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## Dog Owners Group for Park Access in Washington

### February 2021

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### Message From The President

Spring is just around the corner! Daffodils are pushing up leaves, dogwood trees are budding out, signs of new life abound. But Old Man Winter had to have one last (*I hope*) blast...snow, ice, cold! That didn't keep us and our dogs from enjoying the dog parks, but it also brought out some folks who wanted to sled in the park! **Not a good idea!** Sleds, as well as bikes, scooters, roller blades, etc., are not allowed in the off-leash dog parks, for the safety of both people and our dogs. No recreational wheels, unless you're Diesel, learning to use his at Dakota:



As the weather improves, our parks will only get busier. We need to do a better job of communicating DOGPAW's role at our parks. Hard to believe, but many park goers don't even know what DOGPAW is, and don't know that donations pay for poop bags and dispensers, for waste pickup and disposal, and that volunteers (you and me) pick up missed poop and garbage. We've put up new colorful signs that highlight dog park safety rules (and DOGPAW), at Ike and Lucky so far, and we'll have a membership info and signup table at our park cleanup day at Ike...*see details below*.

And we are grateful to our sponsors for helping us keep the parks open. Thank you to Blaze Restoration, an important sponsor who has renewed for another year, and to YMF Coffee, a new, local coffee roaster with a sweet story...*again, see below*.

**Release Your Inner Poet:** Some of us are old enough to remember Burma Shave road signs. (*Google it...you'll enjoy them.*) Let's come up with some for the dog parks, like:

I love the park  
I bring my pup  
And when he poops  
I pick it up!  
**DOGPAW!**



See you at the park!

## **Save The Date – Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m. to Noon**

### **Ike Dog Park Beautification**

DOGPAW would love your **Volunteer Help** at the **Ike Dog Park**. This busy park needs some attention, so bring your gloves, face mask (for any close work), your own water, and meet at the lower entrance. Some of the work that needs doing: weed pulling, moving some gravel and dirt, hole filling, gate post replacement...

**Remember—DOGPAW is a non-profit organization**—we operate and maintain Ike and the three other parks in Clark County—all with volunteer help. The **Membership Table** will be set up for new or to renew memberships, to accept donations, and add new volunteers who are always needed and gratefully appreciated. For more information go to [dogpawoffleashparks.org/volunteer](http://dogpawoffleashparks.org/volunteer)

**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—April 10.** Stay tuned and go to Events on the DOGPAW website [www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/Events](http://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/Events) for more information.

## Meet Park Operations Manager Eddie Dorr and Auggie



Maybe you already know him...if not, let me tell you a little bit about Eddie Dorr, an Operations Manager at the Ike Dog Park (Ross), and Auggie his 3-year-old Golden Retriever. They go to the park religiously, every day. Eddie has been Park Operations Manager for about five years now, a natural extension of volunteer work he had already been doing for a while. He will be on hand and help if needed on **Saturday, March 6th, 10-Noon, for Park Beautification Day at Ike (Ross), 5167 N.E. 15th Ave, Vancouver.** Eddie has seen as many as 20, and as few as 3 volunteers industriously working on the park.

A few years back, Eddie and his wife, Judy, who was wheelchair-bound, would spend about four hours in the park every day with their previous pup, Luckie, a Husky/Lab mix. When they first started coming to the Ross property, it was nothing more than a bunch of cow trails. His wife helped widen trails by rolling along with her chair, and between the two of them, they weeded and widened along. Quiet contributions...

Eddie feels fortunate enough now to have Auggie, "I really wanted to find a golden." He searched for quite a while, then simply decided to give up...and that's when he found him. Auggie ambles the route with that blue ball in his mouth. If he drops it, Eddie gives it a kick. They walk the perimeter of the park, and I was lucky enough to get to join them and hear some of their story. It's a good one, and DOGPAW is grateful to have Eddie and Auggie.

### The Ike Project...

**Are you a frequent Ike park goer? Read on...**

Ike is one of the two busiest dog parks in Clark County. Roughly 2,200 visitors are estimated to use the park each week. (One count indicated a peak of 3,400 visitors during a single week in mid-March of 2019.) **BUT** Ike does not have a sustainable, safe border.

