



Report Date: May 30, 2025
From: Wegland Sit, Operation Manager
Subject: UNA Dog Park Development Permit Application

Background

Currently, an off-leash dog area in the neighbourhoods does not exist. In 2019, UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) considered the possibility of creating such an area in the South Campus Greenway, but plans were never realised. In September 2023, the Board struck a working group to investigate off-leash dog areas and provide recommendations to the Board.

The UNA Dog Park Working Group subsequently worked with UBC and other partners to identify a potential site and review a preliminary design for a future dog park space.

A six-week public engagement period occurred during November and December 2024. The goal of this engagement was to provide the community with information about the construction of a new dog park in Wesbrook Place and to seek feedback on the design and features of the park. The UNA dog park planning team received 277 survey responses and 113 community conversations. Based on the public engagement results, the UNA team collaborated with a landscape architect to refine the proposed design, ensuring it aligned with community priorities and budget constraints.

Project Progress to Date

1. Site selection process (Completed in [June 2024](#))
2. Preliminary dog park design process (Completed in [September 2024](#))
3. Fall community engagement (Completed in [December 2024](#))

Preliminary Design Overview

Site Location:

This area has been earmarked as the site for a [future elementary school](#). The planning team developed an approximation of the future school site based on the City of Vancouver's recently constructed schools at Lord Tennyson and Maple Grove.

The design incorporates the estimated future school site to ensure the dog park's long-term viability. The dog park's footprint is compatible with the planned school site.

Preliminary Design Features:

- **Separate Large and Small Dog Areas:** The design features separate fenced areas for small and large dogs.

- **Pedestrian Pathways:** The design features looped pedestrian pathways within each of the fenced dog spaces. The project will further enhance external pathways, improving accessibility and connecting Webber Lane and Ross Drive to the core community space.
- **Fencing:** Both the small and large dog areas will be fenced with a controlled shared entry point.
- **Play Terrain:** The terrain within the dog spaces may feature the existing berm and ground cover, along with other design elements.
- **Enhanced Open Passive Recreation Lawn:** The design leaves plenty of open green space to enhance the passive recreation functions of the space.

Public Engagement Summary

Provide community with information about the construction of a new dog park in Wesbrook Place and to seek feedback on the **design** and **features** of the park.

Engagement period: Monday, November 4 – Sunday, December 15

Open House period: Monday, November 25 – Saturday, November 30 with 25 hours of staff supported open house at Wesbrook Community Centre lounge area. [Public Engagement Summary](#).

The Revised Dog Park Design

The revised design is a continuation of the preliminary design with a few updates based on the recent community engagement results. The priority of the design is to include the top three ranked feature into the refined design. Top three features included:

1. Shading structure
2. Planted Trees
3. Seating Elements

As the preliminary design exceeded the approved budget, value engineering was conducted based on community feedback to meet the \$230,000 budget, while retaining the most desired features.

Cost Management and Value Engineering – Summary of Cost Breakdown

The most significant cost of the project is the cost of the perimeter fence built around the large and small dog off leash area. Due to budget constraints, the revised design will need to adjust the Large Dog Area from 1900 square metres down to 1650 square metres. The concrete pad area at the entrance has been reduced in order to meet the budget. A breakdown of cost estimates provided by the project manager is attached to this report.



Improve Separation with Splash Pad

To address safety concerns and improve separation between dog park users and splash pad users, the direct pathway connection from the splash pad to the dog park entrance has been removed. The main access to the dog park has been revised to through the central pathway, south of the dog park, that connects between Ross Drive and Webber Lane. Additional signage and way finders will be installed to redirect traffic to the dog park.

New Design and Beach Volleyball Courts Retention

Urban Rec is currently operating eight temporary beach volleyball courts and leagues situated at the proposed project site. With the updated dog park design and the reduction of the large dog area, the project team expects that the new design will help retain a minimum of four beach volleyball courts, including an appropriate buffer zone that separates the beach volleyball courts from the large dog area.

Community Works Fund Application – Completed

On May 23, Metro Vancouver Board approved UNA's Community Works Fund Application.

Project Roadmap and Timeline

May-June 2025 - Development Permit Application with UBC and site preparation.

June 2025: Project will go out to tender for 3 weeks + proposals evaluation and review for 1 week

Late June: Construction phase begins and project break grounds

Late August to early September: Project completed.

Mid September – Early October: Dog park opened for public use.