

Appendix A

Detailed Findings

APPENDIX Demographics

Demographics of the District of Saanich

In 2016, the District of Saanich had a population of 114,148 people, in 2021 the population increased to 117,735, an increase of 3.1% or 3,587 people. ¹

Between 2019 and 2038, the population in Saanich is projected to grow at an annual growth rate of 0.5-0.6%, an increase of approximately 700-800 new residents each year to 2038. ²

Demographics of the Capital Regional District

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the local government administrative district encompassing the southern tip of Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands.

The District includes the cities of Victoria and Langford, the towns of Esquimalt, Sidney, and View Royal, district municipalities of Saanich, Oak Bay, Colwood, Central Saanich, Sooke, North Saanich, Metchosin, and Highlands, and the regional district electoral areas of Salt Spring Island, Juan de Fuca and Southern Gulf Islands.

In 2016, the CRD had a population of 383,360 people. In 2021, the population increased to 415,451 (an additional 32,091 people). This is a population percentage change of 8.4%, and is above both the total national and provincial increases for the same years.

For comparison, the population of Canada increased by 5.2% from 2016 to 2021, and the population of British Columbia increased by 7.6% from 2016 to 2021.

It should also be noted that neighbouring Langford and Southern Gulf Islands had the highest percentage of population growth in British Columbia from 2016 to 2021 (of census subdivisions with 5,000-plus populations) with 31.8% and 28.9% increases, respectively. ¹

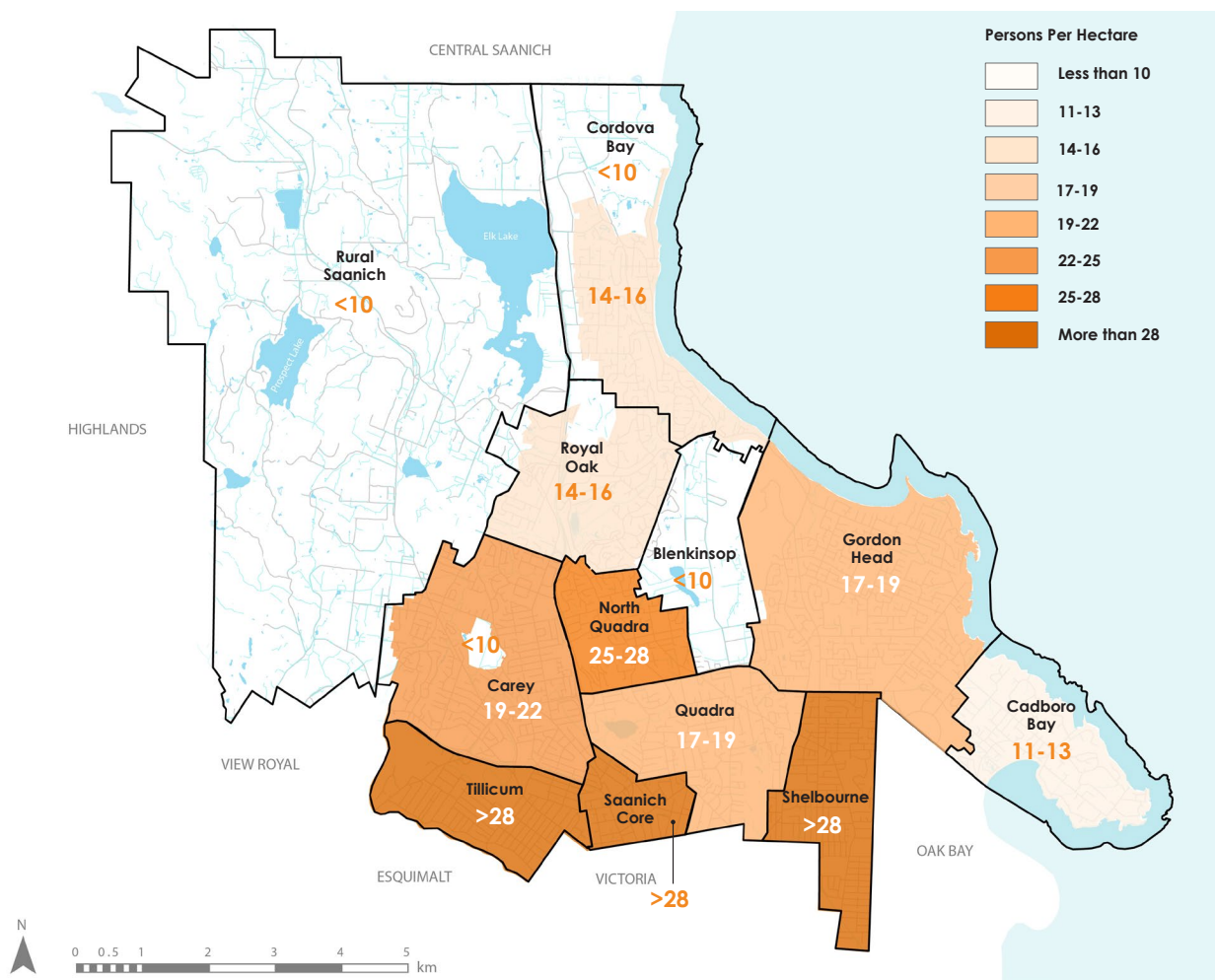
This projected increase in population highlights the importance of having a unified strategy for the shared use of Saanich's parks. Additional growth in Saanich and across the Capital Regional District will only increase visitation and usage of Saanich's existing park space.

