

To the Dog Task Committee:

We are residents of the Amalga and Huffman Harbor Community. Most of us live here full time and some of us live here part time. We offer the following comments to your proposed designation of a dog-free trail from the Jensen property to Amalga Harbor Road.

1. This is our back yard. We have at least a dozen dogs living here year round and many others live here seasonally. Banning dogs from this area would have a very negative impact on our community.
2. We understand that dog-free trails are meant to benefit people who have no desire to encounter dogs on trails, parents with small children, and people with limited mobility. Trails of this type should be easily accessible to these people, not located 24 miles out the road. The proposed area is in BEAR COUNTRY. Not local garbage bears, but bears in the wild, including sows intent on protecting their cubs.
3. It makes sense to us that a trail on the seventeen acre Jensen property be designated as dog-free but we do not believe it should extend beyond that area.
4. We recognize the utility of dog-free areas, but question how many of these areas are needed in a town the size of Juneau. We are aware of no dog-free areas in Anchorage.

We appreciate your consideration of these points, and we respectfully ask that you please refrain from putting unnecessary restrictions on the residents of Juneau, including our Amalga and Huffman Harbor Community.

Sincerely,

*Wilder Jensen
Mike Jensen*

*Tom Miller
Sianna Miller*

*William Knight
George Foster*

Richard Knight
Denise Chase
Pamela Kegler
Camille Marie Kegler
Wendy Hansen
Lorela
Linda Mills
Ryan Kagle
Sianna Houston

Royce C. Dugan
Katherine M. Kish
Dana Keeler
Russell L. Keeler
May Courtney
Albert W. Brooks
Pitt W.
Lynn School
Nerissa Sumaya
Kaye Sullivan
Dean Courtney
Heather DeLoach
Jay
Harold R. Green

*Diane Hudson
Dana Cooke*

*KEGLER
ROBERT F. BUTLER*

E. J. HUIZER
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AUKEBAY, AK 99821

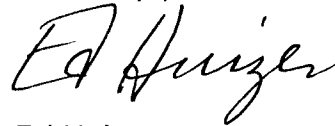
Letter to the Dog Task Force

Approximately 37 residents of the area (including myself) signed the Amalga-Huffman Harbor letter to the Dog Task Force objecting to proposed changes in the Dog Ordinance in the Amalga-Huffman Harbor area.

However I have several additional points to make:

1. The poor attendance at Wednesday's meeting should not be construed as "lack of interest" by dog walkers. Rather, it was due to the very poor publicity regarding the meeting.
2. The change in part (a) No Dog Areas (11 CBJ AC 03.030) is very confusing. Is the "No Dog Area" on both sides of Glacier Highway? If so, what happens on the east side of Glacier Highway at Amalga Harbor Road? What Part of the area in question is CBJ park land? What trails are included in the area? What happens in the future if additions are made to park lands or trails? Would the "no dog area" become enlarged automatically? The wording is vague and uninformative.
3. The 17 acre Jensen property should be added to the "No Dog Area" if that's Caroline's desire. But no other changes should be made in the Amalga-Huffman Harbor area.
4. The Auke Lake Trail change is okay with me and I have no objection to the addition of (d) Any artificial turf field.

Sincerely yours,



Ed Huizer

September 27, 2006

Marc Matsil
Director
Juneau Parks and Recreation
City & Borough of Juneau
155 South Seward Street, Room 218
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Proposed regulation amendments regarding dogs in CBJ area parks and trails

Dear Sir:

I have comments and recommended changes to two provisions of the proposed amendments to the CBJ regulations regarding dogs in park and recreation areas. I support the other changes contained in the proposed regulations. These comments reflect my personal views.

ONE: Under 11 CBJAC 03.030(d) artificial turf fields should be available for use by canine field events under a permit issued by the department of parks and recreation.

Subsection 11 CBJAC 03.030(d) should be changed to read:

The Department recognizes the following trails and CBJ park land as no dog areas.

- (a) . . .
- (d) Any artificial turf field **except as authorized by permit issued by the department.**

This change would allow the department the discretion to determine when and where it would be appropriate to allow dogs to use artificial turf fields.

