

April 19, 2013

Dog off-leash areas to be recommended by commission

A group of volunteers have been unleashed to explore options for more off-leash dog areas in Campbell River.

The City's Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission began discussion of the dog off leash areas at their April 3 meeting – and they're sniffing out information from other communities too.

Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks and Civic Facilities for the City of Nanaimo, made a presentation on Nanaimo's success in establishing off-leash dog areas in that community during a commission meeting April 17.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- What makes a good location for off-leash areas
- How to identify potential locations
- Recommended processes for consultation of both dog owners and non-dog owners
- Popular amenities for dogs and people in off-leash areas

"The Commission really appreciated hearing Jeff's insights and suggestions, and there was good discussion around the importance of off-leash areas for the dog health, and for dog and people socialization," says Councillor Larry Samson, chair of the commission. "At this point, they're developing the process they will use to form their recommendations, and they're considering options for public consultation."

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