¹ Statistics Canada. 2022. *Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 30, 2022.*

² *Saanich Housing / Demographics Conditions, 2019*

District of Saanich Population Density

The land area of Saanich is 103.59 square kilometres and the population density was 1,136.6 people per square kilometre in 2021. Tillicum, Saanich Core, and Shelbourne had the highest population densities in 2016. Rural Saanich, and Blenkinsop had the lowest population densities in 2016.¹



Local Area Population Densities (2016)

¹ Statistics Canada. 2022. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 30, 2022.

APPENDIX Background Research

Requirements for Pets in Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks and Trails

Dogs are welcome at all CRD regional parks and trails, although some areas require dogs to be on a leash, and some parks have seasonal restrictions in certain areas.

Currently, there are five CRD parks, one Forest Reserve (Bear Hill Regional Park, Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park, Francis/King Regional Park and portions of Mount Work and Thetis Lake Regional Parks), and two regional trails in Saanich. Dogs are required to be on a leash in these areas:

- Francis/King Regional Park: Elsie King Trail
- Galloping Goose Regional Trail
- Lochside Regional Trail

There are seasonal restrictions in some areas and dogs are not allowed to be on a designated beach or picnic area between June 1 and September 15, except to pass through on a leash.

These are the dog restriction zones:

- Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park: Beaver Lake beach, Hamsterly beach, Eagle beach and Water Ski beach.
- Mount Work Regional Park: Durrance Lake main beach, Killarney Lake foreshore, and Pease Lake foreshore. ¹

Requirements for Pets in Provincial Parks

Most frontcountry provincial parks allow dogs/pets as long as they always remain on a leash. Some provincial parks offer special designated off-leash or swimming areas for dogs. Taking pets into the backcountry, especially dogs, is not recommended, and in some parks is not permitted.

Currently, there are no provincial parks located in the Regional District of Saanich. However, there are two located in other jurisdictions in close proximity, these include:

- Gowlland Tod Provincial Park
- Goldstream Provincial Park.

In both of these provincial parks, pets must be on a leash and under control at all times, and are not allowed in beach areas.³

¹ Capital Regional District. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-trails/crd-regional-parks/park-usage-rules/pets-in-parks>

² Capital Regional District. *CRD Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032*

³ BC Parks. <https://bcparks.ca/visiting/parks-and-pets/>

⁴ BC Parks. https://bcparks.ca/eco_reserve/

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

Dogs must be on a leash when within Cadboro-Gyro Park and the public beach at Cadboro Bay.¹ Cadboro Bay Beach is within the boundary of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (VHMBS), which was established for the protection and conservation of migratory birds. Activities that could harm migratory birds, their nests or their eggs are prohibited.²

There are five parks in Saanich with shorelines that are adjacent to the VHMBS. These parks include, Cadboro-Gyro Park, Gorge Park, Gorge Waterway, Craigflower-Kosapsom Park and Cuthbert Holmes Park.

The Federal Government's Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations specifies the following:

- 5(1) - No person who owns a dog or cat shall permit the dog or cat to run at large in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
- 5(2) - A game officer may destroy any dog or cat found chasing or molesting migratory birds in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary.³

The Acting-Regional Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service - Pacific Region, stated that subsection 5(1) requires an owner to have "continuous and effective control of their animal by restraining it to ensure that the animal doesn't disturb, harass, harm or kill a migratory bird, their eggs or their nest."

On November 1, 2021 Saanich Council voted to establish Cadboro Bay-Gyro Park and the public beach at Cadboro Bay as a year-round dog on-leash area. This came from a recommendation from Saanich Police who at the time were responsible for Animal Control in Saanich (that service has now been contracted to CRD Animal Care Services). Staff worked to ensure that signage in Cadboro-Gyro Park was updated and that Migratory Bird Sanctuary signage was installed along the beach.⁴

