.
- After you pay that vet bill, you may now be the owner of one of those dogs who cannot stand to have off-leash dogs in his face.
- He can be shot, even in a city park (it's happening in Colorado and other places).
- He can eat something that may kill him.

For the sake of the dog as well as the humans with which it interacts, off leash areas require careful consideration, proper and informed planning, and education on the part of dog owners.

Victoria Harbour Ferry has been serving Fisherman's Wharf for 27 years. Arguably we are the most frequently used transportation service to access Fisherman's Wharf. In 2017 we project that we will carry over 80,000 locals and tourists to the site, many of them young families and seniors. I believe we are therefore an authority on the best use of the area, as we are highly invested in its continuing prosperity and attractiveness. I can say without reservation that designating the adjacent park as an off leash area is an extremely unwise – some might even say irresponsible – use of community space.

Regards,

**Barry Hobbis**

Partner & VP Operations



189 Dallas Road, Victoria, BC V8V 1A1

Tel: 250.708.0201 (Ext 101) Cell: 250.216.3232

Fax: 250.708.0401

[victoriaharbourferry.com](http://victoriaharbourferry.com) | [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/victoriaharbourferry) | [twitter](https://twitter.com/victoriaharbourferry)

Happy People in Happy Boats!

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** May 24, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** Jackie Tweddell  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Free-run Dogs at Fisherman's Wharf Park

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Jackie,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed off-leash pilot project. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

At the May 11 Council meeting, Council adopted the City's first [Parks and Open Spaces Masterplan](#), which will guide the growth and development of our parks system for the next 25 years. Through the engagement on this project, we have heard about the need to reassess our existing [Paws in Parks](#) program from both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. There were two areas of Victoria identified by residents as requiring change with regard to the City's dog policy.

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Discussion on this recommendation will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The agenda for Thursday's Committee meeting and the report for this specific motion is available [here](#). Committee and Council meetings are open to the public and webcast live through the [City of Victoria's website](#).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** Jackie Tweddell [mailto:[Personal info](#)]  
**Sent:** May 16, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Free-run Dogs at Fisherman's Wharf Park

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jackie Tweddell <Personal info>

Date: Tue, May 16, 2017 at 6:39 PM

Subject: Free-run Dogs at Fisherman's Wharf Park

To: [mayor@victoria.ca](mailto:mayor@victoria.ca)

Dear Mayor Helps,

I understand that Council may be considering allowing dogs to run free at Fisherman's Wharf Park in James Bay. I live directly across from the park and would strongly recommend that the park remain as is, i.e. dogs must be on leashes. There are several dog-owners who allow their dogs to be off-leash and this creates problems for those of us who have our dogs on leashes. Leashed dogs are restrained and therefore feel threatened by dogs who run up to them and often more than one at a time. As a result, many seniors who walk their dogs through the park feel threatened by dogs off-leash, and avoid walking through the park - I am one of them. Having particular times such as early morning and pre-supper-time, set aside for off-leash dogs would not work either since many neighbours walk their dogs on leashes at this time.

Also, this park is enjoyed by people who bring their purchased meals from vendors at Fisherman's Wharf to enjoy in the park and by thousands of tourists over 6 months of the year. Having dogs run up to them while they are eating does not make for an enjoyable experience..

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Tweddell

Personal info

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Thomas Soulliere  
**Sent:** May 1, 2018 4:26 PM  
**To:** Leigh Campbell; Colleen Mycroft  
**Cc:** Brooke Stark; Navdeep Sidhu  
**Subject:** FW: Fisherman's Wharf Park request for a permanent off leash by law

Pls see below.  
Colleen,  
Can we get a standard "thank you for your note" reply sent.

Thx!

Thomas Soulliere  
Director  
Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
City of Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
Sent: April 25, 2018 12:32 PM  
To: Laura Nixon Personal info  
Cc:  Thomas Soulliere <TSoulliere@victoria.ca>; Colleen Mycroft <cmycroft@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Re: Fisherman's Wharf Park request for a permanent off leash by law

Laura, thank you! Thomas see below. What will it take to make this pilot project permanent? Thank you as well!

