

Committee of the Whole Report



Date: 18 July, 2003
To: Mayor and Council
From: Elizabeth Low, Downtown Coordinator
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Department: Parks, Recreation & Community Development
Subject: **LEASH OPTIONAL AREAS IN CITY PARKS**

Executive Summary:

In the City of Victoria there are an estimated 12,000 - 15,000 dogs (3,600 licensed in 2002) and the number of dog owners is expected to increase as pet ownership continues to gain in popularity. Accordingly, dog walking has become an increasingly popular activity in city parks as many dog owners combine their dog's exercise and socialization needs with their personal outdoor recreation and fitness activities.

Currently, the City of Victoria has one leash optional area, along Dallas Road. Other city parks require that dogs be on leash. Over the past several years, in response to public demand for greater enforcement of the existing leash and scooping bylaws, City Council has maintained a contract with the CRD for dog bylaw enforcement. This increased enforcement of leash, cleanup and licensing bylaws has resulted in an increase in demand from dog owners for more legitimate leash optional areas within the City. Other park visitors and community groups have expressed concerns about the health, safety and environmental impacts of dogs off leash in parks.

In May, 2002 City Council directed staff to work with groups of neighbourhood dog owners to develop negotiated proposals for the use of a neighbourhood park (or space within) as a leash optional area during specified hours. Proposals required stakeholder consultation and neighbourhood support. Three groups came forward at that time and worked with staff and their respective neighbourhoods on these proposals with varying levels of success (see Background).

The trend of increased dog ownership across North America has many cities searching for ways to respond to increasing pressures on their parks and greenspaces and requests from dog owner groups for recognition that dog walking and exercising are legitimate uses of public space and entitled to space allocation in parks in the same way that other recreation uses are accommodated.

Research undertaken by staff demonstrates that most of the cities investigated have responded to dog owner groups by providing designated leash optional parks and open spaces or promoting shared use of space by park users and designating leash optional times within neighbourhood parks. In comparison to many of these cities, Victoria is a more compact urban setting and faces greater challenges in responding, given that its existing parks and greenspaces already experience heavy use by both programmed and informal activities.

Staff have established criteria for potential leash optional areas and undertaken a review of the City's parks and greenspaces (Appendix "A"). Staff have also undertaken significant research on models used in other cities that have responded to the needs of dog owners and have contacted these cities to evaluate the success of their initiatives.

Given this research, there are three options outlined on pages 4 & 5 of the Background. While status quo remains an option, staff are recommending that City Council move to a model which recognizes dog owners as significant users of outdoor recreation space and provides greater opportunity for legitimate access to space for off leash activity. The two recommended options are expanded on pages 4 and 5 in the Background document.

Recommendations

That City Council:

1. Recognize the legitimacy of dog owners using parks for exercising and socializing their pets as one of the many uses which need to be accommodated within the City's park system.
2. Adopt one of the following two options for improving access to public space for dog owners in the City of Victoria following a public consultation process.

Option 1. Designated Leash Optional Areas and Times

City Council would approve leash optional areas and specified times of use within up to ten designated neighbourhood parks throughout the City for a trial period of one year.

Option 2. "Adopt a Park Space for Leash Optional times"

City Council would approve potential leash optional areas and times of use within up to ten designated neighbourhood parks throughout the City. Leash optional use would then be permitted subject to an organized group of neighbourhood dog owners agreeing to "adopt the space" for leash optional times and assuming some responsibility for education, communication and site clean up, for a trial period of one year.

3. Undertake a public consultation process as described in Appendix "B" with staff reporting back with a recommended option following their review of the public input.

