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Dog Owners Group for Park Access in Washington

March 2021

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Message from The President

Spring is here! Birds and blooms abound. Sunny days ahead. I was at the dog park standing in the sunshine, watching a group of joyful dogs running with tongues lolling, bounding and playing; I smiled and thought, **'This is my daily dose of happiness'**.

Where else can we take our closest animal friends, any day and any time during the day, for free, to have so much freedom and so much fun, in a safe environment, to play with other dogs, chase the ball, run, run, run....off leash? That is the DOGPAW vision that has inspired us since its conception in 2004.

And, as the seasons change, so does the DOGPAW Board of Directors. Did you know that Directors serve *only* a 2-year term? Turnover happens, and as the current President of *this* board, my goal is that DOGPAW continues to thrive, season to season. We adhere to government and nonprofit rules and laws; we maintain good relationships with those who are in positions to affect our dog parks; we focus on continuity, financial stability, and board development; and we meet park goers needs. Thank you to all of the board members who have served in the past.

"Do you need a bag?" These five words can help us help each other to keep our parks clean. Take an extra bag and if you see someone not picking up the poo, or looking a little lost when their dog does its thing; gently offer these five words. **"Do you need a bag?"** We have many new park goers, and many new dog owners, and sometimes they just need a bag! *Your DOGPAW donations at work.*

Now, go get your daily dose of happiness!

Until next time,



Sally Jenkins, President, DOGPAW

 See Sally and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel at the park!



\$25 DOGPAW Membership

Yes, I may be sounding like one of these... **BUT**...our parks are busier than ever and DOGPAW relies on donations! **So**, if you're NOT a member--please sign up!

Your membership goes a long way helping to meet our costs and all the maintenance and supplies needed at each of our four county dog parks. Please join and encourage your other dog park friends to join also. Go to: <https://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/donate>

THANKS!

Remember! You love the park. You bring your pup. We need your dollars. So please sign up. **DOGPAW!**

Another way you can contribute to DOGPAW is by using **Amazon Smile**. IF you purchase from Amazon it's so easy to help. Go to smile.amazon.com (it's *still your Amazon site*) and normal log in, but you select a charity. Search for DOGPAW (enter just like this for Vancouver, WA). Do your shopping. That's it!



Meet the Dakota Park Managers

Dakota—Another Big Park, Another Stellar Group of Guys



'volunteers get this stuff done—if it languishes, then it fails.'

Greg Schmeer and Roxie and Peanut, **Rick SantAngelo** and Lucky, and **Laurie Hirsch** with Indie and Marley are a consistent, hardworking presence at the Dakota Dog Park. All three are veterans, so it's apparent that they automatically come with a background of service.



Greg devotes time cruisin' with his poop cart (yes, I said poop cart). He's a big believer in Park Safety, pays attention to all the pet and people traffic at Dakota, and works to keep the park picked up when folks miss those piles.

I mustn't forget, Greg's wife, Peg who comes with her husband and is a vital Dog Park Ambassador. Peg monitors the bulletin boards and will be an experienced volunteer at the **Dakota Park Beautification Day--April 10** (make a note of the date).



A bonus is that Dakota is flat—many park goers are 70 and older. However, as Peg says, “we love dogs so much that we just move a little slower or don't go every are day but we still show up and try to help out as we can.”



Rick comes with a Marketing background and energy that the park needs as we head up to the Beautification Day and some advanced work, which at one time was trenching water away to reduce a huge puddle in the middle of the park. Rick has ideas for more signage, is a strong proponent of a park Ambassador Program and has spent some time on the DOGPAW Board. We've recently snagged him to sit on the Marketing Committee where he can bring his strong background in Marketing and Information Technology.



Laurie has volunteered for the past 3 1/2 years. He brings an infectious smile and energy as he circulates the park with his pups chatting people up, and doing the inevitable and ongoing poop and litter patrol.

NOTE: We continue to hear that park goers think Dakota is a county park so they don't know their tax dollars are NOT paying for poop bags and waste disposal. The park managers tend the park and inform park goers; they talk to people and their dogs and teach them about **DOGPAW** and **Membership**. All these folks deserve a big Thank You. If you see them in your rounds, be sure to say, 'Hi'.

Save The Date – Saturday, April 10, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Dakota Dog Park Beautification (Pacific Community Park)
1515 NE 164th Avenue, Vancouver @ NE 18th St. (Meet at the 172nd Ave entrance)

DOGPAW would love your Help at Dakota — Tell ALL Your Friends!!

Dakota Memorial Park needs some TLC 'cuz it's busy busy busy! Roughly 8 acres of flat, open fields and gravel walking trails, volunteers should bring: gloves, face mask (for any close work), your own water, shovels and rakes if you have them. Meet at the 172nd Ave. entrance. Some advanced work needs doing, shrub trimming, branch pick up, moving gravel and dirt, in addition to the usual cleanup activities.

New members, donations, and volunteers are always needed and gratefully appreciated...go to www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/volunteer-1

- Sign in at the **Volunteer Table**—get your vest...
 - Love those new Volunteers!
- Sign Up at the **Membership Table**—set up for new or to renew
 - You can **Donate** there too.

Yes, bring your pup(s)—but they still need caretaking even though we're busy tidying up the park. See you there!

2021 Park Clean-Up Schedule

Next Park Beautification Day—May 8 at Lucky. Stay tuned and go to Events on the DOGPAW website www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/Events for more information.

Sponsor Spotlights

Who Sponsors DOGPAW? Only the best doggone, local businesses around! Join this stellar group.

Annual Sponsor Levels: Please consider one of the following—the pups will howl and sing your praise!

