

River Park | Sandy Beach | Britannia Slopes Consultation Phase 2
World Café Workshop
March 19, 2011 – 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Windsor Park Community Association – 5304 6 St. SW

People & Dogs – Verbatim Notes

Section A

Note: Group A flip charts were not marked as to group 1-5 / used change in writing to distinguish subgroups. Unlabelled charts at end of Group A.

Group A1

Flip Chart Notes A1

- Keep certain areas free of dogs
 - River Valley
 - Slopes
 - River
- River Park
- Percentage of off-leash versus on-leash should be determined by terrain
 - 30% of plateau off-leash
 - Make high flat area off-leash
 - Reclamation by non-dog users 70%
- Not just SB / RP issue
- It is a bylaw issue
 - Dog walkers
- Prioritize
 - Preservation of river and riverbanks
 - Have off leash
 - Commitment to maintain

Note: (numbered as appeared on flip charts)

1. Percentage ratio of off-leash / on-leash
 - Existing ratios lead to “happy”: dogs
2. Pathway delineation – consider visibility
 - Signage
 - Fencing at parking lot
 - Aesthetics
 - Safety
3. Model right behaviour
 - Education
4. Enjoy River more
 - Conflict reduced
 - Still lots of off-leash area

Best ways to delineate signage

- Signage – Educate public
- Aesthetics
- Language

Reclamation

- i.e. Silver Springs (85 St. Bow Road)

Chain link

- Cambria Heights

Fencing

- Use natural barriers

Times

Map A1

- Natural versus man-made delineation of on and off-leash area preferable –“we don’t want to get “fence happy”. Remember to keep park in natural state.
- The off-leash area should not be fenced on four sides as this will create doggy daycare
- Only chain link fences at most around three sides
- With respect to River Park flat area, 30% only for the area should be off-leash and 70% should be on-leash. The 30% should be at the south end so that 50th Ave. is used and the neighbourhood is not overwhelmed with traffic. Areas marked in brown.
- The river must be protected. More environmentally sensitive areas should be “on-leash” i.e. the slopes, valley and along the river. High flats areas, i.e. the Britannia Ridge and River Park should be off-leash.
- Flat area on ridge along Britannia Drive is too narrow for off-leash. Walkers are endangered by the off-leash dogs.
- Priorities
 - Preservation of river, river banks and slopes
 - Do not urbanize

Map A2 – A5

Map A2

- 14A Street / River Park area and down along river at Sandy Beach – marked in brown
 - Protect river and environment
 - On-leash area
 - Off-leash area in green for 14A Street
- Britannia Slopes Area
 - Off-leash – green area above Britannia slopes
 - Parking lot at North end can be expanded by 20 cars with little expense
 - Separate path from parking by chain link fence so dogs and people do not interfere with the “flow”
- Sandy Beach
 - North end can expand parking marked in red

Map A3

- Notes by Sandy Beach area:
 - Rotate off-leash to allow restoration
 - How about pristine areas for humans? – No dogs allowed
- Notes by River Park
 - Off-leash parking noted south of 50 Avenue

- Need by law enforcement
- Area by 14A Street 30% off-leash noted
- Natural signage on rocks by 14 A Street noted
- Britannia Flats and Slopes
 - 30% off-leash areas noted in brown in flat areas

Map A4

- River Park and 14A Street notes
 - No fence on 14A Street
 - Teal colour indicating keep same amount of off-leash – “if you lesson space then you will just have as many users, using as smaller area”
 - Green hatched areas consider a natural barrier or visual indication with signage off to on-leash area – cover north end to on-leash
- Britannia Slopes / Flats area notes and Sandy Beach
 - Teal colour indicating off-leash zones
 - Green area indicating control access from on-leash into river and to specific sustainable areas

Map A5

- Parkettes (?) and activity nodes noted at south end of 16 Street
- Redistribute demand from south of 14A and 50 Avenue to west of 16 Street – marked in green
- Off-leash noted at south end of 14A Street with 30 / 70 split
- Break or fence recommended and low bushes to create boundary between on and off-leash
- No doggie daycare (e.g. Cambrian Hts.)
- By Laws
 - Restrict number of dogs / walker
- Behaviour / communication
 - Adopt a dog program
 - Friends of River Park
- Parking area noted at north end of Britannia
- Wildlife area noted at north end of Sandy Beach