Respectfully submitted,

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BACKGROUND - LEASH OPTIONAL AREAS IN CITY PARKS
Committee of the Whole Report – July 24, 2003

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, there has been an increasing number of concerns raised about the City's bylaws regarding dogs in parks within the City of Victoria. The issues have included demands for more enforcement of the existing Bylaws and conflicting demands for less enforcement and for permitting dogs off leash in more parks. As a result of complaints about lack of enforcement, Council approved a contract with the CRD for an increased level of enforcement in city parks. This higher level of enforcement of leash, cleanup and licensing bylaws resulted in an increased demand for legal leash optional areas in the City from dog owners who previously were used to exercising their dogs without leashes in many City parks. These dog owners have requested that City Council provide a wider range of leash optional locations throughout the City so they may continue to exercise their dogs off leash without the risk of penalty.

In May of 2002, Council directed staff to work with groups of neighbourhood dog owners to develop proposals for Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) for the use of specific parks as off leash areas. Neighbourhood support was required in this process. Three groups came forward at that time and worked with staff, the respective neighbourhood associations and, park user groups to establish neighbourhood off leash areas.

At this time it seems most likely that only one of the three dog owner groups will reach an agreement with the neighbourhood for a trial program. This proposal will be brought forward to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Advisory Committee and City Council for approval using the current process.

The experience of this process has been that:

- Some dog owners are not willing to engage in the process and believe that the City should acknowledge their needs and designate park area for off leash activity.
- Consensus is difficult. Views are polarized and some neighbourhood associations do not want to be in the position of "approving" leash optional areas in their neighbourhood parks.
- Where consensus might be achievable, there are concerns about being the only Victoria neighbourhood with a leash optional area and becoming a city-wide or regional destination for dog owners wanting to exercise their dogs off leash.
- There are major site concerns where dog owner groups are advocating for leash optional times within park space that is adjacent to a school and shared with school use.
- Park users frustrated by a current lack of adherence to "scooping" bylaws are skeptical that dog owners will take on greater responsibility for maintaining a site and ensuring proper clean up after their dogs.

II. DOGS IN PARKS – SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER

The Urban Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Victoria is a compact, heavily developed urban area with little open or undeveloped space• Current number of dog owners is estimated between 12,000 – 15,000 and as is the trend across North America, these numbers are anticipated to increase• Increasing densification resulting in more apartment and condo residents with no yards for pets• Seniors, low income residents and those who have chosen to live in or close to the downtown core are less likely to drive vehicles and will make greater use of local parks for their dog walking activity• City of Victoria parks and green spaces are generally small in size and subject to considerable informal and programmed use by a wide range of users.• Most neighbourhood park sites have little parking for non-neighbourhood users
Environmental Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical impacts to vegetation, walkways and wildlife, including nesting birds and waterfowl• Soil erosion and compaction in rainy winter periods• Possible impacts to wetlands, fish habitat and shoreline erosion on Gorge and Dallas Road cliffs• Growing friction between dog owners and conservationists over damage from overuse by dogs• Neighbourhood based leash optional areas reduce vehicle traffic and related pollution• More leash optional areas could reduce the impact of dogs off leash on any one particular area• Restricted hours of off leash activity may reduce the potential for negative, cumulative impacts
Park Users
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog owners walking their dogs make up a significant portion of current park users• There already exists a high level of off leash activity in many city parks• Dog owners request that they be recognized and accommodated as legitimate park users• Noise from dogs disturbs other park users looking for quiet• Current user groups are concerned about losing control of “their” space• Some individuals and particular cultural groups fear or dislike dogs• Dog droppings and digging by dogs affects other users• Existing off leash area on Dallas Road is heavily used by regional residents and visitors• Increased demands by both dog related groups and other groups for the City to respond to their needs in parks
Health and Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal safety concerns cited regarding dogs on and off-leash particularly from seniors, parents with young children, and some cultural groups• Public health concerns about un-removed dog feces particularly around children’s play areas• Fear of confrontation and attack by aggressive dogs on people and other dogs• Dogs with off leash opportunities tend to be healthier, happier, less aggressive and better socialized• Increased presence of dogs and their owners in parks especially at off peak hours can deter inappropriate conduct in parks• Dog ownership requires owners to get out and exercise their dogs, resulting often in increased social interaction and increased physical exercise for the individual• Community building results from having people walking and interacting on a regular basis• Research shows that many health benefits may be derived through pet ownership particularly for the socially isolated (ie. seniors, disabled, mentally ill)