--  
Lisa Helps, Victoria Mayor  
Lekwungen Territory  
[www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca](http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca) <<http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca>>  
250-661-2708  
[@lisahelps](mailto:@lisahelps)

"Resignation and cynicism are easier, more self-soothing postures that do not require the raw vulnerability and tragic risk of hope. To choose hope is to step firmly forward into the howling wind, baring one's chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

On 2018-04-25, 8:52 AM, "Laura Nixon" Personal info wrote:

Good morning Mayor Helps. First I wanted to say thank you for hosting these drop in sessions to get local feedback in our communities. I think that are really useful and informative.

As you requested last night I am emailing you with a request and some observations on our off leash park. The neighbours at Fisherman's Wharf Park have greatly appreciated the use of the park between 6:30 am and 8:30 am as an off leash social area for our dogs and their owners. I am writing to ask that this become a permanent instead of

temporary off leash area. Also if possible it would be great to see if it could be extended a little in the morning until 9am and maybe add a fall/winter evening off leash period from 5 to 7pm. This is when we observe that the tourist are gone and the park empties.

Some of the benefits we have found over the last year are:

1. Community neighbourhood involved as a group
2. Visitors from outside city come to park. We embrace them and offer tips on enjoying our city
3. We monitor park for garbage and harmful items FYI we pick up after the homeless who use the park at night as well
4. When someone in our dog community needs help with their dog due to sickness or injury or surgery we step up as a group to help with their dog and check in on the person
5. It has also become a time when we can seek advice for ourselves or our pets from a vast group who have knowledge in medical, legal, community volunteering etc areas. A place where people can help people in an informal friendly way.

We believe that a park is a way to connect community and as many in our area have dogs it's a natural daily social event for us all. There can be as many as 20 dogs out with owners on a given day.

If there is additional information you need please don't hesitate to let me know and I would be happy to respond.

Thank you in advance to the whole council for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Laura Nixon

Personal info

Sent from my iPhone

**Rob Gordon**

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**From:** Thomas Soulliere  
**Sent:** May 10, 2018 10:13 AM  
**To:** Parks (Public Inquiries)  
**Cc:** Leigh Campbell; Navdeep Sidhu  
**Subject:** FW: Fisherman's Wharf Park

For our files.

Thomas Soulliere  
Director  
Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
City of Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica <[Personal info](#)>  
Sent: May 6, 2018 9:49 AM  
To: Thomas Soulliere <TSoulliere@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Fisherman's Wharf Park

I understand that some residents have asked for the dogs-off leash hours to be extended. Any extension would not be good for the park itself and for other residents and visitors.

The current hours for off-leash have been accepted. Families use the park for picnics, children's play, etc., please do not extend the off-leash hours.

Sincerely,

Monica Garrett

Sent from my iPad

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Colleen Mycroft  
**Sent:** May 30, 2017 1:17 PM  
**To:** Deirdre Peters; Lacey Maxwell  
**Cc:** Thomas Soulliere; Navdeep Sidhu; Colleen Mycroft  
**Subject:** For Filing: Petition - Dogs off-lease Fisherman's Wharf Park  
**Attachments:** 2017 05 22 Tim Sheedy - petition off leash dogs fisherman's wharf.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Hi Deirdre,

Pls see the attached petition that was sent to Mayor Helps. Pls include this in the files, I have copied in Correspondence staff who will add to the our Mayor and Council file.

Thanks  
CM

Colleen Mycroft  
Manager of Executive Operations  
Mayor/City Manager Office  
City of Victoria



**From:** Richard Elliott  
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** Councillors <Councillors@victoria.ca>  
**Cc:** Colleen Mycroft <cmycroft@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Petition - Dogs off-lease Fisherman's Wharf Park

Hello Councillors,

At the request of Mayor Helps, please see the attachment for your review.

Regards,  
Rich

Rich Elliott  
Executive Assistant  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0200 F 250.361.0248



## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Thomas Soulliere  
**Sent:** May 2, 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** Parks (Public Inquiries)  
**Cc:** Leigh Campbell; Navdeep Sidhu  
**Subject:** FW: Dogs, community and thanks

Pls see below for our files.

Thomas Soulliere  
Director  
Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
City of Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
Sent: April 30, 2018 7:42 AM  
To: Thomas Soulliere <TSoulliere@victoria.ca>  
Subject: FW: Dogs, community and thanks

More input re: Fisherman's wharf park.

