

## Lower Lonsdale Off-Leash Area Public Consultation Complete Summary

The City of North Vancouver has recognized the growing number of dogs in the Lower Lonsdale neighbourhood. This process was initiated in order to collect public input regarding the siting of a new off-leash dog area in Lower Lonsdale.

The following information is a complete summary of the feedback collected online, by email, through social media and from the two public open houses.



**290**  
completed  
questionnaires

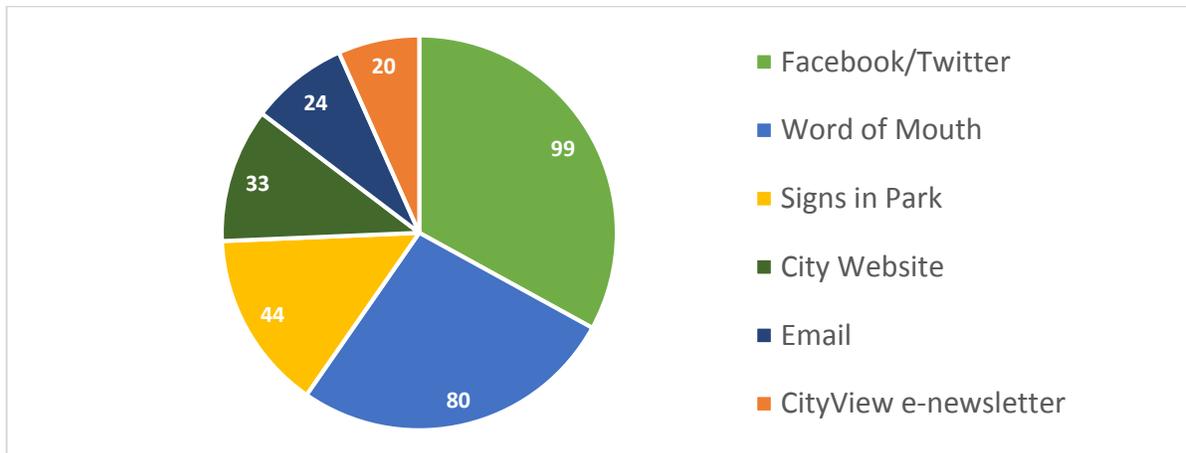


**270**  
people attended  
open houses



**10**  
other forms of  
communication  
received

### 1. How did you hear about the Open House? (check as many as apply)



Other (please specify):

Flyer in mail x12	Newspaper x2
Walking by x8	North Shore Neighbourhood House
Info at John Braithwaite Community Centre x5	CNV Employee
Neighbourhood flyer x4	

**2. Where do you live?**

- Lower Lonsdale = 187
- City of North Vancouver Resident = 52
- District of North Vancouver Resident = 35

