



Off Leash Dog Area Newsletter

Rice Creek Fence Complete

The fence project at Rice Creek is now complete. A volunteer Work Force Crew, supervised by Parks Crew Leader Steve Swanson, worked diligently all summer in the extreme heat to finish the project. A special thank you goes out to LaDerrick Murphy, Jonathan Patterson and Melvin Carr. As part of the renovation, a new double gate system was added. (Please read "How to Use the Double Gate System" in this issue). There are two main entrances to the Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA). One is off of Lexington on the north side of the park and the other can be reached from the southwest off of County Road I. There is an emergency exit located on the northeast side of the OLDA along Lexington Ave.

The new entrance off of Lexington Ave. is about 100 yards down the multi-use path to the west. Users will be required to have their dogs leashed on this path as it is busy with walkers, joggers and bikers. Ramsey County Ordinances require all dogs to be leashed until they are in the designated area.

Two new bulletin boards were added to communicate with the users. The bulletin boards were

built as part of the school based program *Under Construction*, which provides high school students with work experience while teaching them a trade such as carpentry skills.

Many other new amenities have been added as well including donated mail boxes for clean up bags as well as additional picnic tables. There are plans to work with local Eagle Scouts to build additional benches for seating in the off leash area.

At a community meeting users asked that the small pond area be fenced with a gate so owners could decide if they want their dogs to go into the pond area. This feature was added and many users are very happy about it.

Please stop by and visit if you are in the area.



OLDA'S Closed for Fall Deer Hunts

Each year Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department holds archery deer hunts in a number of parks and open spaces to help maintain healthy deer populations in the area. Hunts are scheduled for October 22-24 and November 12 -14, 2010 at Otter Lake Regional Park. Otter Lake Off Leash Dog Area will be closed to users during this time. Battle Creek Off Leash Dog Area will be closed on October 18-20 and November 8-10, 2010 due to the deer hunt. Even though the two sites are fenced, fences do not keep deer from entering the OLDA's. The hunters also hunt along the boundary of the sites therefore if there are dogs using the site it has an effect on the efficiency of hunt beyond the fence line. Only one OLDA will be closed at any time. Signs will be posted in the parking areas two weeks

prior to the hunts so the OLDA users can plan for the closures.

A map showing the location of other OLDAs will be posted during closure periods in order to help the visitors. If you have questions please contact john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us

Otter Lake Closed Oct.22-24 & Nov. 12-14

Battle Creek Closed Oct. 18-20 & Nov. 8-10

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Donate to Your Local Off Leash Dog Area

The idea of permit fees to use a dog park is a controversial one across the United States. The Ramsey County Board has determined that Ramsey County Off Leash Areas will not charge a user fee. Many users however would still like to support capitol projects at their local dog park.

Presently Otter Lake and Battle Creek have established donation funds. The funds will be used for capitol improvements for projects like signage, mail-boxes, benches etc.



Buddy is ready for winter!

Ol' Man Winter Right Around the Corner

Ramsey County will be plowing the parking lots at the Off leash Areas usually within 24-48 hours after the end of a snowfall. Due to the lack of seasonal staff, it is the responsibility of the volunteers and users of the off leash areas to keep the gate areas clear and accessible.

Trash will be emptied weekly or as needed at each OLDA during the winter months.

Porta-potties will be available at all Off Leash Areas this winter. Should they need service or are vandalized please contact the Parks Office at



High Tech Pooch

Whether you are vacationing up north to see the fall leaves or bringing your dog on a vacation this link will help you find an Off Leash area near you.

Dog Park Finder Plus for iPhone, iPod touch and iPad. Learn more, read reviews and download **Dog Park Finder Plus** by Tech Wanderings on the iTunes App Store.
itunes.apple.com/us/app/dog-park-finder.../id372419544?mt...



Find Us On Facebook



We are fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers that keep us updated on Off Leash Dog Area happenings.

Here are a few of the sites you are encouraged to visit.

Otter Lake:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/White-Bear-Lake-MN/Otter-Lake-Dog-Park/124061434306456>

Battle Creek:

<http://battlecreekdogpark.ning.com/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/battledogs/>

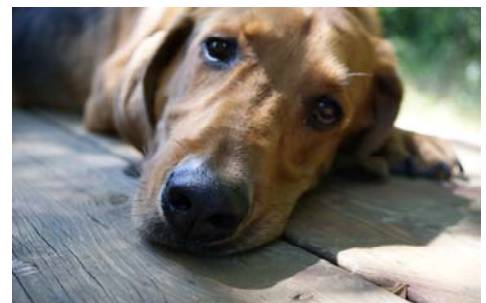
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=44771381194>

<http://battlecreekdogpark.ning.com/>

National Sites:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/dogparks/>

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Dogpark-National-News/>



Ringo from Otter Lake

How To Use the Double Gate System

ENTER

EXIT

Entering the OLDA:

1. Wait for the double gated area to be clear of people and dogs before entering.
2. Keep all dog(s) on leash, open the first gate, enter the area, then close the first gate behind you.
3. Remove leash(es) and choke collars from your dog(s).
4. Open the gate into the Off Leash play area and let your dogs in to the dog park.
5. Close and latch the interior gate behind you.

Have a great time!

Leaving the OLDA:

1. Wait for the double gated area to be clear of people and dogs before entering with your dogs.
2. Open the interior gate and let your dog(s) into the area between the two gates.
3. Close and latch the gate behind you and your dog.
4. Attach your dog's leash(es) and any choke collars.
5. Open the exterior gate and exit.
6. Open the exterior gate and walk carefully with your dogs on leash while leaving the area.

