

**Dog Task Force  
Public Meeting  
September 9, 2004**

**Public Comment:**

*Susan Hoffman, 3857 Melrose Street.*

Airport Dike Trail- rules and signs are not consistent

Against Airport Dike Trail recommendations

Brotherhood Bridge Trail – concerns with trail against recommendations

Continue to educate public

Complaints are down

Task Force should revisit process – make dog owners part of process

*Barb Deyell, 2942 Simpson Ave*

Preventative

Doesn't understand licenses

Surprised by # of clients behavioral issues

Implement educational opportunities

Support Dog Task Force with education

Dogs continue to be seen in the back of pick up trucks

Enhanced enforcement for dog owners cannot be done without resources

Penalizing dog owners that are good

Place more emphasis on education

*Skiff Lobaugh, 1013 Bonnie Doon. Comments attached.*

Disappointed – not as much emphasis on dog owners

Education subcommittee did a wonderful job

Don't make this an anti dog thing

Doesn't think there is a problem

CBJ ordinances don't have teeth – needs more teeth for non responsible dog owners

On leash or under voice command

Don't restrict dogs on trails until trails have been studied (i.e., Bluff Trail)

Study – find out percentage of dog walkers

Review trails before putting on leash requirement

*Denise Wolvin, 900 1<sup>st</sup> St, #12*

Very much against recommendations

More information on why trails are being restricted

Look at everyone's use

Change behavior/education – trail etiquette class

Educate through licenses – use it – best tool

*JoAnne Craig, PO Box 32166*

Human impact/habitat/commercial use

Wildlife areas – human impact needs considered

Against Eagle Beach ban – easy to use this area

Amalga Harbor – why are the brand new trails for commercial use

Tongsard Property - acres & acres for all prime wildlife areas

Airport Dike – off leash - -provide another trail if Airport Dike Trail is off limits

Auke Lake – extreme low use  
Against leash law  
For Tideland area - off-leash  
Against Amalga recommendations - need to know if closed  
Against off-leash fields – not comparable to trails

*Jerry Patterson, 22811 Glacier Hwy*  
Concerned about Amalga Road – is intent to ban dogs?  
Amalga areas – concerned about banning dogs in winter  
Why is Amalga closed for animals and then don't build a trail built through it  
Eagle Beach – don't close tide flats area – at low tide great area in winter – free of snow  
Don't close beach  
Enforcement – have never seen dog enforcement personnel out that far

*Iris Frank, 2162A Lawson Cr Rd*  
Education campaign - advocates education  
Need for multiple use compliance  
Rules need to be enforced but stress education before restrictions  
Educate Don't Regulate

*Victoria McLaughlin, 116 Wood St*  
Concerned about building trails that can be used  
Education works  
Twin Lakes – reevaluate summer closure

*Bonita Nelson, Box 210343*  
Eagle Beach – please rethink the no leash area  
Educate kids through social service- utilize JDHS students

*Marty Messick, 2340 Ka-See-An*  
Issue – trails and where people and dogs can go for recreation  
Education – Grateful Dogs  
Concerned about field usage – not available after 3:00 PM  
Committee needs to include more public representation  
Process has to start with inclusion of what dogs need

*George Utermohle, 1970 Glacier Ave*  
Mendenhall River Trail – Matrix says on-leash but signage says leashed on pavement  
Eagle Beach closure doesn't make sense – not necessary to protect wildlife /birds  
Canine recreation and sports are valued areas and recreation opportunities  
Sandy Beach should be used by dogs

*Morissa Lou Williams, 623 St. Ann's Ave. Comments attached.*  
Appreciates what has been done  
Grateful Dogs and Gastineau Humane Society have seen positive results  
Dogs and walkers act as a safety patrol – always out there making the trails safe for people  
Education is the best idea

*Perry Shipman*, 9394 Rivercourt Way

Task force has brought problems forward to help people become involved

There has been an increase in politeness and kindness

Interpretation of laws relatively loose – hasn't always been what the rules actually are

Dog people want to be part of the solution

Education has an outreach effect

Enforcement stress is down – will make sure it continues being done at no expense to CBJ

*Betty Seguin*, 8186 Threadneedle. Comments attached.

Trails fairly reviewed

Athletic fields available to be used in the winter

Communication with user groups has improved

Implementation of proposal – how will enforcement be done – will additional funds be available

*Sandy Warner*, PO Box 20821

Doesn't feel comments have been heard at meetings

Can't give dogs enough exercise on a leash

Need to make seasonal adjustments

Mendenhall Camp Ground & Eagle Beach need to be off-leash especially in the winter

Like to see more public members on the committee

Need more education – how to approach dogs

Twin Lakes – glad to see some restrictions

Treadwell Trail – need garbage cans at trail head

Deal with owners of problem dogs

*Judy Fletcher*, PO Box 20116

Complaints have decreased this summer

Restrictions on trails

Dogs cannot be exercised on-leash – need off-leash areas

Airport Dike Trail - should be under voice control or on-leash

Eagle Beach should be off-leash

*Sue Miller*, PO Box 211248

Train dog owners

Youth very under utilized – let the kids propose a dog program

Senior companion program to adopt dogs – benefits to both

Tie obesity problem into dog walking to promote it.

More rewards/ positive less negative

*Jill Grose*, 9174 Glacierwood Dr

Banning some trails and new ones

Dogs need exercise

Trails – busy or not

Education is the answer

Athletic fields' allowable usage – positive change

*Barbara T. Greening*, 17095 Glacier Hyw

Try to make things work before restrictions applied

*Richard Carstensen*, Box 21168. Comments attached.

April letter to committee

Taken lead to research dog impacts on wildlife – wildlife viewing

If you don't have dog tracks then you can see weasel, mink, and otter tracks

Tram is a good example of this

*Marina Lindsey*, 3431 Greenwood

Thanks to Grateful Dogs

Twin Lakes – please don't restrict hours (fenced dog park at one end)

Salmon Creek Trail – not an option in the area because of steepness

Cross country skiing at Amalga and Eagle Beach with dogs should be allowed

Regulations with no reason make people break laws

Issues are resolvable through education not restrictions

*Doug Larson*, Downtown

Dog walking single largest recreational activity in Juneau

Leashes make dogs aggressive

Leave existing laws – doesn't see need for more restrictions

Doesn't like dividing up trails

Education has made a positive impact- peer pressure

*Gail Haynes*, 3041 Glacierwood Ave

Education will solve most of the problems

Dog people represent 40% of the people and Juneau voters

Owning dogs is a right not a privilege

Clean up and duties of dog owners

Airport Dike Trail – open to all – can co-exist with wildlife

Let us become better citizens and responsible dog owners

*Laurie Ferguson-Craig*, PO Box 3306

Thanks for tackling a tough issue

Education will solve most of our problems – How to approach dogs

Learned a few things about training for people and dogs

Understand responsibility and education

Dog people make up 40% of the population

Airport Dike Trail for all – sensitive areas

Twin Lakes – changing rules because of study

*Ken Post*, 9355 Rivercourt Ave

Signage at trail heads – not consistent

Kax Trail – can it be off-leash from 6-9AM?

Paved trail – on-leash is dangerous

Mt Jumbo - leash trail – dangerous for dog and person

*Mary Good*, North Douglas

Brotherhood Bridge Trail – on-leash for paved portion – not good for elderly – time zone it instead

Twin Lakes – seasonal restrictions – educate as to times available

Mt Jumbo on-leash is impossible

*Nancy Ratner*, Box 240146

Submitted comments to P&R office

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Renate R. Riffe [mailto:renate\_riffe@fishgame.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 09, 2004 5:54 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Proposed regulations concerning dogs

I am a responsible dog owner who picks up after my dogs, leashes my dogs regularly, etc. This set of regulations appears to have been developed with little if any input from dog owners, who constitute about 40% of the households in Juneau. I would like to have a place to exercise my dogs, without having to worry about being cited. These recommendations unfairly restrict the places that I can do this. The number of incidents involving dogs is down considerably. Why are you proposing such restrictive rules, when education appears to be working?

...Renate Riffe  
800 F St., K-1  
Juneau, AK 99801

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Terry & Karen [mailto:sailak@alaska.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2004 2:35 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** dog task force

I am a homeowner and tax payer who has lived in Juneau for 28 years. I believe that I should have access to all of the city owned trails, because I payed for them. I have a well trained well behaved dog who has Never harrassed anyone. He does not chase birds, and comes when he is called. I think the dog task force is a thinly veiled attempt to wrest control of the trails from locals. Yesterday I hiked up Perserverance and was harrassed by three large groups of guided tourists. Maybe we need a Tourist Task Force. Who picks these people anyway?

Karen L. Walter  
245 Irwin St  
Juneau, AK 99801

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Anderegg [mailto:peter.anderegg@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2004 7:57 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Dog Task Force Testimony

We live in an unusually beautiful location with incredible opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. Whether we hike, walk a dog, bike or ride a horse on any of the city's trails we all have the responsibility to treat the environment and others on the trail with us with respect.

I would encourage the city not to create any barriers to the use of the trail in the CBJ, but instead require education for users of all trails so that we can all continue to enjoy the natural beauty around us. Specifically, dogs on city trails should be under control at all times. But whether this control is provided by a leash or voice should not be the issue. In fact, most problems that I have encountered that were at all contentious involved dogs on a leash.

If we start down the path of restricting use of trails to one group or another we will find ourselves in the position of creating a specific trail for each kind of user. I would suggest that instead we require users of all city trails to be responsible and educated in the trail use. This would include things such as bicyclists warning pedestrians when approaching from the rear as well as dog walkers picking up after their dogs.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Peter Anderegg  
2212 Radcliffe Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 789-2552

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** G. Fox [mailto:gfox@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2004 4:51 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** smccoy@gci.net; gfox@gci.net  
**Subject:** Dog task Force

To Whom it may concern,

This email is intended to serve as my written comment regarding the Dog Task Force recommendations.

**No** closure of any existing or proposed trail, park or other area, built and/or maintained with public funds, to dogs is acceptable unless and until compensation for the **loss of use and enjoyment** such closures create, in the form of publicly funded off-leash dog parks (both fenced and unfenced), is a reality in Juneau.

One such perfect place for a fenced, off-leash dog park is the area of the unused horseshoe pits at Rotary Park.

I have walked my dachshund dogs there several times per week for the past 16 months and have seen the horseshoe pits in use just one time. The immediate pit area is currently being used as a dump site for gravel, and the pits themselves are in a state of disrepair.

I consider myself a responsible dog owner. . . .I carry poop bags, I pick up after my dogs wherever they go, I routinely pick up after other people's dogs, I don't allow my dogs to harm wildlife, and I take stray dogs to the humane shelter (doing a bit of CBJ's work).

I've lived here for 25 years, and it is my observation that there are more dog owners in Juneau than bicyclists or joggers, yet virtually nothing has been built **for** dogs by CBJ.

So, until there is equitable and fair alternative public recreation funding for dogs and their owners I will not support the **unfair**, and probably illegal, exclusion of dogs from public trails, parks, or other areas.

Sincerely,  
Greg Fox  
4357 Taku Blvd.  
Juneau

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jim & Kathleen [mailto:scholls@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2004 8:04 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Off Leash Access at Twin Lakes

To whom it concerns:

We live on Greenwood Street very close to Twin Lakes. This is our neighborhood park and I know it is a citywide park. We use the park nearly every day.

Dogs needs more exercise than on-leash exercise - your proposed rules are much too restrictive. **What's wrong?**

\* Nearly 80% of the daylight hours between April 1 and September 30 are restricted!

\* On leash till midnight is ridiculous! We both work and we generally walk our dog sometime 8 PM to 10 PM because that's the only time we have.

**Thank you** for getting rid of the July/August closure and please:

\* Reduce the on-leash hours from 10 AM to 7 PM. Our dogs need to run!

\* Make the on-leash rules on-leash-OR-voicew control.

\* Fence the grassy area below mountainside estates for a dog park. Our dogs need a place to run and socialize during on-leash hours!

\* Other places in Juneau have been given playing fields for off-leash use. Recognize we need an area also. The trails in the area are not suitable for the elderly, disabled, or those with small children.

Sincerely, Jim Scholl

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---Original Message-----

From: Mary Opp [mailto:blue51@alaska.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2004 10:52 AM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: dog task force plan

Dear Parks and Rec-

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue to all of us in Juneau-

I am a dog owner and walk my dog mostly at the airport dike trail--- i feel that dogs are well managed for the most part in Juneau-- and since the Grateful Dogs have been active the education coming thru the paper is invaluable to us all---

Trails are used by runners in groups -- kid groups-- families-- hunters-- tourists-- and dogs--- all need to remember to be courtious while on the trail and look around and be aware of who else is on the trail---

I disagree with closing any trail from one group-- dogs- or others--

I also want to comment on the total lack of porta-pottys at any of the trail heads-- i would hope that the state capitol could afford to view their heavy usage trails such as the airport dike trail in a better way to accomadate users---

And i notice the poop bags are now available year-around instead of just the beginning month of the summer- - this helps dog owners keep the trail clean of messes.

Thank You for your time and hard work-

Michael and Mary Opp

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-----Original Message-----

From: scott burton [mailto:sburton495@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2004 10:49 AM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: Dog Tak Force Recommendations

Dog Task Force Recommendations.

Dogs should be kept leashed at all times in public. Several times, unleashed dogs have chased me aggressively while I ride my bicycle (which I use for transportation, not recreation). I have nearly wrecked several times. This is an unnerving experience, and dangerous. If a dog were to cause an accident would the dog's owner be liable? I believe the answer is yes. With this in mind, wouldn't a dog owner want to keep their dogs on leashes in areas where bicycle riding and motor-vehicle use occur?

It is also disappointing to encounter unleashed dogs a beautiful Juneau's trail. Being approached by uncontrolled dogs causes discomfort to many hikers. It is also discouraging when one is hiking to see dogs recklessly plunging though and deteriorating the off-trail areas. While hiking many humans enjoy quiet and the possibility of encountering wildlife. Unleashed dogs on trails disallow either of these simple joys and the dogs continue to marginalize Juneau's already marginalized wildlife.

I would suggest allowing dogs to be off-leash at fenced-in "dog parks" where they can run freely and socialize with other dogs. If we do not already have any "dog parks", we should consider constructing some as has been done in other communities. I would also like to suggest that dogs be kept on leashes in public at all times, except in the above mentioned "dog parks". It would probably be okay to designate Sandy Beach as one of these "dog parks" even though it does not have a perimeter fence.

I would also suggest that there be reasonable fines for people who go unleashed in leash areas. Perhaps there could be a hotline where citizens could call in descriptions of violators, or vehicle plate numbers.

These are the comments of a tax paying citizen of Juneau. Thank you for taking comments.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Louise Hees [mailto:louise\_hees@tnb.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2004 10:46 AM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: Dog Task Force Committee - Twin Lakes

Thank you for removing the closure of the Twin Lakes park to dogs during July /August.

- 1) Can the on-leash hours be 10am to 7pm. This gives us more daylight hours to exercise our dogs with our children.
- 2) Can an off-leash fenced dog park be established on the grassy fields near Mountain Side Estates. This would give us a place to let our dogs run and play with other dogs all year round.
- 3) We do not have playing fields nearby that have off- leash use.
- 4) We do not have any other dog walking trails in our area that are very accessible to people with small children.

Resident of Twin Lakes

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Knickerbocker [mailto:srs@gci.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2004 8:35 AM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force Recommendations

## **Southeast Rehabilitation Services**

2219 Jordan Avenue • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Toll Free: (800) 478-6462 • (907) 586-6462 • Fax: (907) 463-5454

E-mail: [srs@gci.net](mailto:srs@gci.net)

We are opposed to the recommended changes that would further restrict access to public lands for dog owners who have control over their dogs. More emphasis on education is needed not restrictive regulation. The incidence of dog disturbances is not sufficient to warrant these changes. The vast majority of dog owners, a considerable segment of the population, controls their animals and pick up after them. Those who do not abide by reasonable rules need to be educated and fined, if necessary to alter their behavior. More restrictions will only exacerbate the problem, and enforcement will be more costly and ineffective. Citizens with dogs are major users of the local trails, including the summer season; there is no sound reason to add greater restrictions during that period.

Again, your focus needs to be education not additional regulations that cannot be enforced or, for that matter, be logically justified.

