

ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT #	21
COUNCIL MEETING	95/05/01

TO: CITY MANAGER DATE: 95/04/26

FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: DOGS OFF-LEASH IN CITY PARKS

PURPOSE: To inform Council of the public education and monitoring the City and Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department will take to reduce the problem of dogs off leash in the Parks.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Council at its regular meeting of 1995 April 03, received a staff report on information of dog leash requirements and signage in City parks. Council subsequently asked staff to review the feasibility of erecting additional signs in Deer Lake Park and Burnaby Lake Park to include seasonal signs to draw attention to the bird nesting season, especially the birds nesting close to the ground that are affected by dogs running off leash into underbrush. Council also requested that consideration be given to establishing a system of volunteer monitors throughout the parks.

Council was informed previously (1995 April 03) that the S.P.C.A. through the City's contract, patrol and enforce the off leash bylaw in parks throughout the year. For 1995, from about the beginning of May to the first week of September, the Parks and Recreation Department has provided the S.P.C.A. with additional funds to have an Animal Shelter Inspector specifically patrol the parks to enforce the off leash bylaw. During the coming season, in addition new signs will be installed at Deer Lake Park and Burnaby Lake Park to make the public aware of the nesting season and draw attention to the species of animals and birds affected by dogs running off leash. Attachment I is the type of seasonal sign that will be installed at key locations on the trails. The sign identifies many of the birds and small mammals common to both Burnaby Lake Park and Deer Lake Park that are affected.

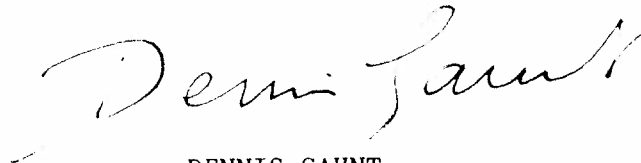
Attachment II is a letter from the Greater Vancouver Regional District (G.V.R.D.) staff explaining what they have done and what they will do, to keep dogs on leash at Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

DOGS OFF-LEASH IN CITY PARKS

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Most of the trails in the Burnaby Lake Park are under the jurisdiction of the G.V.R.D., and their staff have indicated in the attachment to their letter the type of seasonal signs they propose for their trails at Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Their staff will patrol the trails, educate the visitors about the Park regulations and use persuasion to obtain compliance.

S.P.C.A. staff are unable to co-ordinate a Volunteer Monitoring programme, citing potential conflict with union work. Since the G.V.R.D. will monitor the trails at Burnaby Lake Regional Park, City staff will set up a volunteer monitoring programme for Deer Lake Park. The programme will entail sending out letters to residents surrounding Deer Lake Park. This letter will explain to residents the disturbance to birds and other wildlife caused by dogs off leash. A request to the residents will be made that any dogs off leash be reported to the S.P.C.A. at the telephone number provided. The public reporting will be monitored and if successful extended to other parks in the City.



DENNIS GAUNT
Director Recreation &
Cultural Services

BF:mc
Attachments (2)
A/BRIAN/1303

CC. Director Finance

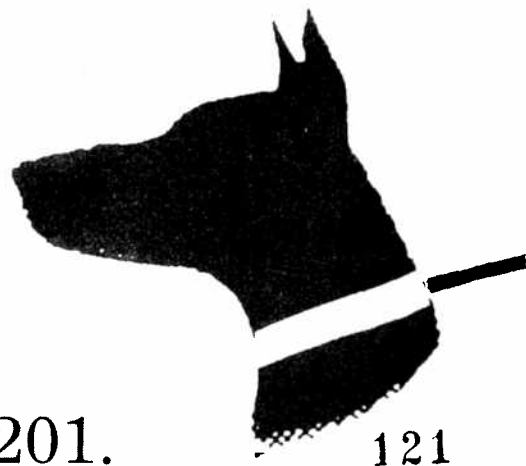
Baby Birds On The Ground



This Park provides extensive habitat for many animals which can be easily disturbed by dogs running off leash. Some birds including ducks, geese, pheasant, grouse, rails, killdeer, warblers, and sparrows nest close to the ground. Others use the ground to feed. Many small mammals such as shrews, moles, racoons, hares, squirrels, voles, muskrat, beaver, and coyotes can be easily disturbed by dogs.

Please help protect wildlife by keeping your dog on a leash at all times.

Report dogs off leash to the SPCA at 291-7201.



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Greater Vancouver Regional District
 1030 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5H 4G8

ATTACHMENT II

Parks Department
 Telephone (604) 432-6350
 Fax (604) 432-6290

Regional Parks, Central Area
 Tel: (604) 520-6442
 Fax: (604) 520-3520

10 April 1995

Mr. Hugh Monroe
 Burnaby Parks and Recreation
 4949 Canada Way
 Burnaby, B.C.
 V5G 1M2

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Dear Mr. Monroe:

Re: Educating Visitors Who Walk Their Dogs at Burnaby Lake

The following actions are planned to minimize problems with dogs at Burnaby Lake:

1. Staffing

Evening and weekend coverage will begin on 1 May 1995. Staff working these shifts will patrol trails, educate visitors about Park regulations and use persuasion to obtain compliance.

2. Signage

Regulatory signage noting that dogs must be leashed is in place at all Park trail entrances. As part of a total Park signing program however, signs that are worn are being replaced.

3. Nesting Signage

To educate visitors about nesting birds in the Park, temporary signage will be put up at key places in the trail network. I've attached a copy of the proposed sign for Burnaby Lake and for another Park, for your information.

I would note, in closing, that dogs off leash do not seem to be a major problem at Burnaby Lake compared to some of the natural areas that GVRD manages. In fact, at Burnaby Lake the only complaints we have had about dogs in the past few years is from people who have been asked to put their dogs on a leash and who did not wish to do so! Nevertheless, I believe that we're taking a responsible approach to managing this Park by educating the public and making sure the problem does not arise.

Yours truly,

Frieda Schade

Frieda Schade
 Area Superintendent
 Regional Parks, Central Area

For Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Burnaby

**BIRDS
BRINGING
UP BABIES!**



This section of trail passes through bird nesting habitat. Many nests are close to the ground. Please keep all dogs on a leash.

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