I understand that artificial turf fields are expensive and that the Parks and Recreation Department would like to keep the field in like-new condition as long as possible. However, we all have had an analogous experience when new carpets are installed in our homes. In the beginning, we do everything possible to keep the carpet clean and in like-new condition, including removing our shoes when we enter the house. After a while (sometimes months but usually weeks), the restrictions are gradually loosened and eventually eliminated and then we use the carpet for many years without any special precautions to protect the carpet. I expect the artificial turf fields would experience a similar pattern of use. Once the newness of the fields has worn off, the fields should be available for organized dogs events under appropriate conditions.

If the artificial turf fields are better for human athletes then they should also be beneficial to canine athletes. Outdoor canine field events, most notably agility events, are held on CBJ fields. Just as with human athletes, our dogs and handlers must cope with mud, puddles, and other hazards on Juneau fields. After a night of heavy rain during the recent agility trial held at Melvin Park by the Capital Kennel Club of Juneau, the agility courses had to be relocated to the highest and "driest" portion of the field. The dogs and handlers had to cope with the wet, muddy

conditions of the field and to avoid the puddles. An artificial turf field would have resolved many of the problems faced by the dogs and handlers by eliminating the mud and puddles and providing potentially better traction.

There are relatively few fields in Juneau suitable for agility practices and other sanctioned field trials. The kennel club has been displaced from Dimond Park by the construction of the new high school. The kennel club is currently using the field at Melvin Park for agility. The Melvin Park field may be upgraded to an artificial turf field in the foreseeable future. A replacement field would have to be found. There is a continuing need for space to conduct canine agility activities under safe conditions.

It has been a basic premise of the Dog Task Force and Parks and Recreation Department not to displace existing uses of parks, recreation areas, and trails by dogs. As the number of artificial turf fields increase in the future, the opportunity to use CBJ fields for canine agility and other field events will be reduced. One solution to this problem would be to authorize the use of designated fields for canine field events by permit. This approach would give the Parks and Recreation Department the flexibility to adapt to changing community needs, park use patterns, without having to amend park regulations in the future. A permit system would allow the Parks and Recreation Department to monitor, control, and schedule use of the fields for canine field events in conjunction with other uses of the fields.

TWO: Under 11 CBJAC 03.030(a) the amount land closed to dogs should be limited to the area necessary to protect the proposed arboretum.

The proposed regulation that would close “CBJ parkland Jensen/Olson Arboretum to Amalga Harbor Road” to dogs affects more than 200 acres. The area to be closed is much larger than necessary to protect the proposed arboretum from damage that might be caused by dogs and to provide a refuge for people who do not want to encounter dogs on their walk through the arboretum. The regulation as proposed would eliminate existing uses of the area for only speculative benefits to the community.

As stated above, the basic premise of the Dog Task Force and Parks and Recreation Department is to not displace existing and well-established uses of recreation areas by dogs. In accordance with this basic premise, the area that will be closed to dogs in the Amalga Harbor area should be limited to only that area within the proposed arboretum.

Sincerely,

/s/

George Utermohle
1970 Glacier Avenue
P.O. Box 20887
Juneau, AK 99802
norwaypt@gci.net 586-3849

To: Parks and Recreation
Re: Title 11 no dogs
Date: September 27, 2006

I would like to provide comments on the proposed regulation change to Title 11 Parks and Recreation related to no dogs on CBJ parkland Jensen/Olson Arboretum to Amalga Harbor Road. This is in addition to the letter submitted by Linda Mills with 39 signatures, including mine.

I am very much opposed to this regulation. This regulation is either very expensive to enforce, or is unenforceable.

I have no problem with having the 17 acre Jensen/Olson Arboretum as dog free, however the rest of the area is a place I walk my dog quite frequently.

We out the road receive very little service from CBJ. Police protection is minimal and fire protection is non-existent. Parks and Rec indicated that it would be the Gastineau Humane Society that would enforce these regulations. So Parks and Rec would send the dog catcher out if me and my dog were to walk on the parkland to the south of Amalga Harbor Road or on the beach behind my home? But no one would come if my house were on fire?

In my opinion, this is an unnecessary regulation, a waste of my taxpayer money and should not be implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaye Sullivan".