Summary Notes A

1. High use - consider ways to not attract more users
2. Decrease amount of use
3. Limited support for how to delineate
4. Signage natural
5. 30/70 no clear agreement
6. Preservation of slopes etc.
7. Communication
 - Not too much signage
 - Natural
8. Bylaw dog walkers

Group A2(assumed)

Flip Chart Notes A2I

1. % of on vs. off-leash
 - Sandy Beach 100%
 - 30% no more than off-leash
 - Creation of more parks
 - Use natural geographic / topography areas
 - Communication versus regulation
 - Website
 - Inserts – Dog license
 - Signage – not too much
 - Divert some dog traffic
2. Some fencing of off-leash
 - Fun for dogs
 - Interesting things to do
 - Make fence natural as possible
 - No fence on 14A Street
 - 1 metre chain link
 - Bushes for 14A Street
3. Bylaw solutions
 - Dog walkers number of dogs
 - Communication / Information / Behaviour / integration
4. 30/70
 - Impact on dog owners
 - Create ore parks on the margins
5. Priority
 - People
 - Respect
 - Sustainable park under high pressure
 - Disbursement of usage
 - Reduce some of demand
 - Recognize to do nothing is costing a lot

Group A3 (assumed)

Flip Chart Notes A3

1. Percentage off- versus on-leash
 - Status quo
 - Based on terrain – natural elements
 - On-leash
 - Creek
 - River valley
 - Slope
 - Escarpment – no use
 - Riverbank – nodes of access
2. Attractive to go there
 - 14A Street no fence
3. For development or redevelopment of residential area permits the City should make it part of any plan to provide green space including leash areas
4. Less conflict – preservation
5. Human first for Parks

- #1. Environment prevails
- Designated off-leash areas – less of

Group A4 (assumed)

Flip Chart Notes A4

- Turf management
 - “Gotta do what you gotta do to save the grass”
 - Rotation of closed areas
 - Enforcement *
 - People who love the park should be involved versus I don’t want to enforce no use of park

Group A5 (assumed)

Flip Chart Notes A5

- Reduce size of 14A Street, River Park
- Increase awareness of off-leash areas
- Signage of other areas
- Hand out map with license
- Bylaw dog walkers
- Complete control – on-leash
- Not allowed
- Signage of bylaws
- Greater enforcement
- Aesthetic fencing
- Rotation of off-leash areas
 - Three years (takes a season to come back)
 - Three sections to park rotate usage
- Park ambassadors
 - Signage – with rationale
 - Enforcement
 - Signage at parking lot – natural material - carve into rock
 - Enhance use and interaction
- Bylaw officers
- Education – awareness

Section B

Group 1

Flip Chart Notes B1

- Where to have off-leash
 - River Park flat area, split so half on- and half off-leash
 - Place off-leash areas so they can be accessed without going through on-leash area
 - Creates less / fewer potential conflicts
 - Encourages compliance
- Improve behaviour: #1 to change behaviour in a positive way

- Peak summer weekend days, between 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (as an example) on-leash only to reduce conflicts with families using the parks
- Limit number of dogs per person
- Possible licensing of professional dog walkers
- Enforcement
- Change behaviour in a positive way through Ambassador program
 - Positive approach to build responsible behaviour
- Use signage and put it where a natural boundary occurs – use both to designate on and off-leash area

Map B1

River Park area – marked in green

- Use natural delineations to divide off- / on-leash areas
- Possible connection between / across river (at north end of park) to off-leash areas to avoid travel through on-leash areas

Britannia Area

- Marked in brown
- City to expand off-leash into this area (south corner of 50th Ave.) through an agreement with Altalink. Ideal provider as has been done in other parks.
 - Fence area – area requires high level of clean up and maintenance
 - People coming from local areas allow dogs to defecate here on entry to Britannia Slopes before the escapement

Licensed Dog Walkers

- For regulation
- Increase enforcement and behaviour change
 - Bylaw
 - Reinstate volunteer ranger program
- On-leash / off-leash designated by landscape features (river banks, creek at the north end)
- Signs on good behaviour rules

