

We are the Coquitlam River Watershed Society

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education, and advisory action.

Dogs, people and wildlife can all thrive in healthy natural areas. Follow these best practices to keep natural areas healthy and safe for all creatures.



Leashed and Off-leashed Dog Parks in Coquitlam:
coquitlam.ca/527/Leashed-Off-Leash-Dog-Areas



Dog Areas and Waste Bins in Port-Coquitlam:
portcoquitlam.ca/services/pets-wildlife/dogs/leash-dog-areas



Bearwise Safety Tips for Dog Owners:
bearwise.org/bear-safety-tips/dogs-and-bears



Pets and Wildlife Don't Mix:
spca.bc.ca/news/pets-and-wildlife-dont-mix



Training Your Dog for Emergency Recall:
spca.bc.ca/news/emergency-recall

This pamphlet is brought to you by the Coquitlam River Watershed Society.
coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

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Streams for Salmon



Watercourses throughout the Coquitlam River Watershed bring fish and wildlife, fresh water and natural beauty to our region. During spawning season, keep dogs (and people) out of rivers and creeks to protect salmon.



Salmon spawn between late summer and early spring. They lay eggs in underwater nests called "redds". Eggs incubate for about 3 months before juvenile salmon, called alevins, emerge to feed and grow.

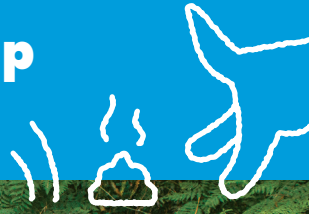


Native plants that grow along riverbanks keep the river healthy by preventing soil erosion, removing pollutants and keeping water cool and shaded. But plants and soils are vulnerable to erosion if disturbed or trampled.

Dogs and their humans can keep salmon and the river healthy by:

- Staying out of the rivers and watercourses from September to May.
- Dig, run and play at least 15 metres away from the edge of watercourses.
- Stay on official trails to protect soil and vegetation along the riverbank.
- Always follow posted guidelines about leashing your dog.
- Bring a water bottle and dish to keep your dog hydrated.

The Scoop on Poop



It's natural for bears and coyotes to poop in wild areas, so why can't dogs? Aside from the obvious mess that can end up on someone's shoe, dog poop is different because dog food is different: its ingredients come from outside of the natural ecosystem. Dog poop introduces new substances and bacteria into natural areas.



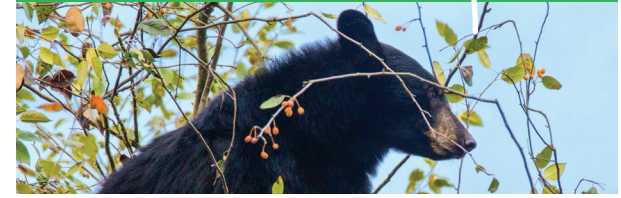
Bears and other wildlife have even been observed eating dog poop, along with the bags that it gets left in (yuck!). Bags do not breakdown completely (even if they claim to be biodegradable), so bags introduce plastic particles to the environment.



When it comes to poop, Bag it and Bin it!

- Carry enough bags to clean up after your dog, even if it poops off-trail.
- Put bagged poop in designated bins.
- Dog waste is prohibited in municipal garbage.
- Dog waste is flushable, but bags are not. Bags can clog the toilet and cause problems for the wastewater system.

Leash Up for Wildlife



Spring and summer are breeding season for many species of mammals and birds. Off-leash dogs can discover and disturb young animals. This can be dangerous for wildlife and your dog. Many animals such as bears, coyotes, river otters, or raccoons may respond defensively to protect their young and their territory if approached by off-leash dogs. Unleashed dogs can also pick up diseases from wildlife. When interactions with dogs become unsafe, wildlife often gets blamed.



Urban wildlife may be found anywhere, so it is important to remain vigilant.

To keep your dog and other wildlife safe:

- Be aware of wildlife activity in your community and adjust your walk route to avoid a potentially dangerous interaction.
- Turn lights on and check your backyard before letting dogs out for their nightly outside pee.
- If walking your dog off-leash, train your dog to answer an emergency recall.
- Never let your dog chase or harass wildlife.
- Always follow posted guidelines about leashing your dog.
- When in doubt, leash your dog.
- Off-leash dog parks provide a safe place for your dog to play and run.