--

Lisa Helps, Victoria Mayor  
Lekwungen Territory  
[www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca](http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca) <<http://www.lisahelpsvictoria.ca>>  
250-661-2708  
@lisahelps

"Resignation and cynicism are easier, more self-soothing postures that do not require the raw vulnerability and tragic risk of hope. To choose hope is to step firmly forward into the howling wind, baring one's chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

On 2018-04-27, 4:17 PM, "mayormessages@victoria.ca" <mayormessages@victoria.ca> wrote:

From MayorMessages. See below.

Kindly,  
Rich

Rich Elliott  
Executive Assistant  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

-----Original Message-----

From: Liam Snowdon [mailto:Personal info]

Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 8:23 PM

To: mayormessages@victoria.ca

Subject: Dogs, community and thanks

Greetings Lisa,

I am writing to let you know what a great thing having the off leash dog park hours at Fisherman's wharf has been. I have met more folks in my neighbourhood and built all kinds of relationships with folks I would not otherwise. Being a Personal info

What I have mostly found is that folks are great. I have watched the love of our dogs and each others dogs grow into care for each other. Folks bringing meals to each other, walking each others dogs, talking care of getting the older folks to appointments, garden help, supporting sick folks.

So for me it has been a great success and super awesome to have a place to take the pup in the am.

Thanks for your hard work on all things- bike lanes, housing, and other great projects you have been a part of. It is great to have a mayor to be proud of again.

Thanks

Personal info

## Lacey Maxwell

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### Personal info

**From:** Emilia Rivas-Rivas  
**Sent:** September 18, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** mwalton@crd.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Oaklands Park Leash-Optional Feedback  
**Attachments:** Access to parks and beaches.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Awaiting Staff Response

Greetings,

Here's my bit of feedback regarding the leash-optional pilot project at Oaklands Park.

I am not in favour of having a leash-optional zone for dogs at Oaklands Park. The proposed zone will restrict people's carefree use and enjoyment of Oaklands Park, unless the zone is fenced in and it does not overlap with any other park area (children's playground, path, and sports field).

Here are my reasons:

- Whenever a site is chosen for off-leash use, the area should be fenced in to provide protection for dogs and passersby. Oaklands Park has a walk-through path which is used very frequently by children and other users. The presence of off-leash dogs creates a conflict for users, particularly for those who feel uncomfortable in the presence of off-leash dogs. In my case, I use that path very frequently, and though I like dogs in general, I have had a very unpleasant experience with one before (bite and rabies shots). I now have a strong aversion to the presence of dogs off leash.
- The way I understand it, the Oaklands Park off-leash pilot project has an early morning schedule. However, off-leash areas should not overlap with other-use areas in any way. Restricting certain areas during certain hours or certain seasons creates confusion for dog owners and park users. As an example, dogs are present at Gonzales Bay all year round despite the seasonal restrictions. Schedules simply do not work.
- The City of Victoria has a hard time monitoring responsible dog ownership on neighbourhood streets and in city parks and beaches. The number of dogs walking off leash in my neighbourhood, for example, has dramatically increased. Instead of adding yet another area for off-leash dogs, the City should set up regular programs to encourage reluctant dog owners to be mindful and cooperative.

- The City of Victoria now has a substantial number of park areas and beaches for off-leash dogs. In contrast, there are very few areas (e.g. Ross Bay Cemetery) where people can walk freely and refresh their minds without the presence of dogs. The City, in fact, should consider designating a beach or park area exclusively for people. I'd give anything for an off-worry area. At present, even walking in my own neighbourhood has become a hardship.

Please find attached a letter I have written to Michael Walton, Senior Manager for Regional Parks. There, I outline some of my concerns and suggestions regarding people's access to parks and beaches in the City of Victoria and the CRD.

Thank you for your kind attention,

**Emilia**

Emilia Rivas-Rivas, Ph.D.

Personal info

## Lacey Maxwell

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**From:** Kath <Personal info>  
**Sent:** October 1, 2017 6:24 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Oaklands Park Leash-Optional Pilot

Hi!

Just wanted to say 'thank you' for this wonderful pilot at Oaklands park! I have a 'special needs' rescue dog whose best 'de-stressing' therapy is a good run, which he cannot do while on a leash. We now use Oaklands Park every morning...and we always see other dogs and owners there, so it is being well-used.

My only suggestion (hope) is that the time could be extended to 9am, as it is very dark now at 6:30am, and it is difficult to be responsible with one's pet when you cannot see him :-)

Thanks again!