Denise Van Der Pol  
Larry Knickerbocker

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jane Roodenburg [mailto:janerood@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2004 1:45 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog comment, hope it's not too late

Hi, I hope it's not too late to make a comment on the dogs on trails issue, and if this is the wrong address, please let me know and/or forward it. Thanks!

I feel that the majority of the problems between dogs and humans on trails are the result of the few people who don't control their dogs, and the few people who are afraid of dogs. The majority of the folks around here don't really have a problem.

I walk my dog every day. I only use a leash when there is a reason. I talk to everyone I meet. My dog politely wags her tail or ignores others entirely, or greets people who invite her to do so. I pick up poop, even if it doesn't belong to my dog. We don't cause a problem for anyone. I've rarely witnessed a problem happening on the trails I use, which are often the popular ones like Perseverance, Sandy Beach/Treadwell, Cope Park area etc.

Most of us, both with and without dogs, behave ourselves and get along by being courteous and communicating. Please don't punish us for the few people who can't seem to communicate or be courteous. Please don't restrict us to the point that we are uncomfortable living here, or feel the need to break the law.

I am in favor of banning dogs entirely from some trails, especially those that have sensitive wildlife.

Thanks for the forum,

Jane Roodenburg 321-5690

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kaye & Rob [mailto:rmurphy@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2004 10:21 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Comments to Dog Task Force

Kim,

We were unable to find an email address to send our comments to the Dog Task Force Committee from the notice on the web. Could you forward these comments to them. Thank you.

To: Dog Task Force

We strongly oppose the proposed regulations restricting dogs in the Amalga Meadows area. We have lived within ½ mile of the area since 1984 and regularly walk our dog in the area including the Amalga Harbor Road, down the SAGA road into the Ackerman Meadows past SAGA, across to US Survey No. 0, and to the Boy Scout camp. This area also receives regular use by cross country skiers (including ourselves) with and without dogs. Over the years, most of the negative impacts we have observed are from people leaving trash, fire pits, digging wild flowers, and the like. It has not been from dogs. We have concerns for the area due to the ongoing and proposed establishment and advertisement of developed trails in the meadows area because of the number of people that it brings into the area, and the associated negative impacts. In general people and dogs haven't strayed very far into the meadows in the summer time because of the lack of trails. In the winter time it is used extensively but it appears to be with limited impact to wildlife. The concern for sensitive habitat and wildlife as expressed in the draft recommendations would be more effectively dealt with by limiting the development of trails in the area. If there is a public need to develop the trail systems it should be done without discriminating against those who have been using the area, and in a manner that allows all residents to use the trail systems. Mitigation should be addressed through minimization of trails, placement, and education of users.

Sincerely,

Rob Murphy and Kaye Sullivan

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mills Art Studio [mailto:edmills@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2004 5:07 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Dog Task Committee

**This email is for the Dog Task Committee.**

**I am strongly protesting the closure of the Amalga Meadows trail to dogs. I have friends that have used that trail for 50 years with their dogs. They still use it.**

**This "new" trail is only a replacement for a long used trail and with an even newer surface the wear and tear on the environment will be further minimized.**

**Ed Mills**

**25025 Amalga Harbor Rd.  
Juneau, Ak 99801**

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chuck Craig [mailto:chuck.craig@uas.alaska.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2004 9:43 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** DOGS

Hello:

I am writing this letter because I am concerned that there is a plan being moved forward to take away some of the qualities of life that make Juneau a great place to live and raise a family. One of Juneau's great attributes is its trails and easy access to beautiful open spaces.

We own two dogs and we enjoy taking them out for their exercise and our enjoyment. We have been doing this for many years and want to continue this pastime without worrying that we are committing criminal acts by not having them on a leash or having them even with us on certain trails. Will this rush to regulate progress to having to always look at the latest list on the Internet to see what days, or times, or weather conditions, or ships in town, we are allowed to take the dogs for a quick walk? I hope not.

One of the closest and nicest places to take dogs out is Eagle Beach. The dogs can be off-leash and run and get well exercised. It is a huge expanse of land that is usually pretty quiet. There is not any wildlife that appears to be the least bit concerned that there is dogs running around off leash. In this rush to regulate, please do not restrict this area to off-leash dog use. This goes for the other Juneau trails and open spaces. Leave it the way they are.

In a general note, I have a hard time believing that there needs to be any change to any current dog regulations concerning trails or open spaces. Is this rush to regulate really for some other reason? Out on a trail I would much rather meet a couple of people with off leash dogs now and then than run into a gaggle of mindless, bumbling, noisy, tourists being lead by the hand of a paid tour guide from Chicago trying to explain the flora and fauna of the rain forest.

When not needed regulations are imposed on the people by a small minority, they are usually ignored by the majority that can think for themselves.

Chuck Craig  
Box 32166  
Juneau, Alaska 99803

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** adventure@gci.net [mailto:adventure@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 12:35 PM  
**To:** Kim Kiefer  
**Subject:** Tell it to City Hall Form:

<b>Date:</b> <b>Time:</b> <b>Location:</b>	<b>Contact Information</b> <b>Name:</b> Lynn <b>Telephone:</b> 789-5614 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:adventure@gci.net">adventure@gci.net</a> <b>Address:</b> 9414 Berners Ave <b>City:</b> Juneau <b>Zip Code:</b> 99801
<b>Department Involved:</b> Parks_and_Recreation <b>Person Notified:</b> <a href="mailto:Kim_Kiefer@ci.juneau.ak.us">Kim_Kiefer@ci.juneau.ak.us</a>	
I would like to make my opinion known regarding the dog on trails issue. I feel that the trails you have chosen to close, as well as the trails to leave open are in appropriate. I have a dog I like to take out with me. I like to go to places which are not heavily used, such as Eagle Beach, so that he can get some exercise and I don't have to worry about 1. many people 2. other dogs 3. bears.	

It is nice to have an open area that you can see some distance and know what is out there. I live about a block from the trail at the airport and the trail along the Mendenhall River and never use them for walking my dog. They are too congested with people and dogs, bikes, inline skaters and sometimes bike tours. I used to ride my bike on the the Mendenhall River trail, but only do that on occassion due to the heavy use. I think using these places and the school grounds for off leash areas is ridiculous when there are thousands of acres of land available. I think that opening these areas for off leash is just asking for dog bite problems, and then you will feel justified to close any public area. I would like to see the beaches and public trails (the wooded trails off into the mountains or beach) as off leash areas. The school yards and Mendenhall River Trail, and the wetland trails as on leash (but the actual wetlands off leash). And all tourists kept downtown. June! au is becoming a congested area and these dog/people problems are a result of this. Open up more land, build a road or two, so we can spread out a little more. Who is going to be in charge of the dog ticket patrol? I am sure the Humane Society has better things to do. I really wouldn't be suprised if the hidden agenda (which seems to be the case a lot around here) is tourist hiking areas and their "Alaskan experience", even tourists have dogs and surely expect to see local people when they go out on the local trails. When I am a tourist I actually enjoy meeting the local people, they are so much more informative than the non-local hired hands of a guiding company. At any rate I am sure people and dogs can coexist, but lets try and make it reasonable for everyone.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Taylor, Jill [mailto:Jill\_Taylor@dec.state.ak.us]

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 2:30 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force Comments

Hi, my name is Jill Taylor and I live at 115 Gastineau Avenue, downtown Juneau. I have lived in Juneau for 6 years, am a home owner, and I vote. I am a member of the Capitol Kennel Club. My dog, Luna, is a 3 1/2 year old Brittany and has done agility for 3 years. Brittany's are very active dogs that need to run. She is well trained.

I attended the Public Meeting on September 9th and would like to echo many of the comments made. Please consider more time for education to work before more restrictions are made. Restrictions that the city can't afford to enforce. 40% of homes in Juneau have a dog, but only a few people out of the many that spoke on September 9th had comments against dogs using trails. Who are the people that want to restrict dog trail use? If this was such an important issue, they certainly didn't represent themselves. This makes me wonder how passionate they are about restricting dog trail use.

I'd like to also comment about the proposed use of Perseverance Trail. I don't understand why the beginning of the trail is off leash (until Ebner Falls) and then on leash for the remainder of the trail. I've been an avid user of this trail since I moved here and have enjoyed having a place to exercise my dog safely (no cars). My dog is always on a leash until we reach the trail head. I do understand the issue of ownership of the trail, but what will happen when the city takes over ownership of the whole trail? Will it be on leash entirely? This is the only trail that I can safely walk my dog off leash in the downtown area. I'd rather not put her in the car and drive to a trail to walk her.

My main point is to try education before restrictions and enforcements are put in place. Please listen to the public on this matter!!

Jill Taylor  
115 Gastineau Avenue  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-4186

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Iola Young and Tom Aberle [mailto:eshamy@gci.net]

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 3:53 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** dog task force recommendations

Dear task force members,

I was one of the many people that were attacked and bitten by dogs in the city of Juneau. I was attacked while riding my bike on basin road right near perseverance trail. A woman was walking her two dogs, neither of which were on a leash.

I urge you to please retain the leash laws on Juneau's streets and trails. Rather than increasing the number of off leash trails and area, I maintain that more stringent enforcement of the existing leash laws is necessary to protect citizens. I also agree that certain trails should be designated as dog free zones.

Thank you for your time spent on this issue.

Respectfully,

Tom Aberle  
429 W. 10th St.  
586-2738

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joyce James [mailto:joyce\_james@cfec.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 4:03 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Comment on Dog Task Force

I urge the Dog Task Force to take another look at the trail recommendations.

Specifically, I question the rationale for distinguishing between the two sides of the Amalga Meadows. I have walked, skied, and snowshoed with dogs on both sides of the road since before Joe Smith even built his house out there. It will be a hardship on my dog and I if we are no longer allowed out there, or even to walk on the SAGA road.

Second, I question the restrictions on dogs at Eagle Beach. I'm not exactly sure where the line is between tidelands and uplands since the highest tides come up into the grass. Please consider a seasonal restriction during breeding on offleash dogs on the low sandy parts, and allow dogs off leash on the high sandy parts. Sometimes in winter the high tide line is some of the only snow/ice free area available for healthful walking.

Finally, please reconsider the general ban of off leash dogs at parks. The wilder parks are more akin to the forest service areas and should not be treated the same as the urban parks. I am thinking of trails like N. Tee Harbor, Breadline, Bridget Cove, Lena Point, and even the CBJ Montana Creek Trail. These trails should allow off leash usage.

I am concerned that if such stringent prohibitions are perceived by the general dog public as unreasonable, the restrictions will be ignored and that outcome is not good for civil society and civic co-operation. The possibility also exists that responsible dog owners will comply at their loss while irresponsible dog owners continue to cause problems. If such stringent restrictions stay in place I would have to consider no longer owning a (spayed) big dog (when my current rescued dog is gone) and if others do likewise that will not be good for the unwanted pet population in town.

I would much prefer to see effort go into dealing with problem dogs instead of rules that penalize responsible dogs and owners.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dorieipc@aol.com [mailto:Dorieipc@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 9:07 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force

PROTEST

We object to the closure of trails to dogs. We believe it is discriminatory and unnecessary to close trails to dogs with their owners, because there are many who do leash their dogs and clean up after them. We believe that the ticketing of those who don't abide by the current laws is appropriate. Existing laws, if enforced are sufficient.

There is no valid proof that dogs are endangering the habitat. As tax paying citizens we believe that we have the right to walk our dogs on the trails that we have helped finance.

Sincerely,

Dorie Choquette  
5921 Lund Street

Debra McGehee  
205 Seward Street

Rhonda Adams  
205 Seward Street

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dorieipc@aol.com [mailto:Dorieipc@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 8:20 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force

PROTEST

I object to the closure of trails to dogs. I live in Alaska because I enjoy the lack of restrictions which are necessary in a more populated area. I believe it is discriminatory and unnecessary to close trails to dog owners. Existing laws, if enforced are sufficient.

There is no valid proof that dogs are endangering the habitat. I am a homeowners and pay my share of tax. I have the right to walk my dog on the trails that I helped finance. If the tourist industry wants trails limited to humans only, they should pay for their own trails.

Sincerely,

Julie Shelton  
1785 Fritz Cove

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Aran Felix [mailto:aran\_felix@eed.state.ak.us]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 09, 2004 5:27 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force Comments

Attached word document with comments.

Thanks for all your hard work!

September 9, 2004

Dog Task Force Committee

Comments from:

Aran Felix, 3270 No. Douglas Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, 586-3270, [jfmcfc@gci.net](mailto:jfmcfc@gci.net)

I believe that increased signage and boxes of dog poop bags need to be available everywhere. Today I watched two people allow their dogs to poop in the water shed area of Gold Creek, one along the creek, and one along the flume. Neither picked up after their dogs. I'm going to start carrying poop bags and distributing them. Signage stating that this is our drinking water and we don't want to drink this you-know-what! might be an appropriate sign here.

**Rainforest and Outer Point Trails:** I am opposed to the date restrictions at this location. We pay large CBJ taxes on our residences and many of us walk this as a loop. I leash my dogs when tourists are present. I also pick up dog poop along these trails to help the Grateful Dog effort. I am hoping that people might feel they are the lone offender if they see no poop along the trail.

Please install a toilet at these trailheads. And include a sign stating that human feces left behind is also unacceptable. After people camp, they also leave their deposits and tissue paper behind. May be you could have a pay dispenser for WagBags that dissolve feces and make it safe to dispose in a container – or again, put toilets and signage.

**Airport Dike Trail:** I would like to report what I saw this winter at the airport. On an EXTREMELY foggy day when planes were overhead, a jet boat came out (airport employee) and chased birds all over the place two times. The birds were hunkered down and not flying because it was too foggy. The birds flew out towards the channel and circled right back in and settled down again. Talk about purposeless harassment! The man chased hundreds, thousands or birds and caused major, horrific disturbance for no apparent reason since no planes were landing in Juneau that day.

**Mt. Roberts:** That steep climb means people often need to use walking sticks. Very difficult to leash a dog and use walking sticks. I think that dogs need to be leashed from the Tram station up since that is where most of the tourists and wildlife is.

**Eagle Beach:** Do not regulate out the road wild areas! Post signage if there is a critical nesting period for birds. I understand the Boy Scout Trail has been recently closed due to construction? What's that about?

I completely agree that people are unbelievable in their refusal to pick up after their dogs. I was shocked by the behaviors I watched along the flume and Gold Creek today. Next time I will be prepared to hand out a poop-scoop bag. Continuing education and bigger signs are critical. I think more trail manners classes is a good idea.

-----Original Message-----

From: Vicki Van Fleet [mailto:jgvvf18@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, September 10, 2004 4:51 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Dog task force

After reading another article regarding the recommendations that the city's dog task force are trying to impose upon the population of Juneau - I felt it was time to speak up.

As a responsible pet owner and avid hiker, I take great exception to the idea of closing trails to dogs.

I have lived in Alaska for 30 years, in many different areas and have not faced a controversy such as this. I have always had a dog, sometimes two - have always been a responsible dog owner my entire life. One of the myriad of reasons why I am still an "Alaskan" is due to the personal freedoms we enjoy in this state as opposed to living in most areas of the lower 48. I would think that Juneau would try to preserve these freedoms, instead of bowing to the pressures of a "few".

I truly believe it is a few, since I am out on the trails at all times of the year and I personally have as yet to have the sense that my dog and I are "treading" on anyone else's freedoms by enjoying our walks - nor have I been confronted with it.

I realize that there will always be people that are irresponsible pet owners - Thank God for the Gastineau Humane Society! - and I myself make an effort to pick up other inconsiderate pet owners, pets POOP (as well as, I might add - the inconsiderate humans trash!)! There have been well-documented efforts by local groups to have "doggie clean-up days". Unruly or poorly trained dogs are of concern I realize - however, again I would state that the vast majority of people on trails with their dogs have them under voice command.

The other point that I would like to make is that when you go hiking in Juneau - you will quickly find that dog owners utilize the trails at the very least - 2 to 1 - over the "sans fido" hiker!

Just like us - dogs need the freedom to run and exercise and I believe they have that right as well.

Unfortunately, there will always be people who shouldn't have pets - kinda like there will always be people who shouldn't have kids!

