

URGENT NEWS: WATER AT LUCKY PARK IS SHUT DOWN

Ever wonder where the water comes from at our beautiful Lucky park? Well, so did the County when they joined in on our maintenance efforts. They looked into the situation, and the answer is not one that users of the dog park want to hear: the water was being tapped from the well that feeds the adjacent home. The work to bring the water into the park was done sometime in the past; it was done without permits and not to code. The result? The County has shut down the water and capped the line.

While the loss of water is very bad news for park users, it is the appropriate thing for the County to do. DOGPAW is working with the County to get a permitted water feature into the park as quickly as possible. Until that happens, especially as we enter the warmer months, it is critical for doggie parents to bring their own water to hydrate the playing pups. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are serious situations for humans and dogs.

Please know that DOGPAW and Clark County are working diligently on getting this problem fixed!

Cutting the kiosk clutter

A lot of stray fliers, notices, and advertisements had appeared over the years on the kiosk bulletin boards at DOGPAW's four parks, but a new policy should keep the clutter down.

The boards will now be used only for DOGPAW business and announcements, with the exception of notices about lost or found dogs and special community information approved by the organization.

"Important news and announcements about the dog parks was just getting lost among all the other stuff up on those boards," said John Vanvig, the DOGPAW board member responsible for communications. "We're just trying to keep the focus where it belongs: on the parks and the dogs."



Members of DOGPAW's ad hoc construction crew show off their work in front of the new shed at Dakota Dog Park. From left are John Hircock, who designed the shed and directed the work; Jim Harmon, DOGPAW's operations manager who organized volunteers, scheduled work parties, and rounded up supplies; and DOGPAW board member John Vanvig, who lifted and carried things.

A little help from our friends

Custom shed replaces cargo container at Dakota

Volunteers organized by DOGPAW used surplus lumber in the big metal cargo container at Dakota Dog Park to build a pretty, new storage shed at the park--saving the

organization hundreds of dollars a year in rental costs while sprucing up the look of the park.

Led by Jim Harmon, DOGPAW's operations manager, and John Hircock, a skilled builder and retired electrician, Ed Dorr, John Vanvig, and other volunteers built the eight-by-ten-foot structure in numerous work sessions in February and March.

The shed replaces the \$60-a-month container that squatted in Dakota's southeast corner for years.

In addition to recruiting volunteers, Harmon also contributed paint for the project, while Hircock donated more than \$100 worth of supplies and materials, as well as his design and building expertise. Shurway Lumber of Vancouver provided additional needed materials at cost.

"We couldn't have done this without John Hircock's knowledge, patience, ability, and tools," Harmon said. "But it turned into a fairly enjoyable project--for the most part, anyway."

Volunteer labor by dedicated dog-park users is key to keeping DOGPAW and its off-leash parks operating, according to John Vanvig, the organization board member.

"This is the way we get things like this done for the dog parks," he said. "And all in all, it was a pretty good time. DOGPAW can always use its members' help, so please get in touch."

Starting this weekend: a regular round of cleanups

DOGPAW has rolled out a new member-based schedule to concentrate cleanup efforts at least three times a year at each of its four off-leash dog parks.

The scheduled general cleanup sessions will be held rain or shine on the first Saturday of each month, with the effort focused on one of the parks each month. Dakota Dog Park, at 1515 NE 164th Ave., will get first-round attention starting at 10 a.m. this coming Saturday, April 6.

"We had a couple of very successful volunteer cleanup sessions at Ike Dog Park last year," said Eileen Cervantes, DOGPAW president. "This year, we're trying to extend that to all the parks. We're hoping to see lots of regular park users and new friends

show up to help us trim overhanging branches, fill in holes, level low spots, and generally keep our parks looking great.”

Kane Dog Park, behind the playground and ball fields at Hockinson Meadows Park, 10910 NE 172nd Ave., is next with a cleanup set for May 4. Volunteers will meet to spruce up Ike Dog Park, 5167 NE 15th Ave., on June 1, and again on July 6 at Lucky Dog Park, 10100 NE 149th St., Brush Prairie. Work starts at 10 a.m. each time.

Volunteers are asked, but not required, to check in ahead of time with Alicia Stevens, the DOGPAW board member in charge of coordinating volunteer efforts, at volunteer@dogpawoffleashparks.org. Bring good work gloves, and any gardening or yard tools you can, and enjoy a day of working with your friends from the dog park.

Rotating Park Beautification Schedule



April 6th
August 3rd
December 7th



May 4th
September 7th



June 1st
October 5th



July 6th
November 2nd

Banner Year

DOGPAW’s new business packages will bring changes on park fences

The advertising banners lining the perimeter fences at DOGPAW’s four parks will begin changing over the course of the year as the organization rolls out its new business partner packages.

Those banners form one of the most important advantages for businesses that partner with DOGPAW, according to Eileen Cervantes, the organization’s president.

“We’re happy to work with businesses that sell pet food and supplies, veterinary services, washing and grooming operations, boarding and day care facilities, and anyone else who loves dogs and their owners connect with our members and park users,” Cervantes said. “And we deeply appreciate the support of those business partners.”

DOGPAW’s new business package includes four levels of support that affect banner placement and other considerations, such as the business’s logo appearing on the organization’s website, invitations to special park events, and more.

“These are the businesses that stand up for DOGPAW and its parks, and they’ve become partners that we rely on to keep those parks open and safe,” Cervantes said. “I ask our members or park users to patronize their stores, and let them know you saw their banner at the park.”