Ike Memorial Dog Park fences about 8.36 acres. While this number may seem small, Ike represents roughly 33% of open-space dog parks in all of Clark County—a rare resource for our community. New fencing is essential to ensure the park remains safe and sustainable.

The current fencing system at Ike is haphazard and not secure; it is old and damaged from weather, wear-and-tear, roots, and animal urination. The current fence also requires significant maintenance every 2-4 years. A permanent chain-link fence would be an investment that would last an estimated 15-20 years.



### **We need to raise funds to replace the fence. So 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 and mail to 13504 NE 84th St, Ste 103 PMB 303, Vancouver, WA 98682-3091. 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).

Remember too, this is a huge, expensive project for which we are raising funds. At this time we don't have a hard completion date; we will however give updates on this project in the newsletter. AND, we will get to done!

## **Sponsor Spotlights**

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



[Blaze Restoration](#), local Vancouver business, does fire damage restoration for either residential or commercial properties. They evaluate what is needed for restoration and see that the client gets their needs met through to completion. DOGPAW is grateful to have Ken Stryker and Blaze Restoration as a 2021 Sponsor. Thank you, Ken!



[YMF Coffee](#) is a family-owned coffee roaster business in East Vancouver. They sell rich flavorful coffee, hand packaged per order (*not manufactured*). It's made with care from the YMF family to yours. **Currently they are Online Only**, so check out their website and their products, and read the beautiful story about their logo. DOGPAW is grateful for their sponsorship in 2021. Thank you, Wendy and Steven!

**Thinking of your donations before tax time?** There's still plenty of time to consider becoming a DOGPAW sponsor. You select your level of giving to show your support. DOGPAW will add your link to the DOGPAW website, or display your business banner(s) at our parks. You will also receive a formal *Certificate of Appreciation*.

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

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

## **In need of...Board Members...IDEAS...VOLUNTEERS**

**Want to get on board with DOGPAW?** Some board positions are open and we 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 [DOGPAW/Volunteer](#). It's a GREAT group!

1. Business Sponsor Coordinator
2. Parks Operations
3. Fundraising
4. Volunteer Coordinator

In addition, DOGPAW has some standing committees and currently could use some help in these areas. Let us know if you'd like to participate on any of these committees.

1. Marketing
2. Parks and Site Development
3. Fundraising

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?
- Want to improve our dog parks?
- Want to have fun?

DOGPAW appreciates any help you give. 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).

## **Thank You!**

... Steven Blakeman for putting up our new signs at Ike and Lucky...digging post holes, pouring concrete, building frames for our signs, and mounting the signs. Dakota and Kane are next!

... Barry Finkel for buying and installing a new gate latch at Lucky!

... Mark Johnson for offering to replace the loose, large gate post at the upper gate at Ike!

... Scott Collard for designing our new signs, reviewing our web site for some needed changes, and offering marketing ideas!

... Tara for driving “*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 missed poop and stray litter at all the dog parks. You make our dog parks possible!

## **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](mailto:communications@dogpawoffleashparks.org).

Here's my Riley, checking his p-mail at Lucky. At 13, Riley has the energy of a 5-year-old but he's totally deaf. I'm grateful for the parks so he can be off leash safely. An English Springer Spaniel, he mostly tracks the perimeter of the park—nose to ground. **What about your dog(s)?**



## Reminders

**Covid19:** We aren't through the woods yet (*yes, we're all tired of it*). Anyway we must still follow the rules. Please refer to Clark County Health Department guidelines [here](#).

**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.

- Pets must be attended by their owners.
- Owners, please be aware of groups of dogs headed your way
- Carry a lead to be able to wrangle your pup if necessary.
- 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.**

**Per our county contract:** Park goers are responsible for keeping the grounds free of trash and debris:

- Please pick up paper litter such as candy wrappers, tissues, plastic, etc.
- Please pick up and toss torn or broken toys...deflated tennis balls, frisbees, rope toys, etc. Large pups may chew and potentially swallow this debris, which can lead to VERY expensive veterinary treatments!

## Contacts

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

**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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