

STRATEGY FOR DOGS IN WEST VANCOUVER



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September 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting

5744089

westvancouver

Council requested a strategy for dogs

Motion of October 30, 2023, in part:

Council direct staff to develop a long-term strategy for dogs in West Vancouver including a review of current bylaws, current practices, environmental impact, enforcement, and current practices in other municipalities, with a move to be far more dog friendly within West Vancouver

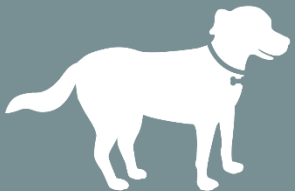
Purpose today is to provide background and seek direction.



What we know

Existing policy in West Vancouver

- Animal Control Bylaw – dog licensing and off-leash / on-leash locations, commercial dog walking, etc.
- Parks Regulation Bylaw – signage and basic park rules
- Parks Master Plan – recommendation regarding small off-leash parks



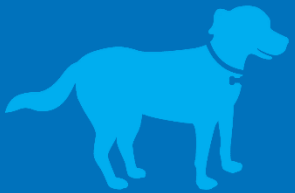
Other jurisdictions

- Dog strategies are underway in other areas of Metro Vancouver

What we know

Number of dogs in West Vancouver

- Estimated between 5,000 and 8,800 dogs in West Vancouver, depending on the data source

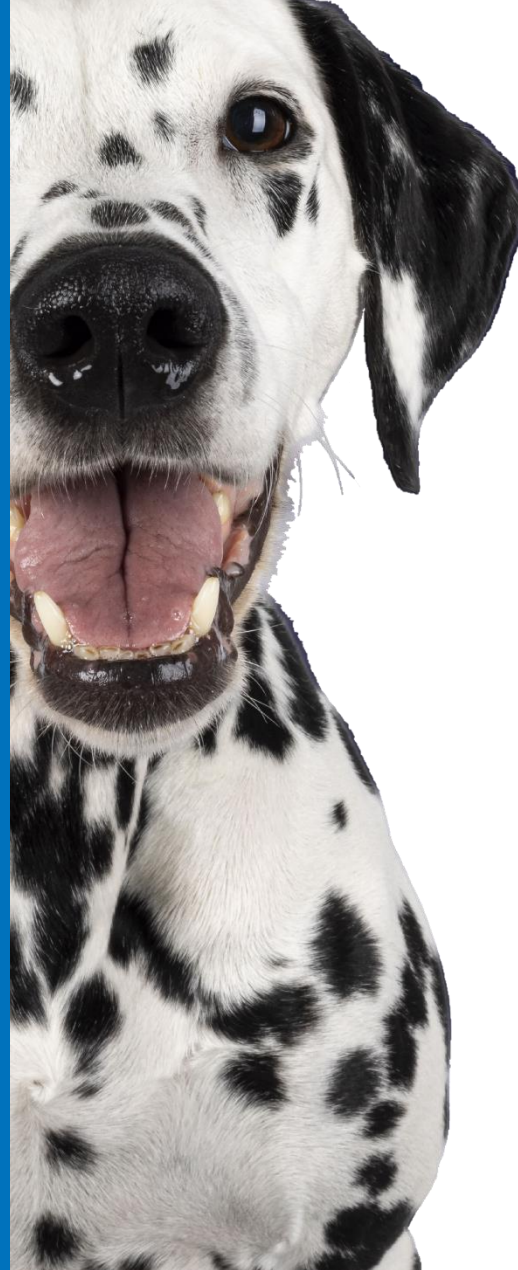
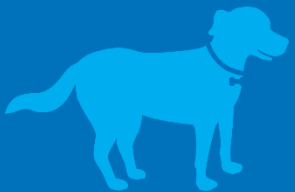


- 2,288 dog licenses issued in 2023
 - Between 25% and 45% of dogs residing in West Vancouver are licensed
 - Dog licenses are increasing in the District
 - 20% increase in 2022
 - 19% increase in 2023
 - 13% increase (anticipated) in 2024

