



Memo to Council

Date: April 27, 2023

Subject: Trial off-leash hours in Bert Flinn Park – Motion Served by Councillor Agtarap

Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the April 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting:

THAT staff report back with a proposal for a trial off-leash hours in Bert Flinn Park.

Background

Currently, Port Moody has four off-leash areas: Chines Park, Westhill, Rocky Point and a portion of Bert Flinn (limited to wide gravel trail).

Generally, dog owners are a responsible group and there have been requests for more off-leash areas. In the absence of constructing new or off-leash areas in existing parks, there is an opportunity to follow the model of Coquitlam's Mundy Park, where all trails are considered off-leash from dawn to 10 am daily with some exceptions: the trails permanently designated as off-leash, specific trails identified as always prohibited to dogs, and areas designated as on-leash. Coquitlam's rules also state that dogs must not chase or disturb wildlife and remain on the trails.

The main entrance to Bert Flinn Park off Heritage Mountain Boulevard marks the start of the off-leash area. This area extends to the end of the wide gravel path and non-dog owners must pass through this area to access the trail network in the park. The Paws in Port Moody report¹ notes that Bert Flinn is already used as a de facto off-leash park in the city and is a source of existing conflict for park users. Implementing trial hours for off-leash trails may help mitigate conflict between dog owners and other park users provided there is awareness of the hours for off-leash use and the increased responsibility dog owners have to ensure that wildlife is not disturbed or chased.

It is proposed that there be a pilot of off leash hours between dawn and 10 am, for most Bert Flinn Park trails. At the end of the trial, staff should report back on the results before permanently implementing off-leash hours.

If successful, this pilot could be extended to other appropriate parks.

¹ Paws in Port Moody, [Regular Council Agenda Package \(portmoody.ca\)](https://www.portmoody.ca/regular-council-agenda-package), September 28, 2021, page 140.

Council Strategic Priorities

Providing more off-leash areas for dogs contributes to the strategic goal: Enhance Community Wellbeing – Provide recreation services and access to indoor and outdoor amenities for all ages and abilities.

Council Options

The following options are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff for a report back on the feasibility of the proposed motion considering budget, alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities, and work plan implications, including but not limited to operational capacity, policy, legality, etc.
3. Other.