Kathy Roth (resident of Victor Street)

## Lacey Maxwell

---

### Personal info

**From:** Kath  
**Sent:** October 1, 2017 6:24 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Oaklands Park Leash-Optional Pilot

Hi!

Just wanted to say 'thank you' for this wonderful pilot at Oaklands park! I have a 'special needs' rescue dog whose best 'de-stressing' therapy is a good run, which he cannot do while on a leash. We now use Oaklands Park every morning...and we always see other dogs and owners there, so it is being well-used.

My only suggestion (hope) is that the time could be extended to 9am, as it is very dark now at 6:30am, and it is difficult to be responsible with one's pet when you cannot see him :-)

Thanks again!

Kathy Roth (resident of Victor Street)

---

webforms@victoria.ca

From  
Ema **Personal info**

Reference : <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/mayor-council-committees/contact-mayor-council.html>

Daytime Phone **Personal info**

Re: Oaklands park, off-leash one-year trial in mornings until 8:30 a.m.; trial period ends June 30, 2018.

We have been bringing our dog to Oaklands park in the mornings during the trial period and find that it works well. Thank-you for setting this up and we hope that you will continue on a permanent basis.

Len and Gloria Sherwood, City of Victoria citizens.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The City of Victoria immediately by email at [publicservice@victoria.ca](mailto:publicservice@victoria.ca). Thank you.

IP Address: **Personal info**

Mayor Phelps and Victoria City Council -

A few years ago I [Personal info]  
[Personal info] I was encouraged to get a support dog. This dog and I have bonded stronger than any human relationships I have ever had.

Now, well past the [Personal info] my dog and I share our joy of being alive by visiting and supporting others less fortunate. A key component of this support revolves around the off-leash area of Oaklands Park where neutral canine interaction occurs in a well controlled environment between 6:30 and 8:30 am.

According to the sign posted in the Park, the trial period for off-leash activities comes to an end June 30. Please extend this off-leash trial for at least another year.

Thank you,

Glenn Driscoll  
[Personal info]

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Personal info

Hi there,

I'm a dog owner in the Oakland's area, and with the pilot for the Oakland's park off leash area ending soon, and I wanted to write in and say how much I enjoy it! It's great having a community space for the dogs to run around off leash, especially when others aren't around, and it's a great way to meet local neighbors.

I really hope this continues, and also expands to other times of day when the park isn't in use as much (like later in the evenings).

Thanks,

Kate Siemens

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Personal info

Hello!

Thank you for creating another space in our community to take our dog. We have used the park every morning over the past year since adopting our puppy last August.

I appreciate having a space near my home that does not required driving.

Thank you.

Michelle

Personal info

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Personal info

To Victoria mayor and council,

I am writing about the "off leash" pilot project at Oaklands Park. I have lived close by in North Jubilee since 1989 and often walk along the greenway on my way to Hillside Mall. 95 % of the time the ball field area is empty of people, except once in a while in the spring when there are ball games in the late afternoon/early evening. The only people you see using that field are people walking or playing with their dogs because it is fenced on all sides and therefore a safe place for them to play and a large enough area for them to run and get much needed exercise.

The current pilot project of having off leash time very early in the morning really doesn't work for most people because the morning walk is generally just quickly around a few blocks so Fido can do his business and then it's off to work or school for the humans. It would be wonderful if off leash time could be expanded to all day except when there are ball games or any other programmed uses of the area. I agree that dogs need to be leashed in the playground area at the north end of the park and also along the path, but please let us use that space to let our pets run free (as long as they are under control and droppings are picked up of course) .

Many people I have talked to aren't even aware of the fact that Oaklands park is not an off leash area unless they have had the misfortune of being caught by the bylaw enforcer when the grumpy neighbour complains. I have encouraged many to write and have pointed out the tiny sign on the greenway fence with the info. I hope they have written as well.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter and trust I will soon be able to let my dog Finch chase a ball around the field without fear of a \$100 ticket.

Personal info

Victoria

Sent from my iPhone

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Personal info

Oaklands Park off leash pilot is a resounding succes. I strongly recommend extending the time and even making an area, such as between the soccer field /baseball diamond and playground a permanent 24 hour dog play area!

Regards,

Robert Miller

Personal info

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Personal info

Hello,

We would like to thank you for the off leash dog area in Oakland's Park between 6:30 8:30 AM.

Our understanding is was done on a trial basis that ended on June 30, 2018.

We have two dogs and travel through this area at least 5 times per week.