Kaye Sullivan
25120 Amalga Harbor Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Diane Cathcart

From: marcia stier [ontheharbor@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2006 2:06 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: information on arboretum

Hello

In the draft of proposed regulations for "Dogs on/off leash" you have listed:

"11 CBJAC 03.030 No Dog Areas.

The Department recognizes the following trails and CBJ park land as no dog areas.

(a) CBJ parkland Jensen/Olson Arboretum to Amalga Harbor Road"

Please tell me the boundaries of the Jensen/Olson Arboretum. I have understood this arboretum to be a 17 acre plot and making an area from the Jensen Beach to Amalga Harbor seems to be much more extensive than 17 acres.

So, please tell me the boundaries and why you want to extend that restriction all the way to Amalga Road.

It does not make sense to me.

Also, it was mentioned that only one person showed up at the last public meeting and there wasn't much interest in the regulations. Not true. We dog people are out here and willing to take part given proper advance notice and opportunity.

On the positive side: Thank you for allowing dogs on the Auke Lake trail.

Dogs need to be able to run and socialize and letting them run within a fenced ball field is not a good solution. Other cities have Dog Parks with meadows and lakes and the dogs are allowed to run free and mingle with one another.

Awaiting your answers to my questions and comments.

Thank you

Marcia Stier

ontheharbor@gci.net

10/16/2006

Diane Cathcart

From: Joyce James [joycej@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2006 4:35 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Comment on proposed dog regulations

Dear City Employees,

Please note my opposition to the proposal to require dogs on leash on the property between Caroline Jensen's place and Amalga Road. I do support dogs on leash, or even prohibited, at Carolyn Jensen's, but not in the Amalga area.

I have been walking and skiing with my unleashed dog in the Amalga area, both sides of the road, for over ten years. (I have been walking long-gone unleashed dogs in the SAGA area since before Joe Smith even built his house there.)

Given this long and historic use of the area by many unleashed dogs it seems arbitrary and unreasonable to now limit their unleashed access because of Carolyn's arboretum. As you know, lots of x-country skiing, ice fishing, and even some ice skating happens out in that Peterson Creek area in the winter. I have never seen or heard that unleashed dogs have been a problem, but skiers and skaters will definitely have a problem if they have to ski or skate with a leashed dog.

Wildlife has coexisted with dogs there for many years. Please leave things alone.

Sincerely,
Joyce James

10/16/2006

Diane Cathcart

From: Pinky Kimlinger [pinkyr@l@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2006 8:38 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: request

We were out of town when the Amalga/Huffman Harbor letter regarding dog free areas was constructed.

As property owners at Amalga Harbor, we support the Amalga/Huffman Harbor letter and would like to have our names added to that letter showing our support.

Thank you,

Ralph Kimlinger
Rosemary Kimlinger

9/29/2006

Diane Cathcart

From: Halibut0Three [halibut03@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 10:31 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: dog regulation comments

September 27, 2006

Thank you for taking the time and effort regarding the dog regulations in the Juneau area. This is an important issue that can make our community a quality place to live.

I would like to offer my comments regarding the proposed dog regulation changes.

I am a dog owner and try with great care to leash and control my dog at all times. Our family has found valuable experiences training and working and playing with our dog outdoors.

I would like to see the restrictions regarding dogs on leash be loosened to include voice control and off leash for the Amalga Road area. This is a more remote area and it seems excessive to require dogs to be on leash in this area. (I might venture to guess that dogs that have been a problem in this area in the past were not in calling distance of their owners and were allowed to be roaming excessively free and should therefore be dealt with via Animal Control.)

Secondly I would also like to see a clarification of sports field use during school hours. There are quite a few fields, not on school grounds and therefore not used by school activities during school hours. Many of us would like to train our dogs off leash in these areas during the week days. Perhaps this is already in the regulations, but could be unclear or confusing. Could this possibility be included or clarified in the regulations and more clearly posted at the fields themselves?

Finally, I would like to suggest that after the regulations have been finalized that there be a simple accessible pamphlet, pdf, or other notification made available to pet owners listing areas of the city that allow dogs off leash, on leash, in voice control and etcÉ with a map designating these area. When a community member seeks an outdoor experience this type of information could help the pet owner quickly decide where to begin their outing. Often times now we arrive at an area only to discover restrictions we were not aware of or that have changed, which leads to frustration. If we knew of our choice before our outing with our pets perhaps some frustration could be alleviated.

