

Bare Cove Park is a great place to enjoy the outdoors

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 Rules

When you are here 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 here, or yet another wonderful open space will become off-limits to people with dogs.

- 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

Each rule carries a \$50.00 fine. The rules are for everyone's safety and comfort. Our Animal Control Officer 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.



a wildlife sanctuary and a place for public recreation



*Take nothing but photographs,
leave nothing but footprints*

Important Phone Numbers
Emergency: 911

Report incidents for the record
Hingham Police: 781-741-1212
Animal Control: 781-741-1490

Comments, Complaints, Compliments
Bare Cove Park Committee
781-741-1400

Open Every Day from Dawn to Dusk
Free to All

www.hingham-ma.gov/barecove/DogRules.html

*Be a Good Dog
Owner in
Bare Cove Park*



**Common Knowledge,
Common Courtesy,
Common Sense**

The Bare Cove Park wildlife sanctuary is owned and maintained by the Town of Hingham. Many wild animals live here, including coyote, fox, hawk, raccoon, snake, great blue heron, rabbit, and deer.

Published 2/2/2012

A privilege, not a right . . .

Walking a dog on public property is like driving a car in that it is a privilege, not a right. Just like drivers, dog owners have responsibilities, training is required, and there are rules to be followed. And like drivers, when dog owners break the rules or don't live up to their responsibilities, they will be fined, and eventually lose the privilege.

Control and Pick-Up After Your Dog

People who visit here – both with and without dogs – simply want to enjoy this property without being bothered by piles of dog waste left in the paved roads, grass and woods, or being disturbed by unruly or aggressive dogs with irresponsible (and often belligerent) handlers. Neighbors simply want Park visitors to stay in the Park and enjoy it quietly.

There has been no criticism of responsible owners with well-trained dogs. But, even the most devoted dog lovers lose patience and complain to authorities when someone will not control their pet. And no one smiles when they see, smell or step in “doggie doo”. Owners who don't control their dogs or don't pick up after them are not allowed in Bare Cove Park.

Remember to Come Here Prepared

Unless you forgot your dog, it makes sense to not forget the pick-up bags, leash and collar with tags you need to walk with a dog in Bare Cove Park.

- Dog waste bags range from free (plastic grocery bags) to fancy, so try keeping your supply near the leash or in the car to help you remember. Tie bags to the leash for easy-access while you walk; carry extras. **Seal the bag and take it with you, or put the sealed bag in a trash barrel.**
- Leashes are readily available at various prices – some runners wear “hands-free” leashes – and it's easy to keep an extra one in the car.
- A dog wearing a collar/harness with current rabies and license tags shows everyone that it is owned and vaccinated according to State law. Tags can withstand normal wear-and-tear for as long as the tag is valid. When lost, replacements are available at the vet or Town Hall that issued them, for free or at a nominal cost. Don't leave home without them.

Bare Cove Park is Not a Dog Park

No matter what you have heard from others or seen on the internet, this is not a “Dog Park”. It is hard to understand how anyone could think that 480+ acres of woods and waterfront has been set aside just for dogs and their owners to exercise and play off-leash. In all public parks where dogs are still permitted, owners must follow basic rules about control, picking-up, license/vaccinations, nuisance behavior and trespass. “Doggie play groups” are not appropriate here.

Dogs may enjoy the Park off-leash only when:

- ✓ The owner **carries a leash and keeps the dog in sight at all times.**
- ✓ **The dog is always under voice control** and will *come* or *heel* immediately on command.

When your dog won't respond to commands, leash it quickly and leave the Park; try again another day.

The ACO is in the Park often if you need clarification.

**Dog Owners are personally liable for any injury or damage caused by their pet.
Always have control of your canine best friend when out in public.**

More Than Basic Training Required

Barbara Woodhouse, the famous British dog trainer, said: “There are no bad dogs, only inexperienced owners.” People who have lost patience with the foolish behavior of some dog owners have replaced “inexperienced” with “bad”, for good reason.

With nearly 500 acres of unfenced public land and river, many visitors and active wildlife, this Park is much more complex than a typical kitchen, back yard, or fenced ½ acre “dog park”. Anyone hoping to walk a dog here safely – leashed or off-leash – must be able to control the pet with a very good *recall* and *heel*, plus *sit*, *stay*, *off*, *leave it* and *drop it*.

Well-known local dog trainers offer classes, as do many town Recreation Centers, Pet Co, and PetsMart. Even with the best of training, dogs can be distracted – by other dogs, wildlife, thunder, children, bicycles, etc. Good dog owners are ever-vigilant about their pets' actions, ready to leash their dogs immediately.

Under Control means Be Aware

It is very important to pay attention while walking a dog in a large unfenced public park, *especially when you walk with 2 dogs or more.* **Reduce your distractions:** leave your music in your car and keep your cell phone in your pocket.

Whether it's keeping your dog away from a smelly low tide, private property, or from bothering someone, controlling your dog insures that everyone else can enjoy the Park while you are here.

1. **Keep your dog in sight and look around you**
2. **Control your dog, with a leash or voice command, when you see:**
 - strangers, with leashed dogs or without a dog;
 - someone with a baby in a stroller or a person walking using a cane;
 - a child riding a bike with training wheels;
 - people who move away or leash their dogs when they see you and your dog;
 - bicyclists coming toward you, and you hear joggers coming from behind.

No matter how friendly you think your pet is, you may never allow your dog to:

- rush up to people or dogs, especially leashed dogs, or be aggressive;
- harass cyclists, picnickers, or joggers;
- bite, jump on people or knock anyone down;
- cause any injury or damage.

These behaviors are rude, and can be dangerous as well as frightening. When you don't have voice control of your dog, it must be leashed at all times.

Get a Clue, or Bare Cove Park Is Not For You

Be courteous, considerate and sensible. Many good owners walk dogs off-leash here regularly, and would hate to lose the privilege. They follow the rules, are considerate of other people and property, and wonder why others won't do the same. **Thoughtless actions by a few people are reflecting badly on an entire group.**