

OFF LEASH DOG POLICY

The City of Seattle Parks & Recreation, has released the long awaited 'draft' of the 'People, Dogs, and Parks Plan', a document focused on updating the off leash dog policy in our city parks.

Learn more: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash/>

The draft document is very long (161 pages) and shows the extent to which Parks went in researching, reviewing, and justifying their options on this very contentious issue.

The entire document can be found online at: <http://goo.gl/lvJkTj>

Highlights of the recommendations (pages 41-43) include:

- No unfenced or mixed use off leash areas in parks
- No off leash dogs on trails in parks
- Current off leash budget to be spent on maintenance of current areas, not creation of new ones
- No new off leash areas with beach access (i.e., on Puget Sound)
- Several suggestions for finding/creating off leash areas outside of Seattle Parks property

The Seattle Nature Alliance strongly endorses the draft plan.

With limited greenspace, we believe the needs of 'all people' outweigh the desires of specialized user groups. Off leash dog owners should not get special privileges for their off leash dog recreation at a cost to other park users, wildlife, and the wellbeing of the park ecosystem. We support passive use in our greenspaces, which does include dog owners who leash their dogs. We hope, as stated in the draft document, other more appropriate recreation area options become available for what is clearly a dog recreation need.

As this is still a 'draft', it has not been approved, and the Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle City Council will be watching public comment and reaction closely. We encourage everyone to either testify in person at the upcoming meeting on September 22, 2016, or send a letter to the Parks board by October 14, 2016..

Attend the public hearing

September 22, 2016
Miller Community Center
6:30 p.m.

Letters can be sent to: rachel.acosta@seattle.gov
by October 14, 2016.

Public comment may also be submitted in writing and will have equal weight as oral testimony.

The Board will make recommendations to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation at the September 22, 2016 meeting of the Board.

Seattle Nature Alliance

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