



# Public Service Announcement

**CONTACT:**

Ron Myers  
Manager of Parks Planning & Design  
City of Port Coquitlam  
tel.: 604-927-7920  
e-mail: myersr@portcoquitlam.ca

**NEW DOG OFF-LEASH AREA OPENS IN DOWNTOWN PORT COQUITLAM**

Port Coquitlam has opened its second off-leash dog area, within easy walking distance of two busy south-side parks.

The new Downtown Dog Off-leash Area will provide dog owners in the area an alternative to running their dogs off-leash on the trails or at nearby Gates or Lions Parks, where it is not permitted.

Located off Maple Street at Bury Avenue, the new 0.3-acre open fenced space is surfaced with wood chips and will have a small seating area installed in January. It can be accessed from both the Traboulay PoCo Trail and Maple Street. However, because parking on Maple is limited, users will be encouraged to walk there from home or from the parking lot at Gates Park.

While trees and shrubs create a natural buffer from the nearest homes, dog owners are asked to be considerate of the park neighbours by following the park rules – particularly, minimizing excessive barking and adhering to the hours of operation (dawn to dusk).

Work on the project began on Oct. 12 and was completed in mid-December. The site is a utility right-of-way that was already appropriately zoned for an off-leash area.

The opening of this second off-leash area is hoped to increase compliance with the City's Animal Control Bylaw, which requires dogs to be leashed in all public spaces other than designated off-leash areas. In particular, it is hoped to reduce the use of Gates Park for running dogs off-leash – a source of constant complaints from other park users and an ongoing concern for the City.

Port Coquitlam residents own an estimated 9,000 dogs, and dog off-leash areas were identified as a significant need when the City developed its Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan in 2007.

In early 2010 the City opened its first dog park – the Shaughnessy Dog Off-Leash Area in the 3300-block of Shaughnessy Street. Sites in Citadel Heights and in north-east Port Coquitlam are being considered for future off-leash areas, as funds become available in the next few years.

Visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogs](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogs) for more information about Port Coquitlam's services for dogs, or go to [www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogpark](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/dogpark) for more details about the City's two off-leash areas.

###