Sincerely,

Vicki Van Fleet  
8470 North Douglas Hwy  
Douglas, AK 99801



-----Original Message-----

**From:** M W [mailto:starrystream@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 11, 2004 10:13 AM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Revised Dog Testimony

Morissa Lou Williams  
623 St. Anne's Ave Douglas, AK 99824  
907-463-1517  
starrystream@hotmail.com

Testimony Concerning Dogs, September 11, 2004

**Dear Sir/Madam: I had previously submitted written testimony at the hearing on September 9, 2004, but I realized that there were some major points I wished to add. If you could substitute this testimony for the testimony I submitted at the hearing this week, I would be very grateful. Thank you!**

My name is Morissa Lou Williams, and I live on St. Ann's Avenue in Douglas. I have a dog named Rosie who is a lab/greyhound mix. She's a wonderful friend, and she has a lot of wonderful dog friends, and all of those dog friends have owners, and we are all old enough to vote.

Dog owners and their dogs are very much a volunteer safety patrol in the city of Juneau. We create a critical mass of trustworthy people on trails and beaches – people whose intent is benign and well-intentioned. Without us, women, children and elderly persons, in particular, would be far more vulnerable to assaults. Anyone who has ever been suddenly confronted by a dangerous or emotionally troubled person while alone knows how terrifying it can be. Many is the time I've heard the sudden jingle of a dog's collar and breathed a sigh of relief.

Dogs protect people in two different ways: one, the presence of dog-walkers creates a safe presence of honorable human beings on our trails and beaches, and, two, the companionship of one's own dog creates an increase in personal safety. I have been assaulted in Juneau, prior to having my dog, and the increased measure of safety I feel with my dog besides me is almost incalculably large.

I believe that many people count on the presence of "dog people" in ways they have never articulated, when they speak of feeling safe on a particular beach or trail. People are so used to our presence that they take it for granted. But we are the ones who make the trails safer to walk.

Many women and elderly persons, and I am sure many men, would feel so apprehensive without their dogs that they would not be able to enjoy many trails. People don't talk about this because people do not like to acknowledge their fears to others, for fear of being mocked. My experience in Juneau has been that admitting to being the victim of an assault, and of expressing fear of further assault, resulted in scorn, or in flippant suggestions to carry a gun. The absurdity of such a suggestion is self-evident. More guns would not increase the safety of our trails. A beautiful, well-trained dog is a far more civilized alternative.

Alaska has the highest incidence of rape as well as domestic violence in the country. We like to pretend that Juneau is not plagued by social problems, but in fact, our social problems are very serious, particularly in terms of violence towards women and alcohol-abuse-induced assaults.

This is not something to be taken lightly. We absolutely need the extra protection afforded by our companion animals on our city trails and beaches.

We live in a city. We are surrounded by countless acres of wilderness. Those who wish to have the “pure” wilderness experience need not travel far outside our city limits to enjoy it. Those 40% of us who own dogs provide an essential service to the people of Juneau.

A poorly mannered dog or a pile of dog poop is annoying, but, put in perspective, these are paltry problems compared to what would happen without dogs present: the increased isolation that would be occasioned by the absence of dog walkers could trigger something far worse – increased episodes of assault and rape.

Dog owners who are not sufficiently responsible can be educated, and their behavior will improve, but a person who has been assaulted is traumatized for the rest of their life. Rather than risk increased violence to our citizens through increased isolation and vulnerability on the trails and beaches, it is better simply to hold dog owners up to a high standard.

The best way to make Juneau a comfortable mixing ground for dogs and people is to really, really educate the people. The dogs themselves will follow our leads. The truth is that dogs bring joy and delight to many thousands of people here in Juneau, and we love them. Sometimes, there are people who are not responsible dog owners. These people need to be educated. When you really love and care for an animal, you don't want that animal to behave badly. You don't want your dog to scare people, or to leave a mess behind. You want to learn how to really care for your dog.

There are people who do not care for their animals, and Lord alone knows why they have them. But the best way to reach these people is to hold them accountable through education. Perhaps, who knows, they might discover they care for their animals after all. Really, not being responsible for a dog is like abusing a dog, and the best answer to that is education.

I know that Grateful Dogs, in Juneau, has embarked on a really marvelous and very successful education program, and these are precisely the kinds of efforts that will yield marvelous results. There are issues and areas which merit very strict regulation and exacting statutes in this city. I do not believe that dogs are one of them. I take my Rosie down to Sandy Beach every day, and every day there is some child or even some grown-up who delights in seeing her. She is gentle, and good, and fun. Most dogs could be described the very same way. Poor dog behavior can usually be tracked back to poorly educated dog owners.

I would recommend that every dog owner be required to take a one-time dog ownership class – just a brief class to remind them what constitutes responsible dog ownership. In this class, they would also meet local trainers and other animal experts available to help them if they have difficulties managing their animals. I would make this a requirement of licensing a dog, and I would make licensing a requirement of having a dog. At the conclusion of the class, dog owners would agree to abide by certain standards of dog ownership. We need to determine, and enforce high standards, of behavior, rather than choosing to exile our very best friends from our parks and trails.

Thank you.  
Morissa Lou Williams

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Craig [mailto:craig4@gci.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2004 7:06 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force

In making recommendations of our trail usage, it is the responsibility of the Dog Task Force to disclose potential commercial use of a trail to the public and balance the public's recreation needs with "protection" of wildlife. Without looking at these issues, the Dog Task Force is nothing more than the means for a vocal minority to inappropriately ban dogs from public lands.

The wildlife issue has been used as a ruse to close off many trails and areas to dogs. Federal and State agencies have not designated these areas as "wildlife sensitive". This designation comes from within the Task Force as a way to conveniently claim any trail it chooses, which happens to be all new and proposed trails, plus other existing trails. Originally, the Task Force said there may be seasonal closures to nesting birds. Now areas even with seasonal migratory birds are being closed down, and for all of the year. The overzealous approach of attempting to unreasonably ban dogs only makes the Task Force lose credibility.

Eagle Beach is one such area, and the Task Force has blatantly ignored that humans are as much of an impact to the birds as dogs; however, in reality the birds are habituated to dogs and humans, and in no danger. Eagle Beach is a perfect place to let dogs appropriately run and exercise, and due to the large expanse, it is easy to keep dogs away from other users and birds. In the winter, it's also one of the few places to walk due to snow. The tidal area should remain off-leash. The picnic area itself would be appropriate as an on-leash area.

Amalga Harbor is currently an area of very low usage. If this is such a sensitive area, why are brand new trails being opened up and for whom? If trails are being targeted for commercial use, this must be disclosed to the public. It is abhorrent to ban thousands of local users due to "wildlife sensitivity" then open the area up to an influx of tourists. If you can accept the balance in opening up a pristine area, then dogs should at least be allowed on-leash on the trail connecting to the Boy Scout Camp.

Near Amalga is the former Tonsgard property, which I don't see on the list of trails; but I understand this is to be a banned dog zone as well. The Task Force has taken acres and acres of land "out the road" for wildlife viewing and banned dogs from most of the readily accessible waterfront. This is unreasonable and way out of balance.

The Task Force has set aside sports fields as off-leash areas; however, these in no way make up for the acres of land banned to dogs. Off-leash fields are not

comparable to hiking with a dog. Furthermore, the field schedule is prohibitively restrictive and almost useless during summer months for working people. Why not simply allow an off-leash area any time the field's not being used for sports? Some fields are often empty on summer evenings, even with soccer and baseball going on, and it is absurd that empty fields can't be used in such a case. Still, these fields in no way make up for the areas taken away.

There are three trails in Lemon Creek that are banned to dogs. This is completely unreasonable. Two of the trails are closed under the ruse of wildlife protection and a third - the DZ Trail - is added to the banned list because kids use it (as if kids and dogs don't mix) and to provide a "dog-free" trail, already provided for by the two other trails!

Is commercial trail use the underlying issue for the banning of dogs on the DZ trail, Auke Lake Trail and others? I can't think of a better way to get all dog-owners to oppose commercial use than to ban them from public lands in a deceptive way.

The Airport Dike trail could be shut down by the Airport Board due to safety issues. I recommend you make provisions for an off-leash area elsewhere in case of such a closure.

Extremely low usage trails should be off-leash. The Breadline Bluff and North Tee Harbor are trails that I've brought up previously. It was stated that the Task Force didn't have time to look at some of these trails, but didn't really have the expectation that the leash law would be followed. Why not make the trails appropriately off-leash rather than having the expectation that an unreasonable guideline will be ignored?

Make reasonable guidelines, and I expect you'll get voluntary compliance, which is necessary, considering the lack of enforcement. Dog owners, for the most part, want to be good neighbors and considerate trail users. Trail etiquette needs improvement on by all users, and education is the key. There will always be the occasional bad dog and/or irresponsible owner just as there are bad people and people who trash our parks and trails with litter. I heard just the other day of Trail Mix burning debris left by hikers, yet I don't hear of any threats against this user group. Don't ruin the quality of life for responsible dog owners by banning dogs from our public lands. Please work with dog-owners in making our community a better place, and give education a chance.

JoAnne Craig  
Tee Harbor

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ken Post [mailto:ravencall@gci.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2004 8:42 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** comments for Dog Task Force

Hello, Please send the attached comments to the Dog Task Force. Thanks - Anne Post

Dog Task Force – Wildlife Comments

Anne Post, Sept. 14, 2004

I would like to comment on the Wildlife Committee's draft report –

1. I have seen wildlife diminish in my neighborhood – not due to dogs but development. If you want to have wildlife viewing you have to maintain pockets of suitable habitat as well as wildlife corridors that allow for travel between these pockets. Development removes small yet important areas that support wildlife and the opportunities to view that wildlife. For example, the small pond and surrounding wetland at Dimond Park adjacent to Riverside Drive supports snipe, Great Blue Heron, king fishers, assorted ducks, beaver, and juvenile salmon – all very viewable from the bike path or road. This productive wildlife area, which was referred to as a “mosquito breeding pond” by public officials at one of the new high school community meetings at Riverbend school, has not ever been surveyed for the presence of amphibians which are documented as drastically declining in the Juneau area.
2. Decisions to exclude dogs from trails or require that they be on leashes appears to be based on the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society's “Domestic Dogs in Wildlife Habitats” Report. This is a discussion of what COULD happen and the author admits that much of it is her opinion based on discussions with other wildlife professionals and much of it is anecdotal. Has any of this wildlife disturbance been documented as occurring in Juneau, such as the transmission of diseases from dogs to wildlife, or lower populations of nesting birds or deer due to dogs being on trails?
3. According to the wildlife committee draft report, an inventory of the trails and the potential impact to wildlife from dogs was done. I am curious to know who conducted this inventory. I am a wildlife biologist with the Alaska dept. of Fish & game and no one in the area office where I work was consulted. Neither were any of the Forest Service or USFWS biologists that I talked to. Also is it possible to obtain copies of this trail inventory? How did they determine what is important habitat to wildlife and if dogs are impacting it? Juneau is located in a temperate rainforest. Almost every acre of it has potential value for some type of wildlife.

While I am sure that the people who inventoried the trails are knowledgeable about wildlife habitat it would lend more credibility and objectivity to your recommendations to include the expertise of agency biologists who can hopefully provide unbiased information.

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge –

4. I agree that the Mendenhall Wetlands is an irreplaceable and unique wildlife area and a real jewel in the center of our city. Education is extremely important for all residents of Juneau, dog owners and non-dog owners alike. It's a remarkable area that provides beautiful views, an opportunity to walk, bike ride, jog, waterfowl hunt and view wildlife. The wildlife on the Refuge can be negatively impacted by both dogs and people during certain times of the year. That's why we need to embark on a serious education effort using a variety of media similar

to Fish & Games' and the City's bears and garbage program. I would be happy to volunteer my time for an education effort.

But to close the refuge year round to dogs as has been proposed by the wildlife committee when there are so many other impacts that need to be addressed seems to be targeting one user group. Greater threats to the Refuge are projects like the second crossing, airport expansion, and accretion of uplifting land by quiet title. Land put into private ownership through quiet title faces no restrictions on use, unlike the rest of the refuge, and may contain critical areas needed by migrating or nesting waterfowl and shorebirds and amphibians. Another looming concern is the proposed use of the plane-boat that will fly 8-9 feet off the water and make several noisy trips a day through the Refuge. Little is known how it will affect the waterfowl and whether it will move the birds into airplane flight paths.

5. Finally, I agree with Cindy Lougadakakis, US Forest Service biologist, when she reported in the Nov. 10 meeting of the Dog Task Force that dogs on trails is not a wildlife issue, but a social issue. She brings up some very good points which I will paraphrase: The dog task force is trying to solve a social issue and should say that. If wildlife issues were a concern, the government agencies would be able to place restrictions on dogs, but neither state nor federal biologists have mentioned impacts to wildlife as specific issues. The complaints that arise from having dogs on trails are mainly dog-dog or dog-human conflicts. It's unfortunate that this process got labeled the "Dog Task Force" since it points a finger at only part of the trails use problem. This dog issue is only one issue on use of Juneau area trails and should fall under the review of the Interagency Trails Working Group who should study the impact from ALL trail users as well as the need to educate all.
6. I agree that some areas should be closed to dogs as wildlife viewing or wildlife reproduction may be impacted and some people just don't feel comfortable in the presence of dogs, leashed or unleashed. I'm not sure where these dog free areas should be, but I think if you solicit help from the dog owners and non-dog owners alike and include them in the process and try to reach some consensus you will have more support for your decisions.

I think there is a lot more work to be done on this issue and I hope you do not rush to close trails to dogs or require them to be on leash on most of the CBJ trails as is suggested in your draft final report. Especially since I do not believe there is a need for it from a wildlife or habitat perspective. And finally, I want to thank all of you for volunteering your time and energy to make Juneau a better place for all of us.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Farrell, Tiffany PO1 [mailto:TNFarrell@cgalaska.uscg.mil]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2004 1:17 AM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Public Comment for the Dog Task Force

## **Dog Parks**

In the United States, there are approximately 65 million dogs owned by Americans. (The Humane Society) Dog owners in Alaska exercise with their companions off leash on a daily basis to keep them healthy and happy. Non-dog owners make complaints, and request owners be fined by Animal Control Officers if dogs are off leash while on trails, and in parks. Several people in the community want to ban dogs from trails, or require them to be leashed at all times. This is not a reasonable solution to Juneau's off leash problem, but sides with the complaints against canines and their owners. Dog owners have to exercise their pets in the sun, rain and snow. Most people hike on trails when the weather is more pleasing, not when the rain is blowing sideways with a temperature of 35 degrees. Parks and trails are used every season and in all types of weather by dog lovers. Downfalls to having dogs on trails, is that dogs can run up to humans and jump on them, and this creates tension between people and dog owners. Establishing dog parks where canines can run free and socialize, will lessen the number of complaints that non dog owners have about canines being off leash, and will make dogs and owners happier because they will have a place to exercise.

The city of Ann Arbor, Michigan supported the idea of dog parks back in 1997. Today, they have an 18 acre fenced area called Paw Run Recreation Area. This recreation area allows dogs of good temperament to run free and play with other dogs in an enclosed park. The residents of Juneau and Ann Arbor are similar in the dog problems they have experienced, with "people apprehensive with an unfamiliar dog..." (Ann Arbor Dogs) Building a dog park to allow dogs with current shots and of good behavior, is a guaranteed way to lessen the amount of conflicts between residents on Juneau trails. This park can include several water holes where dogs can swim if they like, and large areas of open field for Frisbee or ball retrieving. For the dog park to stay open and in good condition, there is a registration fee for all dogs, and an entrance fee for every visit to the park, so the City wouldn't have any cost.

In order to develop this park, residents of Ann Arbor submitted a statement to the Park Advisory Commission informing them "Numerous cities across the U.S. have been operating dog parks for as many as 25 years with great success and continued support..." They also believe "...that the active play will make their dogs be calmer and more rational at home." The GoodPooch.com web site believes dogs plus more restriction equals more problems. The site says "Those dogs that get out for daily off-leash socialization are the very safest dogs to be around..." when dogs come in contact with people, they learn how to control their behavior because they are use to distractions. Dog training is enhanced by having contact with strangers, and helps develop a properly socialized canine. Dog parks can do just this, by ensuring a positive experience with strangers as they know how to react with dogs.