Education, Enforcement and Regulations

- Many sites currently used as off leash are not legal
- Limited resources and enforcement of existing rules related to dogs in parks (leash/clean-up)
- General lack of knowledge by public about municipal jurisdictions and policies related to leash, clean up and licensing
- For leash optional areas to work, consistent enforcement of leash, clean up and licensing regulations is important
- Need for improved signage and education about bylaws and rules in individual parks
- Dog owner groups in many Cities have become able park stewards and have assumed some responsibility for education of other dog owners and general public
- Increasing demand for dog-related amenities in public spaces such as dog waste dispensers and bags, trash bins, water “dishes” etc.

III. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OTHER CITIES?

EDMONTON (population 750,000)

- originally 16 leash optional sites were designated by City
- today there are 41 sites, mostly small neighbourhood sites
- there is a clearly defined process for approval of each site
- establishing a new site requires petition by 66% of adjacent property owners
- 1 to 7 volunteer monitors per site
- cleanup is the main issue

TORONTO (population 4,682,879; 7,061 sq. km.)

- to set up an area requires a neighbourhood group of at least 15 volunteers to monitor, do cleanup 4 times a year, repair dog damage and request enforcement as needed
- approval by Council includes a requirement for an annual review and evaluation of each site
- most sites have specific times for leash optional use

KELOWNA (population 96,000, 120 sq.mi.)

- 12 parks permit dogs (remainder don't allow dogs at all)
- 3 of the 12 parks are off leash parks and are at least 10 acres in size
- only sites which are a minimum of 3 acres will be considered for off leash use
- to establish sites requires same process of notification and consultation as rezoning

VANCOUVER (population 560,000)

- 25 parks have off leash permitted at certain times
- No site monitoring program in place
- Parks Board reviewing the entire program because of high volume of conflicts and complaints

NANAIMO (population 77,500)

- only 2 off leash sites available, both in remote locations

4. OPTIONS TO CONSIDER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA

Option 1: Designated Leash Optional Areas and Times

City council would approve leash optional areas and specified times of use within up to ten designated neighbourhood parks throughout the City for a trial period of one year.

How it would look:

- Up to 10 leash optional sites (with identified areas and times for leash optional) would be identified by staff and approved by Council
- Implementation would be for a one year trial period
- A monitoring and evaluation plan would be in place with a staff report to be submitted to Council at the end of the trial period.
- Educational signage and some infrastructure improvements (eg fencing, additional trash bins, bag dispensers etc.) would be made to facilitate such uses, maximize safety and educate park users

Factors to be considered:

- neighbourhoods and current parks users may feel displaced
- there would be no organized group to assist with managing site and education of users
- compliance at designated sites and times may improve
- lack of compliance at other sites may continue
- public expectations for enforcement may continue to increase
- regular presence of dogs and owners in off peak hours could result in safer community

Resources Required:

- enforcement at other sites and non-permitted times and scooping bylaw will be required
- infrastructure costs will be incurred
- resources required for public education and signage
- staff time required for start up, education and site monitoring

Option 2: “Adopt a Park Space for Leash Optional times”

City Council would approve potential leash optional areas and times of use within up to ten designated neighbourhood parks throughout the City. Leash optional use would then be permitted subject to an organized group of neighbourhood dog owners agreeing to “adopt the space” for leash optional times and assuming some responsibility for education, communication and site clean up for a trial period of one year.