Group B2

Flip Chart Notes B2

- Off-leash versus on-leash percentage
 - Conflicting ideas
 - 10% - 30% for off-leash
 - Some parks no dogs
- To start from one end of the conversation
 - No dogs allowed in the parks for the next four years in order to allow park to rehabilitate
 - Division of park into dog zone and rotating these areas (on-leash, off-leash, no dogs) around every year or every other year in order to provide rehabilitation of park
 - Why effective – allows area to recover
- Another issue – create a perimeter around the park so that in order to reach an off-leash area, one must cross on-leash area
 - May discourage off-leash walkers
- Issue around commercial dog walkers

- Get rid of them! With recognition that there needs to be someplace else for them to go
- Bylaw around how many dogs the commercial dog walkers can have – licensing
- Where is the enforcement? Animal bylaw services? How?
- Ideas about dogs in general not specific to this park
 - Differentiate between dog walkers that use parks and those that don't.
 - Different prices in licensing for big dogs that need exercise and pocket dogs that don't
 - Licensed based on dog weight
 - One year enforcement program – a concerted effort in the parks by animal services to educate and enforce
 - Discussion also suggested additional income go to maintaining parks
- Priorities
 - Enforcement of commercial walkers
 - Education

Map B2

- Brown triangles marked in all three parks for areas to be designated for dog off-leash use
 - 10% of area for off-leash / 30% is too much
 - Rotate areas between the three parks

Group B3

Flip Chart Notes B3

Define areas

- No dogs (may be seasonal for environmental protection of ground nesting birds and to protect sensitive areas of river banks)
- On-leash
- Off-leash (size of area in debate)

How to delineate

- Repair fencing on escarpment
- Esthetically pleasing
- Enforce

Invest in superior off-leash fenced areas away from natural areas

- Not all agree
- Needs to be natural, attractive
- Large enough to provide exercise and variety

Physical Solutions

- Gates to slow down off-leash running dogs
- Different colours (signage) for on and off-leash to make it easier to comply

Effective Enforcement

- Bylaw
 - During heavy use times as more people are using park then
 - During low use times as more likely to catch those not abiding

Park ambassadors - positive/ education

Map B3

- Area marked in teal River Park / Sandy Beach / Britannia along escarpment and river edges
 - No dogs in river and on-leash in river valley
 - Dog on-leash in upland areas only
 - Identify sensitive areas for seasonal no dogs, bikes or people due to nesting (nine noted that not all agree)
 - On-leash / off-leash signs need to look different from one another
- Area marked in brown north of Britannia and linking to bridge to cross river
 - Create off-leash for safety of people

Group B4

Flip Chart Notes B4

- Consistent Enforcement
 - From on- / off-leash area
 - Poop pick up
 - Cyclist speeds
- Ambassador dog / park
- Where off-leash abuts to regional pathways put fencing for safety

Map B4

- Clear simple distinct, plentiful consistent signage (symbols) to mark on-leash and off-leash areas (applies across all City parks)
- Upper Britannia – flat area in teal
 - Fence off-leash area
- Teal lines next to river indicate on-leash but not all agree
- Use Park ranger / ambassadors to educate and inform about (dog) bylaws
- Light green note and arrow point to dog river access at northern edge of Sandy Beach

Group B5 wrote on map only

Map B5

- Expand dog ambassador program
 - Educate cyclists as well re walk bike on bridge
 - Education is positive approach
 - Focus on developing respect
- Teal markings Britannia / River Park / Sandy Beach Areas
 - Maintain off-leash areas
 - Education / signage (post signs to indicate use / behaviour as is done in other cities)
 - Bylaw presence
 - Ambassador and park ranger programs
- Have a specific non-dog area
- Have a dedicated dog access area near parking lot

- Brown markings on map
 - On-leash area drawn on Sandy Beach area and on slopes
 - No dog area at Sandy Beach – (designated one area for no dogs and one area for dogs with break in between so both groups have some access without the other)
 - Dog area noted by parking lot at north end, lower flats on Britannia side
 - More signage for on-leash
 - Part of Britannia flat area with no dogs
- More and better signage at Sandy Beach but back up with enforcement
- Light green lines to possible fenced off-leash areas.
 - Comment: sturdy and attractive in reference to possible fencing of off-leash area
 - Takes away conflict
 - Manages pollution
 - Must be maintained
 - Have separate dog area and no dog area at beach