

Off-Leash Dog Recreation

at Stodder's Neck Park

DCR Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hingham Town Hall

210 Central Street

Hingham, MA 02043



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Matthew A. Beaton

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Leo Roy



DCR Mission Statement

To protect, promote and enhance our
common wealth of natural, cultural
and recreational resources
for the well-being of all

Welcome!

Purpose of the Meeting

- DCR will present, and obtain feedback on, off-leash dog recreation improvements at Stodder's Neck Park.

Ongoing DCR Off-Leash Dog Area Initiative

- There is growing need for off-leash dog recreation areas.
- The establishment of these areas requires consideration of natural and cultural resources, other park uses and surrounding neighborhoods.
- DCR is holding a series of public meetings to engage stakeholders, abutters, and park users in dialogue regarding additional off-leash recreation areas.

Benefits of Off-Leash Dog Recreational Areas

- Creates public spaces for dog owners to recreate with their dogs off-leash
- Dogs learn to socialize/play with other dogs
- Fosters community and new friendships
- Creates safer parks/neighborhoods, more recreation areas
- Increases dog owner investment in parks

Overview/Background

DCR welcomes dogs on-leash at most DCR parks, forests, and reservations. However, there is a number of locations where dogs are not allowed, mostly for public safety, public health, or habitat concerns or deed restriction purposes.



Overview/Background

We invite Dog Owners to be Park Users and Park Partners.

DCR encourages all dog owners and their dogs to be respectful of other park users and neighbors. Join us in the stewardship of our parks by being a responsible dog owner and park partner.



Overview/Background

DCR's new regulations ([302 CMR 12.13 and 302 CMR 12.17\(5\)](#)) were effective October 24, 2014 and include the designation of appropriate "off-leash" areas and call for a permit process for commercial dog walkers.

More information at :

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/recreational-activities/dogs-in-massparks.html>

BETA Group, Inc.

The Design Consultant for the Project

Expertise in Landscape Architecture

Relevant Experience in:

- ü Public Projects

- ü Trail Design

- ü Park Design

- ü Dog Park Design

- ü Projects in Resource Areas

- ü Interpretive and Wayfinding Design

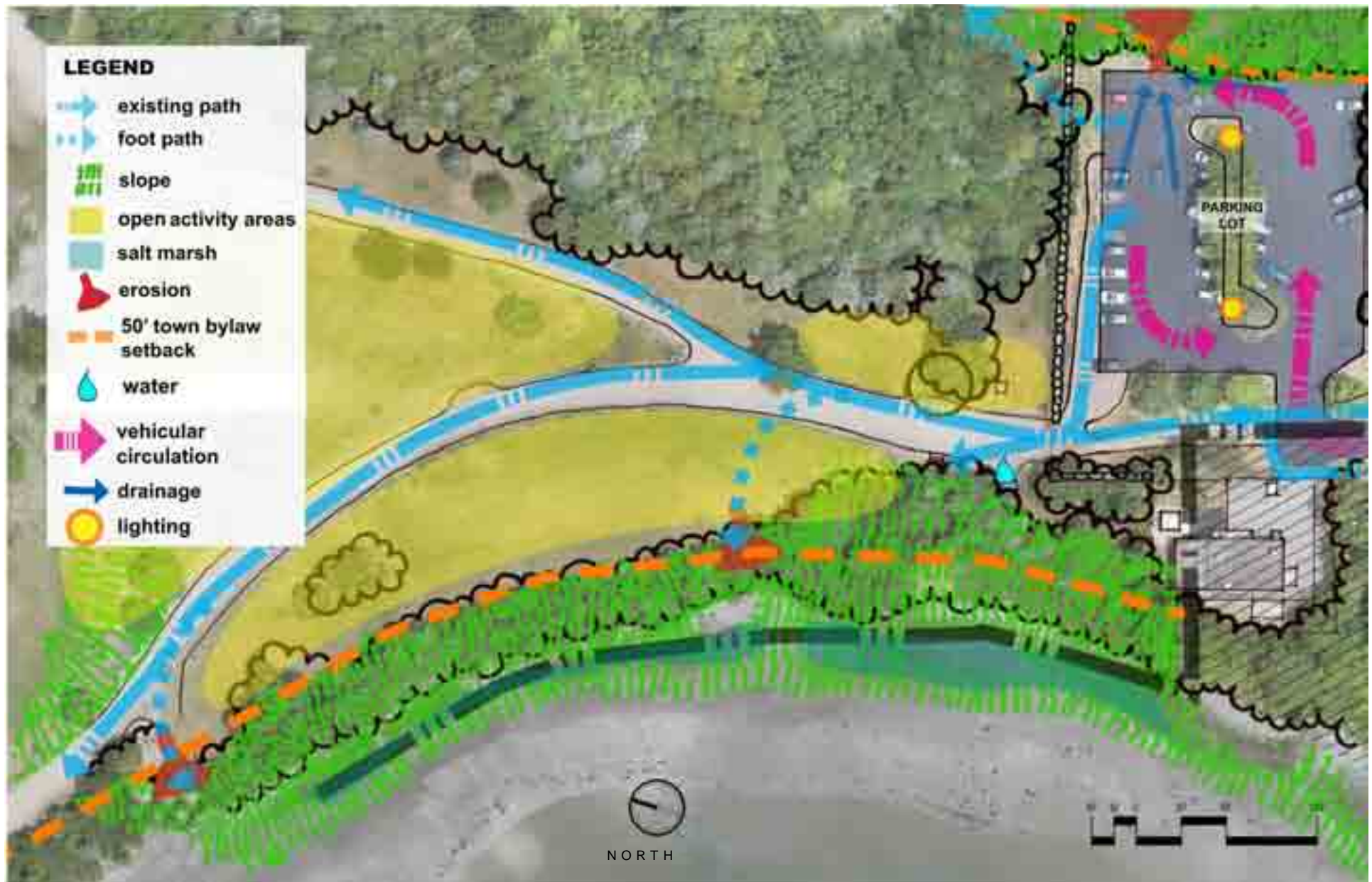
Today's Presentation: Stodder's Neck Park