¹ *District of Saanich, Animals Bylaw, 2004, No.8556*

² *Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/victoria-harbour.html>*

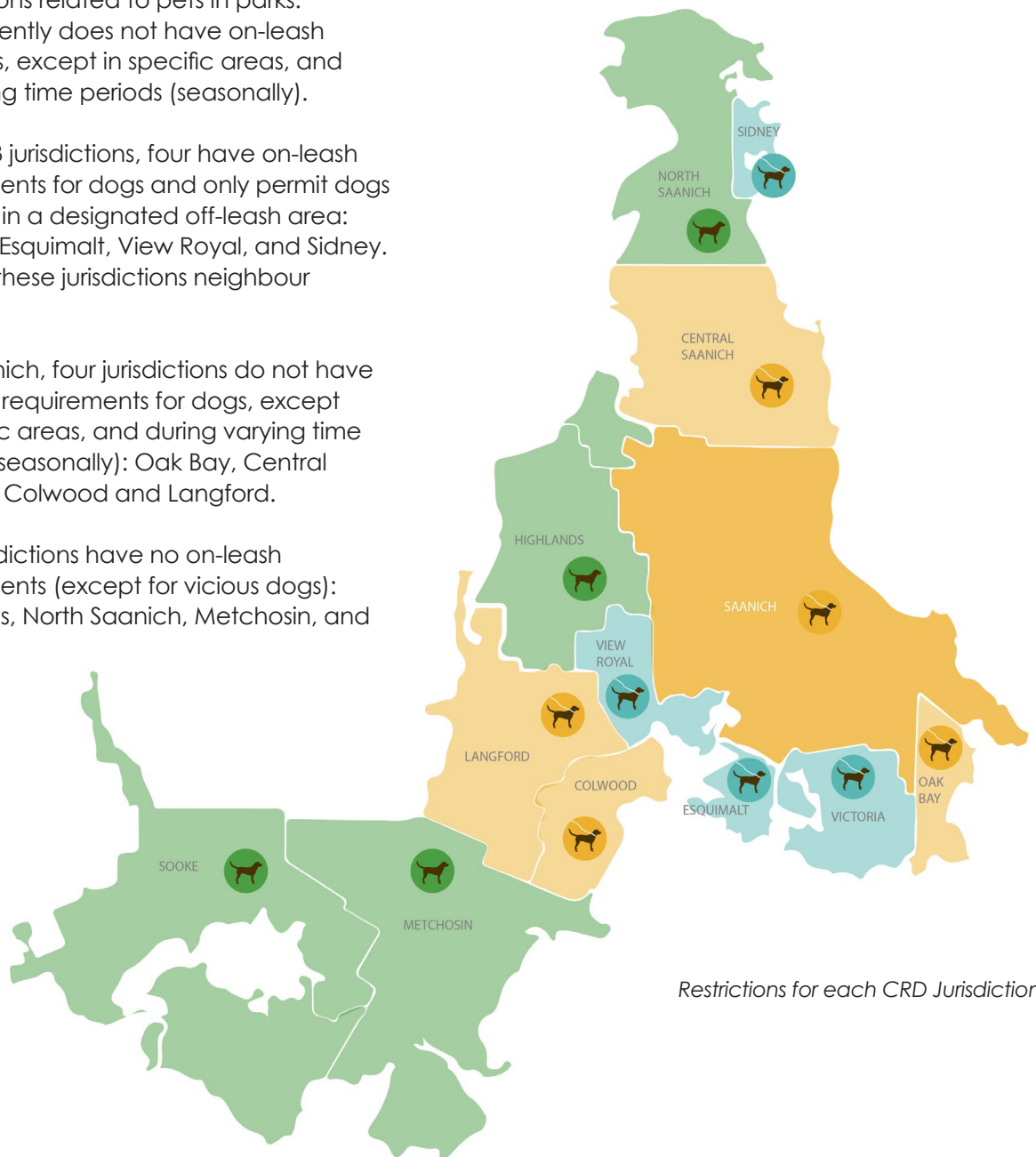
³ *Government of Canada, Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations*

⁴ *Saanich Police Department Briefing Note, June 25, 2021*

Regulations in Other Capital Region District Jurisdictions








The Capital Region District (CRD) is comprised of 13 jurisdictions including the District of Saanich. Each jurisdiction has individual bylaws and regulations related to pets in parks. Saanich currently does not have on-leash requirements, except in specific areas, and during varying time periods (seasonally).

- Of the 13 jurisdictions, four have on-leash requirements for dogs and only permit dogs off-leash in a designated off-leash area: Victoria, Esquimalt, View Royal, and Sidney. three of these jurisdictions neighbour Saanich.
- Like Saanich, four jurisdictions do not have off-leash requirements for dogs, except in specific areas, and during varying time periods (seasonally): Oak Bay, Central Saanich, Colwood and Langford.
- Four jurisdictions have no on-leash requirements (except for vicious dogs): Highlands, North Saanich, Metchosin, and Sooke.



Restrictions for each CRD Jurisdiction

The following table outlines the on-leash requirements for parks in each of the jurisdictions that specifically neighbour Saanich.

Neighbouring Jurisdiction	Restrictions		Animal Control Agency
City of Victoria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-leash requirements for dogs. Dogs only permitted off-leash in designated off-leash areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Animal Control
Esquimalt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-leash requirements for dogs. Dogs only permitted off-leash in designated off-leash areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Animal Control
View Royal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-leash requirements for dogs. Dogs only permitted off-leash in designated off-leash areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Regional District Animal Care
Saanich		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No on-leash requirements for dogs, except in specific areas, and during varying time periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Regional District Animal Care
Oak Bay		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No on-leash requirements for dogs, except in specific areas, and during varying time periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Animal Control
Central Saanich		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No on-leash requirements for dogs, except in specific areas, and during varying time periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Regional District Animal Care
Highlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No on-leash requirements (except for vicious dogs), or any areas where dogs are not permitted to be off-leash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Regional District Animal Care

Existing Saanich Regulations

Currently, the District of Saanich has various restrictions for dogs in parks, including areas where no dogs are allowed, seasonal restrictions, and areas with on-leash requirements. There are 171 Regional parks in Saanich, and 60 of these parks have some kind of restriction on dogs (about 35% of parks).

