



A Howlin' G ood Time OFF-LEASH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015

Next River Park Clean-up Sunday, September 13 11am - 2pm

It's our summer clean-up in partnership with The City of Calgary.

Bring your dog to enjoy a walk while you pitch in to help. Please bring bags and gloves or a pail and shovel. Check in at the tent and tables set up near the parking lot at the south end.

Please spread the word!



ARF Walk n' Wag River Park Sunday, September 27 10:30am - 2pm

A fun 2.5 walk and picnic for dogs and people. Registration required. See feature article and [their website](#) for details and more info.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

If for some reason you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

Candice

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River Park Off-leash Updates

We've been busy so there's lots of off-leash news to announce this month!

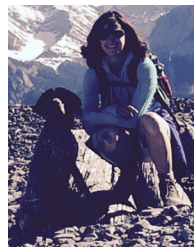
River Park Dogs Website

Thanks to **Tracy L** and **Candice L** we have a new website! Check us out at www.riverparkdogs.com.

New River Park Off-leash Advocacy Members

Please join the River Park Dogs Leadership Team in welcoming our newest members!

Kathleen H, a communications professional, is a regular at River Park. She and her dog Molly love to run the neighbourhood and pass through River Park at various times of the day. They are often part of a large group of dog enthusiasts who walk the park at other times.



Kathleen always does more than her share of cleaning up extra in the park. Molly does her part too in her own special way as unfortunately she's a poop eater.

Kathleen has previously provided newsletter content and worked at our event table. She has kindly offered to continue writing features, work at our dog events plus help manage our Facebook page.



Many people know **Lynn M**, her husband along with their two dogs, MacKenzie and Iggy as long time members of the River Park community.

Lynn and her husband provided the first lost and found box for

park users (located on the bulletin board). As a result of vandalism over the years, they also supplied each of the lost and found box replacements.

Lynn manages the lost and found content (recycling/discarding as needed), lends a hand on poop clean up days and does her own clean up each day during walks. Lynn and her hubby generously donated to poop bag fundraisers and she helped us at one of the fundraising events. Lynn is a nurse whose steadfast commitment to River Park made her a natural choice when looking for an additional team member.

Join the Park Clean-up

For the second time this year, The City of Calgary invited us to partner with them for a clean-up effort at River Park. On each of these occasions our group altered the dates of our regularly scheduled park clean-ups to coincide with their times.

Please join us and show your support for River Park!

River Park Clean-up Effort
Sunday, September 13
11am - 2pm



You can visit displays from Animal & Bylaw Services and The City of Calgary Parks department at their respective tents and tables set up near the parking lot at the south end of River Park. Our off-leash advocacy group will also have a tent and table along with sign-up sheets. These sheets are forwarded to The City of Calgary to show our ongoing support and commitment to keeping the park clean. It also shows that dog owners are willing to help maintain the space we use (and love!).

Please mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!

ARF Walk n' Wag an event at River Park

Sunday, September 27
River Park (14A St & 50 Ave SW)
On-site sign in opens 10:30am
2.5 km walk starts at 11:30am
Picnic/fun activities for you & your dog until 2pm



Register as an individual or a team, collect pledges for ARF and join them for a great day! Raise \$300 in pledges and receive ARF merchandise.

\$20 ARF members

\$25 non-members

Includes great goodies for you and your dog and entrance to a fabulous event!

All sponsorship dollars raised go directly to ARF. Operational costs for this event are covered by corporate sponsorship and registration fees.

High Bag Use This Summer

Maybe dry weather has brought more people and dogs out to River Park this summer but regular park users are certainly noticing more volume and less parking spaces.

I notice the increase in a different way — through the poop bag use. It's really evident to me because I fill the dispensers. One morning in August, I filled each of the three bag dispensers with 300 bags. By early the next night, they were all empty! Really? Does that mean 900 people forgot to bring a bag over a period of 36 hours? Wow... This is so disappointing!

Just a reminder that the poop bags provided at River Park is a back-up system; it's not a free supply for people with dogs to take advantage of at will.

This kind of high use is unsustainable. When we first got the bag dispenser in December 2008, The City of Calgary supplied bags. After 16 months they stopped supplying bags in April 2010 because we went through more than their budget allowed. Yes, the bottom line is a clean park, but we have to remember, bags are NOT free.

I worry about fundraising again. The first time was easy; the second time, not so much. And by the way, only a small percent of the park users donate. Our group will have to fundraise for approximately \$6000 early in 2016.

For now, please support us and the park by spreading the word about reducing use.



New Additions at River Park

Next time you walk at River Park, spend an extra few moments to stop and take notice...The City of Calgary has added lots of new trees this summer!

All of the new additions are marked with a small piece of neon plastic tape. Please don't remove them! These markers help the contracted landscaping companies to easily identify and spot the trees at a distance so they ensure to water the right ones.



A Fond Farewell

Fraser is a well-known dog walker at River Park. He recently wrote to share double heartbreaking news with fellow dog people.

Mac was a black lab that Fraser often took care of and walked at River Park. Late in 2014, when Mac's family no longer was able to care for him, he became part of Fraser's family. Sadly, Mac passed away in July 2015.

Fraser unfortunately shared more sad news when **Nugget** left for the Rainbow Bridge on August 21. She was a sweet soul that loved to greet many regular two-legged visitors and she was often seen lounging in the best shady spots at River Park.

Both dogs were regular members of the River Park dog pack. It was easy to tell that the park was their favourite place to spend time. Fraser would like to thank everyone for showing them love and giving pats over the years.



a note of Thanks

Last month our newsletter featured a request from **Linda B** who was looking for an animal behaviourist to help with her anxious dog.

Although we didn't receive any feedback through the newsletter, a posted request on Twitter and Facebook proved to be fruitful.

Ilsa sent a link to a helpful book called Behavior Adjustment Training: BAT for Fear, Frustration, and Aggression in Dogs

Danelle W highly recommended Dogma Training and Pet Services Inc.

Sylvie GL suggested two resources: Velvetanne Madro in NW Calgary Canine Minds and Manners in NW Calgary

@Gingersnappy on Twitter suggested Bark Busters

Linda B would like to pass along her sincere thanks to everyone for their suggestions.

Paws for Thought

This month, some interesting finds to share. Enjoy!

From Wikipedia, read about the [dog related reason](#) that Beach Boys band member Brian Wilson wrote the chart-busting song [Good Vibrations](#)



Bring out your hankies...
[A touching story](#) about the loss of a dog (thanks to **Sally R** for sharing with us)



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

This section features some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy.

For those who have dogs that eat poop, check out [a news update](#) about coprophagia from [@CliniciansBrief](#) on Twitter



Read about [5 common causes](#) of hair loss in dogs from the experts at [PetMD](#)