Positive outcomes of having a Dog Parks will help the whole community. Dogs won't be on trails as much, and if they are, they will most likely be leashed because they have had the opportunity to exercise off leash. Dogs playing in Dog Parks will have more

socializing and will be better suited for society because they will be use to people out of the norm. The quality of exercise and play will increase, so the frequency of walks can be decreased. This can result in fewer dogs on trails, leaving them open for non-dog owners.

There are several reasons that support this solution to Juneau's dog problem. Dogs will have more socialization, and will be better citizens of the community because they will be use to strangers. Canines won't be on the trails as much, and when they are it will be more for the owners pleasure and the dogs will be on leashes. Even if dogs are on trails and off leash, if they exercise at the dog park, the quality of it will increase and the frequency of exercising them on trails will decrease. These canines can play, socialize, and train on many different skills with their owners. Several people in Juneau hunt with their dogs, and having an open area where dogs can work on retrieving and other hunting skills reduces the amount of dogs off leash in the city. Having an area where dogs and their owners can play and run free with others dogs only has positive effects, and is a great solution to Juneau's dog and trail problem.

#### Works Cited

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Dog PAC, SB. "Position Paper" Special City Subcommittee on Dogs. California. October 1997. 31 August 2004. <http://www.thedogsbestfriend.com/dogpark.htm>  
"Leash laws cause dog bites, it's as simple as that." 31 August 2004. <http://www.goodpooch.com/MediaBriefs/leashlawscausebites.htm>.  
The Humane Society. 2003. 4 September 2004. <http://www.hsus.org/ace/11831.htm>



-----Original Message-----

From: Kathryn Lizik [mailto:kayafaras@gci.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2004 2:12 PM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: Comments on Dog Task Force Recommendations

I called in and spoke with Kim Keifer about some questions I had about the wording in the recommendation, and then decided to submit written comments as well.

My two main concerns have to do with the recommendation to allow no dogs on the East trail of Auke Lake, and dogs only on leashes below tidelands at Eagle Beach.

Auke Lake: My first suggestion for the verbage used to identify the area is to make more clear what is meant by East trail in the written doc. After discussion with Kim Keifer, I learned it included any and all trails between Glacier Highway ( by floatplanes) and Back Loop by Goat Hill Rd. Which brings me to my comment. I live at far end of Goat Hill Rd and find being able to take my daughter and dog down to walk the path there an easy and accessible place to do some of our hikes. My dog needs to run. Off leash. We have never had a run-in with beaver or other animals. She mainly stays on the trail. I rarely see other hikers out on this portion of the trail. To close this trail to dogs would greatly impact an accessible, (I don't have to drive anywhere to get to it) trail close to my home. Please do not make this a dog free zone.

Eagle Beach: As with the above, I have no idea of where the area boundaries are for Eagle Beach State Park. I also weekly ( since 1980) drive out and walk with my dog (s) a section of the beach, quite a bit north of the Eagle Beach proper picnic area. During a discussion with Kim, we both thought this spot may be outside the Eagle Beach boundaries. But without a map, there is no way to know. I would suggest including maps to show exactly what area is going to be impacted. If this stretch of beach is outside of the impacted area, I have no need to comment.

If it is not, I want to go on record to let you know that I want to be able to continue to allow my dog to run free out here. Again rarely is there anyone on this stretch of beach. WHAT THERE IS A LOT OF THO IS BROKEN GLASS, GARBAGE AND TRASH, which washes up or blows up or gets deposited by the occasional party, which we weekly CART OUT OF THERE! I would really be saddened and negatively affected if I were unable to visit with my dog, a location I have been going to for 25 years, if this ban on dogs running free includes this stretch of beach.

Please make an effort to show with maps exactly what areas will be included in these recommendations.

Thankyou

Kathryn Lizik  
11035 Mendenhall Loop Rd  
Juneau, AK  
99801

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Kalbaugh [mailto:kalbaugh@alaska.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2004 2:31 PM  
To: Parks Rec; Kim Kiefer  
Subject: Dog Task Force Final Recommendation Comment

Hi,

I'm not sure where to send this Dog Task Force public comment so I'm sending it to Kim Keifer (Director) and the generic P&R email address. Hopefully it will find it's way to where it's supposed to go.

Thanks!

September 18, 2004

Dear Members of the Dog Task Force,

A year and a half ago, I wrote to Kim Keifer thanking her for not closing the Rainforest Trail to dogs. Today I am writing to deliver much the same message in support of not closing trails and CBJ land to those of us who are responsible dog owners with dogs that are well-behaved and under voice control while off lead.

I am a responsible dog owner. My dogs are licensed and have good trail manners around other dogs, people and wildlife. I always clean up after my dogs. When off lead they are immediately responsive to my verbal commands. They do not jump on people, fight with other dogs, chase or disturb wildlife or scare children. There are many of us with off-lead dogs under voice control who use the trails responsibly every day. The last year has been extremely stressful for me wondering what the Task Force's final recommendations will be and whether I will still be able to take my well-behaved dogs for our daily exercise.

By way of background, I have been training my own dogs for competitive dog sports (obedience, agility and tracking) for 14 years. Before that, I rode and trained horses for 10 years. I am not a professional dog trainer but I have assisted other people in training their dogs on an informal basis for the last 10 years. I have attended many seminars on dog training and behavior as well as reading extensively on the subject. I have observed thousands of dog-to-dog and dog-to-people interactions over the last seven years while walking on our local trails. In those years of daily walks and thousands of hours on the trails, I have witnessed only two incidents of dogs chasing birds. I have never seen a dog bite, a full blown dog fight, or a dog attacking a person or a child on the trail. While I am not saying there haven't been any incidents, I believe they are less than 1% and not a reason to ban well-mannered, off-lead dogs from our public trails.

The Airport Dike Trail happens to be my neighborhood trail so I use it more frequently than other trails, but not exclusively. Over the last year since the Task Force has brought this problem to the public's attention, many more people are keeping their dogs under stricter control (including on leash if necessary) and the trails are much cleaner. I believe the threat of trail closure has been a wake up call to many dog owners and that education on responsible dog ownership and trail etiquette are beginning to work. However, we need to give it more time and be more patient and cooperative with each other while the transformation takes place.

I differ from some in that I believe responsible dog ownership is more than licensing, picking up and good trail etiquette. It is also investing time training basic manners and socialization around other dogs and people. Just as with children, you can't expect dogs to behave perfectly without guidance and training. But training our dogs to be well-behaved in public does not occur in a vacuum nor does it occur in one session of training. It is a continuous effort that requires many locations. You need to get the dogs out and teach them how to behave **on actual trails and in public** with other well-mannered dogs and

people. Dogs, especially young dogs, need off-lead exercise to burn off energy and become well-mannered pets. I believe the community would have less problem dogs if people invested more time interacting with their dogs, giving them the exercise and stimulation they need, training them to behave in public both on and off lead, and fostering a positive relationship with them just as many people do with their children.

My daily off-lead walks with my dogs are very important to me; I would be sad and much less physically and emotionally healthy if my dogs and I were curtailed from using the trails. Just like the litter issue, there will always be some people that won't conform to the rules but I believe that the majority of people are, or want to be, responsible. It is absolutely the best part of my day being out with my dogs in the fresh air and seeing them run off lead, chase their toys and interact with me, other dogs and other people in a non-threatening way. I need this time to wind down after the stress of work to maintain my own health. I do not have children so I invest time in my dogs just as people with children do, and I gain enormously from these relationships.

A couple other points before I close:

For the last seven years I have responsibly used a small portion of public lands and ball fields (when they were not in use) to train my dogs for competition obedience and agility trials. I am not a member of the local kennel club so I do not have access to their resources. I am a homeowner without children who pays taxes for building and maintenance of schools and parks. I have never abused the use of City property, always leaving it as I found it, or cleaner than when I arrived. I believe that I should have the same rights as anyone else when it comes to using public areas. To make my use contingent on how responsible (or not) other dog owners are, is simply not fair to me. I hope you seriously consider allowing responsible use of the parks for dog training. People who train their dogs for competition are, as a group, extremely responsible for their dogs. These people are the ones you should want to showcase as good examples of responsible dog owners, not ban from the public eye. Over the years, I have had many people and children stop and watch while I was training. They ask questions and tell me about their own dogs. If they are willing, I sometimes enlist their help training things I cannot do alone. The kids especially get a big kick out of helping train my dogs. I hope that my positive example has spurred some people to interact more positively with their own dogs.

I am against closing any of our local trails to dogs. Local trails should be just that, open to the local people including their dogs and children. And finally, putting aside the whole dog issue for a minute, I am also strongly opposed to permitted use of our local trails for commercial ventures such as hiking/wildlife tours. If companies want to sell these types of tours let them develop trails on private land for this purpose. There are very few places in the Borough where local people can relax and enjoy our community in the summer without tour busses, helicopters and float planes full of people, day in and day out from May through September. Even though tourism is a viable industry in this town there has to be a limit to it. Please keep our trails un-commercialized!

I would like to see the Task Force give education and positive examples of responsible dog ownership a chance. I believe we now have the public's attention and it's a great time to offer them a bribe, if you will: Be responsible or lose your right to enjoy the trails with your dogs. It seems like an easy choice to me. But we all (various user groups) need to learn to use these trails together. Banning one group of people, which in most cases is the largest user groups of these trails, is not the answer. *Cooperation and education, I believe is.*

Sincerely,  
Pat Kalbaugh

PO Box 34054  
Juneau, AK 99803  
907-789-2979  
[Kalbaugh@alaska.net](mailto:Kalbaugh@alaska.net)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jeff, Karen and Hannah Wilson [mailto:jkhwilson@gci.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2004 12:16 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** Dog Task Force Comments

Dear Dog Task Force Members:

Thank you for your time and efforts! My daughter and I have attended two public comment forums, and have been impressed with the number of people taking time to express their thoughts and concerns. We agree with the pervading sentiment of the last forum: Education is the best tool we have to change people's behaviors.

We are relatively new dog owners, for a year and a half now. In that time period, dog ownership has become very high-profile in Juneau. We have responded to the publicity by working hard to be responsible dog owners. We work regularly on our training program, and we leave the house armed with leash, poop bags, and lots of goodwill towards our fellow trail, sidewalk and park users. We meet many dog owners who are making an equally positive response to public concerns about dogs. Education really is working, and continued efforts will bring even better results.

We own a young and energetic dog who is on her best behavior when she has been getting lots of regular exercise. We hike with her whenever possible, usually off-leash in order for her to get enough exercise. When others approach, we call our dog to heel and leash her if appropriate. Some of her greatest admirers on trails and downtown are tourists who have left their own pets behind. She is regularly cuddled and even kissed by total strangers...and this contact often helps us to remember to be welcoming to visitors whom we might otherwise ignore.

We have specific concerns about leash requirements in the downtown area. It's often not possible or desirable, especially as bad weather and darkness close in, for "townies" to drive to off-leash areas after work. We have lived above Capital Park for many years. It's an ideal place for dogs to romp, play and be trained. (Can you imagine running to catch a frisbee while on a leash?) They can safely be off-leash because the small size of the park keeps them always in their owners' view. Our daughter has grown up with the park as her only front yard. She learned to love dogs there, and in all our years in the neighborhood, we have never witnessed a negative dog-human interaction. Cope Park is another wonderful off-leash area, when sports activities aren't going on. We urge you to consider these downtown parks as off-leash, voice command areas, with posted leash rules for times school groups or sporting activities have priority.

We also urge reconsideration of on-leash areas as being under voice command. And we would be saddened to never again ski with our dog in Amalga Meadows. Our dog is part of our family, and closing an area to her closes it to all of us. Our dog training hasn't achieved a state of perfection (and never will), but we're doing well and we promise to keep working.

We and our dog have become better citizens in response to education, not regulation.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,  
Karen Wilson (Hannah and Jeff, too!)

September 19, 2004

**Comments on the Final Recommendations  
of the  
Dog Task Force Committee**

We have the following comments on the proposed management of Juneau's trails:

Brotherhood Bridge

We were disappointed to read that the task force is not recommending an early morning time (for example, 6:00 – 9:00 a.m.) to allow dogs to be off-leash on the Brotherhood bridge paved trail. The Twin Lakes trail allows dogs off-leash until 10:00 a.m.

As we explained in an earlier memo to the dog task force, our family lives near Dimond Park and often exercises our dog by bike riding her from Dimond Park across the Riverbend school bridge and up the paved trail to the end on River Road and back again. It's very pleasant early in the morning, the dog is well behaved and runs alongside or near the bike. We specifically go out at this time because there are relatively few people out (usually a few are walking, jogging or riding their dogs off-leash with them at this time). This past weekend we were out on two mornings at 8:00 a.m. and encountered one elderly person walking a dog off-leash on one morning and one jogger on the second morning. Our dog is young and active and bike riding is a good alternative to walking her. Keeping a dog on leash while riding a bike can be dangerous to the rider. Two riders passing with dogs on a leash can also get leashes tangled which would also result in an accident. For older or elderly people, the paved portion of the trail is the only place they could walk.

It would also be much more difficult for us to haul our bikes by car to the Twin Lakes paved path to ride on a trail that is more crowded than the Brotherhood Bridge trail. In addition, the Twin Lakes trail closely parallels the glacier highway with heavy car traffic. The recreational setting of the Twin Lakes trail is also very different than Brotherhood Bridge.

Using the dirt trail that parallels the paved Brotherhood Bridge trail is not an option for bike riders other than hardcore mountain bikers, (certainly not cautious middle-aged women) since it is full of roots and other hazards. The horse trail may be good for horses' hooves but in many spots it is too soft or has too many roots for bike riding.

You have already set a wonderful precedent by allowing dogs off leash on the Twin Lakes paved trail at certain times. Please reconsider and keep the use of the paved Brotherhood Bridge trail consistent with the use of the paved Twin Lakes trail in order to accommodate a greater variety of trail users in that part of Juneau, too.

**Auke Lake Trail:** What are the issues surrounding dogs on this trail? If anything, the use of jet skis on a relatively small lake has greater impact on the residents, visitors, wildlife and the lakeshore.

**Mount Jumbo Trail:** This is a very popular alpine trail and conflicts with wildlife and people are really minimal. Have you ever tried going up or down that trail with a dog on a leash? It is steep, muddy, and has numerous downed trees. Even the best-behaved dog on-leash could accidentally tug its owner down a steep slope as it picks it's own way around these obstacles.

Breadline Bluff Trail: Whenever we've been on this trail we've seen few people or nobody. With such a small chance of having a conflict with other users, it doesn't make sense to be so restrictive.

Bridget Cove Trail: Whenever we've been on this trail we've seen few people or nobody. With such a small chance of having a conflict with other users, it doesn't make sense to be so restrictive.

Fish Creek Trail: Whenever we've been on this trail we've seen few people or nobody. With such a small chance of having a conflict with other users, it doesn't make sense to be so restrictive.

Montana Creek Trail: It's not clear why dogs are not permitted off-leash on this trail. It's not paved and we're not aware of any sensitive species or habitat that would be impacted by dogs off-leash. On most days, very few people use the trail.

Impacts to Wildlife and Habitat: We've reviewed the cited study from the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society regarding domestic dogs. For the most part, the literature review is inconclusive about the impacts from dogs. We agree that there are certain places, times, and species where dogs could be a concern. Ungulates on their winter range and nesting birds are two areas that might be vulnerable. Concern has also been expressed about impacts in alpine areas and the possibility of transmission of disease by feces. Once again, there is no conclusive evidence these are significant issues in any area and certainly not enough to warrant the proposed restrictions in Juneau.

We could not find any documentation on the website about the criteria the Wildlife Subcommittee used to determine critical habitats and species or even which biologists were on the committee. For example, the Amalga Meadows Park won't even allow dogs on-leash because the area is "extremely rich in wildlife and contains sensitive habitats." It would be helpful to know more about the wildlife and habitat for this area. It is not clear if there are threatened, endangered or sensitive species present that might require the need for a total dog restriction. If the area is truly this sensitive, it is also not clear why trails are planned for the area.

At the recent public meeting, one speaker mentioned the lack of tracks in winter by various species along several trails. There was no other information presented, scientific or otherwise, to substantiate the concerns.

