

The Friends of the Dogs of Hubbard Park feel that dogs are a rich part of the Hubbard Park experience and wish to make sure that the Park remains a welcoming place for dogs and people. To that end, we offer the following proposal to the Parks Commission and other for their consideration. We offer this proposal with good will hoping to address the concerns of dog owners and non dog owners alike. We feel that it is a common sense and balanced approach that, while respecting the needs of all, does not unnecessarily punish dogs, dog owners, and dog friends. Thank you.

The Friends of the Dogs of Hubbard Park [an ad hoc committee]

Dog Park Proposal

We the owners and friends of the dogs of Hubbard Park are offering this proposal to address recent issues of dogs at the park. Hubbard Park is a great resource for all and we believe, dog owners and non owners alike, that the presence of dogs in the park is a valuable addition to the life and feeling of the park. We also recognize that, as with all groups that use the park, there are some particular concerns that relate to the dogs. We believe, however, that the overwhelming majority of the “dog problems” are the result of a limited number of dogs and owners who are not taking proper care and that to penalize all who enjoy dogs in the park would be a great injustice and loss. We also recognize that enforcement of any park policy will essentially rest with the dog owners themselves and that they must take more responsibility both individually and as group to make the park a welcome place for all. We therefore are offering this proposal as a solution to these problems.

Concerns

Dog waste: We offer two proposals which are not necessarily exclusive in their nature.

- I. Providing waste stations equipped with biodegradable bags and containers for disposal. This will require some funding either through donation or already existing park funds.
- II. A more active encouragement of cleaning up by dog owners of not only their dog's waste but that of other dogs when it is seen on or near the paths or picnic areas. A concerted community effort including reminding other dog owners and taking responsibility for cleaning up when others forget will be more effective than individual efforts.

Aggressive dogs:

The issue of aggressive dogs is a distinct issue from the rules of general dog behavior in the park. Aggressive dogs are a threat to both people and other dogs. Dogs that are aggressive towards people or other dogs should be kept on a tight leash or not brought to the park. Everyone, including dog owners, should feel comfortable in knowing that there are no aggressive dogs loose in the park. Aggressive dogs/non compliant owners would be addressed by the Dog Park Panel (see below).

General Dog Behavior:

Dog owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs, making sure that their dogs are not a nuisance to others. This means not just being in the park but tending your dog (i.e., not being on the phone or busy with other matters.) Dogs should not jump on people or be unattended. Owners need to IMMEDIATELY respond if their dogs bother others in the park. It is possible to have a park where dogs can run freely and not infringe on others reasonable expectations of park use. Likewise, it must be recognized that dogs have a right to be in the park and that they will approach people to say hello. In short, we see the issue of appropriate dog behavior at the park as one of education more than enforcement. Simple polite communication on both sides can deal with most concerns regarding the general behavior of dogs in the park and educate all to the needs of others.

Conflict Resolution:

We recommend that a small panel be organized to inquire about and attempt resolution of any dog issues in the park. We also feel that this panel must be comprised of people familiar with dogs and their behavior so as to be able to distinguish between aggressive dogs, dogs that just need more guidance, and situations that arose from misunderstandings rather than violations of the dog rules. (That is to say that the panel should consist of people familiar with dog behavior and training as this would more readily lend itself to productive solutions. Perhaps one of the local vets would join us.)

Brochure:

We also would recommend that a simple brochure be made up to distribute to dog owners and non owners relating to the conduct in the park. This would make the interaction between people less personal and less likely involve conflict and make it more of a community reminding and caring for the park. (A draft brochure is attached).

Dated: 7-11-2013

FOR DOG OWNERS

We are fortunate to have Hubbard Park to spend time in with our dogs so let's take care. With this gift of the park comes responsibility.

PLEASE . . .

*Clean up after your dog. Clean up after dogs whose owners have forgotten. Remind each other to clean up.

*Not all dogs are suited to be in the park. If your dog is at all aggressive towards people or other dogs it is best not to bring them to the park. If you must, please keep them on a short leash and keep them away from others. It is your responsibility to prevent negative interactions.

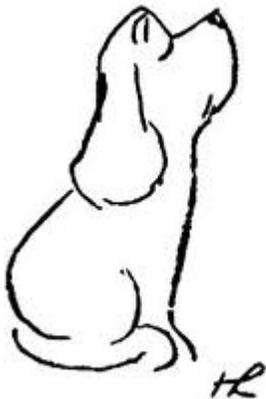
*Dogs are allowed off leash in the park with the understanding that they will not bother others by jumping on them or barking aggressively or behaving in ways that significantly detract from others enjoyment of the park. Dog owners are expected to tend their dogs; that is to say not be talking on the phone or engaged in other activities that limit their ability to monitor their dogs.

*Should your dog approach someone who does not wish to interact with your dog, IMMEDIATELY run up and get physical control of your dog. You may know that your dog is harmless but others do not. It is the dog owner's responsibility to help make everyone feel comfortable in the park with the dogs. Control your dog. Apologize. Be nice.

If you have any problems/concerns with other dogs or people please contact the dog panel
???-????

Be polite. We are all learning and sharing the park.

[OVER]



The Thurber Dog

FOR NON DOG OWNERS

Dogs are a welcome part of Hubbard Park and with a bit of mutual respect both you and they can enjoy the park together.

a few suggestions . . .

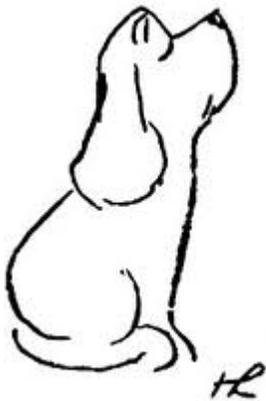
*If you are afraid of or uncomfortable with dogs please politely request that the dog owner hold their dog while you pass. Your request should be respected.

*Be aware that dogs are social and curious beings and will often come over to say hello and sniff for a few moments before heading on their way in much the same way that humans say hello in passing. If you speak kindly to the dog and offer your open hand to sniff, it will be most likely be a nice meeting for both parties. A new friend perhaps.

*Parents. Teach your child to ask before approaching and petting a dog. Although the responsibility is the dog owners it is a good lesson for children to learn and it helps us work together.

*Runners and skiers please alert the dog owner to your upcoming presence so as not to startle. For example, a shout out "Runner passing on your right", "Passing", "Skier behind you". Thanks.

*If you have a serious problem with an aggressive dog or not so attentive dog owner please contact the Park dog panel at ???-???? and we will speak with the dog owner. Be polite. We are all learning and sharing the park.



The Thurber Dog