One dog is old & arthritic and is restricted to short distances.

He is unable to make the long trek to the other off leash dog parks.

This little bit of freedom works well for him.

Our impression is that all the dog owners have been responsible & do appreciate allowing our pets access to our local park.

On our block there are more dogs than children.

We are hoping that this area will continue to be off leash in the future.

Thank You,

Peter Bell

Pam Grossi

---

Personal info

Dear Mayor and Council - I understand that you are currently soliciting feedback for the Oaklands Park Off-Leash Dog Pilot.

I would encourage you to keep the park an off-leash dog area. Especially in summer, when many places where dogs are permitted the rest of the year, dogs need a place to run free and socialize with other dogs.

I don't live in the area, however, we bring our dogs here in an effort to get to know different neighbourhoods in the City and meet other friends and coworkers who do live here.

Let's keep Oaklands vibrant by making the off-leash dog area a permanent feature of Oaklands Park.

Thank you - Vitto

Vittorio Cheli

Personal info

Sent from my iPhone

I want to provide feedback about the off leash use of Oaklands Park in Fernwood.

The year has concluded according to the posted sign, and we have found the project a huge success!

We walk our dog every morning here during the week, and have met many other neighbours doing the same. As a result of this area, we have met and connected with others in our community, and their dogs! It's been wonderful to have a place to take my dog where I don't have to worry about turning my ankle on uneven ground (Alexander Park!), and I don't have to get in my car during the morning commute.

Our experience has been consistently positive. I haven't seen or experienced any conflicts or collisions ( I was worried about this with cyclists and pedestrians using the trail through the park!)

Perhaps the successful pilot project could be expanded to include other hours? It would be great to be able to come on weekends, or evenings too!

Thanks for the opportunity to comment, I hope it's helpful,

Caren Heughan

Personal info

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** August 18, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** Joan Snowden  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Oaklands park

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Joan,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program at Oaklands Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council and with Parks staff for their information.

We appreciate your feedback on this topic. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the off-leash pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing. Your feedback will also be added to the engagement on the reassessment our existing Paws in Parks program.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's bi-weekly newsletter, visit the City of Victoria's website, or download the City's ConnectVictoria App. Mayor Helps also holds regular Community Drop In sessions which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----

Personal info

From: Joan Snowden [mailto:  
Sent: August 9, 2017 6:35 PM  
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
Cc: Bob Snowden  
Subject: Oaklands

Personal info

Dear Madam and Sirs:

We are thrilled with the Oaklands off leash dog park - we recently moved to this neighbourhood and everyone we have met at the park loves it and is a respectful user!  
It is also so beautifully kept - thank you for making it available and we sincerely hope it will become a permanent fixture in our neighbourhood!

Most sincerely,  
Joan Snowden

Joan Snowden

Personal info

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** July 25, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** Garrett  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: off leash at Oaklands Park

**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Garrett,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

It's important to note that this is a pilot project. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the pilot project and to decide how to move forward.

In regards to David Spencer Park, this park was discussed by Council, but was identified as problematic due to an existing usage agreement with School District 61 and Oaklands Elementary School.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



### Personal info

**From:** Garrett [mailto:  
**Sent:** June 13, 2017 2:12 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** re: off leash at Oaklands Park

Hello Mayor Helps,

I am writing to express my anger at the policy change allowing dogs off leash at Oaklands Park. As a frequent visitor to this park, daily in fact, I can tell you that your ill-informed policy change will result in me (and as someone who speaks with oaklands residents frequently, I am not alone in this) not visiting this park while this policy is in place. A bit of research would have shown that there is an empty park less than a block away (David Spencer Park) which a bit of fencing would turn into a great dog area that isn't frequently populated by kids and others looking for a park where they can play soccer, baseball or tennis unmolested by dogs. In Oaklands Park, There is an unfenced bike lane that goes through the park which will now be at the mercy of dogs running loose, not to mention the playing fields which will not be dug up and defecated on and the unseperated playground which kids will have the pleasure of strange dogs utilizing for their toilets and just random terrorizing. There are already issues with people letting their dogs loose in that park but your policy change encourages even

more dogs running loose in this park. A bit of research would show that there is a very dog friendly park not far from Oaklands called "Alexander Park" which has upgrades to support off-leash behavior, none of which Oaklands Park has.