\*for those who indicated LL & CNV, only counted LL

**68%** of  
respondents live  
in Lower  
Lonsdale

*Other (please specify):*

Surrey	West Vancouver
Vancouver (Hastings Sunrise)	North Burnaby

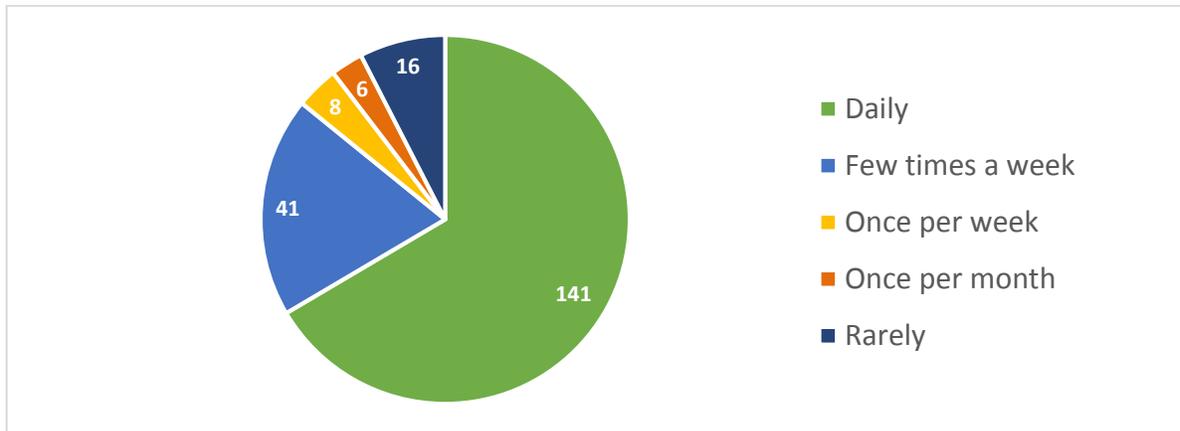
**3. Do you own a dog(s)?**

- Yes = **217**
- No = 114

*Other:*

Daughter has one that we walk	No, but I like dogs!
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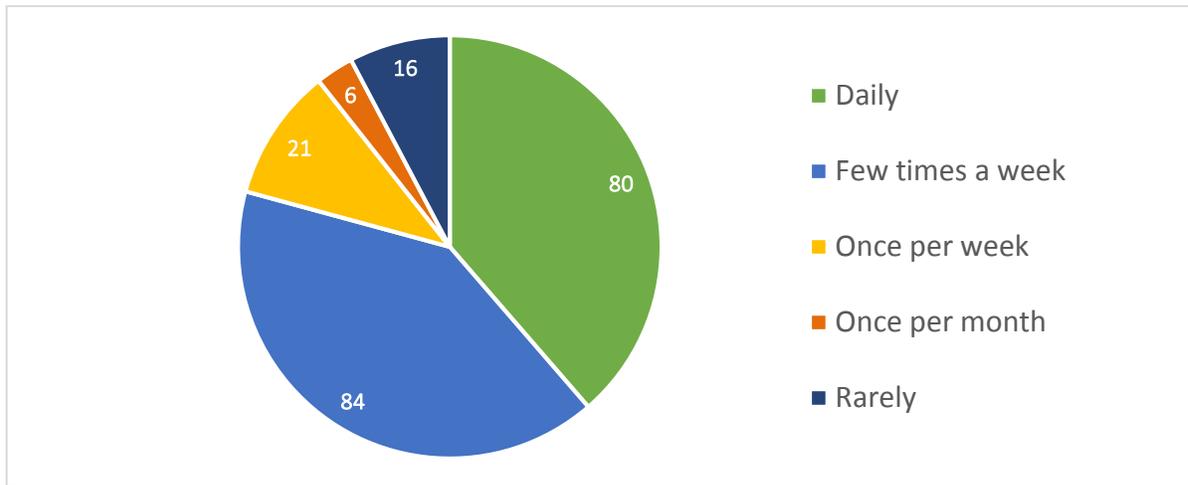
**4. If you own a dog, how often would you visit an urban off-leash area if it was within a 5 minute walking distance (400m) to where you live?**



**Comments (most relevant):**

Support urban off-leash park x17	If Victoria Park x2
Multiple times per day (2-5) x10	If E 1 <sup>st</sup> Site
Would save driving x4	Have visiting dog, but would bring when here
Prefer trails/natural areas for off-leash x3	If was more than 10/15 min walk wouldn't visit very often
Proximity is important x2	Older dogs may not use small urban off-leash area
If Waterfront Park x2	

**5. If you own a dog, how often would you visit an urban off-leash area if it was within a 10 minute walking distance (800m) to where you live?**



*Comments:*

Too far for daily commute x5	Visit E1st site multiple times/day because its close
Support urban off-leash park x2	Prefer trails/natural areas for off-leash
Couple times per day	Can already get to off-leash areas in 10min walk
Would reduce driving emissions	If at Victoria Park

**6. We have proposed five guiding principles that we are considering when planning for new off-leash areas. Is there anything else we should consider?**

**Comments (most relevant):**

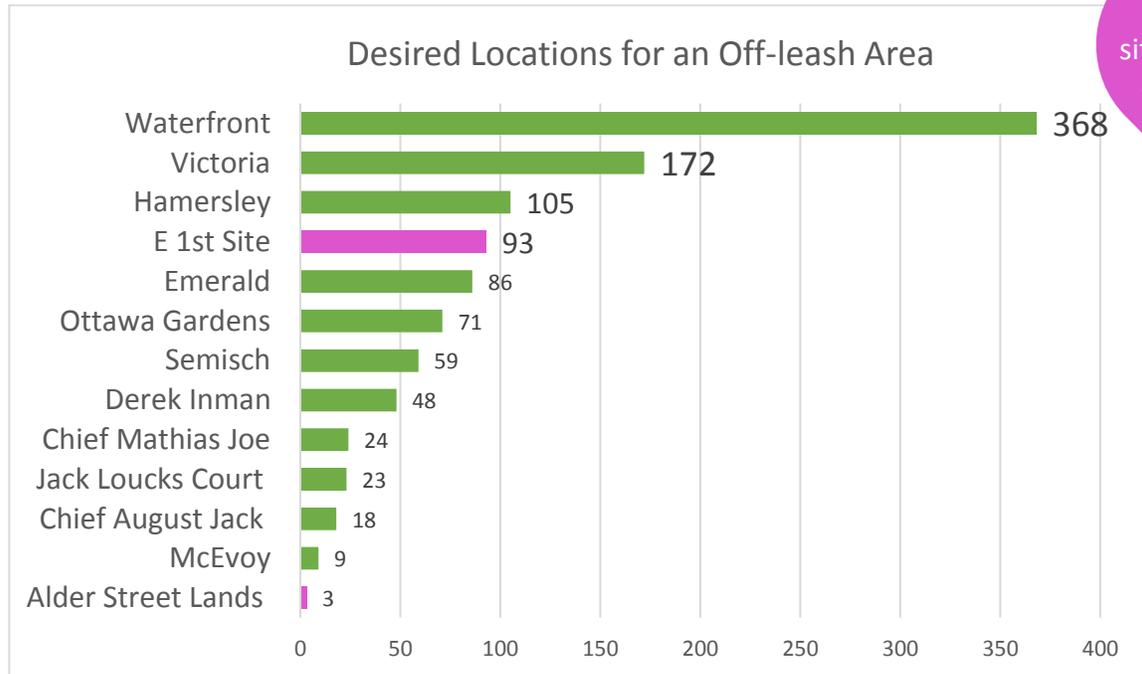
Noise/impact on adjacent users x12	Support proposed guiding principles x4
Promote responsible dog ownership & education x8	Safety/security x3
Existing use of any new off-leash area x6	Dogs interests x3
Protect sensitive habitat/minimize environmental impact x5	Non dog owners
Proximity to other amenities (especially playgrounds) x5	

**A number of desired features were also identified throughout the comments. Some of the desired features of a new off-leash area include:**

Large enough space to run and do agility x27	Natural design elements x2
Fully fenced with gate x27	Lighting x2
Separate play areas for large/small dogs x21	Signage
Appropriate surface/improved drainage x12	Picnic Table
Nearby parking x10	Rentable off-leash area
Water fountains (people + dogs) x9	Circle routes/trails
Ensure enough poop bins/bags x9	Speed bumps near off-leash area
Seating x8	No pet memorials
Agility elements x6	Protection from rain
Shade x4	Dog "hitching post" throughout City
Washrooms x3	Clean swimming water
Water access x2	Need a pet cemetery
Off-leash trails x2	

