

A Howlin' Good Time

OFF-LEASH NEWS



MAY 2017

**National Pet Week
May 3-7**

It's the 35th anniversary!
How will you celebrate?

SAVE THE DATE

**River Park Clean-up
Saturday, June 17
Time To Be Confirmed**
Enjoy a walk with
your dog while you
pitch in to help.



**FREE Dog Recall Event
Saturday, June 17
Time To Be Confirmed**
A great opportunity to
work on one of the most
important canine commands.
Participants must register.
Stay tuned for details.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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Typical park use on an early spring day at River Park

River Park Update: Construction and More

Many people have been avoiding River Park for various reasons such as construction and fencing. Dogs and humans will be pleased to hear the park is open and "back to normal".

Black Frost Fencing

All of the plastic fencing was removed the week of April 17. Only the blue metal fencing around the worker's staging area remains near the parking lot.

Bulletin Board

On April 20, the bulletin board was restored. The cork was returned and Lexan was installed. Lexan is much stronger than plexiglass so we hope it will stand up to any future acts of vandalism. Colleen and Candice from our team have a key to the bulletin board and will monitor content to ensure it's current and related to the park.

Water Fountain

Return of water service to the River Park fountain is just around the corner. On April 23, **Lynn M** removed the protective covering and placed signs on it about the status of water. Too bad the dogs can't read!



Garbage Bins

In May 2016, cement pads were poured and fencing erected to provide sight shields for the large dumpsters. On April 26, 2017 the bins were finally placed on the pads.

The end to development is within sight! We anticipate having full park access soon, once the fencing and equipment in the staging area is removed.



Shirley and Iggy



River Park Dog Updates

Over a period of two weeks in April, we learned about two lost dogs near River Park.

Many members of the River Park dog community joined efforts to help reunite the lost pups with their people. Huge thanks to **Kevin B** and **Maria DP** for initially alerting the pack and everyone else who pitched in to help.

The first incident occurred on April 13. Kevin B's neighbour lost his newly acquired male Husky cross. Kevin B immediately got in touch with us on behalf of his neighbour. While we started communicating by email and social media,



Kevin B hopped on his bike to search the neighbourhood. **Michelle M** and others joined the effort by walking the park and keeping an eye out. **Alexis H** emailed to say **Hana U** found a dog that matched the description, and after a short stay with Hana U, Animal and Bylaw Services came to pick up the lost dog. We informed Kevin B about the dog and he relayed information to his neighbour. Pleased to say Kevin's neighbour was happily reunited with his dog. Here's an interesting side note: Kevin isn't a dog owner, although he and his wife often walk at River Park several times a week. He regularly borrows his son's dogs, but most of us think they're his pack. Another notable about Kevin, he regularly participates in the River Park clean-ups. What a guy!

On April 27, **Maria DP** spotted a loose German Shepherd just five blocks from River Park. She emailed photos and asked us to notify the River Park dog network by email and social media. **Michelle S** and **Jenna R** spotted the dog in the neighbourhood but the dog was scared and all attempts to befriend her failed. Within minutes of receiving the lost dog email, **Christie S** identified the lost pup as **Abbie**, a dog belonging to her friend **Julia MW**. Julia was already searching the neighbourhood and fortunately found her unharmed Abbie quite quickly. Julia wishes to thank everyone who helped that day.



Pathway Closures



that will affect your commute and experience now and in the future.

Visit [this link](#) from The City of Calgary website for more details.



If you and your dog enjoy using pathways along Sandy Beach, the Elbow River and Riverdale Avenue please note there are some pathway closures

Seasonal Acclimation

Warmer temperatures starting in March and April always means increased use at the park. People are more active and the same goes for our dogs.



As with humans, if your dog has been somewhat sedentary over the winter months, he or she might need to acclimate and ease into higher levels of exercise. Losing some of their fur coat will help too.

Dogs aren't good at saying they're too hot and rarely indicate when they've had enough, so it's up to us to help them. Go easy for dogs' sake and ensure they enjoy their time with us in the park.



Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month:

Read a fascinating [Stanley Coren article](#) in Psychology Today that shows dogs try to "read your mind" to determine if you have the information they need



America's foremost designers of hound spaces talks about the [anatomy of a great dog park](#)



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

Some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy!



Advice from the American Kennel Club about [how to remove a tick](#). Thanks to **Candace I** who sent a note to remind us it's time to check our dogs regularly.



A great video showing pet CPR from [veterinarysecrets.com](#)