Existing restrictions for dogs in Saanich parks can be categorized in the following way:

Seasonal Restrictions

- **1 park** has seasonal restrictions for the entire park:
 - » Whitehead Park
- **8 parks** in Saanich have fenced baseball / softball fields (about 5% of parks). Saanich's Animals Bylaw prohibits dogs from being in a fenced baseball field during the months of March to October.
- **2 beaches** have seasonal restrictions:
 - » Mount Douglas Beach
 - » Cordova Bay Beach

On-leash Requirements

- **1 park** has on-leash requirements for the whole park:
 - » Cadboro-Gyro Park
- **1 park** has on-leash requirements for certain areas of the park:
 - » Blenkinsop Lake Park

- **55 parks** in Saanich have playgrounds or spray pads (about 32% of parks). Saanich's Animals Bylaw requires all dogs to be on a leash within a 10 metre (32.8 feet) radius of any playground equipment in a Regional Park.
- In addition, Saanich's Animals Bylaw prohibits dogs from being off-leash on a highway, school ground, college ground, or at the Royal Oak Burial Park.¹








Restrictions



- **2 parks** prohibit dogs from certain areas of the park in addition to having on-leash requirements:
 - » Rithet's Bog Park
 - » Cedar Hill Park
- **5 parks** in Saanich have an artificial soccer field (about 3% of parks). Saanich's Animals Bylaw prohibits dogs from being on an artificial turf field in any park.

No Dogs Allowed

- **2 parks** prohibit dogs from the entire park:
 - » Quicks Bottom Park
 - » Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

¹ District of Saanich, Animals Bylaw, 2004, No.8556

Regional Park	Local Area	Restriction	Rational	Details
Quicks Bottom Park	Rural Saanich	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Dogs Allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitive Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are not permitted in the park.
Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary	Quadra	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Dogs Allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoned P-5 (Conservation Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are not permitted in the park. The park is managed by the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society (not managed by Saanich Parks).
Rithet's Bog Park	Royal Oak	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoned P-5 (Conservation Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are only permitted on the perimeter trail and must be confined by a leash. Dogs are not permitted anywhere else in the park or conservation area.
Cedar Hill Park	Quadra	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitive Environment Safety Issues (Golf Course) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are permitted in the park, but only on the perimeter trail and must be confined by a leash. Dogs are not permitted within a 50m radius of Kings Pond (with the exception of being on the perimeter trail). <i>This bylaw requires clarification.</i>
Blenkinsop Lake Park	Blenkinsop	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-leash Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitive Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are permitted in the park, but only on the Lochside Regional Trail and must be confined by a leash.
Cadboro-Gyro Park	Cadboro Bay	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-leash Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per council decision November 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are required to be on leash in the park as well as the adjacent beach. Dogs and cats must not be allowed to run at large inside the designated Migratory Bird Sanctuary (According to the Government of Canada).
Whitehead Park	Rural Saanich	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health (Beach and Picnic Area) Sensitive Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are not permitted in the park during the months of May to August.

Beach	Local Area	Restriction	Rational	Details
Cordova Bay Beach	Cordova Bay	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health (Beach Area) Sensitive Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are not permitted on the beach between Cordova Bay Park and the northern boundary of Walema Avenue after 9:00am during the months of May to August.
Mount Douglas Park Beach	Gordon Head	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Sensitive Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs are not permitted at Mount Douglas Park Beach at PKOLS-Mount Douglas Park during the months of May to August.

Local Area Assessment

An assessment was undertaken to compare the number of licensed dogs in each of Saanich's 12 local areas to the size of the local area, the population of people, and amount of park space available (not including Capital Regional District Parks, or institutional lands).

