

Dog Park Project – Community Correspondence emailed between September 9 – October 9, 2020

I was just looking at proposed sites for a fenced dog park and the one for Powell Beach Park does not seem to be a very good option for a number of reasons:

(1) There are several properties adjacent the park that look across the park to the water and a chain link fenced in area would be an unfortunate eyesore. The grass would also deteriorate significantly as the dogs play which would leave a large browned out area highly visible to onlooking properties. These properties would incur an immediate measurable drop in value.

(2) The proposed site would also add significant noise to the area. The final site should not be immediately adjacent residential houses for this reason alone. The Living Memorial site or the Rodeo Grounds would be far more suitable as they are not immediately adjacent residential properties.

(3) The ball diamond area is used off season by multiple families and tourists for casual softball games, frisbee, slacklines, relaxation — all of these activities, including the girls' softball would all be displaced. I would strongly support adding a volleyball court close to the beach area though as this would be used frequently by tourists and families, and would not require fencing.

(4) This proposed location requires most of the town to drive to enjoy it. This does not align with the environmental principles Summerland is trying to achieve.

Thanks for your consideration

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I currently rent at the new, and pet-friendly, Broadstreet property at 12809 Kelly Avenue. The property has 88 suites, about 300 residents, and nearly 100 dogs.

If you are considering a new dog park, might I suggest an underutilized bit of city property that is almost adjoining the apartment building? The grassy area beside the art gallery and in front of the museum rarely is used by anyone but dog owners. It could be a reasonably cost-effective change of use; a bit of fencing, 4 garbage cans, 4 poop-bag dispensers, a few signs and you are in business.

Presumably the museum will eventually reopen so accommodation for foot traffic would have to be made, but at the present time literally no one uses this piece of property except to walk their dogs.

If the municipality appeared to welcome the 300 new residents and their pets, perhaps they would be inclined to 'shop local.'

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I have some concerns about Powell beach being considered an off leash dog park area, and would like to express them and hopefully speak with someone about them. As a parent to two young children who have both been pursued by dogs uncontrolled by owners, at Sunoka Beach off leash area, I am very concerned about this potential at Powell Beach. We live in the community and use Powell Beach for playing, swings, and bike riding for the little kids on the path (with training wheels, as they learn to use their bikes). An off leash area will undoubtedly bring people who have poor control of their animals in an already small space that many families use, especially in the warmer weather. We use the park year

round. I feel very strongly that this is an inappropriate use of the beach, especially as the local school uses this space for activities for the elementary school children.

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I have lived in Summerland for almost 24 years. I have a small dog who is 12 years old. I will admit that regarding an off-leash dog park, I thought that my dog (or me) would have passed on before we got to enjoy a park. So, it was more for other dog owners that I got involved. My dog has not run free for years (except for when she darts out when my door is opened!) The Strata where I live has a By Law prohibiting off leash dogs. I took her to the dog park at Peach Orchard Park just once. There was a larger dog there wanting to play with my dog; she was scared and wouldn't leave my side. So, we went home (covered in sand!) and never went back. I live in the downtown area and taking her for a walk (leashed) is also something I don't do any more: 1. The traffic 2. Dodging the piles of poop on the sidewalks and 3. Other dogs (Pit bulls included) lunging at us (I don't know who was more scared, me or Daisy!) Probably me! I would love to see my dog running and playing with other small dogs. Emotionally and physically good for both of us. PS My choice for an off leash dog park is the Living Memorial Park.

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Further to our conversation that the Powell Beach Park is not the best place for a fenced dog park as there are too many humans who use the park.

Human Activities:

- Softball
- Kites
- Frisbee
- Bird Watching including owls
- Photography
- School Programs
- TC Community Asso
- Triathlon camps and races
- Zip lining
- Bocce
- Mushroom Gathering
- Volleyball
- Gymnastics
- Biking
- TC Library
- Family Picnics
- Tennis
- Pickleball

Hope you will consider another location.

PS I have a large dog.