

O.L.A.E. Newsletter

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New Eagle Scout project on track for summer

Many of you have requested that we create a dog area specifically for smaller dogs so that they are able to socialize without interference of the bigger dogs. Again, thanks to our O.L.A.E. Director and Assistant Scout Master Shay Hastler and Parks and Recreation Manager Rich Lindsay, the off-leash area will soon have a small dog pen. Thomas Tangen of Boy Scout Troop 312 will be earning his Eagle Scout Badge with this project. Thomas, a sophomore at Edmonds Woodway High School, is well organized and will do an excellent job. The pen placement will be west of the agility course and an area of 30X20 feet. The gate will face south and hopefully a bench will be placed near the outside in line with the other benches.

This will be O.L.A.E.'s fifth project with the boy scouts in conjunction with Edmonds Parks and Rec. Manager Rich Lindsay and Diane Buckshnis and Shay Hastler our O.L.A.E. Directors.

Dog Park Laws coming soon!

Special thanks to Senior Animal Control Officer Debbie Dawson for discussing the need for specific dog park laws for our area. Councilwoman Buckshnis has crafted laws using examples from other cities that will be moving through the public safety committee and on to full Council for review. These laws will assist those of us that are volunteers that might have issues with dog users that perhaps don't have a licensed dog or allowing their dogs to behave badly.

agility course still talk of the town!!!

We continue to receive overwhelming accolades for the agility course. We are working on replacing the roof of the steeple chase; however, we are researching what will be effective. Also, vandals continue to break the jumps, so please, if you see anyone other than a dog sitting or using force to wreck these items, call 911 and state that it is a non-emergency and that someone is vandalizing the park. If you can, get the license plate number of the car. Remember always be kind and

respectful. Visit our website at www.olae.org and look under handbook for refresher tips.

How to Approach Visitors that might not know our rules

Be confident, but not assertive and this means using a respectful tone of voice and body language. Speak in a confident manner and listen respectfully to the other person's response. Start the conversation by introducing yourself and reminding the Visitor of the dog park rules are posted on the O.L.A.E. bulletin board. If the problem is a behavior you are seeing, share with the owner what you are seeing and how you are interpreting the behavior.

Do this simply and accurately, without any accusation or judgmental language. Try to do this with a minimal display of emotions. Describe what the effect of the behavior is, beyond the basic effect on your emotions. Describe the possible consequences of the behavior. State clearly what action you would like the owner to take.

Sample conversation:

Hi, I'm B.B., a volunteer to this park. I'm seeing your dog is wearing a prong collar today. I'm worried that another dog might grab your dog by the collar. These collars can be dangerous within the park because another dog might get caught by the collar and panic. This could cause a fight. Would you please remove the collar while your dog is in the park?

Try to keep all conversations on a positive level. Always be respectful even if the other person isn't. Walk away if the person becomes antagonistic or abusive and report the incident as a non-emergency 911 call to Animal Control.

Dog waste and our puget sound!!!

Council Member Bloom recently asked Parks and Recreation Director Carrie Hite the following question: A citizen expressed concern about the water quality at Marina Beach Park because of the dog park located there. She asked what agency monitors the water quality of the beaches (and she had a picture of a dog

pooping near the sound with the owner's back facing away from the dog; we don't know what happened after this picture was taken). She also commented that she heard another citizen comment that the dog park should be moved away from the water because the Sound is being fouled by waste.

Ms. Hite responded as follows: The water is tested by the Snohomish County Health District Beach Environmental Assessment Communication and Health (BEACH) program. The off-leash park is very popular for many visitors and their dogs. There is about 4,100 lbs. of dog waste that is removed yearly by volunteers and city crews. Water quality has been an issue, however dog waste has not been proven to be the culprit in closing this portion of Marina Beach at the off leash dog park for swimming and/or removing and eating fish shellfish or crab from this area. That said one could presume that the volunteers of the non-profit group O.L.A.E. do contribute to the water quality at some level. As a matter of reference, communities across the nation face these issues. It is certainly a balance in providing popular off-leash areas and not contaminating the environment because of the concentrated use. Whether you place the area near water or on land, there will still be some level of contamination. This is why it is so important to have strong stewardship groups, like the members of O.L.A.E., constantly educating, and have work parties to keep the area as clean as possible. We are fortunate to have such a strong stewardship group.

Council Member Buckshnis (who is also a founding member of O.L.A.E.) echoed Ms. Hite's response and said that the active volunteers attempt to keep the park clean and educate park users. She also indicated that one the largest contributing factor for "fouling the Sound" is more likely Stormwater run-off created from humans as they drive their cars or put pesticides near their Stormwater drains and climate change. Dogs generally like to "mark their spots" and she has not heard many reports of dog's pooping in the Sound other than this instance. Council Member Buckshnis is also a member of WRIA8 (Water Resource Inventory Area 8) and that group concentrates on salmon recovery and keeping our watershed areas clean.

about US

O.L.A.E. (Off-Leash Area - Edmonds) became a non-profit organization in August 2005, to fulfill our mission to steward and maintain the off-leash dog area in Edmonds. Please visit www.olae.org to learn more about us and our mission.

Become a member

There are a lot of good reasons to become a member. Member dues go towards promoting and improving our dog park. Members will receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter which provides information on upcoming events, news and educational features. All donated funds are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**Off Leash Area Edmonds (O.L.A.E.)
P.O. Box 1562
Edmonds WA 98020 - 1562**

Please check one: ? New Member ? Renewal

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dog(s) names: _____

Can we email you the newsletter: ? Yes

Contact me to help volunteer: ? Yes

Annual Membership

? \$ 10 Individual

? \$ 20 Family

? \$ 50 Sassy Supporter

? \$100 Best Friends Lounge (name on website).

? \$200 Yappie Club Level

(free advertising on O.L.A.E. website & newsletter).

Make check payable to **O.L.A.E.** Thanks!

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Alicia Brattin

Jennifer Susan Lill and Eric Johnson.

Rose McGoun and Clancy

Shay, Dean Hastler and Kyle



Note: O.L.A.E. is not responsible for any illness or injury incurred during park visit. For information, please visit www.olae.org and look under rules and responsibilities.