**7. We are looking for suitable locations in Lower Lonsdale parks for a new, small urban off-leash area.**

**Please review the park attributes described on the open house boards and circle three parks that you feel would be best suited as potential locations for an off-leash area.**



**Comments (most relevant):**

Consider large, underutilized parks x13	Consider dog/dog owner safety x2
Opposed to Ottawa Gardens x8	Locate in lower part of Lower Lonsdale x2
All parks are suitable x6	Accessible
Don't need one x6	Locate in the woods
Opposed to Victoria Park x5	Locate where guiding principles followed
Opposed to Jack Loucks Court x5	Derek Inman & Waterfront get a lot of dogs
Do not support off-leash area in Lower Lonsdale x4	Opposed to McEvoy
Avoid existing amenities/playgrounds x4	Consider existing use/users
Opposed to Hamersley x4	Locate in desirable area
Opposed to Waterfront Park x3	Locate away from residential
Opposed to Semisch Park x3	Fenced off-leash area next to playground
If not larger size, multiple off-leash areas in Lower Lonsdale x3	Consider proximity to other off-leash areas

\*See question 8 for alternative locations.

**8. Do you think another location in Lower Lonsdale should be considered for an urban off-leash dog area?**

Yes = 41

No = **63**

**If yes, what other location(s) should we consider? What makes these locations preferable?**

**Comments:**

E 1 <sup>st</sup> Site x93	Sunrise Park
Alder Street Lands x3	Cloverly Park
Any future/new development site x2	Mahon Park
Presentation House Site x2	At Shipyards
E end Victoria Park between St. Georges & St. Davids x2	Archbishop Tennis Courts
Old movie theatre on Esplanade	Moodyville
Dixon Park	

**9. What is currently working well in the City's existing off-leash areas?  
These areas include Lynnmouth Park, Kings Mill Walk, and Mosquito Creek Trail.**

Fenced/gated x31	Fenced pathways x5
Large size/openness x24	Signage x4
Water access x22	Clean/well maintained x4
Dog waste bins x22	Variety of surfaces x3
Doggie bag dispensers x20	Cooperation between city & dog owners x2
Like existing off-leash areas x15	Away from children x2
Drinking water for people & dogs x12	Compatible with adjacent uses x2
Away from residential x10	Natural obstacles/play area x2
Seating x9	Natural beauty x2
Variety of spaces x6	Trees x2
Accessible x6	Limited water access x2
Weather protection x6	Garbage cans x2
Safety & lighting x5	Connection to other trails
Located away from road/cars x5	Integration of people and dogs
Variable terrain x5	Public washrooms
Available parking x5	Need off-leash area

**What are the challenges with the City's existing off-leash areas?**

Too far/have to drive x32	Too close to busy trails x3
Not enough off-leash areas x23	Not enough parking x3
Irresponsible dog owners x17	Too close to roads/cars x3
All dogs in same area x15	Cleanliness/visual appeal x3
Areas not fully fenced/gated x14	Safety x3
Poor surface/drainage x14	No/limited water access x3
Dogs off-leash before/after in off-leash area x8	Cost to maintain waste disposal x3
Areas too small x7	Poor lighting x2
Not close to Lower Lonsdale x6	No human washrooms x2
Conflicts with other users x5	Unneutered dogs
Overused/too crowded x5	Barking
Lack of enforcement x5	Dog waste
Not enough red waste bins x5	Maintaining grass
Clear signage x4	Trails with changing leash rules
Untrained/out of control dogs x4	Located in sensitive habitat
Aggressive dogs x4	Unauthorized pet memorials
Awareness of existing off-leash areas x4	Non dog owners

**10. What is currently working well to promote responsible dog ownership in the community?**

**Comments:**

Red waste bins x61	Existing bylaws x2
Doggie bags x43	Meetings/Open Houses x2
Signage x26	Education x2
Not much/unaware of anything x11	Garbage cans x2
Online licensing x6	Clear maps
Existing off-leash areas x5	Dog training
Peer pressure x2	Responsible dog owners
Respect for dog owners & non-owners x2	

**What could be improved?**

Enforcement x50	Safety
More red bins x20	Add video surveillance
More off-leash areas x15	Add more garbage cans
Education/dog training x14	Collaboration with local vets
More doggie bags x11	Prohibiting toys from off-leash areas
Signage x11	Accessibility
Maintenance/cleanliness x8	Waterfront access for people
Water fountains (humans & dogs) x8	Number of parks (for people)
Better communication from City x6	Engagement effort by City
Promotion of responsible dog ownership x2	Collaboration between City & District
Increasing supply of pet friendly housing x2	Relationship between dog & non dog owners
Allowing dogs on transit	Hosting Annual Dog Day
Lighting	Add incentives to license dog

## 11. Are there any other comments you wish to share with us?

### Support

As a former dog owner, and current 'grandpaw', I can attest to the positive effects of pet ownership. And there is lots of scientific evidence of how pet ownership benefits individuals and the community. Off-leash areas make it easier, and more fun, for owners to exercise their dogs and themselves, increasing benefits for people, pets and society in general. People will still need to be reminded of their responsibilities and etiquette as dog owners.

Even before becoming a dog owner myself, I have always loved seeing so many dogs walking around my city. Continuing to add amenities for dogs and dog owners is essential! I totally understand that not everyone likes dogs. My dog is best behaved when she is well exercised and well socialized! Adding off-leash space to choice areas of the community will help dogs and dog owners be respectful in non-off leash parts of the community.

I am thankful that the city is taking dog ownership seriously. They must be socialized properly and that entails off-leash playtime.

Thanks for considering off leash parks ... well socialized dogs rarely cause problems and off leash parks are needed to do this. Dogs can get more exercise off leash and a tired dog is a good dog.