### Other Comments

A review of the trail matrix in the Final Recommendations indicates that almost all CBJ trails would require dogs to be on-leash. Aside from the impacts to dog owners, the problem will be that enforcement is required. The reality of passing ordinances, etc. without the adequate level of enforcement necessary will just cause more angst.

It is no surprise that the other major land management agencies, the Forest Service and the State are not proposing any additional measures. This is probably because they either do not feel there are significant wildlife or social conflicts and/or they don't have the ability to enforce "large-scale" restrictions.

It is also apparent that the issue with dogs is largely a social conflict. We should deal with this by improving education for dog-owners and non-dog owners so they can understand each other's motives and desires. We have altered our behavior with our dog as a result of concerns that have been identified and suspect others can do the same. Let's give everyone a chance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ken & Anne Post

Ken and Anne Post  
9355 Rivercourt Way  
Juneau, AK 99801

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618 Gold Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

September 21, 2004

Kim Kiefer, Director  
Juneau Parks and Recreation  
155 South Seward St.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ms. Kiefer and the Dog Task Force:

I appreciate the hard work and many hours that the members of the Dog Task Force have devoted to this effort, but I feel that it was misguided from the beginning. It's my perception that the Dog Task Force was destined to endorse a particular agenda, either by design or by default, to eliminate dogs from many parks and trails. The members of the committee were almost entirely government regulatory and management staff. Despite some 10-20 dog owners expressing an interest in serving on the committee during its initial meeting, only two members of the public were selected. The very formation of a committee comprised of regulatory/management staff implied the committee's objective, that dogs were creating a problem and that more restrictions and stricter regulations were necessary. The imbalance was magnified by allowing a technical subcommittee to be dominated by an anti-dog special interest group with little particular expertise.

What prompted the formation of a dog task force? Why did you not bother to have a public hearing before beginning the task force process so that you would know where the community wanted to go with this effort, including a public determination of committee composition and objectives? Did Juneau Parks and Recreation call the shots on this initiative, or was this the outgrowth of previous efforts by Discovery Southeast and Trailmix advisors to close some trails to dogs? Why was this special interest group allowed to comprise the entire "wildlife subcommittee? The task force's anti-dog structure and preoccupation with dog horror stories

squandered an opportunity for a dialogue with the hundreds of dog owners who could have participated in this process.

Before this process, there were pretty much two groups of dog owners: those oblivious to their dogs' behaviors and those who generally tried to do the right thing as responsible dog owners. Since strict enforcement of dog regulations is doubtful, it behooves dog control interests to cultivate the good will of the latter group and encourage them to enlist the cooperation of other dog owners, particularly the oblivious ones. Unfortunately, you have pretty much alienated the responsible dog owners with over zealous and poorly justified restrictions.

#### Specific Concerns:

My specific concerns relate to new and existing restrictions in my neighborhood and nearby trails. If I'm interpreting expressed concerns correctly, the position of the wildlife subcommittee to restrict the Mt. Roberts Trail (to Gold Ridge) in order to protect marmots is ridiculous. There is no shortage of marmots on Gastineau Peak. I have never failed to see marmots on Gastineau Peak during any summer, dogs or no dogs. Furthermore, dogs represent a small and declining presence on the mountain. I was told by a Mt. Roberts Stewardship representative and a Trail Mix representative that they wanted to assure that the semi-tame marmots would hang out along the trail for the benefit of tourists. As a retired federal National Park naturalist, wildlife biologist, fish and wildlife biologist, and habitat biologist with an MS in biology (avian ecology), I can tell you that the habituation of wildlife to humans is dangerous for both wildlife and humans. I guarantee that on Gastineau Peak, dog predation on marmots is inconsequential compared to that by eagles, wolves, bears, and other predators. This restriction was not advocated by the tram or other commercial interests on Gastineau Peak. If the tram commercial interests and Gastineau Guiding have no concerns about dogs off leash, why adopt this restriction? If the issue does not concern wildlife, why are tourists being offered a sanitized version and a priority of use of a locally favorite trail? If the objective is to separate tourists from dogs, why did the "Stewards" and Trailmix(?) obliterate and revegetate the traditional (local ) trail leaving only the tourist trail in the area of heaviest traffic to the cross? If there is a problem, perhaps it is over management.

The proposed policies on Perseverance Trail are just as absurd and more onerous. To my great enlightenment, Gastineau Guiding and other commercial trail interests have never complained about dogs off leash. Over 25 years and 4 dogs, no tourist or tour guide has ever complained to me about leashing my dog. The requirement of leash restraints on CBJ managed portions of the trail and no restraints on State managed portions of trail is just about as silly and awkward as you can possibly make it. Do you really expect dog owners to recognize this? If you can't make the case, don't pursue it.

Existing and proposed restrictions on dogs in downtown parks are unreasonable. As a downtown resident, I need to have a place to throw a Frisbee or a tennis ball for my dog without driving him over to Sandy Beach every day. About 80% of the time, my dog and I are the only ones in Cope Park or Capital School Park. The rest of the time, we mostly see other dogs and dog owners. Cope Park is a major dog exercise area for people who have a few minutes during the noon hour to throw a ball for their dogs. Did anyone on the committee take a field trip to see how heavily used these areas are and how little conflict exists with other users? I would favor the kind of proposal that you have made for Twin Lakes be more widely applied to other parks.

I remember the last revision of animal regulations that were developed by the Gastineau Humane Society and the CBJ some 12-15 years ago. Dog owners who were aware of the action were not



happy. Many testified to the Assembly that the regulations would be generally ignored and selectively enforced, which is pretty much what happened. Here we go again. Don't force dog owners to break the law. Don't come up with new regulations (or retain old ones) that Animal Control officers will be unable to enforce. That's a fairly basic rule with any regulatory scheme, and it is something that the Dog Task Force has ignored throughout. If you give people some good reasons and the capability (poop bags) to be more responsible with their pets, you will get results. This is dramatically demonstrated by the reduction in dog excrement on Basin Road and in local parks. As many of us saw the Dog Task Force withdrawal from an educational emphasis (and simply fall back on more expansive leash regulations), responsible dog owners organized the Grateful Dogs group. Dog owners want to do the right thing, regardless of the Dog Task Force.

The public response during the recent hearing on September 9 indicated that you have already lost credibility with most of the dog-owning community. The Dog Task Force could initiate a dialogue with dog owners and enlist their participation in a revised decision process (you're going to say you did this, but clearly you did not), or you can simply frustrate all dog owners, and leave the real job to the Grateful Dogs.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grossman

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-----Original Message-----

From: Valerie DeLaune [mailto:ski@gci.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2004 1:47 PM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: dog task force comments

Valerie DeLaune  
8687 N. Douglas Hwy.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907)463-3026

September 22, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force Committee:

Since I did not see my prior letter included with the packet at the public meeting, I am sending comments again. I understand that complaints are down quite a bit. To see if education will solve the entire problem, I ask that you table your recommendations on closures and restrictions until more time has passed, then re-assess whether further action is needed.

Dogs on leashes and dogs under voice command are no more disruptive to wildlife than people, and certainly less disruptive to wildlife than boaters, snowmobilers, and hunters, yet you are not proposing banning hunting, snowmobiling, and boating or introducing partial closures for those user groups. Even wildlife viewers/photographers can be disruptive to wildlife. This seems to be

a social issue, not a wildlife issue, and should be treated as such. If wildlife disruption is truly the issue in some of these places, then ban all forms of human entry, including pedestrians.

It is always true that only a certain portion of the population is the majority of the problem, whether it's drunk drivers, litterbugs, snowmobilers, hikers, hunters, etc. Our laws don't restrict some roads in some seasons because of the drunk drivers. Law enforcement personnel deal with the ones who are the problem, as should be the case here. Deal with the dog owners who are the problem, not all dog owners.

During winter pretty much the only places to walk without snow are low-lying areas such as Sandy Beach, the trail behind Sandy Beach, Amalga Meadows, Eagle Beach, Fish Creek, Outer Point, Dredge Lakes, and the Airport Wetlands, many of the areas you are proposing to restrict or close.

As far as Mt. Roberts between the tram and Gold ridge, I am not able to keep my dog on a leash there because it endangers my own safety \_ she weighs 93 pounds and can easily pull me off my feet if she even takes one step differently from me. I need both hands available to go through the steep and rocky parts. Unless someone has a small dog, this effectively closes the area for most dog owners. I have been told that employees around the tram terminus are telling people they need to have their dog on a leash, when my understanding is that it is a proposal at this time, and not a current law.

If there are partial restrictions in times and dates of closures or on-leash vs. off-leash, there need to be signs clearly posted that have the restrictions and maps of the specific areas noted.

For dog owners to pick up dog poop, there needs to be a garbage can at least at the trail head. I scoop if there's somewhere to put it, but quite honestly, I'm not going to bag it and take it home in my car with me. I recommend the Dog Task Force focus on education and identify more areas that need garbage cans and poop bags (preferably the black bags since the blue bags have a sickening perfume smell to them which I can't keep stashed in my pocket for future use).

There is not money to provide enforcement for the existing codes, let alone the ones you are proposing. Gastineau Humane Society is only provided funding for patrolling City Parks, and I suspect they have higher priorities dealing with dog-at-large and dangerous dogs, rather than dogs-off-leash that are with their owners and under voice command. I think a different focus, such as the ones above would be a more valuable use of time rather than trying to restrict uses.

Thank you for your time.

Valerie DeLaune

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn Schooler [mailto:specialx@alaska.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2004 4:22 PM  
To: Parks Rec  
Subject: Dog Task Force Comments

Dear Parks and Rec,

I reviewed an earlier version of the Task Force Recommendations and was pleased to see some modifications of those recommendations in the current version. However, one problem in the first version that remains in the present is the prohibition of dogs in the Amalga meadows Park north of the Amalga Harbor road, with the exception of the Boy Scout trail.

For nearly fifty years, we have been walking in Amalga Meadows with dogs. (We always called it the 'Ackerman meadows,' after the original homesteaders.) In the 1960's, when we became owners of U.S.S. Lot '0' on the waterfront northeast of the Saga building, our use of the meadows became more frequent, and we always had one or more dogs with us.

Together with her parents and brother, Karla Hart (a member of the task force) was a frequent member of our outings to Lot '0', and points we called 'Dead Eagle beach,' Explorer's Point,' and Kris's Crag when she was growing up (all of which are accessible from the meadows, the Eagle River Tram line, U.S.S. '0', and the old wagon road from '0' to the Boy Scout trail.) We always had one or more dogs with us. Today, I am still a frequent walker in the meadows and along the Boy Scout trail, always with my dog.

I fully realize that past use does not guarantee future use, but what harm have dogs done the meadows? If anything, bears are more common now than is years past. In recent years, hoary marmots have become common, even colonizing the rocks at Lot '0', where in the past they were rare or even non-existent. The meadows are changing with the post-glacial uplift and there are many more trees in the meadows now there were fifty years ago. A hundred years from now, the meadows will likely be a young spruce forest, as is happening on the approaches to the Boy Scout beach. In short, change is inevitable, but I do not think keeping dogs out of the meadows will be a major factor in the scheme of things. (Nor should we forget that not so long ago the meadows were heavily grazed by horses and cattle, and mowed for hay on an annual basis. In recent years, most of the caretakers at the SAGA center have kept dogs, always unleashed, yet the wildlife has continued to use -- or even increased its use -- of the area.)

Three years ago ownership of Lot '0' was transferred to the Borough for inclusion in the park. Now that Trailmix has started work on the turnpike trail from SAGA to Lot '0', I look forward next summer to being able to walk to Lot '0' without red rubber boots, but with my dog. And when the trail is completed from U.S.S. '0' to the Boy Scout trail, how nice it will be to be able to hike all the way from Amalga Harbor Road to the Boy Scout beach!

When the connection is complete, it is safe to assume that many people will utilize the whole trail system on the same hike. This will result in a problem, with dogs being allowed on the Boy Scout trail, but not in the Amalga Meadows. A further problem exists with regard to boat access to Lot '0'. Will boaters have to leave their dogs home if they want to have a picnic or overnight on the beach at Lot '0'?

In conclusion, I ask that you please do not adopt the recommendations of the Task Force to exclude dogs from the Amalga Meadows north of the Amalga Harbor road.

Thank you.

Ed Huizer  
P.O. Box 210191  
Auke Bay, AK 99821  
tel. 789-9256

-----Original Message-----

From: Neil Barten

Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2004 11:25 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: dogs and trails

I understand that tomorrow is the last day to get in comments on the Dog Task Force recommendations for trail use and restrictions for dogs. I attended the meeting at Centennial Hall a couple of weeks ago and was surprised at the lopsidedness of the testimony. Not that I didn't already know that dog walking and hiking with dogs wasn't a popular activity in Juneau, but that the people who initially supported dog restrictions on trails weren't out in force to defend their recommendations. Richard Carstenson was the only person I saw testify on behalf of the supporters for restricting dogs or dog activity on trails. One item of special note that many of the folks testifying touched on was that many recognized the value of the Dog Task Force and their hard work to come up with the recommendations, but emphasized education over restrictive action at least at this stage. To me that was a key element that showed the seriousness with which dog walkers are taking this issue, and that they are willing to change not only their ways, but work with other dog owners to attain a level of responsibility that will hopefully alleviate many of the concerns identified by the task force.

So, I wanted to add my support for the use of education over restrictions in managing Juneau's hiking trails for all users

However, there are several points I would like to make to your group re: dogs and trails.....

1) It should be very obvious to the task force that dog walkers are not just a sideline group of individuals within this community, but rather they are widespread and come from every walk of life. Many are people who are major supporters of trails and wild areas in our community and their support for these areas benefits everyone.

2) Having spent a fair bit of the last 7 years fighting what seems like an impossible battle with educating people about bears and refuse management, I feel quite confident any concerns the task force has with people and dogs on trails can be addressed through education. At the very least, energy should be put into education until such time where it is obvious stricter measures are needed to be used to attain whatever goals there are.

3) I heard a lot of talk about how dogs affect the use of trails by wildlife, and how dogless trails have more wildlife activity along and adjacent to them. Having hiked with dogs for my entire life, I won't try to dispute this. Dogs having much better noses than humans and certainly can and sometimes do smell a wild animal and race off trail to investigate and sometimes chase it. I guess it all depends on what we want out of a trail and what we want out of life in Juneau. If, we want trails with abundant wildlife, then we ought to think about limiting people on the trails as well as people with dogs. We should also limit commercial tourism groups as a large group of people likely is more disruptive than a small group. Kids can be especially noisy so maybe they ought to be left at home as well? Anyway, my point is, while dogs likely lead to additional disruption of wildlife along trails over people alone, most wild animals likely prefer off trail areas simply because of the human presence on the trail systems. Especially given that hunting is allowed along most trails to some degree anyway. I do an awful lot of hiking, but certainly don't do it almost entirely off trail if I intend to have a wildlife observation experience. Juneau has such rich wildlife habitat, a person need only go off trail a short ways be it Eagle Crest, Sheep Creek, Mt. Jumbo, or even Perseverance to enter a whole different world where animals are much more abundant and observable than along any trail.

4) Living in Juneau, most of us have accepted that the city of Juneau has sold its heart and sole to the tourism industry during April-Sept. This is just a fact of life in this town where local

peoples quality of life (in some cases) is severely affected by helicopters, float planes, charter operations, congested streets, commercial hiking groups, etc. Yet while hiking our local trails in the face of these types of activities (many of which are much more annoying and disruptive than a dog could ever be), local people are supposed to limit their enjoyment even further by leashing their dogs or even keeping them at home? As you saw at the Centennial Hall meeting, many people hike only with their dogs, and were it not for their dogs, might seldom hike at all. In addition, there are a fair few trails in the Juneau area that are traveled almost exclusively by dog walkers during the 6-7 months of rain, darkness, and no commercial tourism. To jump right into a restrictive program for local outdoor enthusiasts just seems to go against everything a group such as yours should be initially set out to do. I think it is great that your group put in the effort you did to identify concerns and look into ways of addressing them, but I really think you need to rethink the next step re: what method that addressing will take.

So, I complement your group on your hard work to date, and think you have identified issues that obviously need to be addressed. But, please realize that in many ways, education is something that often is overlooked, yet is a valuable tool that often brings people together rather than divides them. Give it a chance....I think our community deserves that opportunity.