What we know

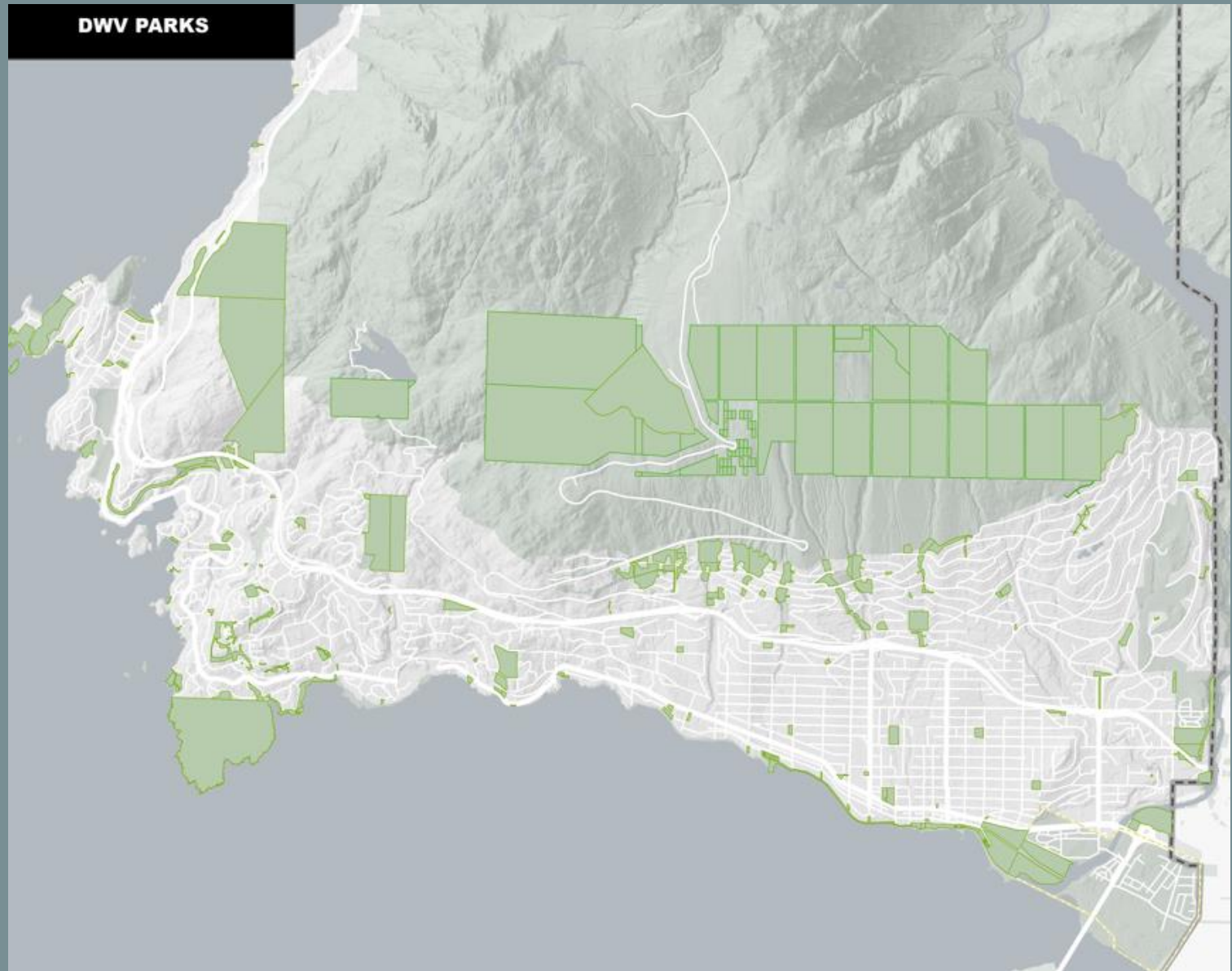
Dog-friendly West Van

- Most parks allow dogs, including the Centennial Seawalk
- Walking “around the block” near one’s home

