

Dear Mayor and Council

I am writing to express my growing concern regarding the increasing number of off-leash dogs in our community, particularly in public parks and recreational trails including the valley trail. As a resident of Cheakamus, I have observed a significant rise in this issue, which is causing considerable inconvenience and potential safety risks for all residents.

While I understand and appreciate the importance of allowing dogs to enjoy open spaces and the benefits of off-leash play, the current situation has become problematic. Many dog owners seem to disregard the leash laws, resulting in several concerns:

1. **Safety Issues:** Off-leash dogs, especially those that are not under control, pose a potential risk to other park users, including children and other pets. Most owners overestimate their dogs training, resulting in unwanted interactions.
2. **Public Nuisance:** Dogs running off-leash often disturb picnickers, joggers, and families who visit these parks for a peaceful experience. This disruption is not only inconvenient but also undermines the enjoyment of the communal spaces meant for relaxation and recreation.

In light of these concerns, I kindly request that the council consider taking the following actions:

- **Increased Enforcement:** Implementing more rigorous enforcement of leash laws in public parks and recreational areas. This could include regular patrols or increased fines for violations.
- **Public Awareness Campaign:** Launching a campaign to educate dog owners about the importance of adhering to leash laws and the potential consequences of non-compliance. Long leashes or retractable leashes are great tools for giving your dogs freedom whilst maintaining safety.

I believe these measures will significantly improve the safety and enjoyment of our public spaces. I am confident that with your support, we can address this issue effectively and foster a more respectful and enjoyable community environment for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and am hopeful for positive changes in our community.

Regards,

Jane Smith

Cheakamus, Whistler