1. Phase One addresses basic needs for off leash dog recreation
 - Signage
 - Expand entry and improve gates
 - Accessibility
 - Optional fenced area for those who choose
 - Provide Mutt Mitts and receptacles
2. Future Phase enhancements (in coordination with funding group/s)
 - Improved park entry from Rte 3A
 - Expanded parking
 - More dog amenities
 - More people amenities
 - Offer formal shoreline access point for dogs
 - Repair eroded/less accessible sections of main path
 - Repair eroded areas at shoreline

Stodder's Neck Park

22.4 ACRES







Existing Conditions: Parking Area



Phase One Improvements : Parking Area



Sample signage
for use in parking area and at park entries/exits



Accessible ramp for installation between parking area and park entry

Existing Conditions: Entry and Gates



Narrow pedestrian gate
at main entry creates
bottleneck and
concentrates "dog pee"



Gap in stone wall leads
into woodland only



Phase One Improvements: Entry and Gates



New combination pedestrian/
maintenance gate; pedestrian gate is
wider and completely accessible

Paving at entry to match that of
paths and to be widened and
graded for accessibility

Entry paving to be installed with
permeable gravel underlayment to allow
quick drainage if washing needed

Plants with scents dogs dislike, such as
sweet fern and bigroot cranesbill, can be
planted at the entry



Phase One Improvements: Entry and Gates



Gap in stone wall can be widened and a similar swing gate provided, woodland edge pruned back here to provide a welcoming second entry relieving the main entry

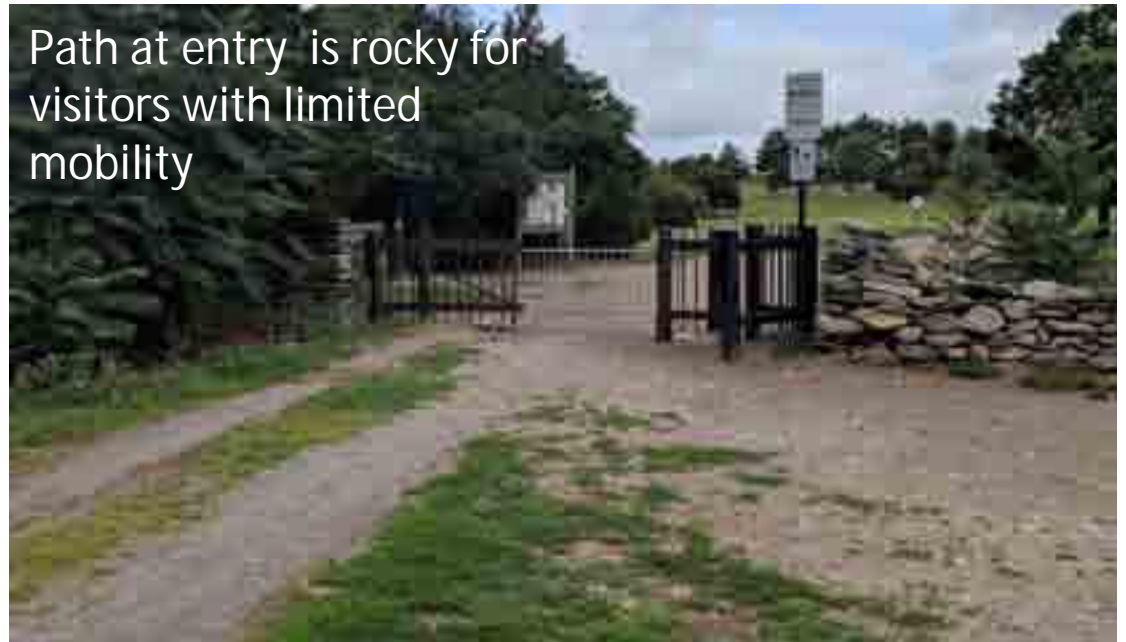


Provide a "doggy-pee" area near entry to provide alternative to trees and gate

Existing Conditions: Accessible Paths



Path at entry is rocky for visitors with limited mobility



Path in main area appears to fulfill accessibility criteria; may need some modification

An accessible path through one grassed area should be provided



Phase One Improvements: Accessible Paths



Accessible paths can be constructed simply from stabilized crushed stone or stabilized soil



An accessible path loop from the park entry through one fenced area and out again would accommodate all visitors regardless of mobility



Existing Conditions: Off-Leash Dog Recreation



Dogs can run out of the park easily



Some surrounding waters have fast currents



Spaces are large and wide open – a plus and a minus!



