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## Dog Owners Group for Park Access in Washington

JANUARY 2021

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### **Message from The President**

First, welcome to our new Communications Director, Cynthia Etheridge (and Riley)! Cynthia brings years of experience in technical writing, business communications and training. We will all be hearing from her when she sends out the monthly newsletters and other communications as well. We're excited to have her on board!

**Contract With The County APPROVED!** We've had some really nice dog-walking weather so far this year, and our dog parks are *busy*. So I'm glad to report that the Clark County Council approved the DOGPAW contract with the county Parks department, for 2021-2025.

Thank you to the Council and to Galena Burley, Parks and Land Manager, and Doug Keller, Parks Operations Manager, for being vocal supporters of the DOGPAW mission.

**Did you know?** Speaking of the County, many, if not most people who go to our dog parks think that their tax dollars pick up the tab for dog waste bags and dog waste removal? That tax dollars pay for the labor to fill holes dug by dogs? **Nope!** Our new contract lays out the responsibilities of the county and those of DOGPAW:

- COUNTY Responsibilities: County signage, mowing, weed abatement, landscaping and routine trail maintenance; visually inspecting *County-installed* fencing and gates, repairing as needed; parking area maintenance, including striping as resources permit.
- DOGPAW Responsibilities: **Providing dog waste disposal bags** and restocking as necessary; providing trash receptacles for dog waste; weekly **disposal of dog waste** (or more frequently as needed); assisting with **keeping the grounds free of trash and debris**; maintaining bulletin boards and sponsor signage;
- Any structural furnishings or improvements installed by DOGPAW shall be maintained at DOGPAW's expense.

This includes the off-leash dog parks on County land: Lucky (Brush Prairie), Dakota (Pacific Park), and Kane (Hockinson Meadows). Like our fourth park is on the BPA Ross complex property, within city limits, and receives no help from the county, city or BPA; however, they graciously allow us to use their land. Dog waste bags for the four parks run us about \$5,000/year, and dog waste pickup runs about \$12,000/year.

**DOGPAW relies on donations!** Your **\$25 DOGPAW Membership** goes a long way to helping meet our costs. If you're not currently a member, please go to <https://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/donate> to join. Please let your dog park friends know as well. Thanks!

One final note: I just got a phone call from a homeowner who lives close to the Lucky dog park in Brush Prairie. It's a beautiful day (Jan. 23) and apparently there are LOTS of dog owners at the park. Parking has overflowed to the point where people are parking on the road. Please try to stay within designated parking areas. I'll let the county know that parking is inadequate out there. Can you imagine what it will be like in the summer?!

**We definitely need more dog parks!**

**Missing Dog Tags Found!** Is your dog named Milo, Gus, Beaux, Kevin, Penny, Sam, Kona, Pepe, Max, Duke, Harley, Beni, Vader, Xavier, Luna, Agnes, or Sadie Lou?

If so, I might have your dog's tags. If you think I might have your tag, let me know at [president@dogpawoffleashparks.org](mailto:president@dogpawoffleashparks.org).

**Lost & Found:** That brings me to...people find lots of stuff at the dog parks, and while we don't have a dedicated Lost & Found area (yet), people pin or otherwise attach found items on our message boards. Car keys, house keys, sunglasses, sweatshirts, gloves, masks, doggie sweaters, leashes, collars, lots of stuff. **IF** you may have missed any items—please check the message boards—you never know.

And thank you to everyone who considerately puts the found items on or near the sign boards.

Sally  
President, DOGPAW

## Events – Save The Date

Grateful for DOGPAW members, we always appreciate help at park clean-ups that typically are the first Saturday of a month from 10 a.m. to Noon. We have moved those dates close to holidays as not to interfere with some traditional long weekends.

### 2021 Park Clean-Up Schedule:

**More information coming soon...**Contact people, park clean-up rotation, and more. We'll keep you informed.

Yes, of course if you help volunteer, your pets are welcome...just remember that the park remains open while we work, so we have to keep an eye out.

Hope to see lots of owners come out. **Here is our initial list of dates.**

**March 6**

**April 10** (April 4th is Easter this year)

**May 1**

**June 5**

**July 10** (July 3 is part of Independence Day weekend)

August 7

September 18 (September 4 is part of Labor Day weekend)

October 2

November 6

## Sponsor Spotlight



### Paws Down Pets Dog Training

The philosophy of *Paws Down Pets Dog Training* is the belief that **all dogs can be good dogs with the right training**. Training begins with helping you understand your pup(s), and Paws Down uses several different approaches to find what works best. DOGPAW is happy to have them as a sponsor. Check 'em out.

