



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD
MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2023**

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Supplemental
Information

Consent
Agenda

1. Public Input received March 31, 2023 from Amber Levesque regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
2. Public Input received March 31, 2023 from Gabby Goffinet regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
3. Public Input received March 31, 2023 from Lani Gibson regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
4. Public Input received March 31, 2023 from Pam Vollrath regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
5. Public Input received April 01, 2023 from Curzio Miani regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
6. Public Input received April 01, 2023 from Lucy Miani regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
7. Public Input received April 01, 2023 from Jason Cathers regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
8. Public Input received April 01, 2023 from Thomas & Catherine Bilina regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
9. Public Input received April 01, 2023 from Tammy & John Demedeiros regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park
10. Public Input received April 02, 2023 from Erika Prett regarding the Off Leash Dog Area – Hirsch Creek Park

From: [Amber Levesque](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: On leash dog area at Hirsch Creek
Date: March 31, 2023 7:33:38 PM

Good evening,

I just saw Lani's post regarding the on leash area at hirsch creek. I fully support this!!! There are so many dogs running on the paths and not all of them are friendly. My kids and I have come around corners to dogs growling at us, or even running up and jumping on them.

I agree there should be a designated off leash area, but it should be well defined and within the owners field of vision. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kindly,
Amber

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From: [Gabby goffinet](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Hirsch Creek
Date: March 31, 2023 7:07:26 PM

Hello,

I just heard that a motion is being brought forward, to make Hirsch into an on-leash area. Please do not do this! We need more off leash areas, not less.

- Gabby

From: [Lani Gibson](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Comment for Council - OPPOSITION to proposal to make Hirsch Creek a leash only area
Date: March 31, 2023 5:59:27 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was completely shocked to see a recommendation in this week's agenda package that leashes be required for dogs at Hirsch Creek park. As one of the "regulars" at the park, this will have a hugely adverse impact on me and many other "regulars" who own large breed dogs and require an off-leash area for properly exercising them. I currently rely on the park as a location that is easy to access year-round, and suitable for all ages, in order to get exercise for our Husky and our family at the same time. Several times a week I meet with friends with other large breed dogs so that our dogs can play and chase each other and get the exercise that they need. I always have a shock collar on my dog to ensure effective recall in the event of anything unexpected happening, and I also carry a leash and always leash my dog if we see any dogs who are not known to us. My dog needs to be able run hard and play with her friends in order to get exercise. In the summer I can hike her up mountains or bike with her, but from September to April the off-leash areas are my only option. Apart from being far from my home, the dyke road and Forest Ave both have constant industrial traffic, and are not good alternatives. I also find great solace and comfort from being in the old growth trees at Hirsch Creek park. Walking there on a regular basis is an important part of maintaining my emotional and spiritual wellbeing, and I don't have time to take my dog on a separate walk each day.

Please do not change the status of the trails at Hirsch Creek as an off leash area.

Lani

Lani E. Gibson (she/her)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Kitimat BC, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I live and work on unceded Haisla Nation territory

From: [Pam Vollrath](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Hirsch Creek off leash area.
Date: March 31, 2023 7:25:25 PM

Dear Council Members & District staff,

I am annoyed at the thought of giving up Hirsch Creek as an off leash dog area. There are precious few places for dogs to run free. The only reason I can think that this might be happening is the issue of dog poop. However, leashing dogs will not make that issue disappear. It's lazy dog owners that are the problem here and responsible dog owners and their dogs suffer as a result.

I don't know the answer but dog poop is a problem all over, not just at Hirsch Creek. So perhaps that issue as a whole is what needs to be discussed.

Sincerely,
Pam Vollrath

From: [curzio miani](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Hirsch Creek park.
Date: April 1, 2023 4:23:13 PM

Dear Mayor and council,

It has come to my attention that you are considering changing Hirsch creek park from an off leash area for dogs to an on leash area. My wife and I have been walking this area nearly every day with our dogs for the last dozen or so years. It is by far the best off leash area near Kitimat for us and the many regulars who also are using this park. This park is a gem. It allows us to properly exercise our large breed dogs. We have excellent control of our dogs and respect the space of others. Hirsch creek park is a totally different place from Radley park and it would be wrong to try to market them online as being the same. I and others walk Hirsch creek almost every day regardless of the season and the weather because it's good for our well being as well as our dogs. Terrace has Ferry Island with a designated off leash area and I can tell you it is very popular. If they can make this work why can't we? Please do not change the current leash rules at Hirsch creek.

