

Bare Cove Park is not a Dog Park. No matter what you have heard from others or seen on the internet, **Bare Cove Park is NOT a "Dog Park"**. In all public parks where dogs are still permitted, owners must follow basic rules about controlling, picking-up after, vaccinations and license, nuisance behavior and trespass. Doggie play groups and commercial or private dog walking services are not appropriate in Bare Cove Park.

Bare Cove Park is a wildlife sanctuary and a place for public recreation. The gentle grades of the paved roadways and woodland trails make it easy for everyone – parents with young children, people rehabbing joint replacements or sports injuries, veteran and novice athletes, workers on lunch-break, Senior Citizens, artists, boaters coming ashore, nature lovers, bicyclists – to enjoy the park all year long.

Respect the Park's Dog Regulations. Owners are personally liable for any injury or damage caused by their pet. When you are in Bare Cove Park with a dog, go out of your way to be sure that you and your canine best friend don't spoil the outdoor experience for anyone else. Dog Owners must improve their behavior in the park, or yet another wonderful open space will become off-limits to people with dogs. This is the list of current regulations approved by The Hingham Selectmen in 2011;

- **All dogs leashed upon entrance/exit between your vehicle and yellow lines near all gates**
- **Dogs must wear current rabies/license tags**
- **Dog waste must be picked up and properly disposed of.**
- **Owner must carry a leash* for each dog. (*electronic collar is not a substitute)**
- **Dogs must be under control and in sight at all times.**
- **Dogs may not trespass on private property.**
- **Dogs may not disturb other Park visitors, neighbors or wildlife.**

Enforcement for each rule violation carries a \$50.00 fine, which are cumulative and apply to each dog involved. The rules are for everyone's safety and comfort. Hingham's Animal Control Officer Leslie Badger is in the Park often to monitor and enforce the rules, which conform to Hingham's bylaw and those of neighboring municipalities, as well as other Parks and MA General Law. Large signs are posted prominently at Entrance and Emergency gates. Ignorance is no excuse. Our Ranger and the ACO are happy to clarify the rules for you.

In case of EMERGENCY in the park please call the Hingham Police at 781-749-1212. If you need to report a dog bite please call 781-741-1490 and leave a message. If you would like to report an incident that happened long ago, but you feel the ACO should know, please call 781-741-1490 and leave a message.

Dog owners need to be aware of the biodiversity within the park that unleashed dogs are disturbing, and the management strategies that the Bare Cove Park Committee is discussing to preserve biodiversity, and the threats to it. We have heard the public comment that "there aren't any wild

animals even the park anymore!" That is not correct. There is so much going on in there, but only if you know where to look. There are fox dens, nesting northern orioles, six-spotted tiger beetles (rare), waves of warblers coming in and nesting, and many many other species. The bird populations are amazing! American Eagles and Osprey have taken up residency. Has anyone seen the pink ladies slippers this year? We have forest interior species coming through, and the park is big enough that they might even stay. Dogs moving through the wetlands are disturbing waterfowl.

Preserving the parks multiple uses requires that we manage for protection of biodiversity as well as recreation by the public and they are NOT mutually exclusive. They only are mutually exclusive when dogs are not controlled off leash and destroy habitat. It is completely irresponsible on so many levels not to control our dogs.

To view Hingham's Dog Regulations please visit the Animal Control website at; <http://www.hingham-ma.gov/animalcontrol/index.html>

Finally, and importantly, the Bare Cove Park Committee intends to re-evaluate the various areas of the park that are under utilized or over utilized so to give some of these areas time to "rest" as appropriate in order to maintain the biodiversity that we hope to achieve. A new set of Dog Regulations within Bare Cove Park will be developed by the Committee in order to submit to the Selectmen within the next 60 days. We welcome public comment at our next monthly meeting on Tuesday June 9th, 2015 at Town Hall.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, and are unable to attend our meeting; please visit http://www.hingham-ma.gov/about_contact.html and your comments will be forwarded to the committee.

Thank you.

-Hingham Bare Cove Park Committee