

# **Governor General Area Off-Leash Dog Use Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park**

Regional Parks Committee – July 22, 2026

# Agenda

1. Motion with Notice - October 22, 2025
2. Site Context
3. Existing Plans & Regulations
4. Site Use
5. Options Analysis
6. Recommendation





## Motion with Notice - October 22, 2025:

*That CRD Parks staff be directed to review and report back on potential options for better accommodating off-leash dogs in the Governor General Area at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park along Elk Lake Road in Saanich, including site suitability, impacts to park use, environmental considerations, community input, and estimated costs.*

# Site Context

- Located west of Elk Lake Drive.
- Open grassland bordered by healthy mature forest.
- Hedgerow and intermittent fencing along the roadside.
- Small parking area (8-10 spaces).

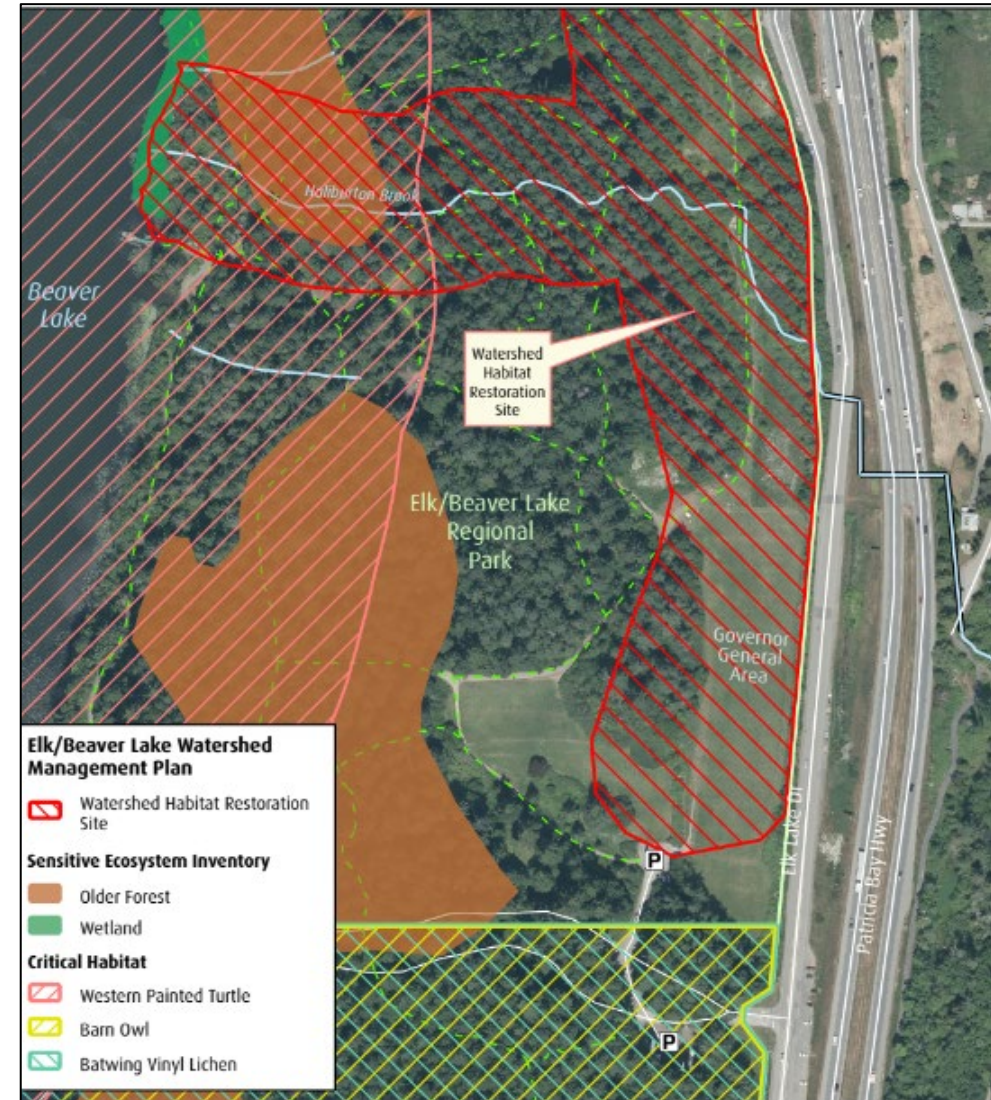


# Site Context (video)



# Existing Plans & Regulations

- Elk/Beaver Lake and Bear Hill Regional Park Management Plan
  - General Outdoor Recreation Zone – intended for moderate, multi-use recreation.
- Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan
  - Area partially located within a watershed habitat restoration site.
- CRD Parks Regulation Bylaw
  - Supports off-leash dog use in suitable areas with low infrastructure.
  - CRD does not host formal/enclosed off-leash facilities.



# Site Use

- Multi-use area:
  - Walking, running, equestrian use.
  - Community and sporting events.
  - Film production.
  - Overflow parking.



# Current Management Approach

- Off-leash dogs permitted.
  - Emphasis on owner responsibility – dogs must be in sight and under control.
- Ongoing ranger patrols.
- Public education and outreach events like PAWS in Parks.
- Improved split-rail fencing and vegetative buffers.
- Reduced mowing near roadway.



# Options

- **Option 1 – Maintain Existing Conditions**
  - Continue current management approach.
- **Option 2 – Partial Roadway Fencing**
  - Install ~250m chain-link fence along Elk Lake Drive.
- **Option 3 – Fully Fenced Dog Area**
  - Construct a ~590m enclosed off-leash dog area.



# Options Analysis

|                                               | Option 1 – Maintain Status Quo | Option 2 – Partially Fenced | Option 3 – Fully Fenced |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Aligns with Watershed Management Plan?</b> | YES                            | NO                          | NO                      |
| <b>Aligns with Parks Management Plan?</b>     | YES                            | NO                          | NO                      |
| <b>Aligns with Parks Bylaw</b>                | YES                            | SOMEWHAT                    | No                      |
| <b>Site suitability?</b>                      | YES                            | YES                         | NO                      |
| <b>Impacts to park use?</b>                   | LOW                            | LOW TO MEDIUM               | HIGH                    |
| <b>Environmental considerations?</b>          | LOW                            | LOW TO MEDIUM               | HIGH                    |
| <b>Community engagement required?</b>         | NO                             | YES                         | YES                     |
| <b>Cost?</b>                                  | LOW                            | MEDIUM (~\$85,000)          | HIGH (~\$245,000)       |



# Recommendation

*Option 1 – That staff maintain existing conditions (status quo) for off-leash dog use in the Governor General Area at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.*



# Thank you!

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Capital Regional District



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