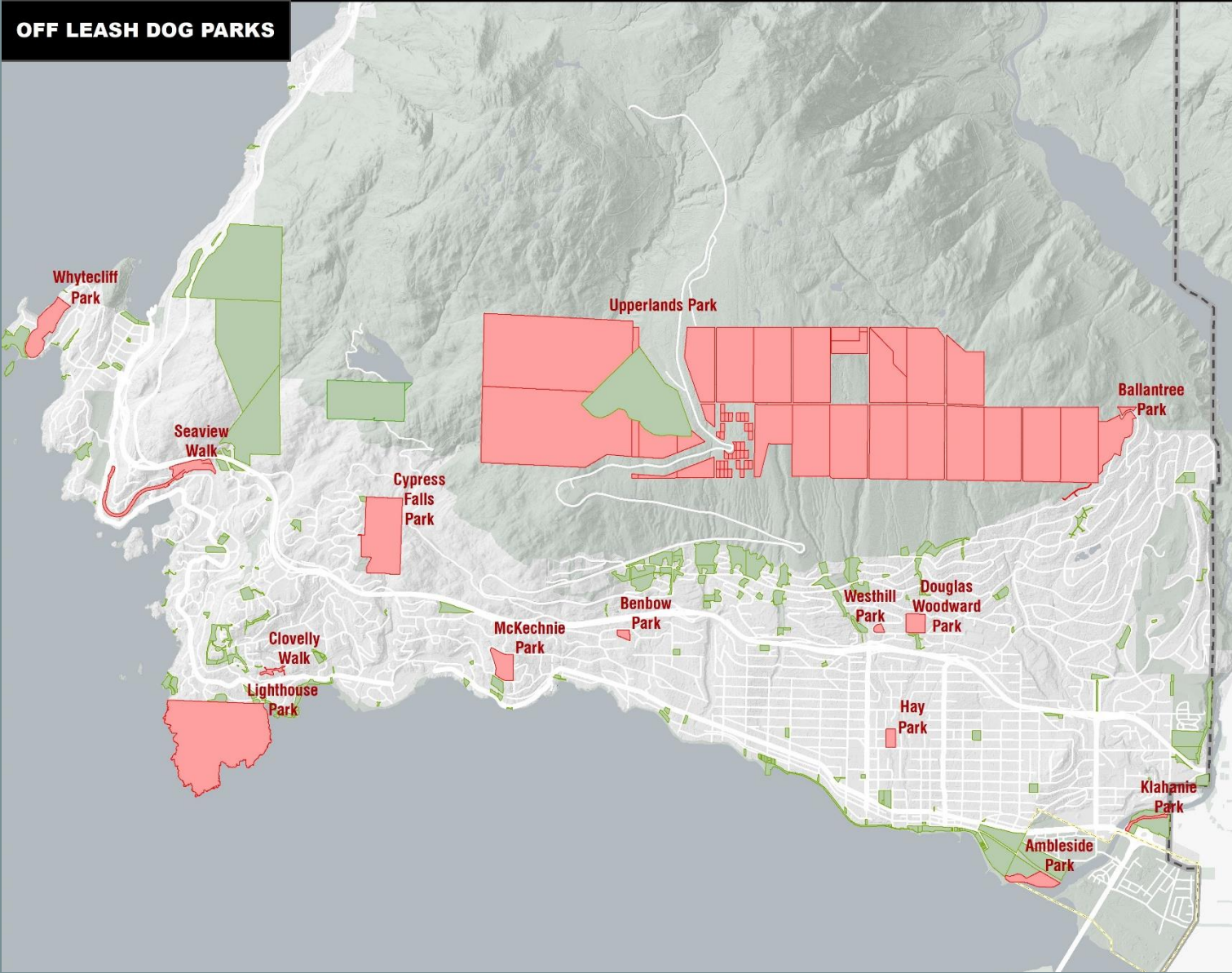


- Several off-leash parks throughout the District, some quite significant such as Upper Lands Park trails and Lighthouse Park, as well as the off-leash area at Ambleside Park
- West Vancouver is a regional destination for off-leash dog walking, including commercial dog walkers.

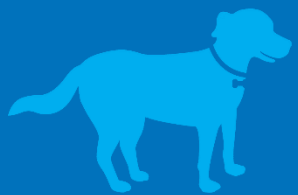
Parks



Parks and Off-leash Areas



What we hear

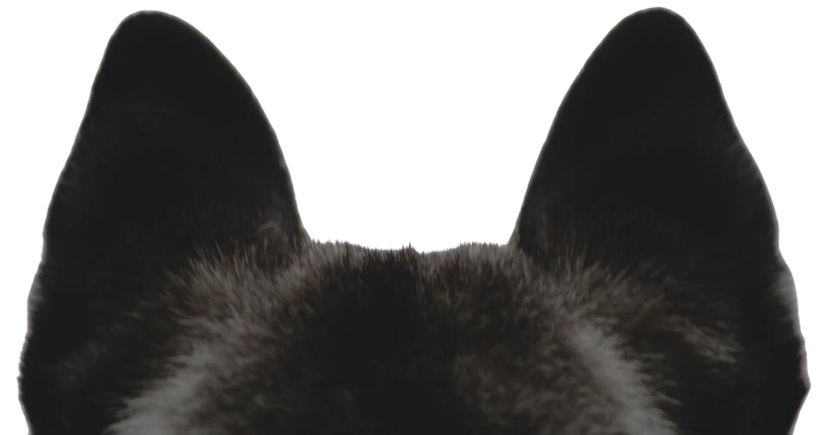


What we hear: a spectrum of views

- **Lots of off-leash areas is great/** not enough off-leash areas
- Out of control dogs in Upper Lands Park trails/ **great opportunities for dog walking in the Upper Lands Park trails**
- **Dog waste now collected in its own waste stream/** people not cleaning up after their dog

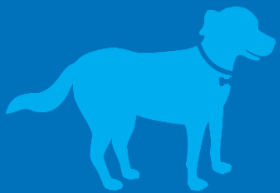


- Concerns about dogs off-leash in prohibited areas like beaches and sport fields/ **enforcement capacity limitations**
- **People are responsible and following the dog walking rules/** people are not responsible and not following the dog walking rules



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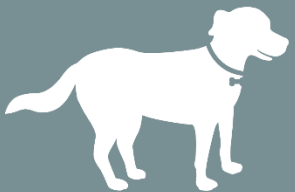


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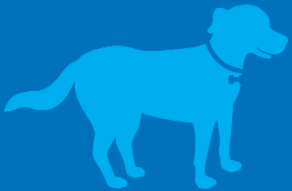
Recap

- Good policy in place
- Many places to take dogs in our community
- People are passionate about dogs
- Enforcement capacity limitations
- There have been recent changes to be a more dog-friendly community



Dog Strategy for West Vancouver: where to focus efforts

- Develop a West Vancouver strategy that:
 - Captures current policy directions
 - Aligns with key aspects of regional dog strategies
 - Identifies one or two small, fenced, off-leash dog areas (capital budget request)
 - Recommends fenced off-leash dog areas with new high-density development
 - Identifies environmental impacts
 - Discusses Bylaws support



Timeline for completion:

- Spring 2025



THANK YOU

Questions