Important for dogs & owners to feel welcome in City and to have safe/stimulating places to congregate

Dog park please!!!!

Excited for a new park near my home

Glad to see the City is looking at this.

Great that you are doing this, much needed and will improve our community!

I am very excited to hear that the city is looking into creating more safe spaces for our beloved pets to have to play. I hope the City considers putting more in place so our pets can get out and socialize, which is so good for them.

I look forward to seeing a plan be put in place sooner than later. There are many dog owners using the existing parks as pseudo off leash areas which can be a challenge when your dog is on leash.

I was very happy to hear of this project. Although I am not a dog owner, I think we do need off-leash parks in the area. Currently, area parks such as Mahon Park and Victoria Park are being used as unofficial off-leash parks by many dog owners. Clearer more visible signs in on-leash areas, as well as real off-leash options would be great!

I'm always happy to see the public asked for input, so thanks! Keep up the good work with the online surveys :)

It makes me very happy to see the city addressing this issue for the dogs and owners in LoLo. It would be great. Fully enclosed, if I may offer a suggestion.

Make it happen!

This is a great idea and we are excited to take our dog to a new park

Thank you, we love dogs. I love my city.

This is super positive.

Thank you for allowing me to have my dog in the City of North Vancouver.

Thank you for asking!

Thank you for considering adding more fenced spaces for dogs in urban settings.

Thank you for considering more off-leash areas (especially in Lower Lonsdale), and having public input. Much appreciated!

Thank you for looking into these deficient areas.

Thanks for looking into this!

Excellent presentation & analysis. Thank you for putting this together.

Thanks for doing this!

Thanks for looking into this! Well done!

Thanks to the City for working with the citizens to get ideas regarding the off leash parks.

It's crazy how far I need to go to take my dog for a safe off-leash outing – im excited for this consultation!

Very pleased this idea is being considered. Lots of older owners can't get to the current location at Kings Mill and are not comfortable walking alone in the wooded areas. Also, there are increasing numbers of dogs in this area.

Thank you so much for this initiative. There are so many dogs in the area and we currently feel that lower Lonsdale does not care about our community dogs. This will greatly improve their quality of life! And I will say again... please consider owner safety. I would never go alone to Hamersley or Emerald Parks. Thank you!!

The current system is much better, thanks for continuing to work on this for all residents who like or may not like dogs.

### **Location Suitability**

North side of Waterfront Park is under utilized and would be a perfect spot for our off leash dog park.

If Semisch Park is chosen, please conserve a separate pedestrian walkway, fenced off, so people can still walk through there.

I am writing to express my support for the off leash dog park at Ottawa Gardens. I grew up living on Ottawa Gardens and am now raising my own family in the same home. Dogs have always been a welcome part of the boulevard at Ottawa Gardens- even when no dogs were allowed. The change in the bylaw allowing dogs was a welcome change and making it off lease will be even better. Dog parks act as

gathering spots for pet owners. As an owner of a new puppy, I have met more people in the neighbourhood walking my dog on the boulevard in the past 2 months than I have living here for the past 36 years! All the dogs are friendly and the owners are considerate. It is also a great space for people to exercise their dogs by throwing balls and Frisbees, and to socialize their pets- two very important aspects of being responsible dog owners. When dogs get the adequate physical and mental exercise they need, humans are able to notice a decrease in the level of troublesome behavior from their dogs which will benefit society as well. Off leash dog parks are a way to let dogs run free without penalty to pet owners or damage to private property, and they promote safety because the pet owners are not walking on busy streets. I also really enjoy seeing all the different people and dogs out for walks, enjoying the boulevard and stopping for a chat. While the dogs are playing, community members are more likely to form relationships, participate in conversation and exchange community information such as events, doctors, and veterinarians. Being a dog friendly park increases the sense of community in the neighbourhood and brings people together. In addition, there have been incidents of the boulevard being littered with broken glass, needles, etc. as well as it being frequented by unsavory people. The off-leash dog park will encourage more people to use the boulevard throughout the day and night and may deter people using the park for the wrong reasons- thereby increasing safety. In conclusion, I hope City Council will approve the off-leash dog park for Ottawa Gardens. Thank you for your consideration.

To City of North Vancouver Mayor and Councillors There is a meeting on Tuesday June 25th regarding the above issue and I would like to add my support for the off leash dog park in Ottawa Gardens. I have been a long time resident on West 6th Street and have witnessed the dogs off leash in the park for years. Even when it had signs posted no dogs! I have no issue with dogs being there off leash. Maybe just a sign posted about picking up the poop.

Dog owners use the parks all months of the year, not just in the "good" weather. It might be possible to have some parks revert to off-leash in the winter in order to allow local dog owners greater access to nearby greenspaces in the less-utilized months.

Have the location central in the Lower Lonsdale area to encourage everyone coming from all directions to walk to the location.

Thank you for considering an off leash area!! I look forward to seeing happy off leash dogs in Lolo. Please remove the no dogs allowed sign in Jack Loucks court. There are dogs there all the time and they don't have any where else to go, so please welcome them to the area. Woof woof!

There is a very large contingent of Lower Lonsdale dog owners who use the unofficial "park" on East 1st as a dog park. The local community values and appreciates the use of this area. This is the most ideal location for an off-leash dog park in Lower Lonsdale. The area is large enough, set back from residential, and nicely treed. I understand it is city owned and slated for development. This would be a significant loss to the Lower Lonsdale community. Preserving it as an official dog park (with amenities for other users) would be the best use of this site, and a significant benefit to the community.

