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Outline

- Thank you!
- Who am I?
- Dogs and Social Capital
- Reducing reliance on cars
- A few stories of the park
- Summing up

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Anne and Aflie



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Building Social Capital

- Creating community, but even more
- Social capital is the network, “bonds of trust and reciprocity” that come from that community
- The “glue” that holds society together
- Creates resilient, connected communities
- Survive! Earthquakes, heat domes, other emergencies

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How do you build social capital?

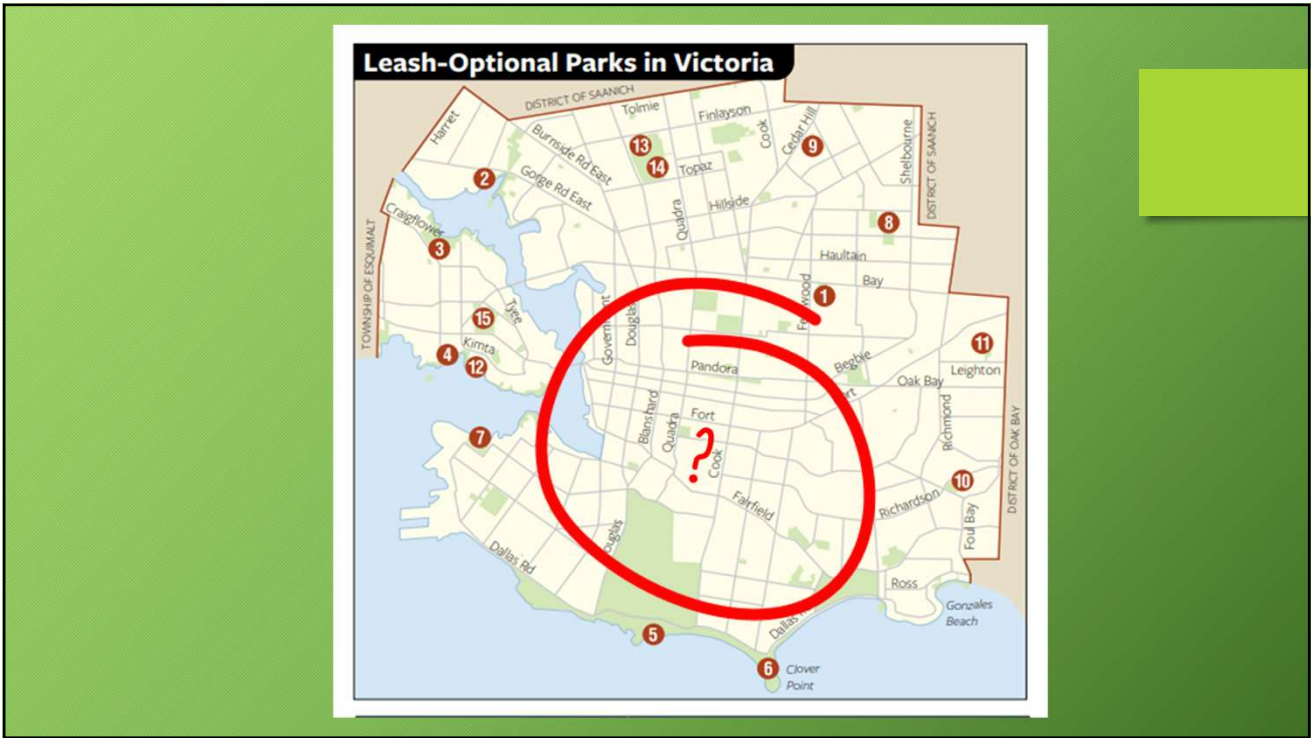
- Get people out of their cars
- Out of their homes; Off their screens
- Interacting with others
- Dog ownership = high social capital
- Dozen of studies in sociology lit: When you care about dogs, you care about people
- “Under-utilized”