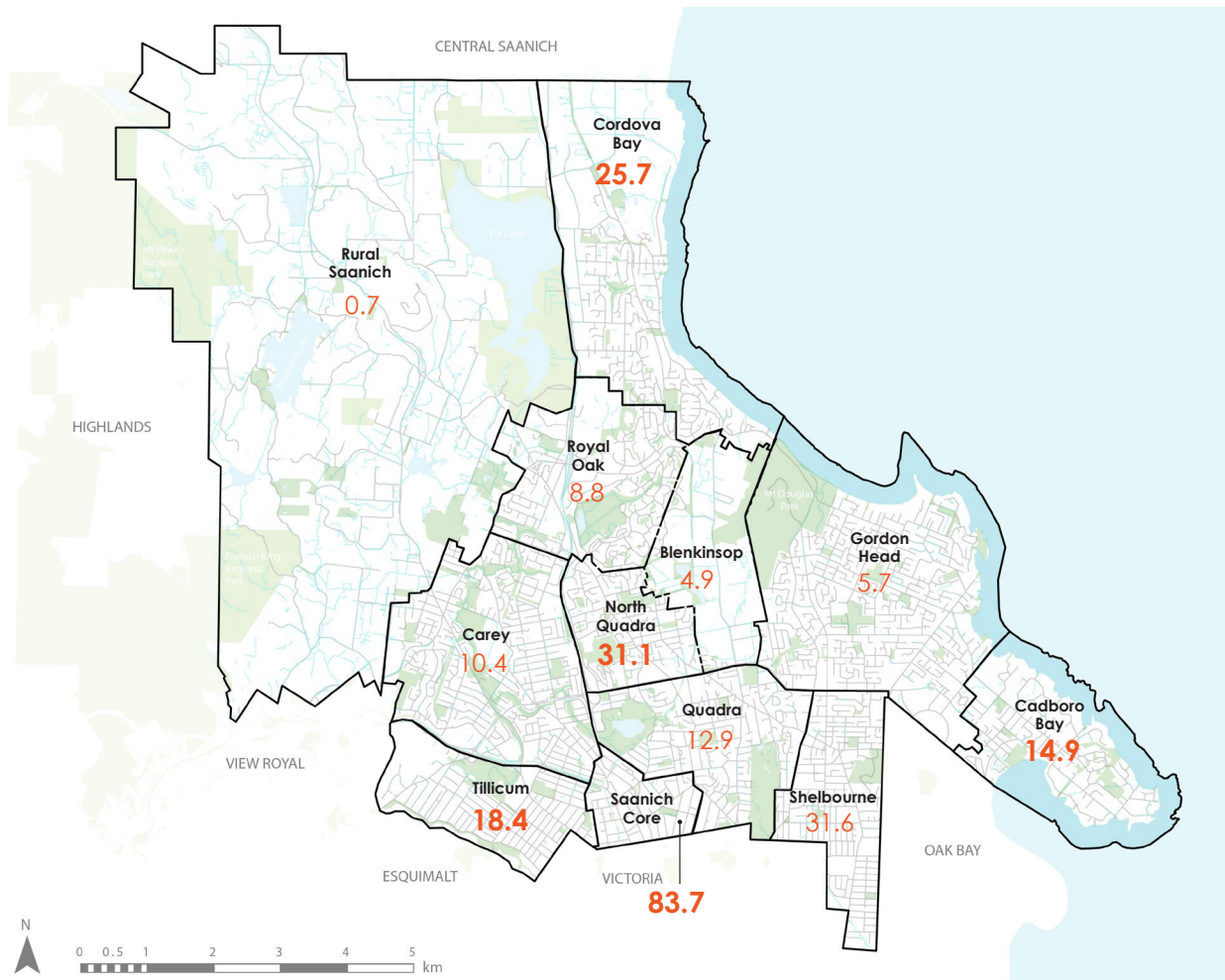
Local Area	Area (ha)*	Population (2016)	Licensed Dogs	Number of Dogs per Hectare of Local Area	Parks (ha)**	Number of Dogs per Hectare of Park Space
Saanich Core	177.1 ha	5,470	226	1.27 dogs	2.7 ha	83.7 dogs
Shelbourne	415.3 ha	12,525	767	1.84 dogs	24.2 ha	31.6 dogs
North Quadra	295.5 ha	7,880	521	1.76 dogs	16.7 ha	31.1 dogs
Cordova Bay	891.2 ha	8,125	782	0.87 dogs	30.4 ha	25.7 dogs
Tillicum	412.6 ha	10,080	796	1.92 dogs	43.1 ha	18.4 dogs
Cadboro Bay	382.7 ha	4,000	437	1.14 dogs	29.2 ha	14.9 dogs
Quadra***	547.7 ha	11,175	941	1.71 dogs	72.8 ha	12.9 dogs
Carey	826.4 ha	18,405	1,363	1.65 dogs	130.1 ha	10.4 dogs
Royal Oak	590.5 ha	8,855	627	1.06 dogs	71.1 ha	8.8 dogs
Gordon Head	1,079 ha	21,270	1,318	1.22 dogs	228.4 ha	5.7 dogs
Blenkinsop	431.3 ha	1,320	108	0.25 dogs	21.9 ha	4.9 dogs
Rural Saanich****	4,666.1 ha	5,025	624	0.13 dogs	886 ha	0.7 dogs

* Sourced from District of Saanich Local Areas map by Corporate GIS, 2022

** Sourced from Saanich Park Inventory, 2010.

*** Dogs are not permitted in the Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary or Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary in Quadra and therefore 61.8 ha of park space has been subtracted from the total amount.

**** Dogs are not permitted in Quick's Bottom Park in Rural Saanich and therefore 19.5 ha of park space has been subtracted from the total amount.



Dogs Per Hectare of Park Space

Interviews with other Jurisdictions

Interviews were held with staff from the City of Vancouver, City of Seattle, and City of Edmonton. The following comments cover topics that all these jurisdictions mentioned:

- Signage should have clear language, not be subjective, and should show physical boundaries for any off-leash areas.
- Tap into existing stewardship groups/independent from the region / municipality.
- Consider if commercial dog-walkers impact off-leash areas (if so, consider that only the largest off-leash areas are used by them).
- Budgetary restrictions have prevented retaining additional enforcement/peace officers.
- Issues with off-leash dogs on trails are a recurring challenges in parks (environmental reasons, dog and cyclist conflicts).
- There are few opportunities to access the water for dogs and these areas are kept separate from swimming beaches because of contamination (e.coli) and environmental concerns.
- It is important to implement a criteria for locating off-leash dog areas (considering access, adjacencies, etc).

Comparison of Research Findings

Background research included the comparison of the policies and regulations related to pets in parks that are enforced in other jurisdictions. Some of the most widely implemented policies and regulations are enforced in Saanich. However, there are other policies and regulations enforced by the majority of the jurisdictions included in the research that are not currently enforced in Saanich. These include:

- Dogs are not to harass (chase, bark at attack) wildlife/other animals
- Dogs must be vaccinated
- Dogs are not allowed on sports fields
- Dogs must not excessively/persistently bark
- Handlers must be in the possession of a leash at all times
- Leashes must be a certain length

A summary of the research is included in the table on the following page. Only the policies and regulations that were implemented by the majority of other jurisdictions included in the study are in the table.

