

**Seaview Park
Off Leash Area Cleanliness Monitoring Results
April 29, 2008**

Background

A key goal of the Off Leash Park Areas Strategy is to ensure off leash areas are clean and free of dog waste. Monitoring for compliance with this goal is the responsibility of the HRM Interdepartmental Off Leash Strategy Committee.

Seaview Park was monitored on Tuesday, April 29. Small survey flags were placed beside locations in the park where owners had failed to clean up dog waste. The entire park was surveyed.



Seaview Park

The area surveyed was extensive and the results were extremely disappointing with over 200 flags used. Dog waste was everywhere in the park. It was in the playground, throughout the fields and throughout all the garden beds, trees and shrubs. It is evident that many dog owners using this park are not behaving in a responsible manner. The proof is in the sheer volume of dog waste in the park. Seaview Park was by far the worst of all off leash parks surveyed. It was simply disgusting.

The flags will be left in place at the park until Wednesday, May 7 to alert the general public to the health hazard and to remind dog owners of their responsibility to pick up after their pets.



Flags at Seaview Park

Recommendations

The Interdepartmental Off Leash Strategy Committee now has survey results for the park. It is apparent that there is a serious problem at the park. If dog waste continues to be a problem at Seaview Park the Committee may decide to consider revoking dog related privileges in the Park by invoking Section 3.4 of the Strategy

3.4 Discretionary Park Redesignation Process

At its discretion, the Committee may revoke an on leash or off leash area designation and impose a “No Dogs” designation in a park or sportsfield where dog owners chronically fail to follow the “Stoop and Scoop” provisions of the Dog By-law. The Committee may also choose to apply a “No Dogs” designation in a park or sportsfield where chronic user conflicts or environmental impacts cannot be resolved. The Committee will prepare an information report to the responsible Council stating its concerns and its intention to redesignate the affected park. This will be accompanied by a published public notice (14) days before the “No Dogs” designation is scheduled to take effect. On a semi-annual basis, reinstatement appeals will be considered by the Committee.