Thank you for your time in considering the value of all community members in Juneau and their interests. This is a great community for all.

Donna Leigh

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Diane Cathcart

From: Katherine Mullen [Katherinem@jys.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 3:32 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: dog ban

I strongly disagree with the dog ban, particularly as it pertains to the stretch of land between mile 24 & 25. There are many dogs (at least a dozen) that live within that mile with dog owners that have peacefully co-existed for generations. We choose to live 'out the road' in part because of the ability to have greater space....including the space to walk our dogs.

If I choose to bequeath my yard to the city when I die I hope that no one will take away my neighbor's right to walk their dogs.

Thank you.

Katherine Mullen

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Diane Cathcart

From: Anderson, Dale G [PVTC] [dale.g.anderson@smithbarney.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 4:03 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Dogs on Trails

We need to do away with the dog ban on any trail in the Juneau area. As long as the dog is under control they are not a threat to anyone walking the trail. If any owner persists to allow his pet to harass trail users then the animal control folks ought to have authority to remedy the situation but to put unnecessary regulations on all the public and their "best friend" is not the way to resolve the deleterious actions of a few bad apples. Dale Anderson

Diane Cathcart

From: Bruce Baker [bhbaker@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 8:05 AM
To: Parks Rec
Cc: Bruce Baker
Subject: Proposed CBJ Parks & Rec Prohibition of Dogs Between Peterson Creek Bridges

Attention CBJ Parks and Recreation Committee Members & CBJ Parks and Recreation Staff -

I would appreciate Parks & Recreation staff sharing this message with Parks & Recreation Committee members and for it to be made a part of the official record. I strongly oppose Parks & Recreation's proposed prohibition of dogs in the meadows along both sides of Peterson Creek between the Peterson Creek bridge on Glacier Highway and the Peterson Creek bridge on the Amalga Harbor Road. I suspect there's a very good chance that the legal defensibility of this proposed prohibition can be successfully challenged.

This area between the two bridges (as well as the meadows surrounding the Salt Chuck north of Amalga Harbor Road) have a tradition of folks walking or skiing with their dogs under effective voice or leash control except during that period of the spring season when Canada geese are grazing there. In the company of my Labrador retriever, I have hauled trash out of the streamside meadows between these two bridges, I have reported to Parks & Recreation repeated habitat disturbance and abuse by off-road four-wheelers used by youth in the Amalga Harbor neighborhood, and I have advocated to Parks and Recreation the placement of roadside boulders along the Amalga Harbor road to prevent highway vehicles from driving into these meadows and the adjacent woods. These citizen watchdog services were a direct result of my being in the area with my dog. Without having my dog for company, I would not have been in the area in the first place. I would have chosen other activities at other locations.

In short, I have, in the course of walking and skiing with my dog in this area, been a constructive factor in its protection. I know of others who live near the area who are equally as responsible in walking or skiing with their dogs. Folks who have also testified against a similar Parks and Recreation proposal on the north side of the Amalga Harbor road include the late Ed Mills, his wife Linda, and Ed Huizer . . . all very conscientious and well respected long-time Juneau residents.

If the borough wants to prohibit dogs along a yet-to-be-established trail from the Jensen-Olson Arboretum to the Peterson Creek bridge on Glacier Highway, I have no problem with that. That is an area for which there is no established practice of walking or skiing with dogs. My only concern is that you do not impose an unjustifiable dog prohibition between the Glacier Highway and Amalga Harbor Road bridges that cross Peterson Creek where it is a well conducted historic use.