The following table provides a high-level comparison of other jurisdiction's policies and regulations related to pets in parks.

Dog Policies and Regulations	Saanich	Frequency	Jurisdiction						
			San Francisco	Seattle	Edmonton	Vancouver	Victoria Animal Control Services	Nanaimo	CRD
Dog must be licensed		7							
Dog waste must be picked up and disposed of properly		7							
Restrictions on aggressive dogs/aggressive behaviour		7							
No dogs in sensitive ecological areas	Only Some	7							
Dog must be under control at all times (must immediately respond to voice commands/hand signals)		7							
No dogs in children's play areas		6							
Dogs are not to harass (chase, bark at, attack) wildlife/other animals		6							
No dogs in heat		5							
Handler must be present with dog		5							
No dogs on sports fields		5							
No excessive/persistent barking		5							
No dogs on beaches except if designated off-leash area (OLA) or at certain time of the year	Only Some	5							
Must be vaccinated		4							
Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting OLA		4							
Handler must be in possession of a leash for each dog at all times		4							
Bylaw exemption for waste removal for handler who is physically disabled or visually impaired		4					Only Oak Bay		
Length restrictions on leashes		4							
Dogs must be at least 4 months old to be in OLA		3							

APPENDIX Key Findings

The following section provides a more detailed overview of the key findings:

Open Space and Exercise

The Saanich community recognizes the benefits of having open space for running and playing with their dogs. Of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents, 49% indicated that the main benefit of allowing dogs off-leash in parks is the freedom for dogs to play/run (i.e. chase balls, exercise). Of respondents, 22% indicated that there are benefits for dog owners as well.

Public Online Survey respondents indicated that the positive effects on physical and mental health for both dogs and their owners was the number one benefit to having dogs off-leash in Saanich parks. This was mentioned 1,214 times out of 1,921 comments received for this question. Many respondents commented that the quality of exercise a dog receives off-leash cannot be replicated while on leash.

Environmental Considerations

Of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents, 32% indicated that the most important factor when considering Saanich parks in general is environmental protection and wildlife habitat connections. In the Public Online Survey, respondents indicated that opportunities to connect with nature, and environmental protection and wildlife habitat are the top two most important consideration for parks in general.

Some volunteer groups have expressed frustration with off-leash dogs being in areas they have worked to naturalize, and community members have anecdotally expressed concern with off-leash dogs being in environmentally sensitive areas including the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary at Cadboro Bay Park.

Safety

All park users agree that safety for people is an important consideration when it comes to people and pets sharing Saanich parks. Of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents, 50% indicated that safety for people was the most important consideration. Safety issues for children/people was a main challenge with having dogs off-leash in parks for 30% of dog owners and 45% of non-dog owners.

In the Public Online Survey, safety concerns was identified as one of the top challenges with having dogs off-leash in parks for both people and dogs. Of respondents, 40% identified safety for pets as an important consideration for sharing parks, and 36% selected safety for people. It was mentioned that a lack of separation between people and off-leash dogs is a barrier to enjoyment and safety in parks.

Dog Behavior and Lack of Training/Control

Dog behavior and a lack of training was consistently mentioned as the top challenge related to dogs in parks. Of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents, 49% indicated that irresponsible owners or those not able to control their dog is the main challenge with having dogs off-leash in parks. Poorly trained dogs (jumping on people, barking) was considered to be the main challenge for 26% of dog owners, and 37% of non-dog owners.

In the Public Online Survey, behavior issues and improper training was identified as the main challenge with having dogs off-leash in Saanich parks, and 31% of Pop-up Dog Park Pilot Project Online Survey respondents indicated that owners not controlling their dog(s) was the number one concern for having enclosed dog parks in their neighborhood.

While the majority report positive experiences overall with dogs in parks, 51% of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents have had a conflict with an off-leash dog (57% of dog owners and, 48% of non-dog owners). Among dog owners, having their dog attacked or approached aggressively by another dog is the most frequently reported. Among non-dog owners, various issues with aggressive dogs, or owners not controlling their dogs are the most common reports.

Communication and Education

Public Online Survey respondents indicated that a lack of information and education is a main challenge with having dogs off-leash in parks. It was suggested that having educational opportunities and information on training and dog etiquette available to park users would result in fewer conflicts.

When additional comments were solicited in the Public Online Survey, 171 comments (of 1,492) called for better and more signage to distinguish areas where dogs are permitted off-leash and not, citing that the confusion can cause tension and confrontation between park users.

Approximately 85% of Pop-up Dog Park Pilot Project survey respondents were satisfied with the Rules and Etiquette signage located at the pop-ups dog parks. Participants suggested additional messaging for picking up dog waste, and behavioral and education tips.

Variety of Parks

For nearly half (45%) of the Online Public Survey respondents, fenced off-leash open areas for running and play was considered a very important dog park feature, and was ranked as the most important amenity. Respondents also suggested that different types of off-leash areas are needed in Saanich (in addition to enclosed or fenced areas), and areas of different sizes should be distributed throughout the District.

Of Online Public Survey respondents, 35% indicated that the location and distribution of fenced off-leash areas for dogs within a park as an important consideration.

