

Dog Park Project – Community Correspondence emailed/mail between November 3 – 8, 2020

I am writing this letter in regard to the site for the proposed dog park in Powell beach. We have lived in Trout Creek for thirty years and have enjoyed having this wonderful piece of green space at Powell Beach for different gatherings. There has been rapid growth down here and there are a number of subdivisions still to be filled. There are many young families that have moved in and they have been enjoying the beach and grassed area and I am concerned that this might be taken away from them.

Family needs are far more important than dogs needs. There are homes on either side of the area that would be impacted by this dog park eg. noise, increased traffic, unsightly, devaluation of property etc..We have many wonderful areas for dog owners to take their dogs for a walk or run. The point down at Sunoka beach is a beautiful spot for dogs to run and enjoy the outdoors. It is busy both summer and winter and it is of no expense to Summerland tax payers. Also on the other side of the highway many people come to walk and let their dogs run.

It also concerns me that we are spending this kind of money on a dog park when it could be spent wisely elsewhere. I am not against dogs as I have two of my own and have no problem finding areas to walk and run them, so I do not find it necessary to put out this kind of expense, but if you find it absolutely necessary to appease this special interest group then the Living Memorial Park is the best option. It has little to no impact on neighbouring homes and is more central for dog owners. There is lots of area for parking and already has some fencing in place.

I do hope that these concerns will be taken into consideration as I know there are many others that feel the same.

.....

This is in regard to the proposals for a "dog park" in Summerland...First I would like to address the survey...It is such a pointed survey. Thinking that there would be something you would like when you are opposed to it.. How can you answer the questions... all I could put was "Nothing" to a number of questions because the survey would not be accepted as complete without filling in all the questions. So by now you can tell by the flavour of my email.. I am opposed to the Dog Parks, especially at Powell Beach but also the other 2 .. Reasons are as follows

1. Removing the baseball diamonds....It is wrongthis town should be encouraging and providing opportunities for outdoor activity & sports.. for all ages . Over the years many volunteers help upgrade to the quality that it is now.
2. Eliminating "green space" for all to enjoy for a variety of reasons and activities...with the "vision" our town planners have, in rezoning or minimizing the size of lots to accommodate as many houses as possible, creates much less green space so families will be looking for places to play and have family gatherings etc.
3. Replacing a beautiful park space with a "very" large fenced area that is less appealing does nothing for the area .. Remember Tourism is one of our main industries...With the wonderful newly paved walkway and parking lot.. All I can say is...WHY!

4.The Bylaw at Powell Beach dogs are not to be unleashed or be on the beach...Some dog owners overlook this now . What will it be like with the dog park right across from the beach, it will be quite natural to want to cool your dog down and let them go for a swim..Oh....maybe they will then request that maybe an area of the beach could be fenced for them also..

5 . Parking.....in the summer months parking outside the Beach gate is full .

6. Cost factor..... is there nothing else that Summerland is in need for that we don't have the money for.??? When we moved here 29 yrs ago the Prairie Valley. Giants Head and South Victoria roads were in pretty bad shape and they still are but worst!

7.Location...2 dog parks already exist on the lake. People also walk their dogs along Trout Creek trail in this area... ..Majority of the population lives on the other side of the Highway., uptown, so give them another location closer to where they live...The Rodeo grounds location does not take away from anything existing but it is not a convenient location where you can walk or ride a bike to .

So once again No to the dog Park at Powell Beach Please!

.....

We are writing to support the voices of many of our neighbours in Trout Creek that are opposed to turning Powell Beach Park into a dog park. We brought our children up in Trout Creek and we continue to use the tennis courts and the beach area as well as the grassy area that contains the ball diamond. Over the years, we have watched countless people enjoy ball games, community events, and generally use the grassy area as a place to relax, throw a frisbee or football and simply have fun. One of the advantages of having a ball diamond next to a beach is that reunions and large family gatherings can have a game of softball while other family members enjoy the amenities of the beach.

We want to thank Council for the significant upgrades to Powell Beach. It has made the beach area even more usable for all residents and for our visitors and has resulted in a significant increase in use of the park. There was very little parking available this summer and a dog park would likely cause more parking congestion of the Powell Beach area.

We object to the characterization of the park as "underused" in the off-season as this is true of all of our parks, particularly those in the beach areas. A dog park would take our park out of commission for all residents except dog owners for all seasons.

Trout Creek already has two areas where dog owners run their dog off-leash: the dog beach adjacent to Sun-Oka Beach and the trail that runs along Trout Creek below the Research Station. Summerland dog owners do not need another space to which they have to drive to exercise their dogs.

We will not continue with all of the reasons that mitigate against turning Powell Beach Park into a dog park. Our neighbours have presented many reasons with which we agree and have done so more eloquently than we can. However, we are writing this letter to ensure that you know the extent of those who are opposed to turning Powell Beach Park into a dog park.

We are not opposed to a dog park in Summerland. We would encourage the group representing dog owners and Council to look for a place closer to downtown which would be more accessible to those

who can't drive to a location. Ideally the new location would not take out of commission areas which have been already been set aside for the enjoyment and use of other groups, particularly our young people.

.....

