

**Shubie Park
Off Leash Area Cleanliness Monitoring Results
April 23, 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.

Shubie Park was monitored on Tuesday, April 22. Small survey flags were placed beside locations in the park where owners had failed to clean up dog waste. The survey focused on two park areas adjacent to the Locks Road parking lot; the Lake MicMac trail (top circle) and Sunrise Beach (bottom circle).



The results of the survey were not good. One hundred and thirty (130) flags (80 Lake Micmac trail, 50 Sunrise Beach) were used to mark locations where owners had failed to clean up after their dogs. Most dog waste was located within a few a few feet of the trail or within 50 feet of the lake. Several locations were also flagged within a few feet of the lake. It was evident that some of the waste was left during the winter but most had occurred recently.

The flags will be left in place at the park until Monday, April 28 to alert the general public to the health hazard and to remind dog owners of their responsibility to pick up after their pets.

Responsible pet owners have voluntarily cleaned up some of the waste but there is much more to be removed. Park staff will remove the flags and conduct a thorough cleanup of the sites on Tuesday, April 29.



Flags at Sunrise Beach



Streamside flag near Lake Micmac Trail

Recommendations

The risk of fecal coliform contamination to Lake Micmac appears significant. The cleanup of the two sites will provide the Interdepartmental Off Leash Strategy Committee with a baseline to measure ongoing compliance by dog owners. If, after an additional month of monitoring, it appears that dog waste is a chronic problem 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.

Addendum: By April 25, responsible dog owners had cleaned up all of the flagged waste at Shubie Park. Well done!