

River Park | Sandy Beach | Britannia Slopes Phase 2
Open Space Workshop: February 12, 2011 – 1:30 to 4:30 pm
Temple B'nai Tikvah – 900 47 Ave. SW

Group 2

Issue: Off Leash

- Maintaining off leash
 - No new facilities
 - Education / occasional bylaw presence
 - Bring back volunteer programs
 - Issues with process
 - Issues with phase!
 - Original surveys were slanted (extending survey when responses were not what project team wanted)
 - No consideration of other recreational use within a hill of park
- Athletic park impact on River Park
- Expansion of off leash area
- Preserving and managing off leash in a Regional Park
- Improving alternate off leash areas to reduce pressure on River Park
- Off leash areas need to be built in suburbs
- Reduction of off leash area
- Consider other lands / recreational facilities in area

Discussion Group Flip Chart notes:

Off Leash

- Consider other lands in the area
- There are other spaces that can be used for recreation – schools, tot lots, golf courses
- Golf courses could be used for skiing
- Can we consider more off leash
- Don't want off leash taken away
- Do we need a playground at River Park if there area 7 tot lots within neighbourhood?
- Expansion of off leash
- People say there is too much off leash but I don't agree
- Britannia Slopes and Sandy Beach have become "unofficial" off leash- being used for off leash through not signed for it
- More bylaw officers in park
- Walking dogs is good for your body, health of people
- We are dog owners who use this off leash area but following the nurse's comment about good health for people to as well as dogs. I want to add that we ENJOYED watching playing dogs in the park BEFORE we got a per and the park was a reason we wanted a dog
- Off leash dogs compact soil and claw out vegetation
- Dog feces and urine destroys soil chemistry and therefore hurt the turf and trees
- Who is in the room – both sides of issue

- Britannia Slopes is signed off leash – what specific area is off leash is not clear
- Here to talk about issues
- Calgary Herald newspaper article last Sunday– there are 1500 dogs in Altadore
- Not enough off leash areas
- Off leash management plan to have more areas
- Don't have off leash area like Southland
- Don't need fences along the pathway
- Cyclist coming up behind you on pathway without bells
- Do not want pathway through middle of an off leash area
- Have really clear signs for on leash or off leash
- Dogs can jump up on people but it's in an off leash
- If children are afraid of dogs don't bring them to an off leash area
- People are protective of dogs
- Dogs shouldn't jump up on people but they do
- Rafters throw bottles but no one talks about banning rafting
- What is the off leash area?
 - River Park
 - East of river – sizeable area is off leash
 - Sandy Beach – on leash
 - Sign at Britannia is ambiguous can't see signs, need different colour signs
 - Signs at Sandy Beach are not clear
 - Lack of proper signs
- Understand why people on 14A Street don't want an off-leash area because everyone parking in front of their house. There could be signs for no parking on that side
- Off leash is critical
- Parking lot would be beneficial, but have traffic calming on 50th Avenue
- Issue may not be off leash, but the parking invasion
- Park is over loved
- Have bike lane on 14 A Street to keep cyclists away from off leash
- Don't think we should reduce parking on 14A St.
- Don't pave green-space for parking
- What about rotating off leash areas
- Park is rundown. Would love to see better maintenance, remove garbage, better paths
- River Park is Class C park versus Olympic Park is Class A; need to elevate River Park to higher level of maintenance
- Would like to see better facilities but there are budget issues – maybe in 5 years
- Can 14A St. be 30 km/hr? We've been told there are rules and 14A doesn't qualify for lower speed.
- River Park is adult playground
- Can 14A St be a playground zone – that would justify lower speeds
- Can't change speed limit. How did Elbow Park made it happen?
- Have a police officer out there ticketing once or twice, and the speeders will learn
- Original River Park committee asked for lower speed on 14A, but were told it's not possible
- Question: What park would a Class B maintenance park be?
- Should we Make a list of all the things the community does for the park
- Suggestion in off leash management plan is 30 % of regional park be off leash and
- Could we rotate 1/3 of park for off leash

- Cyclists are encroaching on off leash area
- I have not seen Bylaw officer in the park in 5 years – They can be helpful
- I've seen only one guy (commerical dog walker) with bucket (to collect dog droppings)
- Bylaw said they would like to limit the number of dogs to two dogs per person
- That is too small.
- Talking about enlarging lot at Riverdale. It a small street to go into a regional park
- No rules about dog walkers- other day I saw someone with 19 dogs. That's abuse of park
- Reduction of off leash area
- Britannia Slopes should not be off leash
- Safety issue - it is unsafe to go down stairs with dog on leash
- Stairs under power line between River Park and Sandy Beach used to be off leash, but now it on-leash. But when it's slippery it is safer for me to have my dog off leash
- Can off leash area vary seasonality? Or can there be certain hoursfor off leash or when its cold and not many people use the park can the off leash area be larger?
 - Some cities have off leash hours
- There are plans for a Huge parking lot at Glenmore
- Plan for 115 spaces near Follensbee is substantial
- Sandy Beach parking lot has already been improved to maximized number of spaces, the Park just went ahead and did that before the plan was approved
- Off leash in suburbs
- Makes sense to relocate playing fields to school grounds
- This part of the inner city seems to have a disproportionate number of playing fields -- Glenmore Athletic Facilities, Richmond Green Athletic Facilities, Centennial Arenas (now Flames Arenas??), Lakeview & Richmond Golf Courses and, of course, Earl Grey Golf Course which is on lands leased from the City
 - all these facilities provide city-wide services and were built when this area was at the very southern edge the City.
 - compared to newer communities, I believe that there is a shortage of community green space in this part of the City.
 - The City should take a broad approach to existing park lands/recreation lands and "re-apportion" these lands to recognize the realities.
 - Why not MOVE the Richmond Green playing fields (perhaps somewhere in CFBWest?? or better yet onto school grounds in the area) & use that freed-up land for off-leash. THAT would alleviate a lot of the pressure on River Park.
- No new facilities in park – just more maintenance of what is already there
- Use sprinkler in north area of park
- Used to have one person dedicated to maintenance
- Urine from dogs is it killing trees? 75 trees a year
- Biggest concern minimal maintenance, there is a full sprinkler system in River Park, but its not used because of broken sprinkler heads. The sprinkler in the south makes a muddy mess, lack of maintenance on pathway
- Brought in backhoe to create gravel path along escarpment but gravel has never been replenished- just bare soil now
- Park not budgeting enough dollars for maintenance
- Grandiose plan where is the money for maintenance?
- Reports of 130 off leash areas but many areas are unusable
- Rethink access, what will be called off leash
- New off leash areas should be (see page 8 of notes)

- Washrooms if properly maintained should operate year round like at Nose Hill, but don't lock them:
- I'm glad bathrooms (in the plan) were eliminated. They looked like two concrete bunkers
- User conflict – parks design creates conflict (River Park & Sandy Beach)
- Design needs to minimize conflict
 - Cycling / off leash – not appropriate connection
 - Think about conflicts
- The park has all kinds of garbage bottles, butts etc., its not just dogs
- Few people have been doing a lot – City needs to step up
- City doesn't recognize efforts of community
- Bylaw
 - Calgary has lowest bite incident
 - Most complaints people/people
- Where is the Data on user conflict – I get pushed off the pathway by cyclists but I never call to complain