



### FAQ: Dog prohibition in Long Beach Unit

Updated: April 16, 2026

#### What temporary closures and restrictions are in place in the Long Beach Unit?

Dogs are prohibited in coastal areas and trails between Green Point Rocks and Willowbrae Trail (the southern boundary of the Long Beach Unit) until further notice.




This dog prohibition builds on the Long Beach Unit-wide wolf warning and existing area closures in the Wickaninnish Dunes and along the former Gold Mine Trail. More information can be found on the [Dogs & Pets](#) web page.

#### Why is the temporary dog prohibition in this specific area?

Human and wildlife safety is a priority. Since 2024, dog-wolf encounters have increased. The southern portion of the Long Beach Unit has the highest overlap of wolf activity, dog walking, and visitor use. An escalation in encounters, including an incident just outside the national park reserve boundary where an off-leash dog was killed, underscores the potential for further negative encounters for pets, wolves, or people.



#### Which LBU trails/areas are included in the dog prohibition?

 <b>Dogs prohibited</b>	 <b>Dogs on leash permitted</b>	 <b>Area closed to people and dogs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willowbrae Trail and South Florencia Beach</li> <li>Halfmoon Bay Trail and Beach</li> <li>Florencia Bay parking lot and trail</li> <li>Florencia Bay Beach</li> <li>Shorepine Bog Trail</li> <li>Nuu-chah-nulth Trail</li> <li>South Beach Trail and Beaches</li> <li>Kwisitis Visitor Centre area and parking lot</li> <li>Wickaninnish Beach and all parking lots</li> <li>?apsčiiik ʔašii mulit-use path along Wick Rd. between the KVC/Wickaninnish Beach Access Rd. and Florencia Bay Rd.</li> <li>Combers Beach Trail and Combers Beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rainforest A and B Trails</li> <li>?apsčiiik ʔašii multiuse path along Hwy #4</li> <li>?apsčiiik ʔašii multiuse path along Wick Road between Hwy #4 and Florencia Bay Road</li> <li>On Long Beach, north of the Green Point Rocks</li> <li>Radar Hill</li> <li>Grice Bay</li> <li>Kennedy Lake (Swim Beach)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Goldmine Trail</li> <li>Wickaninnish Dunes</li> </ul>

#### Is there a safe place to walk my dog?

Wolves move widely throughout the region, so encounters are possible anywhere. The closed area has a high overlap of wolf activity, dog walking, and visitor use, which increases risk.

One thing we know is that where dogs are permitted, keeping them on leash reduces the risk of a negative wildlife encounter. Because this is an evolving situation and more closures may be required, we recommend leaving dogs at home when visiting Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. This is wildlife habitat, and your actions directly affect your safety, the safety of animals, and the experience of others. Please refer to our wildlife safety pages for more information: <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/nature/faune-wildlife>.

### Why focus on dogs?

Dogs are a common trigger for human-wolf conflicts, especially when off leash. Since 2024, dozens of incidents have been reported where wolves closely approached dogs or showed unusually bold behaviour toward visitors. Wolves may view dogs as competitors or prey, causing encounters to escalate quickly.

In areas where dogs are permitted, leashing pets and keeping them under physical control at all times is required by law. Leashes reduce the risk of aggressive wildlife responses and help protect pets, people, and wildlife. For your dog's safety, consider leaving pets at home.

### Can I watch or photograph the wolves?

No. Do not try to follow, watch, or approach wolves. Even distant or repeated viewing can habituate wolves, increase risk, and could lead to the destruction of the animal. Approaching or disturbing wildlife is illegal and may result in fines up to \$25,000. We advise visitors to respect wildlife by leaving the area as soon as you see or encounter a wolf.

### Why should we coexist with wolves instead of removing them from the ecosystem?

Coexistence means sharing space safely, changing our behaviour, and reducing conflict so wildlife can remain wild. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is **q<sup>w</sup>ayaćiik (wolf) territory**. People and wildlife have shared these lands and waters for thousands of years, and our behaviour directly affects wildlife.

Wolves are an important part of the coastal ecosystem. They were nearly eliminated from the west coast of Vancouver Island in the 1960s, and their return in the 1990s signaled a healthier, more balanced environment. First Nations teachings—*iisaak* (respect), *hišukʔiš ćawaak* (everything is one), and *ʔuuʔaʔuuk* (to take care of)—guide Parks Canada's approach to coexistence. Respecting wolves is also a way of respecting the First Nations whose *ḥaḥahuuli* (ancestral lands and waters) we are visiting.

### How can visitors help?

Prevent wildlife encounters	What to do in a wolf, bear, or cougar encounter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow all closures, warnings, and restrictions.</li><li>• Stay 100 m from wolves, bears, and cougars.</li><li>• Keep children close.</li><li>• Leave dogs at home or keep them leashed and under control where they are permitted.</li><li>• Watch for signs of wildlife (tracks, scat, movement).</li><li>• Avoid hiking alone or in low use areas.</li><li>• Carry bear spray and know how to use it.</li><li>• Secure all food, garbage, and attractants. Keep a bare campsite, which means no food, garbage, or scented items are left out. Store everything in a hard sided vehicle or food locker.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leave the area immediately. Do not stop for photos.</li><li>• Gather your group; pick up small children or pets.</li><li>• Stay calm; do not run; back away slowly.</li><li>• Be ready to use bear spray or an airhorn if the animal approaches.</li><li>• If wildlife pursues you, stand your ground—make yourself big and loud.</li><li>• If the situation escalates, throw objects and defend yourself if necessary.</li><li>• <b>Report wolf sightings immediately: 1-877-852-3100 or 250-726-3604</b></li></ul>