When asked about the benefits of having dogs off-leash in Saanich parks, some Public Online Survey respondents indicated there is no benefit to having dogs off-leash and that dogs should only be permitted off-leash in an off-leash area to mitigate conflicts. This was mentioned 546 times out of the 1,921 comments received for this question.

When asked about reasons for not visiting parks, Online Public Survey respondents indicated that there are not enough restrictions on off-leash dogs and they would prefer not to have dogs around, and many respondents shared their desire for more designated off-leash areas. This was mentioned 264 times out of the 1,396 comments received for this question. 200 respondents indicated that they don't visit certain parks because there are restrictions on dogs.

Park Cleanliness and Waste Management

Waste management and cleanliness is an important consideration for people and dogs sharing Saanich's parks. 29% of Pop-up Dog Park Pilot Project Online Survey respondents indicated that cleanliness / owners not picking up after their dog(s) was a concern for having enclosed dog parks in their neighborhood. Similarly, 15% of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents indicated that cleanliness of parks was the most important factor to consider in parks, making it the second most mentioned consideration. Respondents to the Public Online Survey identified waste management to be a main challenge of having dogs off-leash in Saanich parks.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the typical dog generates three quarters of a pound of waste per day – or 274 pounds per year. With possibly 15,000-20,000 dogs in Saanich, that amounts to a total of 4.1-5.4 million pounds of dog waste per year. It is unknown how much of the total waste is disposed of properly.

Park Equity

Of Public Online Survey respondents, 40% indicated that they avoid Saanich parks due to off-leash dogs being present (24% of dog owners and 72% of non-dog owners avoid parks because of off-leash dogs). Additionally, 51% of respondents support having a park where no dogs are allowed (34% of dog owners and 83% of non-dog owners agree), and 76% of Statistically Valid Phone Survey respondents agree that specific areas where dogs are not allowed off-leash would help reduce conflicts in parks.

Community Building

Public Online Survey respondents indicated that bringing their dog(s) to parks allows them to connect with other members of the community, and community building was mentioned as a benefit to having dogs-off leash in Saanich parks. However, throughout the engagement process, community members have anecdotally expressed concerns about the frequency and intensity of conflicts between park users related to off-leash dogs in Saanich.

Enforcement

Respondents to the Statistically Valid Phone Survey were divided as to whether or not there is suitable enforcement of dog activity in Saanich. Of respondents, 36% agree and 30% disagree that there is suitable enforcement of dog activity in parks. In the Public Online Survey, respondents indicated that there was a lack of clarity around some of the restrictions, including what it means to have dogs "under control". When additional comments were solicited in the Public Online Survey, 125 comments (of 1,492) called for increased bylaw enforcement and more patrol officers.

The Saanich Police Department reported in June 2021 that during patrols of Cadboro-Gyro Park, many park users demonstrated frustration in trying to understand the Animals Bylaw and existing signage (*Saanich Police Department Briefing Note, June 25, 2021*). In June 2022, the District of Saanich contracted Animal Control services to the Capital Regional District. CRD Animal Care Services are currently responsible for enforcing the Saanich Animals Bylaw throughout the municipality, including all parks.

Park Use

The Statistically Valid Phone Survey determined that dog owners are frequent users of parks, with 52% using them at least daily and 65% visiting parks several times a week or more. Of Public Online Survey respondents, 69% indicated that the main reason they visit parks is to bring pets. Of Statistically Valid Phone Survey, 4% visit parks with other pets, mainly cats. Of Public Online Survey respondents, 2% said they visited parks with a pet other than a dog. These pets included, cats, horses, ferrets, and parrots. Many indicated that they do not bring other pets to parks because of concerns with off-leash dogs.

Dog Licensing

Based on the available research it would appear that the District of Saanich currently has low levels of dog licensing. Data from the District of Saanich identifies 8,510 licensed dogs in 2022. The estimated dog population in Saanich is between 15,740 - 23,547 based on the Statistically Valid Phone Survey of Saanich residents and nation-wide dog population estimates from Agriculture Canada. This translates to a licensing compliance rate between approximately 35% and 45%. Low levels of licensing makes it hard to plan for dogs.

Population Demographics

Review of statistical information has determined that the population of Saanich is increasing and projected to grow by 700-800 new residents each year to 2038. This growth in population will undoubtedly result in an increase in Saanich's dog population as well. (*Saanich Housing / Demographics Conditions, 2019*)

Number of Dogs per Hectare of Park Space

An analysis of the number of registered dogs and the amount of park space per local area in Saanich determined that there are several local areas with a very high density of dogs per hectare of parks space, and some local areas with a low density. Areas with higher densities may experience more challenges relating to pets in parks.

The local areas with the highest density of dogs per hectare of parks space (more than 30 dogs per hectare) include Saanich Core, Shelbourne and North Quadra. The local areas with the lowest density of dogs per hectare of park space (less than six dogs per hectare) include Rural Saanich, Blenkinsop and Gordon Head.

APPENDIX Summer Pop-ups

Summer Pop-Up Dog Park Pilot Project

The Summer Pop-Up Dog Park Pilot Project provided fenced-in, off-leash areas in five different parks during the summer of 2021. The pop-up dog parks were regularly monitored, and the community shared their thoughts via an online survey. The project was considered a success and was expanded for summer 2022, with five additional pop-up dog parks added.