How it would look

- Up to 10 leash optional sites (with identified areas and times for leash optional) would be identified by staff and approved by Council.
- Staff would be authorized to establish an identified site as a leash optional area if a dog owner group came forward to assume responsibility for that site and a suitable agreement was reached with the group.
- Implementation would be for a one year trial period
- A monitoring and evaluation plan would be in place with a staff report to be submitted to Council at the end of the trial period.
- Educational signage and some infrastructure improvements (eg fencing, additional trash bins, bag dispensers etc.) would be made to facilitate such uses, maximize safety and educate park users

- Dog owner groups would assume some responsibility for education, communication and site cleanup

Factors to be Considered:

- Neighbourhoods and current user groups would be consulted and their concerns addressed as much as possible
- An organized group would assist with managing the site, monitoring use and educating users
- Overall compliance is likely to be higher than with no monitors
- Presence of dogs and owners would be predictable and during non-prime hours which may contribute to a higher sense of safety in city parks
- Enforcement of scooping bylaw becomes more important

Resources Required

- enforcement of other sites, non-permitted times and scooping bylaw will be required
- infrastructure costs will be incurred
- resources required for education and signage
- staff time required to negotiate agreements, start up, education and site monitoring
- education would at least partially be the responsibility of the dog owner group, though the City would still coordinate City-wide and monitor effectiveness

Option 3: Status Quo

With only one overused leash optional site and only one potentially successful MOU developed, this option is not recommended.

This option would maintain the current on-leash requirements throughout the City with the possibility of individual dog groups negotiating an MOU with the City for the use of one specific neighbourhood park. To date no MOU's have been approved.

How it would look

- Current leash bylaw, enforcement and requirements except in specific MOU locations
- 1 or 2 possible MOU's

Factors to be Considered:

- dog groups want City-wide access for leash optional uses
- neighbourhood concerns about a limited number of sites becoming destinations for City-wide and regional dog owners with related traffic and overuse issues
- dog owner groups reluctant to take responsibility for non-members
- reluctance on part of some user groups to share "their" park space
- likely increase in non-compliance at other sites through frustration
- dog owner group could assist with education, neighbourhood liaison, and site cleanliness
- non-compliance and demands for increased enforcement will continue

Resources Required:

- increased enforcement will be required as non-compliance continues
- infrastructure especially signage, disposal bags and equipment will be increasingly required as number of dogs and usage increases
- staff time required to negotiate new agreements, respond to increasing public complaints and to educate the public to improve compliance

Appendix “A”

POTENTIAL LEASH OPTIONAL AREAS City of Victoria Parks and Greenspaces - Site Analysis

Introduction

Parks Division staff have undertaken a complete review of the parks and greenspaces within the City of Victoria and developed a list of parks which, based on established criteria are best suited to accommodate leash optional use within a designated area of a park and within specified time periods.

This analysis is predicated on the assumption that the multi-use nature of all of the city’s parks and greenspaces means that restricted hours offer the greatest opportunity for appropriate “shared” use with other park users and activities. Limiting hours for leash optional use will also reduce the potential cumulative impacts of dogs off leash on the parks landscape.

This analysis also assumes that, following preliminary site selection, further work by Parks design staff would be required to identify appropriate locations within a park, recommendations on design changes needed to support off leash activity, and recommendations regarding times of use.

The factors considered by Parks staff in completing this site analysis were as follows:

1. Park Size

- staff considered the park area available after considering the facilities within a park which would restrict any off leash activity
- in general, City of Victoria parks are small and compact in nature when compared to many other larger cities and other regional municipalities
- the most appropriate park sites are larger areas that provide sufficient space for exercising dogs and reduce the potential for dog/people conflicts and concentration of dog waste.

2. Ornamental Gardens and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Many city parks contain valuable gardens and environmentally sensitive areas. These areas were deemed to be off limits for the purposes of off leash dog activity unless space within a park could be re-designed to restrict access to these areas.

3. Proximity to Schools

- Parks adjacent to schools are often access areas for children going to and from school and heavily used areas by children and youth. In this survey, parks which form part of a school “grounds” were excluded from consideration for off leash activity.

4. Proximity to Community and Recreation Centres

- Community and Recreation Centres have varied times of use by different age groups. The proximity of these centers to a potential off leash area and the nature of activity within a center was considered in this analysis.