**Who Sponsors DOGPAW?** (the best doggone, local businesses around!)

**Thinking of your donations before tax time?** Consider becoming a DOGPAW sponsor. There are a number of levels to select from to show your support, and display sturdy signs at our parks. You will also receive a formal *Certificate of Appreciation*.

Please consider one of the following—the pups would howl and sing your praise!

<b>Copper</b> Sponsor \$250	<b>Link</b> on the <u>DOGPAW</u> website.*
<b>Bronze</b> Sponsor \$500	<b>One sign</b> --pick your park
<b>Silver</b> Sponsor \$1000	<b>Two signs</b> , mix or match your parks—up to 2 signs.
<b>Gold</b> Sponsor \$1500	<b>Three signs</b> , mix or match your park —up to 3 signs
<b>Platinum</b> Sponsor \$2000	<b>Four signs</b> , mix or match your parks—up to 4 signs

\* All sponsor levels include a link on [dogpawoffleashparks.org](http://dogpawoffleashparks.org)

## In need of...IDEAS...VOLUNTEERS

DOGPAW would love to do some fun **fundraisers** in 2021! While our dedicated volunteers have awesomely stepped up to help out, we can always use more volunteers.

- Are you a creative type?
- Do you have lots of energy?
- Have some great ideas?
- Please support our sponsors!
- Want to improve our dog parks?
- Want to have fun?

DOGPAW appreciates any help you provide. If you can help or have ideas, please call or better yet email (so we have the text of your idea that can be forwarded to the best contact) Send your email to [ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org](mailto:ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org).

More Contact information below.

## Thank You!

... to Terra (and Willow) at Lucky for her generous donation of eight 50 pound bags of self-settling concrete.

... to Tara at Dakota who is forming a group to help DOGPAW add a new double-gated external entry to the small dog park.

Tara has created a Facebook group called "Dakota Memorial Small Dog Park Improvements" Contact her at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/319627856086246/?ref=share>. -OR Email-

[dakotasmalldogparkimprovements@gmail.com](mailto:dakotasmalldogparkimprovements@gmail.com).

... to our volunteer Park Managers and everyone who picks up extra poop and stray litter at all the dog parks. You make our dog parks possible!

## Reminders

Dog park user Janice sent us a suggestion: *"I love Ike dog park and was a regular visitor with my dog. However, people are not wearing masks and six feet distance is not always maintained. Now there is a more contagious form of Covid19 so there is even more of a reason to wear a mask. In the meantime I would warn anyone with underlying medical conditions to avoid the dog park."*

Please refer to Clark County Health Department guidelines [here](#).



### **ALSO...**

- **Please caretake your pet.** We know that most of our dogs are excited to be off leash and are ready to run and play. Everyone—pets and owners alike want to feel safe.
  - o Pets must be attended by their owners.
  - o Owners, please be aware of groups of dogs headed your way
  - o Carry a lead to be able to wrangle your pup if necessary.
  - o Small dog owners—please consider the small dog park if it reduces you or your pup's nervousness.
- **Please clean** up after your pet and dispose of the waste in provided receptacles. No one wants to step in it.
- **Pets must be licensed. Male dogs older than 1 year must be Neutered.** Some folks get alarmed when a large frisky dog heads their way and not with just toy balls...
- **Per our county contract**, park goers are responsible for **keeping the grounds free of trash and debris:**
  - o Please pick up paper litter such as candy wrappers, tissues, plastic, etc.
  - o Please pick up and toss torn or broken toys...deflated tennis balls, frisbees, rope toys, etc. Large puppies may chew and potentially swallow this debris, which can lead to VERY expensive veterinary treatments!

Suggestions and Reminders welcome: [Newsletter Suggestions](#)

## Contacts

**Sally Jenkins, President:** [president@dogpawoffleashparks.org](mailto:president@dogpawoffleashparks.org)  
Call/text: (360)553-5344

**Volunteering: We can ALWAYS use your help!** [Volunteer Form](#)

**Questions?** [ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org](mailto:ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org)

**Just want to learn more about DOGPAW --- check out our website:** [www.dogpawoffleashparks.org](http://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org)

### **DOGPAW OFF-LEASH DOG PARK LOCATIONS:**

**Dakota:** 1515 N.E. 164th Ave. Vancouver, WA

**Ike (Ross):** 5167 N.E. 15th Ave. Vancouver, WA

**Kane:** 10910 N.E. 172nd Ave. Vancouver, WA

**Lucky:** 10100 N.E. 149th St. Brush Prairie, WA

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