I hope that you will do some research and realize that Oaklands Park is not suitable for off leash dogs, and in fact this regressive policy change does nothing but damage the community that uses this park daily. The playground, the playing fields, and the relatively new bike lane will all be negatively impacted, and there are other playgrounds IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY that would not. I hope you reconsider as this is possibly the worst policy change I've seen come from your controversial term.

Sincerely, Garrett Keirns

resident of Oaklands 20+ yrs.

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** July 27, 2017 11:39 AM  
**To:** Brenda Turner  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: off-leash trial run at oaklands park  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Brenda,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

It's important to note that this is a pilot project. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing.

During the pilot, maintenance requests will be accommodated through City calls-for service procedures. This means if you find dog owners are not picking up after their dogs, please call our Parks department to reports these issues.

For answers to your other specific questions, they are best directed to our Parks department, as they are the lead department for this project. You can reach them by phone at 250.361.0600 or by email at [parks@victoria.ca](mailto:parks@victoria.ca).

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's [bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the City's [ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



Personal info

**From:** Brenda Turner [mailto:  
**Sent:** June 25, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** off-leash trial run at oaklands park

I have a few comments about this:

- the neighbours who have yards touching the park were not consulted about this
- the greenway path runs right through the park and some dogs are known to really like bicycles, skateboards etc. and there is already concern with the crosswalk through the parking lot. If people are chased on their bikes etc it could cause another much greater issue
- the time although early is when many people head off to work through the park and during the school year this is the time the children walk to the schools in the neighbourhood
- did you consult with the sports teams who use the park later in the day...it could affect whether they use the park or not

The questions I have are:

- will the space be cordoned off so as to not interfere with the use of the park
- who cleans up after these animals if the owners do not
- did you talk with daycares, both group and family that use the park as well as the general public or even the nearby schools
- if there is to be a community garden in this park how will this affect their desired use of the park space

Personal info

Could someone phone me with a response.

Thanks

Brenda Turner

Personal info

## Rob Gordon

---

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** June 21, 2018 2:15 PM  
**To:** Councillors  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council FW: Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Dogs

Good afternoon,

Please see the below email to Mayor and Council regarding the leash optional pilot program.

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



-----Original Message-----**Personal info**

**From:** Samuel Maroney <[samuel.maroney@victoria.ca](mailto:samuel.maroney@victoria.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 20, 2018 11:59 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park

Please keep the Fisherman's Wharf Park and Oaklands Park around, it builds community and my dog loves it!!!!

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** July 31, 2017 11:19 AM  
**To:** Charles Bodi  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Oakland Park Off leash

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council.

We appreciate your feedback on this topic. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the off-leash pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the [City's bi-weekly newsletter](#), visit the [City of Victoria's website](#), or download the [City's ConnectVictoria App](#). Mayor Helps also holds regular [Community Drop In sessions](#) which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



Personal info

**From:** Charles Bodi [mailto:[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)]  
**Sent:** July 3, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Oakland Park Off leash

Hello,

I wanted to compliment the city on recently started the off leash park initiative at Oakland Park.

As a dog owner, I notice that dogs are much more peaceful and well behaved when off leash amongst other dogs.

When they are on leash and pass each other they feel stifled and more on the defence.

During the off leash hours the park is more vibrant with other dog owners and, partially because of the summer hours, families come out to the park more often so that their children can interact with "the puppies".

It was very disappointing for us dog owners to lose use of Willows beach during the summer. .. being displaced to the far side of Gyro Park Beach.

Yet any time we have to adjust our lifestyle around finding dog friendly parks I do so knowing that I'll once again meet my cheerful dog owner friends and their dogs.

Oaklands Park has become more active and brought the neighborhood closer together.

The recently relocated doggie poop bag pole has made cleaning up after dogs much easier and the park is very well maintained by us dog owners.

Often times I find myself cleaning up the McDonald's garbage left laying around the park presumably left behind by careless people passing through from the location on Hillside on their way through the park.

I've seen other dog owners take the same initiative to keep the park clean so that we can continue to enjoy a location that is amongst the few welcoming areas in Victoria for us and our dogs.

I've yet to get the chance to go to Fishermans Warf Park though I anticipate it to be as pleasant of an experience as Oaklands Park is

Cheers,

Charles

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Personal info

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** August 18, 2017 4:31 PM  
**To:** Bob Snowden  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Oaklands off leash park  
  
**Categories:** Parks, Dogs

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program at Oaklands Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council and with Parks staff for their information.