5. Children’s Play Areas

- The surface area under play structures that are mostly sand or wood chip based should be free of dog waste. This combined with the intensity of children at play means that these areas are not suited to any access by dogs. A minimum distance of 50 feet from children’s playgrounds was considered to be off limit areas for dogs both on leash and off leash for the purpose of this analysis unless suitable barriers exist or may be established to prevent dogs from accessing this area.

6. Sportsfields and Ball Diamonds

- Under conditions of restricted hours of use and a requirement that all dogs be leashed during any permitted field activity, these areas were considered to offer sufficient open spaces for dogs to exercise off leash when not in use
- Enforcement of scooping bylaws and regular clean up is important in these areas if considered for off leash activity

7. Motor Vehicle Traffic Areas

- Areas which are limited in size and pose a potential risk to dogs running into vehicle traffic areas were considered unsuitable for off leash activity

8. Areas highly used by Cyclists, Joggers etc.

- Dogs off leash in high traffic areas for cycling and jogging present many opportunities for conflict and were considered unsuitable

9. Areas with narrow corridors and highly used pedestrian pathways

- These areas were considered to be less compatible for use as they present greater opportunity for dog/human conflict

10. Areas currently used by Dog Owners with Minimal perceived conflict

- While off leash activity is currently prohibited in City parks the reality is that many dog owners actively disregard these City bylaws and there exists today in many park areas regular off leash activity where the reporting of any conflict has been minimal
- Current activity where little conflict seems to exist was also considered in this analysis

The Top Ten Park Sites for Consideration as Leash Optional Areas

Considering the factors above, 10 park spaces have been identified as most suitable for consideration as leash optional areas during specified hours of use.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Arbutus Park | 6. Redfern Park |
| 2. Banfield Park | 7. Oaklands Park |
| 3. Fisherman's Park | 8. Oswald Park |
| 4. Holland Point Park and Beach | 9. Topaz Park |
| 5. Little Ross Bay Park and Beach | 10. Central Park |

Other Site Options for Leash Optional Areas

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 11. Brook St. Park | 16. Jackson Street Park |
| 12. Clover Point to Cook St. Park and Beach | 17. Summit Park |
| 13. Moss Rocks Park | 18. Barnard Park |
| 14. William Stevenson Park | 19. Vic West Park |
| 15. Pemberton Park | |

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL LEASH OPTIONAL AREAS – BY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports Fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Burnside/Gorge									
Arbutus Park					X			X	Okay.
Bay St. Green				X		X	X		Unsuitable – too small.
Blanshard Parkways			X			X	X		Unsuitable – traffic.
Cecelia Park	X		X	X	X				Unsuitable – native area.
Ellice St. Park	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Gorge Green Turnabout							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Halkett Island							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Holyrood Green						X			Sold – Island Farms.
Humber Green						X	X		Unsuitable – too small.
Selkirk Green	X	X					X		Unsuitable – school.
Sumas Playground	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Downtown									
Bastion Square			X		X	X			Hard surface – too small.
Bridgehead Green						X	X		Traffic nearby – too small.
Centennial Square					X				Unsuitable.
Chatham Rockery							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Chinatown							X		Unsuitable.
Conference Centre Grounds					X	X			Unsuitable.
Cridge Park							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Fort St. Planters							X		Unsuitable – planters.
Government St. Mall							X		Unsuitable – planters.
Laundry Site									Unsuitable.