Reconsider revamping the area between St. Georges & Lonsdale on E 1<sup>st</sup>. Or if you move the neighbourhood house, then make their old location a dog park. (2) A fast fix is fence waterfront park & change drainage. (3) Fence the green space lot on E 1<sup>st</sup> as a temporary location so dogs have a safe area

now. Or fence the side on 1<sup>st</sup> where the cars are parked. Cars drive way too fast on that street. Let community know the fence is temporary as you recognize dog safety and will be moved at a later date. (4) have it divided into 2-3 acres split up, small dogs, big dogs, agility area, man made lake/pond/ 1 dog only for non-social dogs. (5) Look at dog parks in Salt Lake City or Bend Oregon, they have amazing areas for dogs.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> St. we have the twin towers and the talisman high rises. The twin towers folk need the livability of the park nearby on 1<sup>st</sup> street. Our mental health is better + the quality of our lives improves with the green spaces \_ the legacy of some fabulous trees willows, three believe , cedars towering \_ well placed by pioneers in this lower Lonsdale area – on first street vacant lot. Perhaps the community gardens might be moved back to this site when they have to be moved to the NSNH into its gran new enlarged site and configuration on 2<sup>nd</sup> street east. Lolo land is ripe and deserving of attention on the east side of Lonsdale, the west side has had its considerable share of money + reserves spent, admit, very well, over the past while. Now give us out park on 1<sup>st</sup> please.

I live in the 100 Block West 2nd Street Area. Not comfortable, with dogs, Off-Leash Area, close to my home!!! Too many times, large dogs jumping towards me, Off-Leash!!! I am a petite female, under 5 Feet.

I'd be very angry if I lived in a condo beside on of these parks. I own 3 dogs and I can't stand listening to any dogs bark.

#### *Not Emerald*

I have owned and resided at 329 East 3rd Street since 2002. Our townhouse backs onto Emerald Park. The fact that there are signs at each of the park saying Dogs Prohibited is an utter joke. Most dog owners show zero concern for these signs, as there is a near constant parade of dogs tearing around the park. We used to utilize the park fairly frequently to play sports with family and friends, alas we (or anyone for that matter) rarely use the park for its intended purpose thanks to the inconsideration of dog owners. There are far too many ""landmines"" and holes dug as a result of dogs. I implore the city to NOT make Emerald Park an off-leash area, and if anything, enforce the rules already in place. We would greatly love to use the park as intended. Parks are for people. I have always contended that people who have dogs in apartment buildings and small dwellings without their own yard, are selfish. Lower Lonsdale is a densely populated area and frankly, far too many dogs. If you have a dog in an apartment, drive them to the country to run them around, not in small parks that are intend for human usage. Thank you.

#### *Not Ottawa Gardens*

Although we have a dog, we are not interested in having our residential neighbourhood become an off-leash destination. As it is, people drive to our neighbourhood to walk their dogs, which to me indicates that is not as centrally located as needed for this proposed off-leash park. If people are driving to our neighbourhood, it seems to me that defeats to purpose of having a park that is within walking distance for most. (At Ottawa Gardens)

As above. (Indicating no support for off-leash area in Ottawa Gardens)

Dense urban areas like Ottawa Gardens should not be considered for CNV off leash areas. They should be further away from residential density - Waterfront Park would be an excellent area.

I have concerns that Ottawa Gardens Park has been neglected over the past few years so that the city could say it isn't used much therefore it could be turned into a dog park or a bike lane. I have lived adjacent to this park for 26 years and seen the upkeep deteriorate to the level it is at present. The grass is let grow for weeks and the shrubbery is filled with blackberries. The garden bed that was planted is so full of grass and weeds that it hard to see the bushes. The park is still used daily despite its lack of upkeep. The city needs to put more effort into the upkeep of the cities parks. With all the new condo buildings being built in the area we need to preserve Ottawa Gardens as a green space for all not just dog owners who want a space for their dog to run free so they don't have to walk them.

I strongly object to Ottawa Gardens being considered as an option here. This gardens in this historic road have just been slated for seating and picnic bench improvement. They are used extensively by young children not only from the neighbourhood but from Queen Mary's and St Edmunds schools. Having a dog park here would (because of its size and current use) be completely incompatible with the children's and adult activities that take place. This is one of the historic centres of North Vancouver city with a number of key heritage homes and a dog park would ruin the concept, appearance and tranquility of this area.

Ottawa Gardens should not be considered for this project. This is a very narrow greenspace and provides a tenuous and much needed area for mixed activities. Any modification of this space would have a large impact on the whole park. Presently it is a focus for the community to meet and play and relax. It is used by dog walkers informally and the present level of off leash dog activity is not a disturbance to the peaceful nature of this space. The presence of a separate area for dogs would disrupt the continuity of the space, and destroy the tranquility that this narrow strip brings to the neighbourhood.

Strong objection on having a dog park at Ottawa garden.

I live at Ottawa Gardens and one of my neighbours just told me that the park is being considered for an off leash dog park. I am solidly against this proposal. I have lived here for 20 years and only 2 years ago after much debate were dogs allowed on leash in the park. The reason the park has been closed to dogs is that many of the neighbourhood kids play in the park as well as some of the kids from the nearby reserve. I have had a dog in some form or another that entire time and I actually voted against having dogs in the park for that reason. It is a quiet heritage area and the last thing any of us want is it to be a destination spot for off leash dogs. As it is, some inconsiderate dog owners allow their dogs to bark and play after 10 pm. Parking is already an issue here with people parking their cars and heading for the seabus. Not everyone will walk to the off leash park and you need to take parking, etc, into consideration. The dog parks should not be located in quiet residential areas.

There are some places totally inappropriate for dog parks, e.g. Ottawa gardens, Joe Mathias Park.

### *Not Victoria or Waterfront Park*

Waterfront park should not be considered add both North and South parts are extensively used by the public.

Please do not turn Victoria Park or Waterfront Park into dog parks!