Copper Sponsor \$250 **Link** on the [DOGPAW](http://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org) website*

Bronze Sponsor \$500 **One sign**--pick your park

Silver Sponsor \$1000 **Two signs**, mix or match your parks—up to 2 signs

Gold Sponsor \$1500 **Three signs**, mix or match your park —up to 3 signs

Platinum Sponsor \$2000 **Four signs**, mix or match your parks—up to 4 signs

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



[HomeLight](http://www.HomeLight.com) uses technology to find you the best real estate agent or the instant-offer company that will get you the best results—data driven with a huge supporting network—they work hard. HomeLight stepped up again in 2021, as an ongoing sponsor. If you're in the market, check 'em out.

Get On Board With DOGPAW?



We have open board positions and would welcome new expertise and fresh ideas. So if you can devote 5-10 hours a week to the DOGPAW Mission and improve our county dog parks, we'd like to hear from you. Each job description is explained on the DOGPAW website at dogpawoffleashparks.org/Volunteer. It's a GREAT group!

1. Secretary--we're on the lookout since our current Secretary, Beverly Przybylski will be stepping down 🙏
2. ~~Business Sponsor Coordinator~~ **YAY—Position Filled!** Read all about it next month!
3. Parks Operations
4. Fundraising Coordinator
5. Volunteer Coordinator
6. Parks and Site Development

Marketing Committee: And, if you have fresh marketing ideas and want to help get the DOGPAW word out, come help with the Marketing Committee...send an email to ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org

We had our kick off meeting. Stay tuned for great new events, awareness, training, and demonstrations coming to a park near you.

Let us know if you'd like to participate in any of the above areas—**DOGPAW needs you.** Questions? Send an email to ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org.

Ike Update

A big hand goes to everyone who helped at Ike on the first 2021 Park Beautification Day, March 6. **So much got done it resembled a Spring Fling...**

- To the folks who donated gravel and rock and heavy equipment: Eileen Cervantes, Larry Johnson, Bill Peeples, Ms. J, Robbi Wilson, Jeanne Walker.
- A special hats off to Bill as the equipment operator!
- And to those who did the work: Eileen, Bill, Wendy Atkinson, Larry, Mary Carling, Ted Healy, Marty Rutkovitz, Bren with 3 poodles, Andrew, Bruce, Kevin Schott, Bear's father, Robbi Wilson, and more who volunteered on Saturday.
- (Some of these folks provided labor on Monday and Tuesday as well for prep work.)

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL!

And--Thank you to Marc Johnson who donated a new gate pole, magnet, and lock to the upper gate; and to the guys who made the pole replacement possible: Marc, Pete, and dog park neighbor Lou. Eddie Dorr supervised (lol).



Columbian Story -- See the rest of the story in the Columbian at this link: [DOGPAW holds cleanup at Vancouver dog park](#)

The Ike Project...Reminder

Ike, as one of our busiest dog parks, sees roughly 2,200 visitors each week. **AND** Ike needs new perimeter fencing, the current fence is old and becoming more unsafe.

In a partnership with the County Parks Foundation (see their flyers on DOGPAW bulletin boards), we have received a small grant that will be used to help with replacement of the Ike fence, and we are grateful. However, complete replacement is going to cost more than \$40K to circle its 8.36 acres. So in addition...

We need to raise funds to replace the fence and your fundraising help is needed!

- If you're a frequent Ike park goer and can help with this project, please contact DOGPAW at any of the email or phone numbers in the [Contacts](#) section below.
- If you can help support this effort with your donations, please indicate 'Ike Project' on your check. This will ensure that your funds get assigned to the project.
- If you contribute online, click on the **Donate** menu item, scroll down and click on [Donate for Ike Park Fencing](#) (of course, this link takes you right there).

We will continue to give updates on this project, AND, we will get to done!

Thank You!

... Wendy and Roger Atkinson for a generous donation to *The Ike Project*.

... All the folks who volunteered at the Ike Park Beautification Day—so many!

... 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!

... We love our pets, our volunteers, surely our members, and are grateful for our Business Sponsors. **Thank you all!**

But There's More

One of our vendors gets little notice. To our eyes, *it just happens*, but boy are we grateful for his work. Jay is our waste removal guy, and since our parks are busier than ever, his work is busier, heavier, and can often mean more trips. **Thanks Jay!**



Did You Know?

Yes, yes, yes...more about pet waste... *can I compost it, flush it, won't it just breakdown or wash away, why doesn't everyone pick up their dog's poop, but my dog is so little...and more!*

... <https://clark.wa.gov/public-works/pet-waste> This site provides **Great Answers** and valuable information we all need to know; click it and take a look.

... And still more...At one of our park events, we plan on having county staff come and teach us about (and hopefully) have folks take the

Canines for Clean Water Pledge.

... Keep reading our newsletters...**Woof!**

Pet Pictures

We love our dogs. Please forward pictures of your dogs at play in our parks. Name your dog(s); name the park; forward to communications@dogpawoffleashparks.org.



Roxie in her hole - Dakota



Bob and Noah - Dakota



Ruben and pups - Lucky

Reminders



- **Park Rules:** Thank you for refreshing your memory about our great parks by reading the park rules that are posted in every park.
- **Covid19:** If you have questions about Covid19 behaviors, please refer to Clark County Health Department guidelines [here](#).
- **Please caretake your pet.** Be aware of your dog, carry a lead, consider the small dog park if appropriate.
- **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.**
- **Please pick up paper and pet litter.**

Contacts

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

Sally Jenkins, President: president@dogpawoffleashparks.org

Call/text: (360)553-5344

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

Questions?

ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org

Just want to learn more about DOGPAW --- check out our website: 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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