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Law Court Greens							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Lower Causeway					X				Unsuitable – hardscape.
Malahat Building Gr.							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Ocean Cement Gr.							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Parliament Bldg Ground									Unsuitable – Province.
Penwell Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Queen Elizabeth Park									Unsuitable.
Reeson Park							X		Unsuitable – Province.
Reid Centre									Unsuitable.
Totem Thunderbird Pk							X		Unsuitable – Museum.
Upper Causeway					X		X		Unsuitable – hardscape.
Fairfield									
Beacon Hill Park	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Beach – Dallas Rd.				X					
Beach – Gonzales			X	X	X				Swimming at beach.
Brook St. Field			X		X	X			Possible.
Bushby Playlot	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Chapman Playlot	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Clover Point				X	X		X		Unsuitable – too much traffic.
Clover Pt. To Cook St. Beach				X			X		Possible.
Little Ross Bay Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Lower Memorial Gr.	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Moss Rocks Park					X				Possible.
Pioneer Square	X			X	X				Heritage.
Robert Porter Park	X	X			X				Unsuitable.
Ross Bay Cemetery				X	X				Heritage.
Rupert Terrace Green	X					X			Unsuitable – too small.

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Sir James Douglas Elem		X							Unsuitable – school.
Upper Memorial Cres Gr							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Victoria General Hosp.									Unsuitable.
Fernwood									
Alexander Park	X			X	X				Unsuitable – too much existing use.
Begbie Parkway					X		X		Unsuitable - traffic nearby.
Begbie Parkway – 4					X		X		Unsuitable – too small.
Belmont Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Gladstone Mall		X			X				Unsuitable – hardscape area.
George Jay Elementary						X			Unsuitable – school.
Gower Park					X				Unsuitable – too small.
Haegart Park					X				Unsuitable – too small.
Johnson St. Greens							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Kings Playlot	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Queen's Playlot	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Scurrah Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Stadacona Park	X		X		X				Unsuitable – too many other activities.
Verrinder							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Victoria Sr. Secondary		X				X			Unsuitable – school.
William Stevenson Memorial	X				X				Possible.
Gonzales									
Gonzales Beach Entrance									Unsuitable.
Gonzales Weather Station				X					Unsuitable.
Hollywood Park	X		X		X	X			Unsuitable.
Little Ross Bay Beach								X	Okay.
Maddison Green				X			X		Unsuitable – too small.