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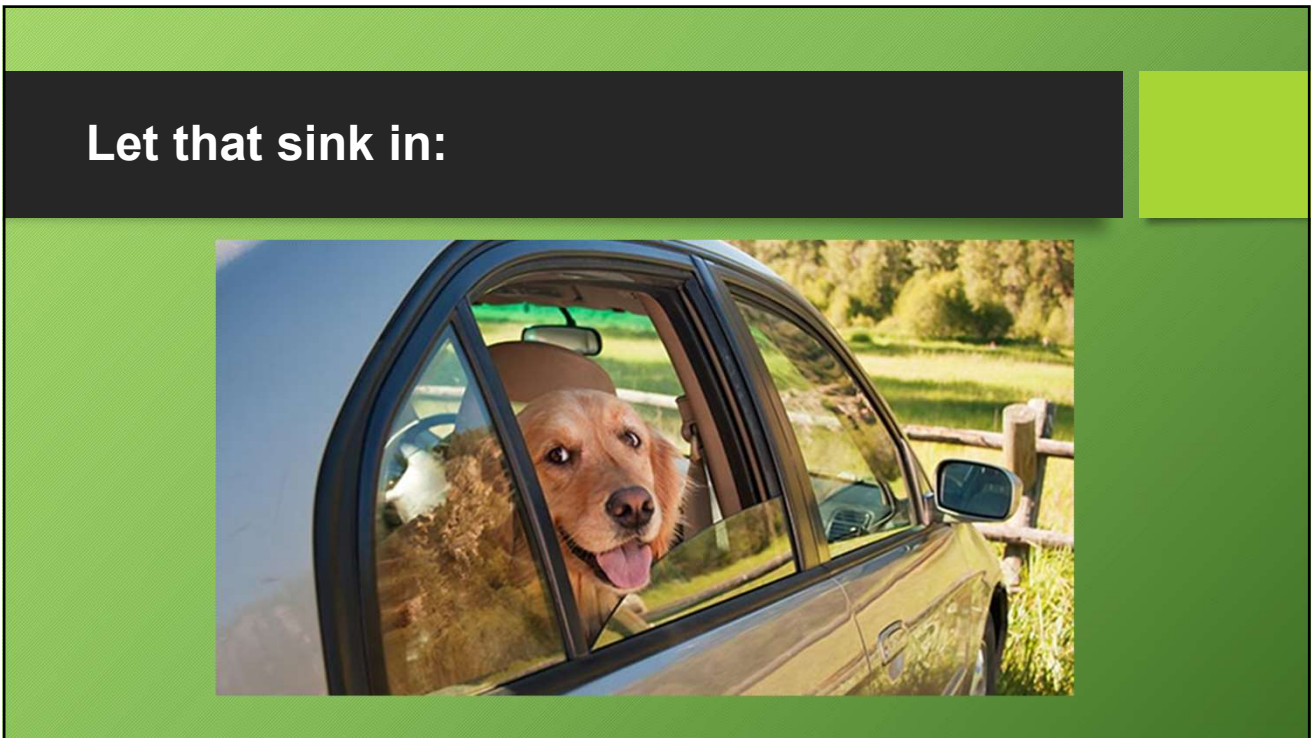
Dogs: Problems? Or Assets?

- Too often dogs (and owners) are seen as problems that must be constrained instead of assets to be supported and developed
- Constant shrinking of dog-friendly options
- Corralling unlimited numbers into fenced pens - Dallas Rd
- Removal of off-leash places in Greater Victoria
- Forcing people to DRIVE with dogs!!

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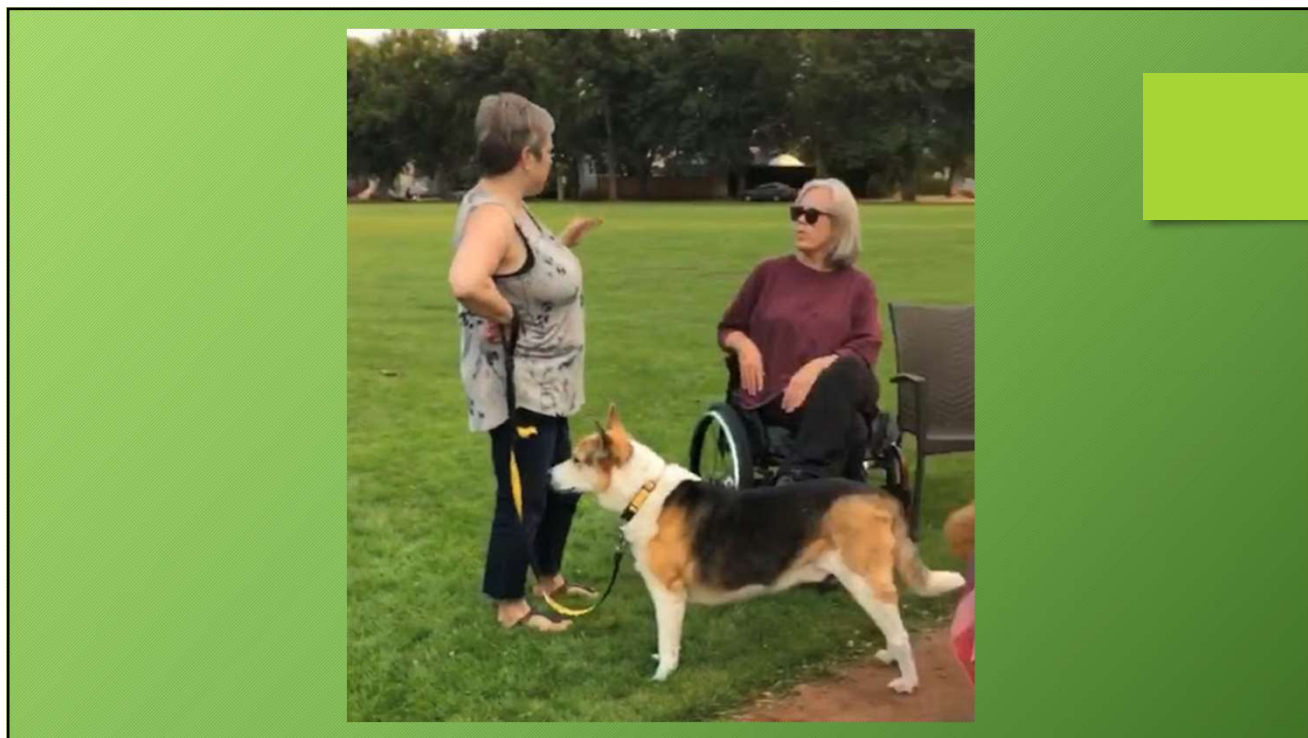
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Stories of Brooke Field connections