Why are you consulting with locals if you have no incentive in using that feedback? The entire consultation process is directing users to choose one of two parks: the ones with the most existing infrastructure and most cost already invested into the park. Why not invest in a park other than Waterfront/Victoria to ensure that people can enjoy all parks. Giving an option to choose between 11 parks and pointing out glaring flaws that cost the city more money on 9 of them isn't really asking for input.

### **Need for Off-Leash Area**

An off-leash dog park is definitely necessary in Lolo. I often walk my dog on the pier + let him off leash there as do many others cause there's no where else to go.

This is a very overdue need. The city is being ignorant to how many dogs live in the Lower Lonsdale area.

So happy to hear one is opening at Mahon Park. I am a local resident and hadn't heard about it. Would love to see more fully-fenced off-leash parks.

We are so happy this is going to happen! Bag dispensers need to be refilled more often and more dispensers!

Due to landlord policies, renters rarely are allowed pets. This had indirectly turned dog ownership into a proxy for home ownership, and thus, wealth, there are a lot of dogs here in Lolo.

The number of dogs licensed in NV City must tell you that several parks need to be added to our city

Don't have an off leash near me right now so we don't go.

### **Design of Off-Leash Area**

Use a fob system to get into/out of park (get a fob once you license dog). Agility courses in dog park, water fountains, bags, garbage cans, treats in coin dispenser, signage that indicated behavioural rules, signage that indicates closest vet/treat store, double gate into park with gates usable for someone with walker or in wheelchair.

I love the water fountains at dog height along the Green Necklace trail.

It would make sense to have a dog park that is a mix of grass and gravel, creating waterfront park into a dog park will not only make this less enjoyable for humans it will ruin the beautiful grass field. I would also like to note that if this were to go there the small dogs in this area would essentially have no space they can safely wander.

Langley has an amazing off-leash park. One half is for bigger dogs and the other smaller dogs.

The city of Montreal has excellent dog parks, they would be a great resource for dog park planning. For example they have many parks with separate areas for small and large dogs, real grass, water for dog bowls and no toys allowed (to minimize negative interactions between dogs). Also, Olympic Village Dog Park is an excellent park and could be replicated in the Waterfront Park area north of the train tracks. Thank you for this initiative, Lower Lonsdale badly needs more facilities for dogs especially a fully fenced dog park.

\*Drawing on survey\* - separate dog areas for a single dog, large dog area and small dog area.

I do not agree with off leash areas without a fence. Dog owners do not respect that not everybody is a dog lover.

The size you are proposing is not really large enough for more than 2-3 dogs to run around. Some are too close to playgrounds, also some are too open no trees for shade or benches. Need more poop cans & waste bins in Lower Lonsdale. Should look where dog walkers are.

We carry our small dog in a basket on our bike and as a backpack?? To promote this as an idea rather than a car. Having bike racks near to off-leash areas.

### **Enforcement**

More enforcement regarding dog licenses to help offset tax payers cost for poo bins cost/ associated costs. Currently I only see bylaw officers doing parking enforcement, which is great, but more needs to be done regarding dogs. Education, signage, kiosk at Night market/Grand Opening of Public Space @ Shipyards. Info/Articles in the North Shore News

Consider having park wardens or rangers on site for larger parks and floating ones for smaller parks. These people could be the host/stewards of the parks. With a clearly identifiable uniform, these people would be there to welcome and assist those in need of direction to park amenities, offer first-aid, and summon help when needed, protect the integrity of the park, offer education to those unaware of park related bylaws and if necessary enforce compliance or penalties to those who disregard them.

I have 2 dogs. One is confident dog and other is fearful/ reactive dog. My confident dog can enjoy off leash dog area for good run. But my boy can't. I have see too many dogs in my neighbourhood off leash them. That triggers my boys fear and turn him into aggressive. If off leash comes to us, he will fight. He may redirect his fear to any pedestrians. It is called redirect bite. There is no off leash area in my neighbourhood. We go to Grand Blvd and also queens park on leash off course. There are always off leash dogs there which I always keep my eyes out for my boy won't be aggressive. Even just residential area, I see so many off leash dogs. I hope this off-leash park will reduce the owner walking their dogs off leash. I do follow by law. I do my best to make sure everybody is safe as well as my fearful/reactive dog. Also can City by law enforce on leash is on leash? Off leash park can't be small either. Small confined off-leash park crowded with large dogs will cause lots of dog fighting. I am originally from Olympic village in Vancouver. Everyday I see dog fighting in prime time (4-6pm). Some parents even bring small children into the off leash park. It is very dangerous too. I am also dog trainer. So I can see dog body language but lots of owner doesn't. So small off leash park is not idea.

Put some muscle into the City dog bylaws and actually issue fines, especially for unlicensed dogs, dogs off-leash on sidewalks/Spirit Trail/parks, and those unwilling to watch & pick-up their dog's waste.

Save the last two years, I've always have a dog. I followed the "rules" and appreciated that not everyone loves dogs. Furthermore, I kept my dog on leash and didn't appreciate the dog owners with the cavalier attitude that their dog off-leash was "fine". There are people that regardless of the issue feel entitled to do as they please. This week's North Shore News letter to the editor summed it up perfectly: <https://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letter-dogs-aren-t-the-problem-but-bad-dog-owners-are-1.23875241>

There are off leash dogs all over North Vancouver and IT is not policed

### **Dog Training**

Maybe in a perfect, or at least a more understanding world... all parks will be off leash and all dogs can behave off leash.

Dog training tips to owners so dogs don't take their owners for "a ride". Owner education about courtesy and etiquette at dog parks.

### **Dog Ownership**

Dog owners need to be responsible and respectful of the rest of the community. If they want to use the off-leash park, then they must keep their dogs on a leash until they reach the area.