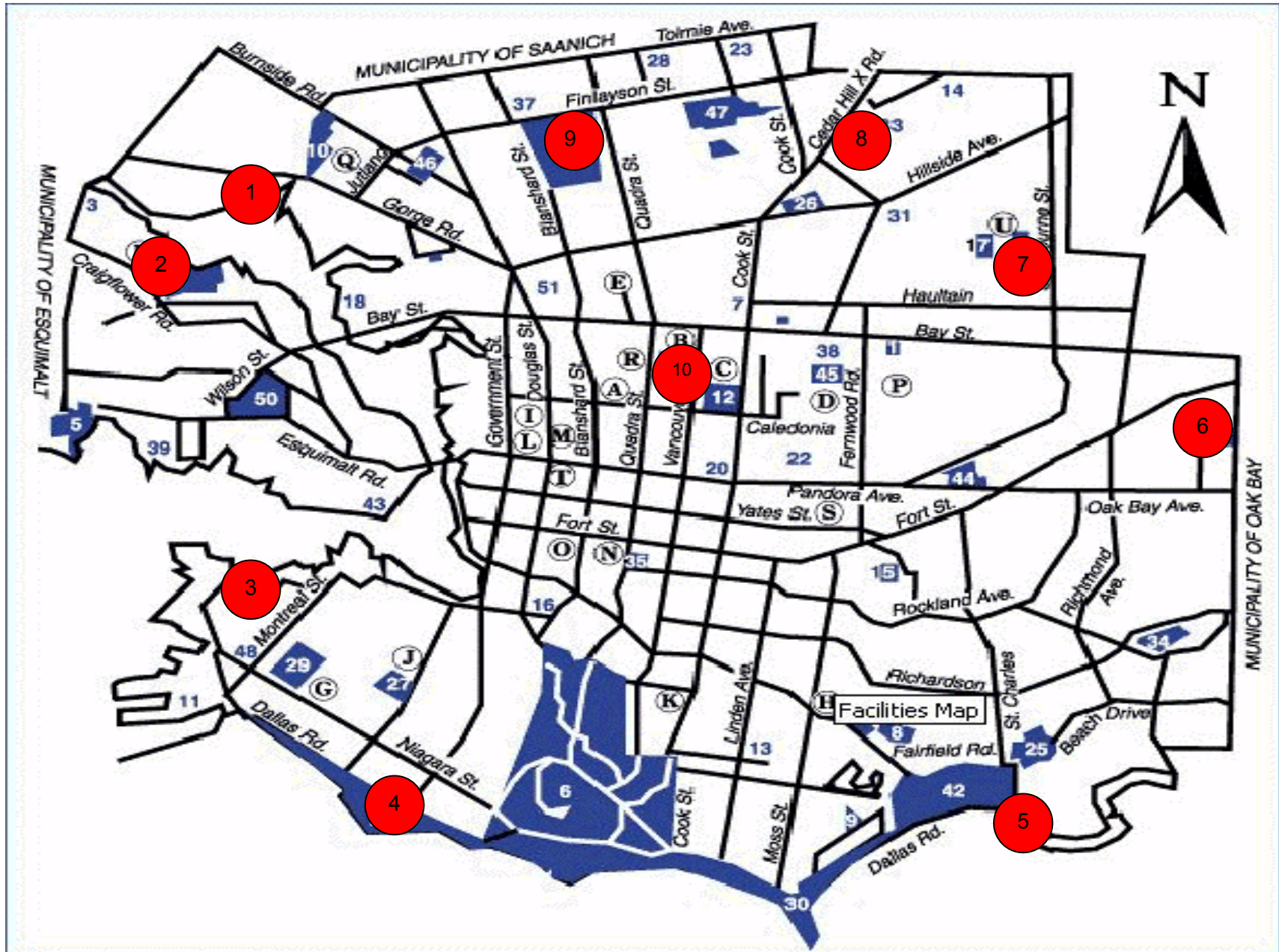
Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Margaret Jenkins Elem		X				X			Unsuitable – school.
Pemberton Park	X		X		X	X			Possible.
Pandora Parkway							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Wilmer Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Harris Green							X		Unsuitable.
Central Jr. Secondary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Hillside/Quadra									
Blackwood Gr. Park									Unsuitable – too small.
Blanshard Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Blanshard Parkways 4					X		X		Unsuitable – traffic.
Highview St. Park	X	X			X				Unsuitable – too small.
Jackson St. Park	X		X		X				Possible.
Mars St. Park				X					Unsuitable – too small.
Mayfair Green					X		X		Unsuitable – too small.
Quadra Heights Playlot	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Quadra Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Quadra Park									Unsuitable – too small.
SJ Willis Jr. Secondary						X			Unsuitable – school.
Summit Park			X	X					Possible.
Topaz Park	X					X		X	Okay.
Wark St. Park	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Wesley Park	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
James Bay									
Avalon Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Belleville Green					X		X		Unsuitable – too small.

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Breakwater					X				Unsuitable.
Canada Coast Guard Grounds									Government.
Centennial Park					X				Province.
Charles Redfern Gr.							X		Unsuitable.
Confederation Pk Plaza									Unsuitable.
Fisherman's Wharf *					X	X		X	Okay.
Heritage Court									Unsuitable
Holland Point Beach & Park			X	X	X			X	Okay.
Irving Park	X				X				Too small, shrubs.
James Bay Comm. School		X							Unsuitable – school.
Laurel Point Park					X				Unsuitable.
Lewis St. Parkette	X								Unsuitable – too small.
Macdonald Park	X	X	X		X	X			Unsuitable – school.
South Park	X	X		X		X			Unsuitable – school.
South Park Elementary		X				X			Unsuitable – school.
Todd Playlot	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Jubilee									
Fern St.	X				X		X		Unsuitable – too small.
Leighton Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Redfern Park	X				X			X	Okay.
Royal Jubilee Hospital									Unsuitable.
Sundance & Bank Elem		X							Unsuitable – school.
Shelbourne Greens							X		Unsuitable – traffic.

