



The Dog Park Needs YOU!

Important take-aways:

Why do we keep asking for people to volunteer to serve as a steward? One simple reason: we have lots of users but only a handful of those who keep the park clean and safe so that is not a sustainable combination. Every month, I send the stewards a calendar for the next month and they pick the day or days of that month that they are willing to take care of the park needs, a commitment that takes about 20 minutes. Lately, I find that I am ending up with some days not assigned and those are often days that follow or proceed a Tuesday or Thursday, when we don't have a steward on duty. That means we could have three days in a row with no coverage. That leaves the waste stations overflowing, or, at best, leaves bags too heavy for the next steward to remove and carry. PLEASE consider helping by offering to be a steward. You get to pick a different day each month and you are only giving less than half an hour a month! Call Barb at 508-331-2929 to get trained.



A couple of requests from the FDP Board

Every so often the Board needs to let the visitors to the park know a few things each of you can do to make the park safer and help us all avoid a dog or human being injured or sick or lost. The past few months have seen an increase in a number of practices that could lead to just one of those unfortunate events.

PLEASE keep your dog on a leash until you enter the first area of the enclosed part of the park. Then please either remove the leash or drop it so that your dog doesn't feel fearful because it is leashed when other dogs are not. And make sure not to insist that your dog push by other dogs waiting at the gate to enter. As long as the outer door is secured, it is fine to let dogs come out and circle in the entry and then simply encourage them to move back into the park. There is a video on the website that demonstrates this if you need to see this visually to help you understand how that will work.

PLEASE make sure your car is not adding to the mess we will now have to pay over \$1000 to repair due to cars parking along the left side of the driveway when the ground is soft. People have insisted on parking there when they shouldn't and the result is a huge ditch that will require a major fix in the spring. We didn't want to place boulders along the edge as we really need that area for parking when we have the pool party or the costume

party but we really had hoped the majority of people would park in the actual parking lot and walk down the path into the park rather than try to save a few steps. But more and more people are avoiding the lot and parking along the grass area or the woodchips and this is causing us to have to bring in professionals to make serious repairs which we can't schedule until the spring due to ground conditions.

FINALLY, PLEASE speak up if you see an incident at the park that involves injury to a dog or human. Those involved in such an event often are flustered and upset and don't think clearly to get the owner's name and phone number so someone can follow up to secure proof of a current rabies vaccination and to be able to turn that information over to Animal Control. If you are there and can help secure that information, or can write down the owner's license plate and car and any description of the dog involved, that really helps in times of stress. We have only had a few such incidents, but in all three cases, the owner of the dog who was injured was too upset to think about anything but helping his/her dog, only to wish that information was available a bit later.

Thank you to those who bring fresh water. Please make sure to take your containers home with you rather than leaving them behind for stewards to pick up!

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