

IMPACT OF OFF-LEASH PARKS ON VISITOR ACTIVITIES



Urban parks provide space for many social and physical activities, however, certain features may influence who visits the park and the activities they engage in 1

A 2016 study* investigated the impact that off-leash areas had on the visitor profiles and visitor activities of urban parks in Calgary.



Visitors with dogs often participated in less intense activity than visitors without dogs



Children's activity levels were lower in parks with off-leash areas



Fewer dog-related visits were observed following the addition of an off-leash area to one park

Evidences suggests that off-leash dog areas influence visitor profiles and activity patterns. Changes to park design may be necessary to meet visitor needs.

*For more information:

Mccormack, G. R., Graham, T. M., Swanson, K., Massolo, A., & Rock, M. J. (2016). *Changes in visitor profiles and activity patterns following dog supportive modifications to parks: A natural experiment on the health impact of an urban policy*. *SSM - Population Health*, 2, 237-243. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2016.03.002

References:

- 1) Lee, A. C. & Maheswaran, R. (2010). The health benefits of urban green spaces: a review of evidence. *Journal of Public Health*, 33(2), 212-222.
- 2) D.A. Cohen, B. Han, J. Isacoff, B. Shulaker, S. Williamson, T. Marsh, et al. Impact of park renovations on park use and park-based physical activity *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 12 (2) (2015), pp. 289-295



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