### **Do Not Need Off-Leash Area**

Do not create fenced off leash areas within the city. We have the forest in our backyard so don't need them.

There are plenty of off leash parks in the district and the ones in the city work fine. Do not convert tiny parks into small fenced off areas for dogs. That is a nightmare for neighbours and not particularly rewarding for the dogs.

Let me emphasize that I am not against dog ownership as such, but we need to be realistic as to whether our high density lower Lonsdale area is appropriate for this designer dog ownership. I think NOT. So let's at least start looking at total costs and cost recovery via licence fees before we consider any additional cost allocation.

If there is such a lack of dog ownership respect for the City's Dog licensing bylaws then why are we even considering spending \$250,000.00 on a off leash area!! We keep emphasizing that this licensing fee goes towards the dog programs. So again what does that tell you about these unlicensed dog owners??? And what does that tell you about our bylaw enforcement?? It seems like a lot of people have their heads buried in the sand.

In the real word any program initiative must first have a cost/benefit analysis done to determine if the proposed initiative is worthwhile for the community and affordable. This must then take into consideration the revenue and expense side of the equation. That's why I was asking all those questions.

This revenue and expense calculation, as it relates specifically to the dogs in our area, was a must long before any of your public open houses. From my perspective, the dog owners don't just get a blank city expense check without any accountability for such expense recovery attributed directly back to that dog ownership group. On the revenue side. So what is that specific number of annual city dog licences issued and the annual revenue generated? So why not then state how many dogs are not licensed? Should that not have been clearly spelled out in any discussion as it relates to a further \$250,000.00 expenditure coupled with the corresponding removal of that park land from non dog owner usage.

Are there any additional revenues generated as it relates to dogs? I.e. number and types of dog bylaw infractions and revenue collected. The statistics on the revenue side would be another real eye opener. This should be at the City's fingertips and have been formally communicated during the open houses. On the expense side. And this is what I would call the elephant in the room. During your two meetings the City should have been able to clearly communicate what all of the annual city costs were as it related to specific dog ownership in our city. I have previously attempted to outline them per emails attached. That would again be a real eye opener to most people.

It just seems too easy for that strong dog lobby group to just keep demanding more accommodations without having to face that cost/revenue issue. It is unreasonable for the City to continue to bear the total cost associated with such dog ownership and thereby indirectly passing on these costs to all the non dog owners. Dogs are not human beings where the city has a mandated responsibility to provide servicing. They are a luxury whose additional city cost of ownership should be calculated and passed on to these dog owners. And as an example, why no dog community private fund raising initiatives for such special projects? Just too easy to come to the "public drinking bowl". It would be interesting to know how the city approved a \$250,000.00 funding, directed specifically to benefit the dog owner population, without having previously done this revenue cost benefit analysis. And were any of the people involved dog owners? If there is no direct attributable cost back to the dog owners then the sky is the limit.

Would you also be able to provide background on how this funding was even approved? But to sum up again, any discussion of further dog attributed funding must come with a detailed analysis of the actual numbers.

As we discussed, here is the CNV notice that made reference to dog owners as "parents". As I indicated, it's not appropriate to humanize dogs. Yes we all know dog owners that actually treat their dogs like their children. But from my perspective I really do feel that this is not appropriate. After all, from my observations, dogs are just someone else's pets that bark, poop and pee wherever and whenever they want. That's the reality in our high density lower Lonsdale area. Here are some major issues that were missing from the open house discussion: Just how many of the estimated 10,000 dogs in the city are actually licensed? That should tell you something about respect for our bylaws and current minimal cost recovery. Just how many dog bylaw infraction tickets have been issued over the last year? Enforcement should not just be complaints driven. And as for dog ownership responsibilities and education, we have crossed that bridge long ago. So let's start issuing those bylaw tickets. Just what is the city cost associated with dog ownership. I.e. free plastic bags, specific red waste bins and pickup/sorting and disposal, off leash park maintenance etc and all the rest of that dog poop that just gets thrown in the ordinary waste bins? What about city landscaping costs associated with the destruction of grass and plants impacted by dog pee and poop? This has been a huge issue for the ground level condo building landscaping in our lower Lonsdale area. Hence the no dog signs but to no avail. Also less and less grass because it gets killed by the pee. And just what does \$250,000.00 get you these days. So so so many more deserving

recipients of this budget allocation. And if the city is truly concerned about its environmental footprint then how does dog ownership impact it as it relates to the high quality animal protein consumed by dogs coupled with the other end of that equation. Just how many free plastic bags are provided annually, how are they disposed of and what is the impact of dealing with that waste. It's something the City and no dog owner will want to discuss. And don't get me wrong, I do like dogs as our family had a German Shepard when I was a child but in a residential area with a large back yard. As I had indicated, this high density lower Lonsdale area, in my mind, is inappropriate particularly as it relates to all the designer breed dogs proliferating our area. And I would suggest that a majority of these dogs and their owners would certainly not be taking them to an off lease area.

Now that you have finished with the two open houses, have you had a chance to review my annual dog revenue and Costs issues? As you can appreciate there does not seem to be a coordinated effort to track these costs so that consideration can be given to directing such costs back to the dog owners possibly through licence fees. From my perspective we seem to be bending over backwards to this dog community. Lots of demands but why are they then not directly paying for it. Let's not forget that there are also public community costs in addition to the dog owners personal costs associated with dog ownership. Keep in mind than any off leash Dog Park is then not suitable for other taxpaying people. I also recently noticed that we pay an external dog kennel for dealing with other city dog issues. This should again be incorporated into the expense side. Do we really know what it costs the city per dog and why are we then not communicating this to the taxpaying public?