We appreciate your feedback on this topic. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the off-leash pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing. Your feedback will also be added to the engagement on the reassessment our existing Paws in Parks program.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's bi-weekly newsletter, visit the City of Victoria's website, or download the City's ConnectVictoria App. Mayor Helps also holds regular Community Drop In sessions which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



Personal info

**From:** Bob Snowden [mailto:[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)]  
**Sent:** August 18, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Oaklands off leash park

Hello Mayor and Council.

I am following up on your request for feedback on making the Oaklands Park an off-leash dog park starting in July. This was an excellent idea. I moved to this area in mid-July, and was very pleasantly surprised to find this park, and its useful poop bag dispenser. I always bring my own bags, but clearly it is a good idea to have some available for those occasions when a person gets stuck. I and our little miniature labradoodle, Mickey, come first thing in the morning and again in the evening, where he can chase crows with wild and unsuccessful abandon, or meet other dogs and engage in a more mutual game of chase, or occasionally try out for a few seconds for a men's soccer group before he loses interest. The park is well-kept, and seems to serve the neighbourhood well.

Thanks for this initiative. Keep up the good work.

Bob Snowden

**Robert Snowden**  
**Personal info**

**Personal info**  
**Email:**  
**Twitter:** @snowdenrt

## Rob Gordon

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** August 3, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** caren  
**Subject:** Email to Mayor and Council RE: Oaklands Park off leash Feedback

**Categories:** Dogs, Parks

Dear Caren and Mike,

Thank you for your email regarding the City's off-leash pilot program at Oaklands Park. Your email has been shared with Mayor and Council and with Parks staff for their information.

We appreciate your feedback on this topic. During the second quarter of 2018, this topic will again go before Council to discuss the outcome of the off-leash pilot project and to decide how to move forward. We encourage residents like yourself, to let us know how you feel this pilot project is progressing. Your feedback will also be added to the engagement on the reassessment our existing Paws in Parks program.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor and Council and the City of Victoria. Input from our citizens helps ensure that we are balancing the views and needs of the community on important decisions. I hope that you will continue to stay engaged on City of Victoria matters. If you are interested in staying up-to-date on City of Victoria news, events, and opportunities for public input subscribe to the City's bi-weekly newsletter, visit the City of Victoria's website, or download the City's ConnectVictoria App. Mayor Helps also holds regular Community Drop In sessions which are open to all members of the public.

Sincerely,

Lacey Maxwell  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor / City Manager's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



**From:** caren [mailto:Personal info]  
**Sent:** July 29, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Oaklands Park off leash Feedback

I want to provide feedback about the off leash trial in Fernwood at Oaklands Park. We love it! We have lived in Fernwood for 15 years, with dogs, and we think it's a great neighbourhood. We have always had dogs, and believed in exercising and socializing them. It is extremely valuable to our community to have off leash areas locally. These areas allow us to walk around and get to know our neighbours, and see what's going on close to home. This is better for all of us than getting in our cars to go to the beach or Dallas Rd, especially during the morning commute hours!

We do have Alexander park, but it is small for exercise, having been reduced in size a few years ago. Although the fencing is a vast improvement to keep the dogs from running into the road, the lawn is not maintained, and

it is uneven for walking and often muddy. We were thrilled to hear Oaklands would be open for our use, and we want the pilot project to be a success!

Some suggestions I would like to offer to make the park and project more suitable:

1. Move the waste bag dispenser please! Currently, the dog waste bag is on the fence side of the multi use path, creating an area for potential collisions with fast moving cyclists and walking users. There is a garbage bin near the bathrooms, perhaps the dispenser could be in this corner to avoid collisions?
2. Post signage about the pilot project at both ends of the multi use path. During the morning hours, joggers and commuters use the path, often at high speeds on bikes. On more than one occasion, I have seen cyclists respond with profanity when asked to slow down by pedestrians and dog walkers, saying that "it's not a off leash area" Maybe a sign about the sharing of the park, with a reminder to cyclists about pedestrian right of way?

I know from the map provided at the park that the path isn't part of the off leash area, but there is potential for collision and injury as the bag dispenser and disposal is on the opposite side of the path from the area designated off leash.

Thanks for running the pilot project, it is wonderful to have a spacious, well maintained area to enjoy with our dog and family.

Respectfully,

ike Anderson

Personal info