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Victoria Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
North Park									
Balmoral Island							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Central Park	X				X	X		X	Okay.
Dowler Place							X		Unsuitable – traffic.
Mason St. Playlot	X				X				Continual pedestrian traffic
Royal Athletic Park			X			X			Unsuitable.
Oaklands									
Clawthorpe Playlot	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Cook St. Shrubbery							X		Unsuitable – too small.
David Spencer Park	X					X			Unsuitable – too small.
Hillside Park	X		X		X	X			Unsuitable – too many exiting activities.
Holly Green				X	X		X		Unsuitable – too small.
Mt. Stephen Park	X			X					Unsuitable – too small.
Oaklands Park	X		X					X	Okay.
Oaklands Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Oswald Park	X				X	X		X	Okay.
Ryan St. Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Rockland									
Craigdarroch Castle									Unsuitable.
Gov't House Grounds									Unsuitable.
St. Charles Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Terrace Park				X	X				Unsuitable – too small.
Victoria West									
Alston Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Arm St. Park			X		X				Unsuitable – too small.

Parks	Children's Play Area	Next to school	Activity use e.g. Cycling, jogging	Environmentally sensitive area	Pedestrian path regularly used	Sports fields	Traffic	Appropriate	Comments
Arthur Currie Green							X		Unsuitable – too small.
Banfield Park	X			X	X			X	Okay.
Barnard Park	X		X	X	X				Possible.
Burlieth									Unsuitable – too small.
Burnside Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Coffin Island									Unsuitable.
Coleville Island									Unsuitable.
Lime Bay Park					X				Unsuitable – too small.
Mariner's Walkway									Unsuitable.
Mary St. Park					X				Unsuitable – too small.
Point Ellice Park									Unsuitable, being developed
Raynor Park	X				X				Unsuitable – too small.
Saghalie Park									Unsuitable - under development.
Sitkum									Unsuitable – too small.
Songhees Park									Unsuitable.
Tenus Park									Unsuitable.
Tyee Park					X		X		Unsuitable – too small.
Vic West Elementary		X							Unsuitable – school.
Vic West Park	X		X		X	X			Possible.
West Song Walkway					X				Unsuitable.

PROPOSED LEASH OPTIONAL LOCATIONS



Key: (1) Arbutus; (2) Banfield; (3) Fisherman's; (4) Holland Point; (5) Little Ross Bay Green
 (6) Redfern; (7) Oaklands; (8) Oswald; (9) Topaz; (10) Central

APPENDIX "B"

PROPOSED PROCESS FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR LEASH OPTIONAL AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF VICTORIA

1. **Staff review presented to City Council (July 24, 2003)**
2. **Public Forum to be held Early September, 2003**
 - **Management of Public Forum**
 - Public Forum process to be overseen by independent Consultant/Facilitator who will organize the forum, moderate the forum and prepare a final report on the proceedings of the forum
 - **Notification**
 - Information package and notification of public forum to be sent to Neighbourhood Associations and Park stakeholder groups in advance of forum
 - Public forum to be advertised in local newspaper, on city website and information packages to be available on website or, for pick up
 - **Public Form Process**
 - Speakers must pre-register
 - Speakers limited to 5 minutes
 - Only residents of the City of Victoria are invited to participate in the forum
 - Written presentations may be distributed to Council members and the secretary (12 copies) but will not be addressed at the meeting. Singles copies presented will be circulated with the meeting summary to members of Council.
 - Minutes will be taken (Public Hearing style)
 - No decisions will be made at the forum
3. **Staff report to be submitted to City Council with recommendations based on public consultation and the Facilitators' report.** Staff recommendations to include costs related to the implementation of the recommendations.
4. **Staff report circulated to CAN, sports field user groups and dog owner groups who represent Victoria residents for comments.**
5. **Final report and recommendations to City Council for approval and implementation.**