Undergrowth is thick and tangled

Phase One Improvements: Optional Fenced Area West Side

Optional Fenced Area West Side:

- Minimal tree pruning/cutting
- Gathering Tree preserved
- Information sign and water remain at park entry



Phase One Improvements: Optional Fenced Area East Side





DCR will provide Mutt Mitts and receptacles

Phase One Improvements for Dog Recreation: Example Images

- Optional Fenced Area
- Entry
- Pathways
- Signage

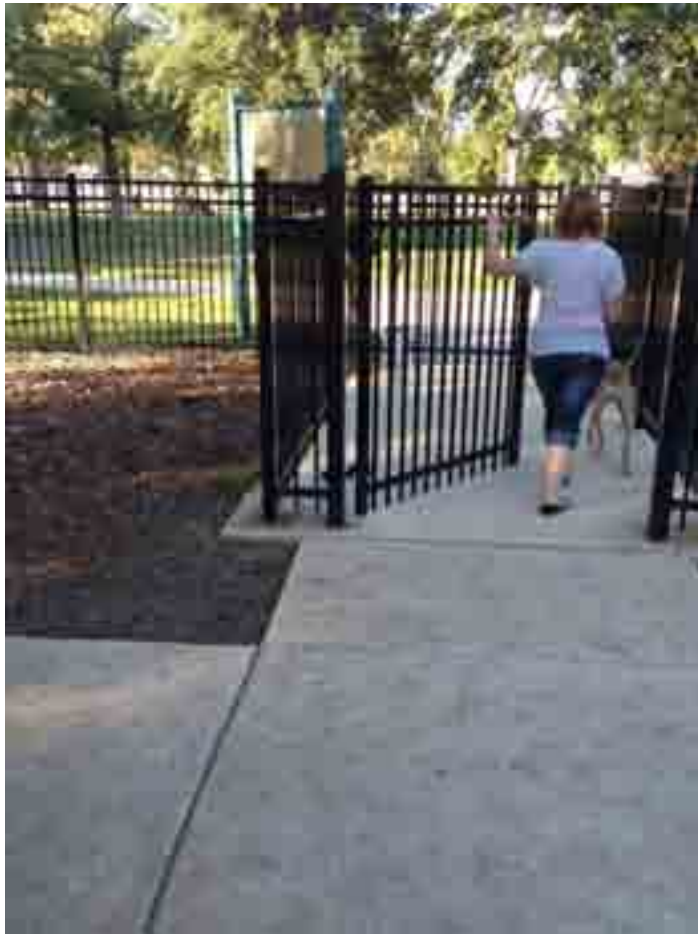
Optional Fenced Area



Optional Fenced Area



Double Gated Fenced Area Entry



Pathways



Wayfinding and Signage



Posting of Rules



Future Phases ...

... to coordinate with funding group(s) such as a Friends Group

- Improved park entry from Rte 3A
- Expanded parking
- More dog amenities
- More people amenities
- Offer formal shoreline access point for dogs
- Repair eroded/less accessible sections of main path

Examples: Dog Amenities



Examples: Dog Amenities



Examples: People Amenities



Programming for Uses



Implementation Considerations

Regulatory and Operations

- Current regulations link to CMR [302 CMR 12.13 and 302 CMR 12.17\(5\)](#)
- Commercial dog walker permit
- Enforcement (DCR Rangers, State police, local animal control officers)

Commercial Dog Walker Permits

- DCR plans a soft roll-out of the Commercial Dog Walkers Permit in fall 2018
- Eight dogs allowed per permittee
- One time application fee of \$35.00
- Annual fees are \$100 for up to four dogs; \$200 for up to eight dogs

How Friends Groups can support Dog Parks:

- Educate – Off-Leash Training Sessions
- Perform Community Outreach – “Meet and Greet” events
- Carry out Volunteer Activities – Support for upkeep and maintenance
- Fund-raise
- Support DCR in seeking Sponsorships
- Contact Jenny Norwood, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships 617-626-1164

Next Steps/Timetable

- Public comment period (August 15, 2018 to September 5, 2018)
- Review of public comments
- Assess community support for this site

Q&A/Discussion

Additional Information

For more information:

www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings

If you have comments or suggestions on this project:

Submit online:

www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Deadline: Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety.

If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or Mass.Parks@state.ma.us.