Neil

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September 23, 2004

Juneau Dog Task Force Committee

RE: Comments on Final Recommendations of the Dog Task Force Committee

Greetings,

Following are my general and specific comments on the June 24, 2004 Final Recommendations of the Dog Task Force Committee.

First, I appreciate the time committed and efforts of the committee to resolve Juneau's issues related to dogs on our community's extraordinary and popular trail system. It is apparent an effort was made to make the committee balanced with its inclusion of the land and resource management agencies, special interests and the public. I do note, however, that I perceive the committee's makeup was slightly tilted in favor of dog owners. To the best of my knowledge, the two public members are dog owners and I would assume Capital Kennel Club and Gastineau Humane Society would be dog advocates. Most of the rest of the committee would presumably attempt to be neutral, except that agencies generally try to accommodate all users at all places at all times, unless there are overriding circumstances. usergroup

What seemed to be missing from the committee was a representative of the population that is adversely impacted by dogs on trails. Many people have allergic reactions to dogs and/or are afraid of dogs. Toddlers and older people who can't defend themselves are unnecessarily exposed to harm when a strange dog jumps on them. Most people are frightened when a dog runs up to them, nipping at their heels and growling. It is disgusting to endure a strange animal coming up and sticking its nose in their crotch. Squirrels, porcupines and deer cannot benefit by having dogs chase and attack them. And not least is the interruption of an otherwise peaceful trail experience or involved conversation by an over exuberant dog. I experience or witness all of these behaviors several times a year. These are examples of dog owners externalizing to society the immense responsibilities of pet ownership.

*A simple look at the numbers.* The committee's results support my observation of a potential bias by the committee. I conducted a quick and simple analysis of the table of Proposed Trail Regulations, which summarizes proposed management of 117 trail segments of Juneau's trail system. I concluded that dogs are allowed on over 100 of the 117 trail segments. Obviously, there are more than abundant opportunities for people to exercise their dogs alongside the rest of Juneau's population. My quick count came up with 57 trails where dogs are supposed to be on leash; 42 where they may run free off leash; and 13 where mostly a combination of on/off leash management (and fewer combinations of dog/no dog) is proposed.

I was disappointed only five of the 117 trail segments are proposed to disallow dogs at all times. Of the five, Amalga Meadows is the only "natural" trail of any significance for the outdoor enthusiast that is proposed for no dogs ... and that trail doesn't even exist yet. Though they are very nice in their own right, Auke Lake Trail, Dzantik'i Heeni Trail, Fish Creek and the police station are not, in my opinion, on the list of premier Juneau trails. They are neighborhood and educational trails used by school children and not of any real import to the hiking community at large.

Further, in evaluating the proposed changes from current to proposed management, I counted 12 proposed changes that make the dog management more lenient and only seven were more restrictive.

*Off leash issues.* I am strongly against the wide spread use of off-leash management on so many hiking trails. Regardless of the committee's good intentions, the vast majority of dogs off leash do not meet the proposed requirements for voice control. Allowed to run free, dogs tend to develop minds of their own and go about their natural ways, which include the undesirable behaviors described above. The basic truth is most dog owners do not spend the time and effort to train their dogs to the level desired in the recommendations. There just aren't that many dogs that "follows all of the vocal commands quickly and accurately." Yet the recommendations were likely made with the assumption that such behavior will be achieved.

I agree that places need to be provided for free roaming dogs. However, I believe the committee's recommendations go far beyond accommodating this need at the expense of several general public interests. Some of those interests include safety, and the desire to enjoy Juneau's quality trails without being unnecessarily disturbed and local wildlife that hasn't been displaced by the smell and actions of far roaming dogs. Generally, I believe off leash management should be limited to only a few of the remote high quality trails and encouraged at a few of the local community parks.

*Enforcement.* Regarding the question of enforcement, voice control is much harder to enforce than whether a dog is on a leash. How is one to know whether a dog is truly under voice control until an adverse situation occurs? By then it is too late and the damage is done. Anyone can see whether a dog is on a leash and is much easier to enforce.

*Education.* The recommendations do not indicate how the proposed signs and education will be funded or implemented. Signs and education are expensive and I hope this part of the proposal is grounded in true potential for implementation. In particular, though I support an education approach, the proposal would require a significant amount of work, likely from a paid position. I do appreciate the publicity generated by addressing this issue and have noticed improvement among some dog owner's sensitivity to other hikers. However, without an ongoing effort I suspect behaviors will relax over time and the proposed loosened management will be the

expectation without the agreed to responsibility. The irony of greater problems with dogs resulting from this effort to address those issues would be disappointing indeed.

A few trail-specific comments follow:

*Almalga Meadows:* I support keeping this area managed for no dogs. The trail is not yet formally built so there is not a lot of traditional use. In addition, this area is a sensitive habitat for wildlife.

*Eagle Beach:* I support the proposed on leash management for the intertidal area. In addition, I support on leash for the upland picnic area (old USFS area). This is a developed facility where people picnic and food attracts dogs. Picnickers should not have to put up with continually guarding their food because of an off leash dog.

*Perseverance Trail:* Dog exercisers typically let their dogs run free on Basin Road as soon as they turn the corner into Gold Creek basin. To require dogs to be leashed for a short undermined distance at the trailhead at the end of the road and then let them off leash again for the mile on Perseverance Trail to the Mt. Juneau trailhead seems ludicrous. Since most owners just use Basin Road for their dog exercise, why not just change to leash management at the trailhead and make Perseverance Trail a leash trail?

Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity to comment.

Chas Dense  
427 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907 584-9857

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cathy Elaine Brown [mailto:cathyelaine.brown@worldnet.att.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2004 3:31 PM

**To:** Parks Rec

**Subject:** dog task force recommendations

September 23, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force members:

I'd like to voice a couple of concerns about the recommendations of the Dog Task Force.

One, I realize that you have created a few new off-leash areas, but none of these is in my downtown neighborhood. There, the only change has been to place new restrictions on a trail that has traditionally been off-leash - the Mount Roberts Trail above the tram.

My larger concern is that while many of the areas where I exercise my dogs off-leash are legally leash-required areas now, these rules have not been enforced against me or my dogs in the nine years I have lived in Juneau. My fear is that now there will be a crackdown -- that it will be assumed that since you've given us some off-leash areas, we need to start following the rules in the rest of the borough.

This probably seems reasonable to people who don't own dogs or who own only small dogs. But there is a reason why many otherwise law-abiding dog-owners are chronic scofflaws in this respect. I have two large mixed-breed dogs adopted as adults from shelters. It is truly difficult to adequately exercise large dogs on a leash, and exercise is critical not only to their health, but also to controlling behavior problems. These dogs are genetically programmed to work (one is a border collie-husky mix, the other a shepherd-

husky-retriever-collie). After spending the day lying around the house with nothing to do, they are very *wound up* by the time I get home from work. They need to run, especially the younger one. That does not mean they are out of control. Both have been through obedience classes. But what happens when they are off leash is they run a bit ahead, then back, then ahead, then back, so they get at least two-three times the exercise they would if they were on leash. They also are much less likely to have conflicts with other dogs if they're on leash. I don't understand why, but being restrained increases aggression in dogs. Also, when hiking on a trail that is slippery or in some other way difficult, holding onto a leashed dog, even a very well-behaved one, can disrupt your balance.

I typically walk my dogs on Basin Road and sometimes along the flume or up Perseverance Trail. Neither dog has ever jumped on a stranger or "bowled over" a small child. If someone appears to feel threatened, I make sure the dogs stay close to me. But most people don't seem at all threatened. More typical reactions are: "What pretty dogs, can I pet them?" or from tourists, "Oh, I miss my dog. Can I pet yours?" I'm sure these people never call Animal Control and tell you about the sweet dogs they met walking along Basin Road with a woman carrying poop bags to the trash can, but I have these encounters several times a week.

I understand the desire of some people to have dog-free trails because they believe this would enhance their wildlife viewing. And I don't mind if some new trails are set aside for them. I do object, though, to changing the rules for the existing Mount Roberts trail, which has traditionally been leash-free. While I don't use that trail to exercise my dogs regularly, (it's too steep for my bad knees and too dangerous after dark in the winter) I do like to hike it once or twice a year. I don't believe the wildlife there is so sensitive as to justify this restriction, particularly if people can control their dogs off leash and keep them from chasing animals.

I don't believe my dogs should be penalized because a few dog owners don't act responsibly. That would be like banning all cars from Basin Road because of the speeding car that nearly ran me over recently. Or like requiring children to be in their parents' sight at all times because a few kids vandalize property.

If these task force recommendations do go forward, I would suggest one concession to responsible dog owners. Allow them to earn a special "tag" the dog could wear if the owner and dog go through extensive trail etiquette training and pass a test. Dogs with the tag could be under voice control on otherwise leash-required trails and parks. I believe we deserve at least that consideration.

I pay local taxes and I really ask little in return from Juneau. I have no children, so I don't need you to fill any wetlands to build a new school for my kids or an ice rink for them to play hockey. I don't even drive to work most of the time, so I don't put much wear and tear on the roads. My dogs are my family, and all I really ask is to be able to exercise them and myself without unnecessary harassment.

Sincerely,

Cathy E. Brown  
618 Gold Street

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Oct. 24, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force Members,

We live in the Amalga Harbor area so we will only address the recommendations for that area.

We have discussed both the critical habitat areas and the Amalga Meadows with a couple members of the wildlife subcommittee. It is our understanding that the most critical wildlife habitat areas are the tidelands at Eagle Beach and the confluence of the Herbert and Eagle Rivers, which is near the head of the Boy Scout trail. Why, in such a critical area, are you even considering letting dogs be off leash? Not only is the habitat at risk but the Boy Scout trail is a



very popular trail. Dogs that are allowed to be free on narrow, crowded trails can easily bump into or knock down passers by. Of course this is also true on Herbert, Windfall, West Glacier trails or on any other confined trail.

The safest trails for dogs to be off leash are in more open areas like the Amalga Meadows. There is more passing room and less chance of accidental collisions.

The Amalga Meadows should be declared off leash for dogs. That area not only has a long history of dog use but also qualifies for RS 2477 status for right-of-way on a historic route according to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining.

We have friends who have hiked this trail more than 50 years with their dogs and their friend's dogs. The past owners and also the caretakers at Saga have had many, many dogs and we have never heard of any problems with wildlife. Most of our neighbors have two dogs and there are always bears, eagles and all sorts of wildlife around. The dogs don't bother them at all.

The Amalga Meadows is also a very popular area for cross-country skiers to ski with their dogs. To ban dogs from this area or to put them on leash would ruin a long, established activity. There are not many areas that accommodate cross-country skiers and their dogs.

We urge you to reconsider this matter.

Thank you,

Ed & Linda Mills  
25025 Amalga Harbor Rd  
Juneau, AK 99801

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nancy Ratner [mailto:n\_ratner@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2004 7:42 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** dog task force recommendations:

Dear Representatives of the Juneau dog task force,

I support education. I am against limiting dog use on any trail; except the one next to DZ trail, specifically being built as a outdoor classroom. I do not believe there is adequate research showing dogs are a problem verses just heavy people use. Any heavy dog used area is also used by many people. I believe that intolerance is a poor reason to exclude people and their dogs from a trail. It amazes me that the task force is poised to use wildlife as the excuse for excluding or restricting dogs when we allow hunting and trapping in many of the same areas. If wildlife is the concern than why don't people propose a cat leash law? What if people decide kids are a nuisance? Why not an adult only trail next? If fear is the concern, then are bear-free trails next? I do not believe that there is good justification for the draconian measures proposed by this task force. And I believe it set! s a bad precedence.

That said, I do believe the discussion has been healthy. It is important for dog owners to realize not everyone wants to meet their dog. I now ask permission before my dogs meet anyone on the trail. I can accomplish this because in areas where I might meet other people, I make my dogs walk behind me on the trail. The point is, there are other options besides leashing dogs to avoid unwanted encounters. For this reason, I am against requiring leashes and would prefer to make all the trails being considered for leash only be posted as "leashes recommended" instead. Responsible dog owners know the level of training of their dogs and should be allowed to make good judgements. People who walk their dogs are responsible owners, dogs owned by non-responsible owners are tied up on some lawn and they don't get walked...

I believe the focus should be on education. It would be a shame if the city spends money on enforcement that could be better spent on education. I would like to see some training sessions on how to properly train your dog off-leash.

During inclement weather, I rarely see non-dog owners on popular trails. I frequently walk my dogs in the sandy beach area and rarely encounter anyone else on the trail during a stiff southeasterly. During these times I prefer to run my dogs on the gravel trails going south, against the wind, and then use the beach travelling north with the wind at my back. For this reason and the others stated earlier, I oppose requiring leashes. I personally use leashes during hot days when there is a lot of traffic, but would rather be able to make an intelligent, responsible decision depending on the weather.

On all trails, I pay attention to whether there are other cars parked at the trailhead and use either leashes or make my dogs walk behind me if I expect to run into other users or wildlife. Posting areas where there are frequent wildlife sightings, I think would be a better approach than banning or restricting to leashes only. My point is: I would like to be able to make a reasonable, responsible decision concerning how I walk my dogs, not have it forced upon us.

A better first step would be to open some areas to non-leashes, while posting "recommendations" rather than restrictions. I think dog owners will be encouraged to use non-leash areas.

As far as the airport dike trail, I had to laugh at the irony of requiring leashes for all dogs, unless their owners are out there to kill birds. This isn't about wildlife; it is about intolerance... It is already against the law to harass wildlife and any dog owner who is allowing their dog to chase birds or otherwise harass wildlife needs to be reminded of current laws.

Finally, it is erroneous to think that tourists don't like dogs. It took me 30 minutes one day to get from the downtown library through marine park, because all the tourists missing their pooches at home wanted to pet my large german shephard mixes. Some even took our pictures!

I appreciate your efforts; I just think you are moving too fast to restrict dog owners without first providing non-leash areas and giving education a chance.

Thank you.

Nancy Ratner, P.O. Box 240146, Douglas AK 99824

# CITY PARKS & REC.

DEAR FOLKS

I am a resident of Twin Lakes AREA. 3560 Greenwood Avenue and I enjoy allowing my dog to be unleashed and run free @ Twin Lakes grassy Area. We need more off-leash Access at Twin Lakes. We need more hours for the 8 to 5 working man to exercise his dogs freely. I would also enjoy going down there on the week-ends.

Perhaps you could reduce the on-leash hours so that my dogs could run freely in my near neighborhood.

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Change the on-leash regulations to read on-leash-OR-under voice control

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Perhaps a fenced dog park in one area of Twin-Lakes

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This is the only area that is Accessible to me, due to poor health

Please consider my concerns

A Citizen dog owner

Joe McClung



Mr. Joe McClung  
3560 Greenwood Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-9520

# Dog Task Force Committee Draft Recommendations

## Let Us Know What You Think!

Your comments on the draft recommendations are requested and encouraged. Please send or email your comments by Friday, September 24, 2004 to:

Parks and Recreation, 155 S Seward St, Juneau, AK 99801  
Email: parks\_rec@ci.juneau.ak.us

NAME: RAI BEHNERT Email: BEHNERT@AOL.COM

Please Print

MAILING ADDRESS: 4114 ASPEN AVE, JUNO, AK 99801

FEAR COMMITTEE:

I ATTENDED THE MEETING @ CH ON 9/9/04.

ONE APPROACH TO "MAKING PEACE" BETWEEN THE  
DOG FOLKS AND THE FOLKS CONCERNED ABOUT WILDLIFE  
IMPACTS CAUSED BY DOGS WHICH I DIDN'T HEAR  
EXPRESSED AT THE MEETING WOULD INVOLVE  
ZONING GIVEN TRAILS INTO "OFF LEASH", "ON LEASH"  
AND "NO DOGS" SEGMENTS. SUCH ZONING MIGHT  
PROVE WORKABLE WHEN TRAILS ARE IN CLOSE  
PROXIMITY TO WHERE DOG OWNERS LIVE OR COME  
TO WALK THEIR DOGS. ZONING THE FIRST 1/2  
MILE OF A 3 MILE TRAIL "OFF LEASH", THE SECOND  
MILE "ON LEASH" AND THE LAST 1 1/2 MILES "NO  
DOGS" MIGHT MAKE EVERYONE AGREEABLE.  
OWNERS ARE THE FOLKS WHO ARE OUT TO EXERCISE  
THEIR DOGS (AND THEMSELVES) WOULD TURN AROUND  
AT 1 1/2 MILES ANYWAY. THOSE WHO ARE OUT  
TO DO SERIOUS HIKING WITH THEIR DOGS CAN  
CROSS ANOTHER "THROUGH" TRAIL. THOSE WHO WANT  
THE CHANCE TO SEE "UNDOGGED" WILDLIFE WILL  
LIKELY NOT MIND PUTTING UP WITH SOME DOGS FULLY ON  
TO DO SO (OR, FOR THE PURPOSES, GO TO THE FAR OFF BUT ZONE  
"NO DOGS AT ALL" TRAIL FOR THEIR ENJOYMENT). A  
FEW SIGNS ALONG EACH ZONED TRAIL WOULD HELP KEEP THE

Thank you for your comments.

