

Walking your Dog on Conservation Land

The Conservation Commission has passed regulations regarding the walking of dogs on conservation land. These regulations are in place to ensure that all visitors have a safe and comfortable visit to Lexington's conservation areas.

On all conservation areas:

- **Dogs must be under the immediate restraint and control of a guardian, either by leash, or by sight and voice command. Sight and voice command mean that dog(s):**
- **are within the guardian's sight at all times;**
- **come to the guardian immediately when called;**
- **stay at the guardian's command;**
- **do not charge or chase any person, dog or wildlife, nor engage in any aggressive behavior;**
- **do not cause damage to any conservation land, or any land used to gain access to conservation land.**
- **No more than 2 dogs per person are permitted**
- **Guardians must carry a waste bag for each dog in their care and pick up and properly dispose of their dogs' waste**
- **Guardians must carry a leash for each dog in their care**

At Willard's Woods: Dogs must be on leash on Saturdays and Sundays at all times. Dogs may be walked off leash on weekdays, but they must remain under the immediate restraint and control of their walker, either by leash, or voice and sight command

At Parker Meadow: Dogs must be controlled by leash on all marked "Universally Accessible "UA" trails

Dogs must always be leashed in the On-Leash Zones at the major entryways

Violations to the regulations are punishable by fines and can be reported to the Police Department at 781-862-1212.



Bag That Poop!

Nobody wants to see dog waste on a trail – and most visitors are good about picking it up. Dog feces causes problems even when it's out of sight in the woods. The EPA has identified dog waste as a significant source of pollution because it contains harmful bacteria (including *E. coli*, and parasites such as giardia, roundworm, and hookworm) that can be washed into our waterways. People and dogs have contracted diseases and parasites from contact with water polluted by dog feces.

How Can You Help?

- Always collect your pet's waste in a plastic bag (biodegradable bags are available) and dispose of it properly in a garbage receptacle at home.



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MA SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

Code of Lexington Chapter 145-2: Rules & Regulations for Conservation Land

- Cannot possess, be in control of, or be responsible for more than 2 dogs per person
- Must carry a waste bag for each dog and properly dispose of each dog's waste
- Must carry a leash for each dog
- All dogs must be under immediate restraint and control either by leash or by sight and voice command.



GOOD OWNERS MAKE GOOD DOGS RESPECTING CONSERVATION LAND, WILDLIFE, AND VISITORS

We welcome you and your dog to our conservation land! We understand that your dog is an important part of your life, and we're pleased to provide the opportunity for you. With your help we can ensure your dog does not negatively affect other visitors, wildlife, ponds and streams, soil, and water quality.



Other Visitors

While you may love your dog, other visitors may not enjoy dogs or may even fear them. It can be frightening to see an unleashed dog running toward you, even if you like dogs. They might jump on or bark at people and other dogs. In rare cases, uncontrolled dogs have bitten people or attacked other dogs.

How Can You Help?

- Keep your dog on leash or under effective voice and sight control. This means your dog is always in your sight, and comes immediately when called.

Educational Resources

- Leashing vs. Not Leashing in Eastern North America: <https://tinyurl.com/DogsandWildlife>

Protecting Wildlife

Dogs, especially when unleashed, can cause serious and potentially life threatening issues for wildlife:

- Dogs can chase, harm, and sometimes kill wildlife.
- They can flush birds from nests, which exposes eggs and nestlings to the elements and predators.
- Just having dogs in wildlife areas can subtly alter wildlife behavior in harmful ways. For example, many mammals and birds perceive dogs as predators and will avoid areas where dogs have urinated.

How Can You Help?

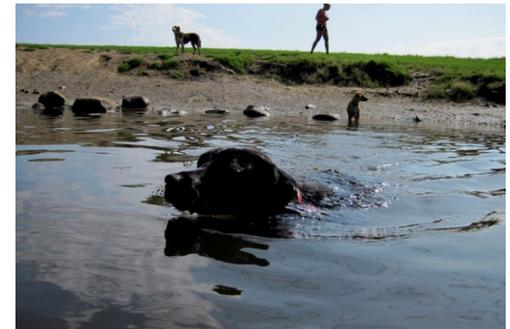
- Keep your dog on leash in designated leash areas.
- If your dog is off leash, ensure that he/she stays on the trail corridor. This also protects your dog and you against tick bites and tickborne diseases and protects sensitive vegetation from trampling.

Educational Resources

- The Scoop on Dog Waste: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/03/pests-pest-management/the-scoop-on-dog-waste/>

Reducing Erosion To Streams and Ponds

Most dogs love water! If they love it too much, however, they can have a significant negative impact, causing erosion to stream banks and pond shores.



How Can You Help?

- Control your dog's access to streams, wetlands, and ponds.
- Only allow your dog to enter and exit bodies of water at designated access points.

Educational Resources

- The Impacts of Dogs on Wildlife and Water Quality: <https://tinyurl.com/DogImpactsLitReview>