Submitted by Tom Richter



Dog Guardians Needed

The success of the Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Areas relies heavily on the Dog Guardians that help communicate with the users at Rice Creek, Woodview, Otter Lake and Battle Creek. The role of the Dog Guardians is not to be the "Puppy Police" but rather ambassadors for the park space. The goals of the Dog Guardian Program are:

- To help identify maintenance issues within the park
- Act as spokesperson for park users, bringing to our attention issues to be resolved or suggestions for site improvements

We are currently looking for Dog Guardians for Woodview. To contact your local Guardian email

angela.mens-eastman@co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Sheriff's Step Up Enforcement of Off Leash Dogs in the Parks

Due to many complaints from the public, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department will be stepping up its enforcement of off leash dogs in the parks. Ramsey County Parks Ordinance states:

Ramsey County Ordinance sets conditions for pets in our parks to ensure the enjoyment and safety of all park users and preserve the natural resources.

Chapter III, Section T—Pets in Parks

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

1. Cause or allow any pet to roam or be at large in any park;
2. Allow a pet, except guide animals to assist a blind or impaired person, to enter any beach area, picnic area, nature interpretive area, wildlife refuge, golf course, park building or park shelter;
3. Bring a pet into an authorized area of a park unless caged or on a leash not more than six (6) feet in length, except in a designated pet exercise or training area;
4. Allow a pet to disturb, harass or interfere with any park visitor, park visitor's property or park employee;
5. Tether any animal to a tree, plant, building or park equipment;
6. Have custody or control of any pet in a park without possessing and using an appropriate device for cleaning up pet feces and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner; or
7. Allow any pet or domestic animal to graze or browse in any park.

A person guilty of violating this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$700, together with taxable costs, or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 90 days, or both.



Make Your Visit to the Park a Safe One

- Do not leave your wallet, purse, computers, or valuables in a locked or unlocked vehicle at any time.
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Note things that look out of place. Do not hesitate to call for assistance or if you see something that doesn't look right.
- It is illegal to dump household trash in the dumpsters or trash barrels in the parks. Please report this to the Sheriffs if you witness it.
- Vehicle plate numbers are a good way to identify people if you do not have a name.
- 24 Hour Dispatch (Non-emergency) 651-767-0640
- 24/7 Telephone tip line: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
- SMS text messaging tips: Text "TIPS674" plus your message to CRIMES (274637)



**Ramsey County
Animal Control
651-645-73-87**



Doggie Do's and Doggie Don'ts



This is not a list of the Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Area Rules, however, it is meant to serve as a guideline for users who might be new to the Off Leash experience.

Dog parks are a great place to exercise and socialize your dog, and to meet fellow dog lovers in your community. Before visiting your local doggie playground, be aware of some DO's and DON'T's of Dog Park Etiquette to ensure your trip is fun and safe for you and your pet!

DO:

- DO abide by the rules and regulations posted at the entrance. They're there for a reason – for your safety and for your dog's safety.
- DO make sure your dog is wearing up-to-date identification.
- DO be prepared to get dirty. Some dogs greet a little more excitedly than others, so don't wear anything you would mind a strange dog jumping up on!
- DO keep your eye on your dog. While it seems like a great place to catch up on your texting or the paper, it's your responsibility to monitor your dog at the dog park. Keeping a watchful eye and being able to predict your dog's behaviors will help prevent fights with other dogs and other dog owners. If he isn't in the mood to play nice, please take him home.
- DO be aware of the other dogs in the dog park. In addition to knowing your own dog's temperament, it's also helpful to scan the crowds before entering a dog park. If you see potentially aggressive dogs, dogs playing very rough, or dogs you know your pup has had altercations with in the past, it may be safest to just go for a long walk instead.
- DO pick up after your dog in the dog park. It may seem like a free-for-all but it's illegal, unsanitary, and impolite not to pick up after your dog in a dog park. Use available scoopers and bags, tie it up, and deposit in the trash. Always bring your own bags just in case there are none available. No one likes to have to be the one to tell another owner that their dog left a mess.
- DO wait your turn when entering or leaving a dog park. If there is a designated area for leashing and unleashing, wait until it is unoccupied before entering. Always close the fence behind you when entering or leaving a dog park lest any escape artists find their way out! If someone else tries to enter the designated leashing/unleashing area while you are in it – feel free to politely ask them to please wait until you are done using it for everyone's safety.

DON'T:

- DON'T bring a female dog in heat to the dog park.
- DON'T bring food to the dog park. Your dog may not be a begger, but other people's dogs might be. Others still won't even ask before leaping up for a bite of your breakfast!
- DON'T bring your dog's favorite toy. It can lead to resource guarding and potential altercations. Not to mention, you risk losing it altogether. It's bad for their health and for the health of the other dogs. Conditions such as kennel cough and fleas are commonly spread in dog parks.
- DON'T bring children to a dog park. The potential for children to be bit, trampled, scratched, or otherwise harmed at a dog park is not worth the risk. If you carry an infant into a dog park, many dogs will be tempted to jump on you to see what kind of treat you have up there!
- DON'T let your dog mount other dogs. Correct your dog before he or she mounts – and definitely before another dog's owner has to do it for you.

The Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Guardians discussed the Ramsey County Rules at their September meeting.



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Green Spaces-Fun Places-Active Lives

DEPARTMENT MISSION:

The mission of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Ramsey County by preserving, developing, maintaining and managing a system of parks, open space, trail corridors and special use areas; and by providing year-around recreational programs, services and facilities which are responsive to changing needs, compatible with the resource base and most effectively pro-

www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks

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Unsubscribe from those you no longer want. Let us know if you can't find something you'd like to receive. It's all up to you! The number of topics available through this free subscription service may change over time, so check back periodically for additional options.

To e-subscribe to Ramsey County follow this link: <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sitemap/subscribe.htm>

Visit the Parks and Recreation website to subscribe to the Off Leash Dog e-subscription.