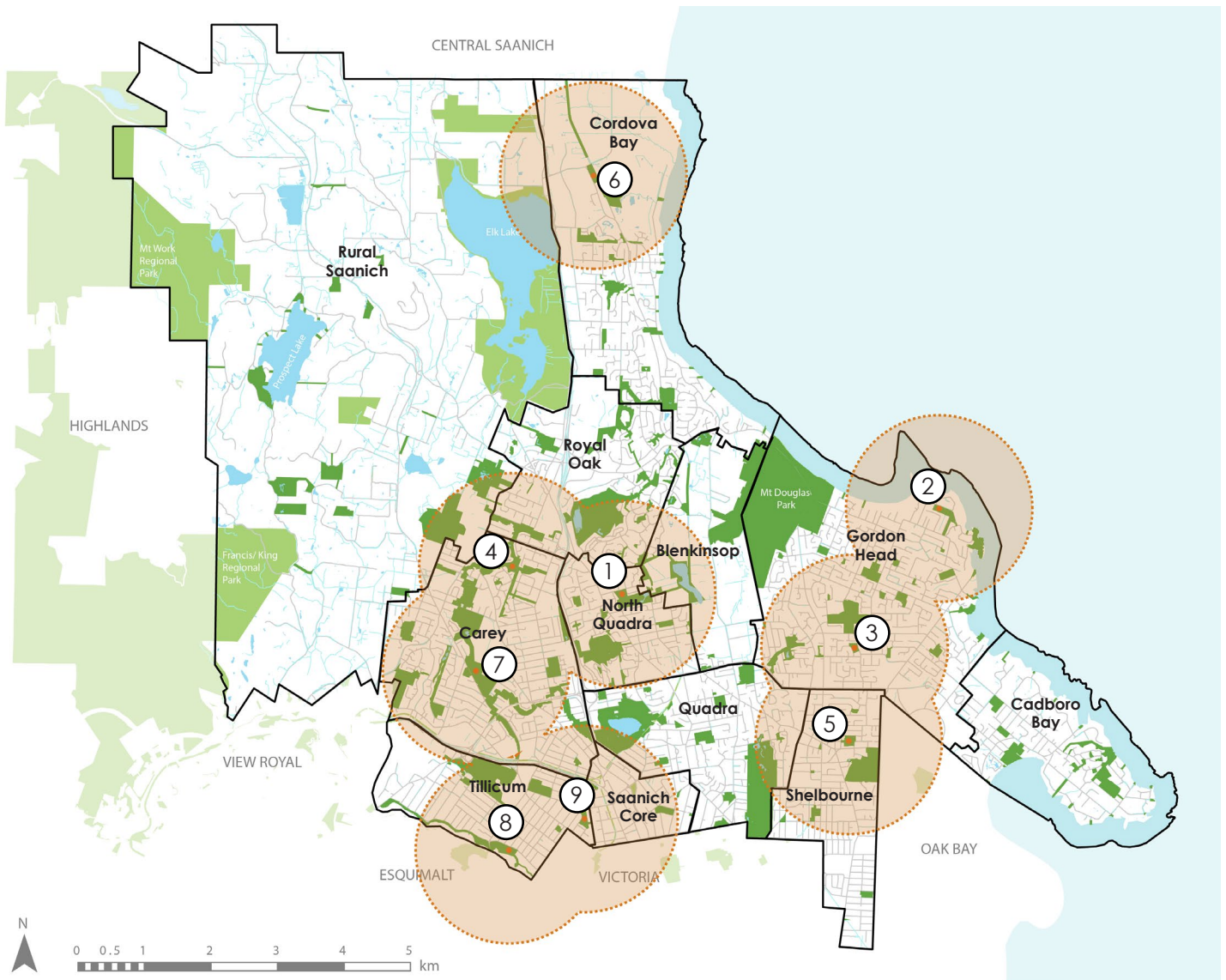
- The 2021 pop-up dog parks were well received by the community, with the majority of users being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the pop-up dog parks.
- One pop-up dog park, Cadboro-Gyro park Park, received unfavorable reviews, with the majority of online survey respondents being “very dissatisfied” with the pop-up dog park. This pop-up was not reinstated for summer 2022.

Mapping the pop-ups determined that not all areas in Saanich were well served by a pop-up dog park (not within a 15 minute [1,500 meters] walking distance to a pop-up).

- Quadra did not have a pop-up dog park, even though it has the fourth highest population density in Saanich. Site selection was determined by the criteria listed below.
- Royal Oak, Rural Saanich, Blenkinsop and Cadboro Bay were also not well served by a pop-up dog park. However, these neighbourhood areas have lower population densities.

A park would be considered for a pop-up dog park if it met the following site selection criteria determined by the District:

- The park is not zoned P-4N (Natural Park) or P-5 (Conservation).
- The site is an open field, not presently utilized for organized sport or in a natural park, and at least 0.14ha. This minimum size was determined by public feedback during the 2021 pilot project.
- On-site or street parking is available and is unlikely to impact residents.
- The park is not part of Saanich's Summer Neighbourhood Playground program.
- The physical terrain is suitable for a dog park, is flat, and not sloping.
- The park is not likely to disrupt neighbours within the vicinity.



2022 Pop-Up Dog Park Locations with a 15 Minute Walking Radius