

City of Bellingham Animal Related Regulations

The purpose of this information is to acquaint you with the City Laws and Policies relating to having animals within City of Bellingham Park facilities. (Bellingham Municipal Code 8.04.070)

GENERAL REGULATIONS

All dogs in City Parks must be under control by means of being **ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES** (the owner or handler must be in possession of one leash per dog at all times) unless in an area designated for dog exercise and training.

The owner or handler of any dog is to **REMOVE FECAL MATTER** deposited by their animal on public property or public easement before the owner leaves the immediate area where the fecal matter was deposited.

The owner or handler of any dog must have in their possession the equipment necessary to remove their dog's fecal matter when accompanied by said dog on public property or public easement.

CERTIFIED SERVICE DOGS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS POLICY

Service Dogs are defined as those dogs that have been professionally trained and certified as Service Animals.

OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AND TRAINING AREAS

All dog owners/handlers are still responsible for having voice or sound control of their animal in designated exercise areas. When possible conflict exists within use of off-leash areas (particularly trails), by other people or dogs, then the owners/handlers must control their dog by leash if necessary.

The owner or handler must respect all natural areas by staying on trails to minimize damage and preventing dogs from flushing, chasing or otherwise disturbing wildlife.

The owner or handler must also restrict dogs in heat from off-leash areas, as well as dogs who exhibit aggressive behavior.

The City has designated, by City Policy PAR 3.01.20 the following Park areas where dogs can be off leash for exercise and training **as signed**.

Fenced Off-Leash areas: The owner or handler must follow specific regulations within fenced off-leash areas as posted at each site.

Arroyo Park: All Trails

Lake Padden Park: The fenced off-leash area near the ballfields in the southeastern part of the Park. Trails as designated at the east end of the Park between the fenced off-leash area and Galbraith entry on E. Samish. A dog water exercise area near the ballfields area (east side of lake) is signed for dog training/exercise. Dogs are restricted to entering Lake Padden only in this area.

Sunset Pond: All trails plus the water are designated for water exercise and training area.

Sehome Hill Arboretum: All secondary trails. Dogs must be on leashes on all paved trails plus the Jersey Street and Arboretum Walkway which are the two trails at the bottom of the Arboretum abutting the University campus.

Bloedel Donovan Park: During daylight hours from October 1 to April 30 and until 10 a.m. from May 1 to September 30.

Whatcom Falls Park: The Waterline Trail (south of Whatcom Creek) west of the Water Treatment Plant to Bayview Cemetery and the trail from the Waterline Trail south to Lakeway.

Little Squalicum Park: All Trails. (Note – Little Squalicum Creek may contain hazardous chemicals which may be harmful to animals. Also, the Little Squalicum Beach area is NOT owned or regulated by the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department.)

Post Point Treatment Area: The field, trails and the lagoon water designated area adjacent to the treatment facility are open for dog training and exercise. City park regulations apply to this area.

ANIMAL RESTRICTED AREAS

Due to heavy use by the public plus safety and health concerns, there are several park areas where dogs and domestic animals are not allowed.

- A. Playgrounds
- B. Spray Parks
- C. Athletic Fields
 - Frank Geri Fields (Civic Field Complex)
 - Downer Fields (Civic Field Complex)
 - Lake Padden Park Fields
 - Battersby Field
- D. Tennis Courts

ON LEASH AREAS

All areas not posted require dogs to be on a leash as part of City Park Code and Citywide Leash Law.

HORSES IN CITY PARKS

Horses are only allowed on paved roads open to motor vehicles OR designated bridle trails in the following parks:

- Arroyo Park. All Trails.
- Cornwall Park. Wooded area between ballfield & pedestrian trail.
- Lake Padden Park. Bridle trails on wooded side of park above pedestrian trail.
- Little Squalicum Park. Trail from Bellingham Technical College to Bay.
- Whatcom Falls Park. Trails across the bridge, north of Whatcom Creek.

The owner or handler is responsible for cleaning up waste deposits left on park property and they are required to have in their possession the equipment necessary to remove the fecal matter when accompanied by their horse on public property or public easement.

NO HUNTING

No person shall hunt, catch or injure any wild animal or bird on park property.

VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS IS PUNISHABLE BY FINE

Any violation of a provision of the regulation is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

ENFORCEMENT

For enforcement of Dog Off-Leash Areas, contact The Whatcom Humane Society: (360) 733-2028.

Protect Bellingham's outstanding greenways!

- Please stay on trails.
- Volunteer for the City's [Greenway Volunteer Program](#)
- Report illegal activities in the parks such as tree cutting or dumping

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR DOG'S WASTE!

IT'S THE LAW AND IT'S FOR YOUR SAFETY TOO!

When animal waste is left to decompose, the pathogens it contains can end up in our lakes and streams.

In large numbers, pathogens in untreated drinking water and recreational waters can present a health risk.

11,000 pounds of waste is produced by all the dogs in Whatcom County in one day!

5 ounces of dog waste can contain 3,408,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.

Fecal coliform is the name for a group of bacteria found in waste from humans and animals. When this indicator bacteria is found in water samples, there may be disease-causing pathogens present as well.