

Report of the Trails Subcommittee
2/2/04

We have gotten approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the list of trails that were identified at our first meeting as being important to trail users with dogs, or needing further study for other reasons. We hope to complete looking at all the trails at our next meeting. So far, the following areas have been discussed as possible dog trails, off-leash areas, or non-dog trails. We tried whenever possible to identify and base our recommendations on the following information/criteria:

- Agency (or agencies) with authority over the area
- Other users of the area
- Seasonality, including:
 - problems for users with dogs (ie dead fish in summer months, bears)
 - problems for other users

Our recommendations were to:

- leave the area “as is” (generally meaning dogs allowed, but on leash only)
- leash-free area
- dog-free area
- a combination of the above

Our recommendations:

SHEEP CREEK:

Authority: state (beach) and state parks (trail)

Beach:

Other users: fishing, picnicking, boat launch, gravel collection, hatchery, salmon bake

Seasonality: primarily used in summer; dead fish in July/Aug.

Recommendation: Further study for off leash area

Trail:

Other users: birders; rough trail (hikers)

Seasonality: birding in April/May

Recommendation: leave as is

DREDGE POND:

Authority: Private property; possible CBJ purchase?

Other users: hunters, heliport, bird watching and wildlife viewing, important to waterfowl in migration time

Seasonality: migration time

Recommendation: further study for off leash area

Other: Need parking and fencing, and need to acquire the property

DZ TRAIL SYSTEM AND POLICE STATION:

Other users: schools

Seasonality: use by classes during school year

Recommendation: W. of Switzer Creek to DZ: possibly “dog-free” area (seasonally?);
Switzer Creek/ Richard Marriot trail: leave as is.
Other: Need to talk with Discovery Foundation for clarification; Need more information

OUTER POINT:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: runners, picnics, campers, use by schools during Sea Week

Recommendation: off leash, with need for education because of heavy use

RAINFOREST TRAIL:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: commercial, runners, bikers (limited)

Seasonality: tourism (April 1 – October 1)

Recommendations: leave as is (on leash) during tourism time; w/possible hourly definitions (ie between the hours of...); from Oct. 1 – April 1, off leash.

FISH CREEK:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: hunters, birders, fishing, horseback

Seasonality: bird’s migration time

Recommendation: leave as is w/ possible seasonal restrictions after hearing from Wildlife committee

SANDY BEACH: Beach area, ball fields, trail, and picnic areas

Authority: CBJ?

Beach Area:

Other users: picnics, swimming

Recommendation: Possible off leash area, excluding the picnic and playground areas

Field #2:

Recommendation: possible off leash area between October and March; especially for training

Trail:

Other users: commercial use, runners, biking, access to S. Douglas properties, Society for Creative A. use; heavily used area.

Recommendation: leave as is.

Picnic area:

Recommendation: leave as is (on leash only)

- Need for good signage designating where off leash area is

COPE PARK:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: school groups, tennis, picnics, soccer and baseball; access to Flume Trail; play area.

Recommendation: Need LOTS of education in this area. Good area for a trail study w/ increased signage and variable use. More information needed, and this area is under planning study by CBJ now.

Other: possible dog agility course being planned? Training area?

DOWNTOWN:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: tourists, businesses

Recommendation: There was considerable confusion as to what constitutes the “core” area... for the purposes here, we chose to define that “on public property within the area of Mt. Roberts street to the wooden trestle on Basin Road, and west to Ross way” be on leash, unless otherwise posted. Others felt that the area should extend from Taku Fisheries to Basin Rd. and to Norway Point... and others felt it should be limited to the core business area, only up as far as 4th or 5th Street... (I may have this messed up; my notes on this area are a mess, so please correct me if it is wrong!)
The Cemetery is off limits to dogs.

BASIN ROAD:

Authority: CBJ

Other users:

Recommendations: The boundaries of the watershed area are unclear. Currently it is an on leash area. Need more information.

FLUME TRAIL:

Authority: CBJ?

Other users: runners.

Seasonality: used heavily all year, except when avalanches are possible.

Recommendation: Leave as is, with the recommendation to the education committee that this area to educate both dog owners and other users as to how to coexist in this area.
Better signage.

MT ROBERTS:

Authority: CBJ?

Other users: commercial, hiking, access to camping.

Seasonality: yes

Recommendation: Need more information and input from the wildlife committee.
Wildlife concerns. Possible pass through for overnight hikers w/dogs?

TWIN LAKES:

Authority: CBJ

Other users: picnics, shelter for rentals, swimmers, joggers, bikers, walkers, fishing, commercial fly fishing, sledding, ice skating, water use, play area, special events. Very heavy multi-use area. Accessible.

Current use by people w/dogs: Grass hill for exercising dogs; walking on sidewalk.

Many use water for swimming (dogs).

Seasonality: many uses are seasonal; more heavily used in summer. Walkers utilize heavily in winter due to accessibility.

* Currently NO DOGS in July and August.

Recommendation: Get rid of July/August closure to dogs. Area south of the first culvert is on leash only at all times. From May 15 – Sept 15, area north of culvert is off leash 6am – 10am. From Sept. 15 – May 15, area north of culvert is off leash at all times. Signs would be changed to reflect changing regulations. Need for education in this area due to high usage.

This is a test area and should be re-evaluated in a year's time.

Concern: that dogs may get on the roadway and cause accidents.

The next meeting of this sub-committee is Feb. 10, 5 – 7pm, at the Valley Library.