I am 11 years old. I moved to Summerland in 2015. When we moved my parent put me into baseball and my home field was the field that the people are wanting make into a dog park. This makes me really sad. Even though next year I will now be moving to the bigger diamond because I will be U13 I am still very worried about the kids younger than me. You see a couple of years ago the fire fighters took over our diamond as a camp and recked it. It took them a long time to fix it. During that time my team had to play at the middle school field. We couldn't be home for any of the games because the other diamonds were too big to ply for us young kids. Our parents had to always drive us to Penticton to play games. Our practices were not good either because we had to practice at the school in an uneven grass school field. It was hard learning the skills and rules of the baseball game when you don't have the correct size of field. All the parents had no place to sit and watch. Part of baseball is having people cheer us on. So what I am asking is that you please find a different spot for the dogs to play. Because us Summerland kids are proud of our town and also want to play in it.

Thank you for listening.

PS. We could also use another sheet of ice 😊

.....

Purposeful, well planned and maintained parks are an integral part of healthy communities, especially ones that are accessible and multi-use.

[As a long term resident in Trout Creek, it has given me] a ringside seat to the first tentative steps of babies, inter-generational family celebrations, shared moments between families as they picnic, fly kites, participate in TriPower community, meditation, yoga, play games, or simply read a book and have a nap in the shade of a tree. The displacement impact suggested in the Dog Park plan highly underestimates the park usage.

Outdoor elementary school classes learn in this park, birdwatchers gather to see baby owls in their nest or catch a glimpse of the endangered woodpeckers, community parties are held and local churches host lunches and dinners alongside community games for all ages. The park is a beloved destination year round that bring joy to all who use it. It is accessible to and used by all ages, genders and segments of our community.

Trout Creek already has two dog areas, both of which are well used and are, as evidenced by the number of people who drive to the dog parks, a destination for many dog owners outside of Summerland. A third location in this neighbourhood is unnecessary. A new park in the upper town of Summerland would increase accessibility to more community members. Possible area is to adjust the horseshoe pits at Memorial Park to include the pits and a fenced area for dogs or a portion of the field on the corner of Jubilee and Wharton. These proposed areas already have washrooms available and access to water without occurring additional expenses in addition to more centralized accessibility for people walking or riding bikes.

Similarly, fencing the park – for an enhanced ball diamond or a dog park - would severely limit full, spontaneous access and use of the park. I support improving the current ball diamond as a destination for young players, but not built quite to the standard of a field for adult play, would be a good use of the park so long as this does not result in a full perimeter fence or the removal of any of the trees. At the same time, the nature of park as it currently exists with wide expanses of grass and shade from trees needs to be maintained so that all the current uses of the park by families can continue. If the ball diamond is purpose-built for under-12 play, full perimeter fencing is not required and thus the essence of the current park can be maintained.

I would like to see Trout Creek maintain its current green space and build upon its sense of community and attachment to its natural beauty. This includes preservation of Powell Beach Park as an accessible, multi-use and family-oriented destination for generations to come.

.....

We are unable to download the survey, but please include our input for a yes to the Snow Ave dog park, we would use it daily. The other two options are not ideal.

.....

As you well know, there have been three proposals for a fenced dog park in our community. That's a good idea, but the question is: Where to put it?

One of the suggestions was Powell Beach Park. That is the only large green space in Trout Creek and is heavily used, not only on the beach but also on the green grassy area for picnics, baseball, children from Trout Creek School coming for some of their outdoor activities, and occasional music concerts. Most of the people from Trout Creek will be exceedingly upset if this green space is partly fenced off for dogs. Why?

1. **Size:** The green space of the park is relatively small and is the **only large public green space in Trout Creek.**
2. **Ecology:** Trees harbouring birds (five baby owls in spring), and a beautiful, restful green grassy space. I love going to a very large fenced dog park in Vancouver, and although it's a delightful place for dogs and people to meet, most of the grass has been destroyed by dog pee. **We DO NOT WANT TO SEE A LARGE BARREN FENCED AREA in our beautiful park.**
3. **Uses:** Organized baseball, just-for-fun baseball, kickball, pickleball, outdoor school activities, music concerts, family picnics and a green space where groups put their chairs to visit while children run around playing on the grass.
4. **Dog areas in Trout Creek:** Presently, there are two well-used areas where dogs can and do run freely. There's a **large dog beach where dogs frolic at SunOka**. There's also a **dike trail** on the western side of Trout Creek where dogs run off-leash.
5. **Location:** Close to houses where people could be bothered by dogs barking.

Since dogs are well-accommodated already in Trout Creek, **please choose another area of town where there is a larger space, also closer to the centre of town where many dogs reside.** The suggestion of

the Memorial Baseball Park sounds like a good location. But there may be other places near the town's centre. Many dog owners have told me that they think that the rodeo grounds are too far away, that they wouldn't bother driving there.

I filled out the survey, but I didn't like the format, which asked **what I like** about having the dog park at Powell Beach Park. This was a question aimed at eliciting a positive remark about using the Powell Beach Park location. Most of us in Trout Creek **cannot think of anything positive about using this location for a community dog park.**

There would be an angry uprising if this location were chosen!

.....