It seems like every couple years or so, CBJ's Parks and Recreation staff tries to bring down the boom on the use of trails in the general Amalga Meadows area by people walking or skiing with their dogs. The staff's last attempt to do this applied to the Amalga Meadows surrounding the Salt Chuck. However, then, as well as now, the borough has failed to make a defensible biological case against these proposed dog prohibitions. Parks and Recreation has instead appears to have relied heavily on the biased and unscientifically based, yet very vocal, speculation on the part of a self-trained Juneau naturalist who has taken the opportunity to indicate a personal bias against dogs on trails in a paid capacity of writing

reports and articles for a couple of grant-funded, local non-profit conservation organizations. Please don't get me wrong. This individual has made an enormous contribution to the youth and adults of our community in terms of sharing a knowledge of natural history and is a highly valued, well respected, and well liked individual. However, the individual's opinions on how dogs and their scents might affect wildlife is a result of broad-brush personal speculation. This speculation is not specific to either wildlife species or seasonality. It also has not been substantiated by peer reviewed scientific study. In short, it is an indefensible basis for Parks and Recreation to predicate outright dog closures.

If Parks and Recreation staff want to take a more constructive approach in the area between the two Peterson Creek bridges, I encourage them to 1) require that dogs be under either effective voice control *or* on a leash, 2) prohibit any use by either humans or dogs whenever Canada geese are grazing in the area during the spring season, and 3) increase their enforcement presence in the area so that these more reasonable and effective measures are equitably enforced on all users.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bruce Baker
P.O. Box 211384
Auke Bay, AK 99821
(907) 789-9354

Diane Cathcart

From: Rick Driscoll [Rickd@jys.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 1:00 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: dog ban

Hello-

I am strongly opposed to the proposed ban of dogs along the Amalga Harbor Rd. I live there. I walk my dog there all the time. Most of the community at Amalga Harbor owns dogs. I enjoy having the space and freedom to walk my dog in my own neighborhood.

As for the arboretum, I think the biggest threat is the variety of wildlife that inhabit the area. Bear, deer, and porcupine most likely cause a greater problem than dogs do.

I find this proposal frankly, silly.

Please keep me posted as to any public happenings on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rick Driscoll

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Diane Cathcart

From: Northern Keta Caviar [caviar@alaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 12:19 PM
To: Parks Rec
Cc: gd-info@gratefuldogsofjuneau.org
Subject: dogs dogs

I heard there is a public hearing tonight concerning dog rules.
Since I cannot attend I would like to voice my opinion this way.

I find it very strange when I go for a walk at Fish Creek and cannot take my dog
on the dike trail.
Strange because there are duck hunters sitting on the dike and they kill birds for
fun.

Yet a dog is not allowed to go there?
What about the duck hunters dogs?
You don't really believe that they keep their dogs in the car?

While we are at it: Here is an explanation for the word "Wildlife refuge":

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# Wildlife refuge

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

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A **Wildlife refuge** is a geographic territory within which wildlife is protected.  
Wildlife refuges are generally officially designated territories, created by  
government legislation, though the land itself may be publicly or privately owned.

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What kind of wildlife protection is this? Keep the dogs away from the "abundant
wildlife" and let the so called hunters kill it off and call it sport?

More like a sick joke don't you think?

Best regards

Elisabeth Babich

10620 Starlite Court
Juneau, Alaska 99801
364 4693

Diane Cathcart

From: Craig [craig4@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2006 1:13 PM
To: Diane Cathcart
Subject: Dog Task Force

Diane,

I just got word from a neighbor regarding the upcoming Dog Task Force meeting on November 30th. Unfortunately, I will be out of town and unable to attend. First of all, I'm wondering why emails and notification did not go out to the many people, myself included, who were following the Dog Task Force meetings two years ago and who were on the list at that time. I think the DTF owes it the public to make this a public process, which includes notifying the public, especially people who have shown a previous interest.

I still do not agree with the concept of having trails for people who simply cannot stand to see a dog, even on a leash. I'm wondering if next we'll need to create a kidless trail or ban certain groups because someone doesn't like the looks of them. If the Arboretum was left to CBJ and provides a 17 acre place for people to walk without dogs and enjoy the landscape, why, in heaven's name do you need to gobble up the land all the way to Amalga Road? This is plain ridiculous! I can see no dogs at the Arboreteum, but certainly hope the DTF will reconsider the decision to remove the use of public land at Amalga by dog owners because of the handful of people who can't stand the sight of a dog and who already have 17 acres for their use.

I appreciate the changes to the Auke Lake Trail and can understand the ban on the artificial turf surfaces, but urge the DTF to keep the area to Amalga open to the general public, including dogs.

JoAnne Craig
P O Box 32166
Juneau, AK 99803

789-2955