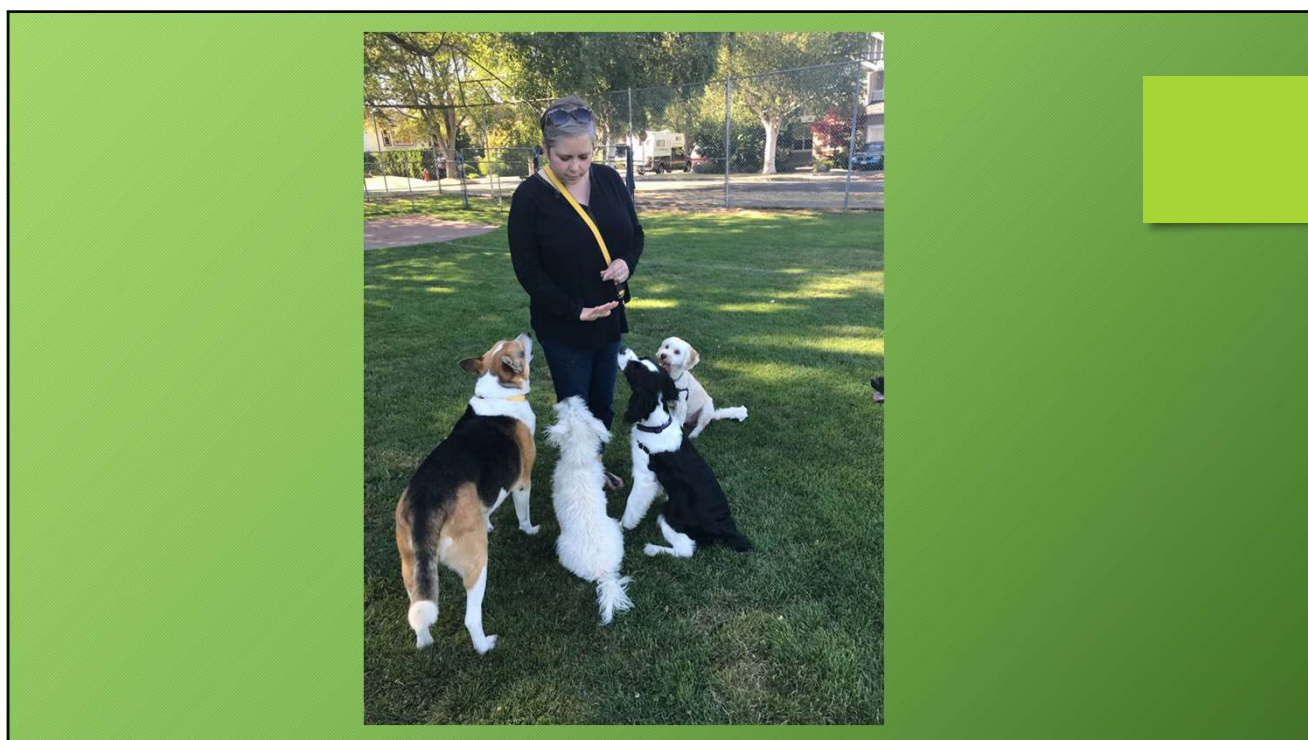


- Here's me and Afie at the park
- Lived in Victoria 31 years
- Outgoing, involved, volunteer
- ALL these people in this picture live in 4 block radius
- I knew NONE of them until this year

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A few more stories

- Ultimate frisbee player lost keys - we did a search grid and found them
- Young couple recently moved from Mexico - Spoke spanish to them, linked them to resources, linked them to apartments
- UVic researcher studying dog interactions
- Illness and death of my mother- Emotional and physical support to me in my grief

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Four days ago....

- Empty field
- Empty streets
- 4pm - Father searching for missing 7-year-old son
- Our group would have mobilized.....

We have lost so much more than just a place for our dogs

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Work with us

- Enable a pilot project of Brooke Field leash optional hours
- Set the terms of use
- Collect data and meaningful measurements
- Already have working models - expand it
- We will self-regulate
- Set strict times
- Not asking for more rights, just equal rights to other uses

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Work with us

- Take the pressure off Dallas Rd
- Small is beautiful – safer, and better managed
- If successful - consider expanding to other neighborhood parks
- Strengthen the social capital – the glue - of Victoria
- Make dogs and people happy again

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