Regards, Curzio Miani

From: [lucy miani](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Hirsch Creek Park
Date: April 1, 2023 5:39:19 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I understand that there is a recommendation in this week's agenda that dogs should be required to wear leashes at Hirsch Creek.

My husband and I are both retired and we have 3 German Shepherd dogs. We take the dogs almost every day to Hirsch Creek. Our dogs are well trained; however, they always wear an e collar as well.

Hirsch Creek allows our dogs to run free and it gives us great joy to see our dogs living their best life. Of course, they also keep use happy and active as well.

Lastly, one of the reasons we retired in Kitimat was the fact that we could walk our dogs off leash at Hirsch Creek. So, I'm really hoping this doesn't change.

Thank you,

Lucy Miani

From: [jason cathers](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: leash policy at hirsch creek
Date: April 1, 2023 2:55:14 PM

i'm writing in regards to the proposed change in leash policy at Hirsch creek park. I personally use the park over 250 days a year to play at the disc golf course with my three dogs. there are many other users that use the park playing disc golf or walking with there dogs. since i have become a regular at the park when the disc golf course opened in fall of 2020 i have never seen an altercation between an unleashed dog and a person. people that have aggressive dogs put their dogs on a leash, its common sense. to make a blanket leash law that effects the health and happiness of all dogs does not make sense to me. the people that use the park regularly are probably 95 percent dog owners. the regular users have dogs that greet other owners and dogs of the owners like there best friends.

thank you
jason cathers.

From: [Tomas Bilina](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#); [Mario Feldhoff](#); [Edwin](#)
Subject: Hirsch Creek Park - off-leash designation
Date: April 1, 2023 11:45:56 AM

Dear Mayor and Council,

We were disappointed to see a recommendation in this week's agenda package that recommends removing the off-leash designation of Hirsch Creek Park. If passed, this would have a hugely adverse impact on us and many other "regulars" who own large breed dogs and require an off-leash area for properly exercising them.

We currently rely on the park as a location that is easy to access year-round, and suitable for all ages, in order to get exercise for our mid-size dogs.

In summer, we have many options to take our dogs of-leash that are outside of the District of Kitimat, but between November and April Hirsch Creek Park is one of the very few areas that remain accessible.

Please do not change the status of the trails at Hirsch Creek as an off leash area.

Thank you,

Tomas Bilina and Catherine Bilina

██████████ Kitimat, BC, ██████████
██████████

From: [T & J De Medeiros](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Hirsh creek dog leash
Date: April 1, 2023 9:42:08 AM

Attention mayor and council

I'm in favor of Hirsh Creek needing to be an on-leash dog area. I personally don't currently go to Hirsh Creek because it's an off-leash area.

I'd like to see it changed to an on-leash park.

For the safety of my family and visiting family.

I'd like to enjoy a picnic without having the fear of a dog running up and destroying it.

Also for the safety of those who work there. I'm sure it's a safety concern for them as well.

Also the people who decided to camp there. I'm sure they don't want random dogs running through their camp site.

Thank you for your time

Tammy DeMedeiros and family (4)

John, Branden, Brittney, & visiting family

From: [Erika Prett](#)
To: [districtofkitimat](#)
Subject: Comment to council regarding Hirsch creek off or on leash
Date: April 2, 2023 10:06:09 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is a tough one as I personally have been enjoying walking my dogs off leash at Hirsch Creek park for the last 25 years. It is one of my favorite trails to walk. I always carry leashes and if I see or hear someone coming I will put my dogs on leash. Fenced in dog park areas that look like a big yard are not for me or my dogs.

My dogs thrive with the stimulation of the forest - all the debris, sounds and smells of the forest. So much life. The goal is always to avoid people and dogs. I do my best to pick times when it looks like there are no people.

Perhaps there is a way to create a compromise where there are certain days that are off leash days? Or maybe certain times of the day? I don't know. I just feel very sad thinking that I will not be able to go there anymore with my dogs. Yes, I understand can still walk the park with the dogs on leash, but they will not understand why they can't run and play. They know the park and get so excited to go for their walk through the forest. All along the dyke used to be a nice walk but now it is super high traffic and not very peaceful.

Thank you for all that you give of yourselves for our community. Thanks for caring for Kitimat.

Sincerely,
Erika Prett