Comments- CBJ Dog Task Force Committee  
Final Recommendations

Submitted By- Marian Mann *Marian Mann*  
Juneau Resident

Date- September 10, 2004

1. Need to begin with the collection of clear, accurate, and representative data to:

- a. assess what is going on with human/dog space use
- b. identify needs/problems
- b. utilize baseline data to measure affects of any interventions implemented

2. Based on the data, clearly state the need/problem(s), the Committee will address

3. Need to clarify the Committee's process for its work- is the Committee to generate draft ordinances for CBJ? New regulations for State Parks, the Forest Service? How will the product of the Committee be used and by whom?

4. Need clear statement of the Dog Committee's assignment. What is their goal?

4. I personally support the maintenance of the status quo until such time as science can be employed to determine if there are socially significant changes taking place that warrant further governmental restriction and regulation.

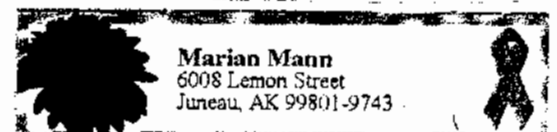
5.I support ongoing efforts by the CBJ, USFS, and State Parks to clarify existing canine regulations for all jurisdictions in the Juneau area (such clarification may include increasing signage).

6. I support on-going education of the public on human and dog trail etiquette.

7.I support ongoing systematic monitoring of all uses of trails/ public spaces in the community for the extent of each use type and the impacts of respective uses (to focus on only “dogs” is to miss the forest for a tree).

8.I support the idea of offering dog/handler education classes in lieu of fiscal fines for any enforcement citations.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and, hopefully, the decision process.





September 13, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force Members,

Capital Kennel Club of Juneau (CKCOJ) was formed in 1989 by a group of people who enjoyed dogs and dog sports, and wanted to provide opportunities for people in Juneau to participate in these activities. Currently our membership numbers nearly 100, including both individuals and entire families. We offer instruction and practice in many areas, including puppy kindergarten, basic obedience, competitive obedience, rally obedience, agility, conformation, canine good citizenship, and tracking. Annually, we host competitive obedience, rally obedience, and agility trials that draw participants from other parts of Alaska as well as Canada. Additionally, many of our members travel to other areas to compete in events such as tracking, earth dog, herding and hunt tests not offered in Juneau. We also exercise and recreate with the canine members of our families in addition to training and competing with our dogs. For our members, these are our chosen forms of recreation.

Capital Kennel Club believes that dogs provide important health benefits (both physical and mental) to our members and to the dog owning public in general, and as such we consider it vital to maintain opportunities to walk, run, bike, hike, ski with and train our dogs in public areas. While we recognize that dogs need to be properly controlled when in public, we do not support efforts to "ban" dogs from certain areas or trails. Dogs are better behaved when they receive adequate exercise, including the opportunity for off-leash exercise. We feel it is very important to have areas where we can legally and safely recreate with our dogs off-leash.

While we commend the Task Force for the work they have put forth over the past year, we consider many of their recommendations to be premature and unnecessary. We would encourage the Task Force to promote and utilize education, rather than additional regulations. We have seen much success over the summer from a limited program of education, primarily by CKCOJ and Grateful Dogs of Juneau members. With more effort and at very little cost, education can continue to both affect behaviors of the dog owning public and smooth relationships between dog owners and non-dog owners. Regulation and enforcement on the other hand, can be costly and promote negative feelings on both sides.

## **CKCOJ's Concerns With The Dog Task Force Recommendations**

1. Amalga Meadows: Dogs are banned, supposedly to reduce impacts on wildlife. We do not feel that the presence of a leashed dog is any more detrimental to wildlife than the presence of humans. Studies on this subject are few and inconclusive at best. By banning dogs, approximately 40% of Juneau's households are limited in their use and enjoyment of this very large area.
2. Auke Lake Trail: Dogs are banned, in order to establish a dog free trail for those who wish to walk without encountering dogs. While we sympathize with people who are fearful of dogs, we don't feel that a leashed dog is a threat. If paved, this trail's close proximity to the University and Auke Bay neighborhoods would provide opportunity for many people to walk, bike, and run, and could take some of the pressure off of the Kax trail, which is overcrowded at times. Again, by banning dogs, use by many people in Juneau would be limited.
3. Lemon Creek Area: There is no reasonable provision for those living in Lemon Creek to exercise or work with a dog off-leash. The clear cut area on the Switzer Loop Trail, which is the only area in Lemon Creek designated as off-leash, is not usable for many people because of steep terrain, jutting roots, and fallen trees. It is a long walk from the Lemon Creek neighborhoods, the residents of which are primary users of these trails. The Switzer/Richard Marriot trail is a neighborhood trail, and we feel it would provide a good opportunity for an off-leash area for residents to exercise their dogs. We also wonder why the DZ trail is designated on-leash. It seems this area would provide good opportunity, when not in use by students (such as on weekends and during the summer), for off-leash dog walking as well. There are no wildlife concerns, the trail runs largely through the woods, and it is a wide trail with good footing. We encourage the Task Force to look into utilizing time restrictions, such as making this trail on-leash Monday through Friday during the school year, and off-leash on weekends and during the summer.
4. Eagle Beach: The recommendation to restrict dogs to being on-leash on the beach is ridiculous and unenforceable. In fact, proposed state regulations regarding dogs in this area have been dropped because of the number of complaints received. Eagle Beach is a traditional area for many people to take dogs for off-leash exercise. People who live "out the road" have very little in the way of opportunity to let dogs exercise off-leash. This area presents an excellent opportunity for better signage, notifying dog owners of migratory bird presence, and educating them about the need to keep dogs from chasing wildlife.

## **CKCOJ Supports Some Task Force Recommendations**

1. Outer Point/Rainforest trails: We support the concept of making the trails legal off-leash areas, while maintaining the commercially used trail as on-leash during tourist season. We recommend that clear signage be utilized at the trail heads. The



Outer Point trails have traditionally been used as off-leash areas by many people, and making this legal makes good sense.

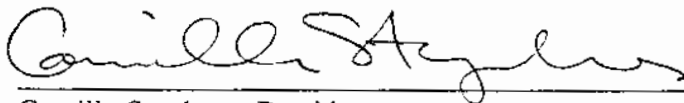
2. Twin Lakes: We support the plan to eliminate the July/August closure to dogs, and to legalize off-leash walking in this area, while still ensuring safety in the children's play and swimming area. There has been no evidence that the presence of dogs has led to decreased water quality, so there is no justification for the July/August closure. Also, this area is used year round by people who live or work close by, and many of these people enjoy using the trail accompanied by their dog(s).
3. Sandy Beach: While some of our members would like to see the trail through the woods also be designated as off-leash, at least in winter, we do support and appreciate the proposed designation of Sandy Beach below the logs as an off-leash area. Again, this is a proposal that makes sense, in that it legalizes the traditional use of an area, while freeing enforcement officials up to do more important and necessary work.
4. Sports Field Use: This is possibly the best suggestion to come out of the Task Force! Allowing people with dogs to use the sports fields when they are not being used for organized activities is a great idea. We would encourage the Task Force to examine the idea of allowing even greater use during the summer months in some areas, possibly opening a few areas up to use for training activities whenever organized activities are not ongoing. We pledge to do our part to ensure that the sports fields are kept free of dog waste, and that this privilege is not abused in any way.
5. Proposals by the Education Committee: This is the direction we would like to see the Task Force take. Enacting more regulations, which are often unenforceable and costly, doesn't make sense. Most people want to obey laws, as long as they can understand the justification behind them. By educating the dog owning public about their responsibilities, and by making all citizens sensitive to each other's feelings regarding dogs, we can help to ensure that relationships between dogs owners and non-dog owners are cordial.

CKCOJ would like the Task Force to consider recommendations legalizing off-leash dog walking/training in additional areas that have been traditionally used for this purpose, and where it is safe for dogs to run off-leash. We further encourage you not to enact additional, unenforceable and often arbitrary on-leash and outright banning regulations, and instead to follow the recommendations set forth by the education sub-committee. We have seen great improvements in the behavior of dog owners and the non-dog owning public this summer, and we believe that additional efforts to educate all trail users as to how to get along will have the most positive results in the long run. We would suggest a 2-year study period, with periodic meetings between Task Force members, enforcement officials, CKCOJ members, and Grateful Dogs of Juneau members to judge how educational programs are working and to recommend any additional education efforts.

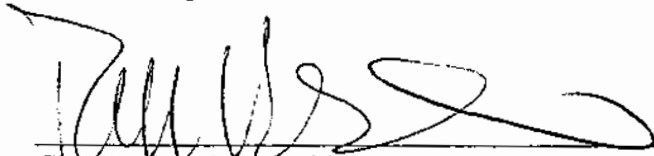
We would ask: why impose regulations (that are not going to be followed or enforced anyway) when we have not tried education? This is working in other areas, such as the garbage bear problem.

Task Force Members, thank you for your time and efforts this past year in developing the draft recommendations. We appreciate both the opportunity to comment and your consideration of our comments when developing the final recommendations. If CKCOJ can be of service or offer assistance with any educational efforts, do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Camille Stephens, President



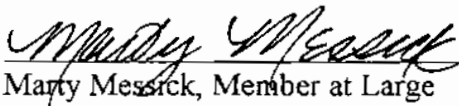
Gina Vose, Vice President



Barb Deyell, Secretary



Cherie Nienhaus, Treasurer



Marty Messick, Member at Large

September 15, 2004

City and Borough of Juneau  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Att'n: Kim Kiefer, Director  
Parks and Recreation Dep't.

Re: Proposed Trail Use

Dear Ms. Kiefer:

I was unable to attend the public meeting on dog use of the Juneau trail system, but I would like to put in my two cents worth and hopefully you will consider them in drafting the new rules.

I have been made aware of the widespread occurrence of giardia in the dog population here. As you know, there are lots of beaver in the ponds and streams, particularly in the upper Mendenhall Valley. This water contains giardia and is ingested by dogs when they drink the water. Humans can likewise be affected. The feces of the affected dogs contain the parasite and may continue the spread of the disease. This means that dogs on the trails should be kept from drinking the water and the owners should clean up the feces after them.

Having said that, it would seem to be another reason to prohibit dogs on the trails or require that they be on leash at all times. Not necessarily so. Dogs and dog owners should be allowed to use the trails in a responsible manner. That is, they should be required :

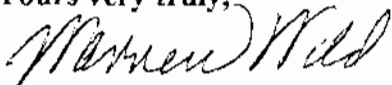
1. To clean up feces and dispose of them. CBJ should provide disposal bags and containers for them.
2. To leash or otherwise restrain dogs whenever other trail users are present or approaching. This includes other dogs, hikers and bicyclists. In other words, whenever a confrontation or conflict could occur.
3. To prevent the dogs from disturbing nesting or feeding birds and animals such as squirrels, rabbits, marmots, etc.

Likewise, other users should be held responsible for their activities on the trail. Littering and destruction of the flowers are two activities that come to mind. Bicyclists and skateboarders should be held to a reasonable speed and required to warn other users of their approach so as not to accidentally collide with them.

I realize that rules such as the above are almost impossible to enforce, but much can be done with public education and awareness. Signs at the trailheads, and at other appropriate locations that bring attention to the particular problem or concern may be helpful.

I trust the above comments and recommendations will be considered in drafting the new regulations.

Yours very truly,



Warren Wild  
9030 Adlin Dr  
Juneau AK 99801-9079

September 15, 2004

Dog Task Force Committee

Re: **Public Comment on Proposed Changes to our Area's Trails**

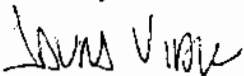
I am a Juneau resident who is concerned with the Dog Task Force Committee's final recommendations on proposed changes to our area's trails. I am a dog owner and I do not believe there to be a problem with dogs on our trails nor do I wish to see certain trails designated as no-dog or leash-only. I believe this process to be discriminatory toward dogs and their owners. The "wildlife issue" and the "representative of all users" purposes of the task force are flat out attacks on dogs and their owners. Not even a single other factor is even considered with these so-called "problems." Dogs and their owners should not be singled out for discrimination on our area's trails but rather should be treated as equal users with equal rights.

**In sum, I disagree with all of the recommendations that put trails off limits or on-leash to dogs. All of them, existing and proposed.**

With that said, I will agree with the Dog Task Force Committee's recommendation for more education on trail etiquette. "**Educate Don't Regulate**" was mentioned at the recent public meeting and I wholeheartedly agree. I would strongly urge the committee to put their time and money into this more positive approach and I would urge them to consider dog owners and non-dog owners when implementing educational goals.

Juneau has a quality of life unmatched by other urban centers. Just because it is done down south, does not mean that Juneau should follow this misguided lead.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Laura Vidic  
POB 21454  
Juneau, AK 99802

September 16, 2004

Shawn Carey  
PO Box 22517  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dog Task Force Committee  
Juneau Parks And Recreation  
155 South Seward Street, Room 218  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

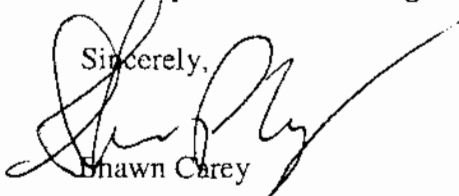
Dear Dog Task Force Committee,

Thank you for your proposal to increase dog access to Twin Lakes during the summer months. However, the proposed regulations are still too restrictive. Please reduce the on-leash hours to 7 pm (from midnight), so that those of us who start work early in the morning, can still use Twin Lakes in the evening to exercise our dogs off-leash/under voice control. It's the only accessible trail in our area and driving somewhere to properly exercise a dog is an unnecessary and wasteful use of fuel and time. I live along Twin Lakes and the number of bikers, kids, families, etc. decreases dramatically after 7 pm, so having dogs on the trails off-leash and under voice control will barely impact other Twin Lakes users.

Please also consider putting an off-leash dog park on either one end of the south field or over most of the field at the Mountain Side Estates end of the Twin Lakes trail. The Mountain Side Estates field is barely ever used. It would be great, if you could build the fencing so that the dogs had access to swim in the lake from the dog park. There is a successful and well used dog park with swimming access to Lake Washington in the Sandpoint area of Seattle. An off-leash dog park would keep the majority of the dogs in one area, allow the dogs to get more exercise than they can during on-leash hours, and it would improve dog and dog owner socialization, which is critical to healthy dog community.

Thank you for considering these two alterations to your Twin Lakes proposal.

Sincerely,



Shawn Carey

Ms. Kimberley Kiefer, Director  
Juneau Parks and Recreation  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

September 19, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force,

Good dog poop, bad dog poop. Good dog bite, bad dog bite.

It is time to yank the leash on the Juneau off-leash dog wackadoos. We live in dense urban and suburban areas and our recreational areas and public spaces are heavily used by users with a variety of interests, ages, and abilities. Our public space, however, has collapsed into a single use—loose dogs everywhere, all the time.

Kick the loose pets out of our public space and return it to people. It's a situation that has been abused for too long. We accomplish this by designating fenced off-leash dog areas and prohibiting off-leashed dogs from all shared public space—streets, parks, and trails. It is simple and easy to codify and enforce.

Dogs and their owners are invited to return to our common public space with the dog on a leash and a scooper in the owner's other hand. And, when it's time for an off-leash run the dog owner shall choose their property or choose a designated fenced off-leash dog area. While this might seem inconvenient compared to the current situation, the inconvenience is one that is correctly shifted back to the dog owner from the community.

