

Hello, Grateful Doggers,

Rae Edwards, the Volunteer Coordinator of the Parks Department for the City of Bellingham, called me Saturday to alert me that the Parks Department will be laying gravel trails in the Bark Park at Lake Padden sometime before the November rains come.

She said that people who use the Bark Park should be prepared to be patient, because the gravel trails will be a great asset to the park when it gets really soupy out. She also said that the Parks Department was going to install a culvert or too for dogs to run through. Sheer play things!

I thanked her on behalf of all of us.

Now, as I understand it, **anyone** can be a Park Steward. You just need to volunteer to Rae Edwards, the Volunteer Coordinator. The title comes in handy when people bring big aggressive dogs to the Bark Park....because, as a Park Steward, you can ask them to leave in an **official** capacity.

Last item on my agenda: I'd like to encourage people who use the off-leash dog trail at Padden to do as much "trail repair" as they can when the trails get sodden in the wintertime. People come though the wet trails on bikes and horses and dig ruts into them. If you stomp the dirt that bike wheels and horse hooves pull out of the ruts back into the ruts, it helps keep the trail walkable. Please just take a minute or two every once in awhile and smooth out the ruts with a spritely jig or a hoe-down stomp; it will make everyone's life better. And such activities counts as "stars in our crown" with the City of Bellingham.

Thanks,

Bonnie Bird
Park Steward for the Off Leash Dog Trail/ Bark Park