### Other

Although there are plenty of dog owners living in the city, please remember your role is to represent all residents. Not everybody loves dogs and wants them roaming freely around our parks, and solutions need to take into account the needs and priorities of dog owners and non-dog owners equally.

Make playgrounds for children instead.

For me having a fenced area isn't as critical as my dog had good recall and stays close, but I can see how other people feel it's important.

I don't understand why some of the areas you have listed are even being considered as you have stated that they are unsuitable.

I've recently moved to Lower Lonsdale from the District (Upper Lonsdale), the parks are very well looked after, well used by the public and generally an enjoyable place to live. Thank you.

Need better parking, public toilets. Better signs and maps of the area. Garbage and debris pick up in the creeks and along the paths that irresponsible humans have dumped.

Please have signs on all off leash dog parks that state NO TOYS (balls, chuckits etc). There are many dogs that resource guard such objects and it can cause fights. Not to mention younger dogs who are still learning recall and off leash skills will potentially steal balls/toys and it can make it difficult to get them back. Causing arguments between humans as well as dogs!

Please look closely at densification of the city, and allow large green spaces to coincide with development, so we don't have to worry about the small green spaces being invaded by off-leash dogs. Dogs on leash are a different story; they are welcome by most.

How does anyone know how many dogs there are in the Lower Lonsdale area when apparently only 20% are licensed?? If there were a designated off-leash area in LoLo, perhaps dog owners would bother to take their dogs there??

The separate orange bins for dog waste are a welcome initiative. More are needed. I believe most dog owners will use an orange bin if they are provided.

More poop bins, minimum of 2+ more around 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> street east.

We need more space for children and families to play, without being worried about aggressive dogs and fecal matter.

What is also lacking, is the negative impact discussion associated with all the peeing and pooping in our high density area. This high density area is really not suitable for dogs. The peeing and pooping destroys all grass and landscaping along the sidewalks. Always having to watch where I walk. No dog peeing and pooping signs mean nothing to most dog owners.

With all the added density to the City, and the concentration of this density in Lower Lonsdale, I would very much like to see some of this tax revenue put back into the dog owning and dog loving community. I'm not sure that \$250,000 is adequate and I hope that the City's decision on the future dog park will not be limited to what \$250K can provide. Park use per dollar is probably never higher than it is with a dog park and this should be taken into consideration in how the City allocates its funding. Dog parks get used all hours of the day in all weather conditions; and I would say offer some of the most effective community building spaces in the City. Also, we were at a small dog park in Pitt Meadows the other day and they had good signage. The signs were kind of reminders to dog owners of their responsibilities: No Digging- keep the park safe for all users & restrict your dog from digging. Leash when Leaving - Remember to leash your dog/s when leaving the off-leash area. Respect our Neighbors - Remember, you may be here for only one hour - our neighbors live here all the time. We look forward to the next step in this process.

Cats allowed outdoors should also require a license.

If you choose to buy a dog then you need to walk it on a leash so that it can get exercise and do its business. Who benefits from an off-leash park? Me? The dog owner? The dog? I have a couple of indoor cats who would relish the opportunity to run around outside. Thank you.

Build dog park in Cates Park. Build a bridge to the Barnet Highway & use the southside shoreline. You can't build dog parks in tiny little existing greenways, within close-knit residential areas.

Myrtle Park's off-leash area in Deep Cove is in desperate need of maintenance. During winter months it is rarely used as the dogs come out smelling and muddy. It could also be bigger and the trail around the park should be completely off-leash. Perhaps fencing the trail from the park will help.

I was hoping there would be more advertisement for this event. I walk around Lower Lonsdale everyday and I only saw one sign at John Braithwaite.

For open house #2 can you please consider adding more signage in the neighbourhood? I only saw 1 sign, I think all green spaces & spirit trail area should have the open house sign posted as that is how you reach owners. If the City provides me with some signs a few weeks before I would be happy to put them in the high dog traffic areas of Lower Lonsdale to increase awareness. Please consider more signage, most people I told had no idea & were glad I told them. Can you please see for the next open house that a sign is posted up on East 1<sup>st</sup>? Everyone uses that park so that will help spread the word.

There are a growing number of people with dogs entering sensitive wildlife areas. Dog memorials end up appearing. We need in collaboration with DNV a Pet Cemetery.

### **Hamersley Open House Comments Related to Dogs:**

Thank you for consulting, city doesn't normally consult with those of us in this area... Two priorities (1) no new dog areas and enforce the existing "no dogs" rule; (2) do not expand the play area.

No dogs should be allowed at this park especially off-leash.

Have to be careful of dogs off leash in parks as some children are terrorized by dogs. My husband has been bitten from a dog off-leash.

Keep the garden manicured like it is today. I suggest a dog park on the grass necklace on Grand Boulevard @ 10th, all parks in LoLo are too small for Dog Park.

PLEASE relax the dog restrictions in all of the parks. By banning dogs in most parks in the neighbourhood you are accommodating the wishes of a very small minority of the park users, and not accommodating the needs of the most. My experience has been that those without dogs almost universally love interacting with the dogs. An off leash park would be great, but if you make that the ONLY place to bring dogs it will be overcrowded and you will likely see more incidents of dogs fighting, etc..

Want to see the dog use continued in the park, typically there are 2 dogs in the park at a time. There is a positive community of people and dog owners using the park.

Poo ferry bins at every park is a great need, keep the streets clean.

I'm very fond of the green space on East 1st st. between Lonsdale and St. Georges. I often use that as a park area as do many local residents who take their dogs to play there and sun-tan there in the summer. I notice that this area is not designated as park area on the map presented in the slides, which I assume means it may be developed in the future. I'm not sure if the city has input in this area, but it seems to be one of the more used green spaces in the Lower Lonsdale neighbourhood at this point and I think it would be a shame to loose this high-traffic green space to buildings in the future.