I support the development of designated fenced off-leash dog areas.

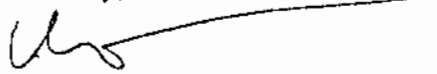
I support all efforts to limit off-leash dogs in public space.

I support increased education about jurisdictional requirements (e.g. signs in our parks and playgrounds).

I support enforcement of jurisdiction requirements about dogs in public spaces (e.g. requirements about clean-up of dog wastes and leash requirements).

I support regulation of the length of leashes for dogs. The maximum length of the leash should be specified and should not exceed 6 feet. A dog on a long leash lacks the control of a shorter leash.

Sincerely,



Virginia Harris

P.O. Box 22865  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

463-3430

Dog Task Force  
Juneau Parks and Recreation  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

September 19, 2004

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Sincerely,



Virginia Harris

P.O. Box 22865  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

463-3430

2942 Simpson Ave  
Juneau, AK  
99801

September 22, 2004

To Juneau's Dog Task Force:

As a veterinarian in Juneau, I am exposed to many different types of dog owners. The ideal clients are the ones who have well behaved, properly groomed dogs; they actively pursue preventative medicine with their pets through regular check ups, routine vaccinations, routine spaying and neutering, proper diet, and parasite prevention. Unfortunately, not all clients are ideal. There are many pet owners who do not understand that it is irresponsible to allow their pet to jump on people, who do not understand that failing to pick up dog feces can contribute to the spread of contagious disease, who do not understand that it is unsafe and illegal to have their dogs ride in the back of a pick up truck, who are not aware that all dogs in the City and Borough of Juneau are required to be licensed annually.

Since the Dog Task Force was developed, I have been surprised by the increase in the number of clients who, during routine visits, have brought up behavioural issues in regards to their dogs being in public. I feel that public awareness of responsible dog ownership has been heightened in the face of the work that the dog task force has been doing. Because of this, I feel that this is a crucial time to implement educational initiatives to the public. There are many groups in Juneau who are actively and independently providing opportunities for dog owners to train their dogs and learn more about becoming responsible dog owners. I applaud the efforts of the Gastineau Humane Society, the Capital Kennel Club of Juneau, the Grateful Dogs of Juneau and others in expanding awareness and encouraging active and appropriate participation in dog related activities and events. I feel that with the support of the Dog Task Force, these groups could further their outreach to both dog owners and general members of the community. If this community is suddenly faced with a large number of restrictions and no options for further debate or revisiting of the issues, then the efforts of these groups will wane and this key opportunity to educate will be lost.

In addition, I am concerned about the implementation of the dog task force recommendations without the proper manpower needed to enforce them. At this time, Juneau's animal control department is understaffed and poorly supported by the community. Take for example the current regulation mandating that dogs riding in the back of pick up trucks be properly restrained. I see this law broken on a regular basis throughout town with apparently little or no enforceable consequences for the owners. Unless there is enhanced enforcement of animal related by-laws in Juneau, the implementation of additional regulations for dog owners, such as those recommended by the dog task force, will result in penalizing the responsible dog owners that are out there and will have little or no impact on the irresponsible dog owners. Unfortunately,



irresponsible dog owners will still be irresponsible, regardless of what rules are put in place.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage the members of the committee to consider pursuing a more active educational and awareness approach to this issue. Lets turn the irresponsible dog owners out there into responsible dog owners. A complicated set of restrictions should be put into place only once educational attempts have failed to deal with the problem and only once the infrastructure to enforce such regulations has been developed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barb Deyell DVM". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "D".

Barb Deyell DVM



# The Grateful Dogs of Juneau

<http://www.gratefuldogsofjuneau.org>  
[info@gratefuldogsofjuneau.org](mailto:info@gratefuldogsofjuneau.org)

September 23, 2004

Kim Kiefer, Director  
Parks and Recreation  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Dog Task Force recommendations

Dear Ms. Kiefer and Dog Task Force members,

Juneau parks, trails, and recreation areas are a resource for all Juneau citizens to enjoy and benefit from. Many of us utilize this resource as a place to play, exercise, and recreate. Because of Juneau's limited available space, many different user groups have traditionally used this resource concurrently.

Many times, conflicts occur between different user groups utilizing the same recreational resource. For instance, walkers and cross-country skiers have had increasing conflicts over winter usage of the Mendenhall campground. Hunters and bird watchers have had long standing conflicts over the Airport refuge. Dog walkers and parents have had conflicts in the Twin Lakes picnic area. The Dog Task Force was formed in late 2003 to help seek solutions for some of the conflicts that were occurring on trails that were related to dogs.

The Grateful Dogs of Juneau (GDoJ) was formed in early 2004 as a canine advocacy and outreach organization with an emphasis on education and community service. GDoJ advocates responsible dog ownership and canine good citizenship. We've helped the community define what this means, gotten the word out to the public through many different media sources, promoted where owners can find training classes, organized poop scoops and a number of other activities, such as the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day event at Nugget Mail.

Some members of the current Dog Task Force have advocated that the optimal solution for dog-related conflicts is to minimize areas where dogs can be off-leash, ban dogs from prime trails, and to increase enforcement. It is the opinion of the Grateful Dogs of Juneau

that this is not a solution that is inclusive of forty percent of our Juneau households, nor is it a solution which is practical in this time of decreased city funding.

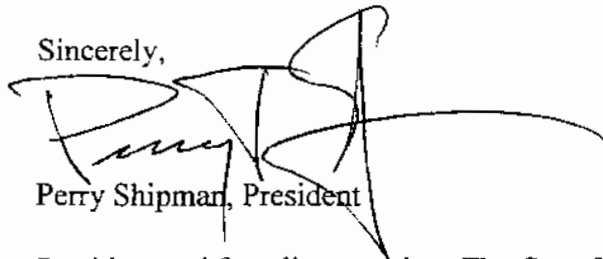
We strongly advocate education and an emphasis on trail manners and courtesy as a means of solving the vast majority of our dog related conflicts. In the eight months since the Grateful Dogs of Juneau formed, the animal shelter executive director has reported that dog complaints have declined significantly, due to our educational efforts. We also note that the number of dog related complaints to Parks and Recreation have decreased sharply.

Education takes time. It builds on voluntary compliance and respect for other users and wildlife. The effects are longer lasting than imposing restrictive ordinances, which will punish responsible dog owners and their canines, while scofflaws continue to flaunt regulations.

The Grateful Dogs of Juneau calls upon the task force to:

1. Seek a rewrite of dog-related ordinances to define and accept “under voice control” as an alternative to “on leash” in current leashed areas;
2. Table restrictive measures indefinitely with a two-year monitoring period assessing and measuring the use of education and public awareness as a solution to containing dog-related conflicts;
3. Build a statistical tool to measure the affects of continuing education and awareness of dog-related conflicts;
4. Open idle parks and playing fields to dog training and exercise;
5. We invite the agencies represented on the Dog Task Force to actively include the Grateful Dogs of Juneau in future dog-related discussions and issues. We would much prefer to work as part of the community to solve problems before they become divisive issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry Shipman', written over a horizontal line.

Perry Shipman, President

President and founding member, The Grateful Dogs of Juneau  
Member and past board member, Capital Kennel Club of Juneau  
Founding member, Midnight Sun Golden Retriever Club of Alaska  
Technology Chair and member, Golden Retriever Club of America  
Member, Golden Retriever Club of Canada  
Member, Trail Mix, Inc.

Owner of three Golden Retriever girls:

U-CDX, UCI-Intl, Can CH Goodtimes Flower Power Am-Can CDX, Am-Can TD, R-2 MCL, CGC, “Iris”  
Am-Can CH Mariner Aces High At Chezor TD, Can CD, R1-MCL, CGC, “Angel”  
Chezor Diamond Solitaire CGC, “Julie”

September 23, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force Committee,

I am writing to you to relay my strong opposition to changing the Dike Trail current leash regulation 'dogs on leash' to 'dogs on leash or under voice control'. The reason for my opposition to relaxing the leash regulation on the Dike Trail is because of the critical habitat that exists on both sides of the trail. This habitat is particularly important for waterfowl and shorebirds. During spring and fall migrations it is critical for birds to rest and feed without disturbance or harassment. Other sensitive times include spring nesting. The frequent disturbance and harassment of birds by uncontrolled dogs off of the trail is well documented, see 'Hotspots: Bird Survey of Mendenhall Wetlands April 2002 to May 2003, by Armstrong, Carstensen, and Willson.

Mendenhall Wetlands is recognized by the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan as one of only three areas important for migrating shorebirds in SE Alaska. The reason for this designation has to do with the extensive wetland salt marsh which supports amphipods on which shorebirds feed. This food is particularly important during their spring and fall migrations.

I believe that critical habitat deserves strong protection. To relax the leash law undermines 'strong protection' and sends the wrong message to our community. Our community should be educated to understand the importance of protecting critical habitat and an important intervention would be to maintain the 'dog on leash regulation'.

At the very least I believe that the Dog Task Force Committee should propose that all dogs be on leash during spring and fall migrations.

I would like to thank each one of you for your time and commitment to addressing this important and controversial issue.

Sincerely,



Jenny Pursell

P.O. Box 33578, Juneau, Ak.  
99803

# CHEZOR GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

Perry and Linda Shipman  
9394 Rivercourt Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907.789.1245  
E-mail: [information@chezor.com](mailto:information@chezor.com)  
[www.chezor.com](http://www.chezor.com)

September 24, 2004

Kim Kiefer, Director  
Parks and Recreation  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Dog Task Force recommendations

Dear Ms. Kiefer and Dog Task Force members,

I'd like to thank each of you for your perseverance during this nearly yearlong process of looking at issues related to dogs in Juneau's public areas. I believe that the communication that's been established among different parties using our local trails and parks has benefited our community as a whole.

Most of you are probably aware of my work with Grateful Dogs of Juneau, which promotes responsible dog ownership and canine good citizenship. With essentially no funds, we have been able to communicate to and educate dog owners about how to be more responsible with their canines in public. And it's worked, as evidenced by a dramatic decrease in complaints to the Gastineau Humane Society and CBJ Parks and Recreation, during an especially good summer, with lots of people out on trails and in public areas.

I have some specific concerns with the DTF recommendations:

## **Hunting and Tracking Activities**

We track with our dogs (man trailing) and put titles on them. There are no tracking tests available in Juneau, so we usually travel out of state to do so. To be able to compete successfully, we need to train our dogs in many different terrains, covers, obstacles and conditions. Therefore we have used the wetlands, Brotherhood Bridge Park meadows, and the Lemon Creek Meadows, among other areas. Each of these provides a unique challenge.

By the way, tracking dogs are harnessed with a handler 30 feet back at the end of a lead. The tracking dog does not roam. It follows the scent, which has been laid for it.

We have also tried to train for hunting tests with our golden retrievers, but have been repeatedly harassed by community members. We would like assurance that our responsible form of recreation is also protected on public lands.

## **State Park Land**

The Department of Natural Resources, State Parks, invited public comment this summer on proposed regulation changes to 11 AAC 12.130, which included requiring dogs to be on-leash within ½ mile of any developed facility. A large majority of comments received were against this part of the proposal. The dogs-on-leash section was dropped before the proposed regulation left DNR for the Office of the Governor.

Therefore, I feel it is inappropriate for the DTF to require dogs to be on leash on the state managed Eagle Beach Recreation Area (uplands or tidelands), Ernest Gruening State Historic Park, Mt. Roberts Trail – Trailhead to Tram, and Perseverance Trail.

### **Dogs Banned in Amalga Meadows, Auke Lake Trail, DZ Trail System**

You cannot deny a large segment of Juneau's population from recreating responsibly with their animals on land and trails bought and developed with public funds.

People who have been bitten by dog or knocked over by dogs should report these events to the Gastineau Humane Society. That is the only way we are going to identify and rehabilitate problem dogs and owners.

The poop problem is improving with time and education, as will wildlife harassment. It will become more obvious who the real transgressors are, and it will be easier to identify and fine them.

Although it is understandable that individuals may be dog-phobic because of past experiences with dogs, I do not believe that public policy regarding multi-use trails should accommodate this very small minority. The Gastineau Humane Society has set up programs to assist individuals in overcoming animal phobias. Counseling is also known to be effective with phobias.

In particular, I'm concerned that the recommended no-dog area behind DZ school is also the access portal for reaching Heinzleman Ridge.

## **Wildlife Science**

I can no longer find the studies which the DTF wildlife committee originally listed supporting their recommendations. I had gone back to study these this Spring, and only about four of the eight to ten websites were working where these studies were posted. Why have these disappeared? Were they based on standard scientific methods and accepted in peer-reviewed journals? It's hard to tell at this point if the foundation of the Wildlife Committee's recommendations was built on sand or rock.

## **Weather Conditions**

Though I can understand the need during summer months to ensure that dog and their owners are very mindful of their behavior in using public trails and parks because of increased use, the other three seasons of the year, dog and their owners are usually the only people using many areas. For instance:

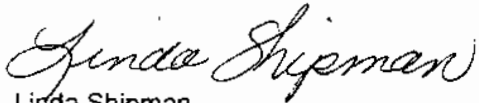
Sandy Beach: The beach is unusable on high tide, or when driving wind and rain blow. The logical alternative is to walk on the Treadwell Historical Mining Trail. This area can also be quite icy in the winter and fall. Requiring leashed dogs means someone's going to be hurt.

Brotherhood Bridge trails: Again, during the summer, the trail is very congested. During the fall, winter and early spring, though, we do not see disabled, horses, bicyclists, baby strollers, etc. It's difficult to cross-country ski, if nigh impossible, with a dog on a lead and a pole in each hand. Why not open all trails in these lightly used months to dogs off leash.

The reason why some trails are heavily used in winter months by dogs and owners is that it's very tiring to break trail just for yourself. With decreased daylight, work schedules, and difficult road conditions, dog owners seek close by trails and public areas, which maximize exercise in minimal time. This is why we see such heavy use of the Airport Dike Trail, Yax Trail, Sandy Beach / Treadwell Historical Mining Trail and Twin Lakes areas.

As a great majority of speakers said at the public comment meeting on September 9, let's educate, rather than regulate. It's far less expensive, longer-lasting and more pervasive. It also promotes good will and does not set one user group against another.

Regards,



Linda Shipman

Owner of:

"Iris" U-CDX, UCI-Intl and Can CH Goodtimes Flower Power, Am-Can CDX, Am-Can TD, R-2 MCL, CGC (6/21/1996-)

"Angel" Am-Can CH Mariner Aces High At Chezor TD, Can CD, R1-MCL, CGC (2/20/1999-)

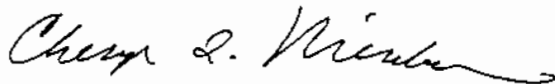
"Julie" Chezor Diamond Solitaire, CGC (2/17/2004-)

September 24, 2004

Written comment to the Juneau Dog Task Force:

I have been a Juneau resident, dog owner, and trail user for 20 years, and a property tax payer for 15 years. I oppose any further restrictions pertaining to dogs in our city's parks and open spaces, and on the trails. I support an awareness and education approach to solving whatever perceived dog issues there may be, rather than creating a slug of ordinances that people will just ignore, and that will be basically unenforceable due to inadequate animal control staffing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherie L. Nienhuis". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Cherie Nienhuis  
14225 Otter Way  
Juneau, Alaska 99801



September 23, 2004

Dear Dog Task Force Members:



Ms Frances Kinkead  
19299 Randall Rd.  
Juneau, AK 99801

I am writing in response to the final draft guidelines proposed by your members. I would like to thank all of you for your time and energy over the many months.

Rather than speak one by one to the proposed trail changes, I think the task force needs to take many steps back! Although I support the concept of some availability of dog free trails in the city & borough, there has been absolutely no documentation to support the premise that dogs are disturbing local wildlife. It's a pretty wide swath to take to trails particularly those out the road in proposing that they become dog free. There has been no research of any kind to support these changes.

If you proceed to make these changes without any solid documentation, I would ask that you at least consider <sup>more</sup> seasonal guidelines to various trails. It makes no sense at all to make Amalga Meadows dog limited all year long. It gets minimal use October - March and would have little impact on wildlife.

Please reconsider and put educational goals first and dogs & their owners can coexist better with those who would rather not connect with domestic pets.  
Frances Kinkead 789-1311