

**Sehome Hill Arboretum:** 165 acres of woodland overlooking the city. Located off the Bill McDonald Parkway at the intersection with 25th Street, across from the Washington Archives building. (The sign at the entrance is concealed.) Bear right up the hill for .8 of a mile. Open 6 AM to dusk Parking available. On leash for the main trails, off leash for the secondary trails only. Bicycles and horses prohibited. Warning cougars have been reported on occasion, so be alert. No dispenser, garbage cans in the parking area.

**Little Squalicum Park:** Located at the mouth of Little Squalicum Creek, access is from Marine drive parking area. All trails are off leash owned by the City and County. The beach is owned by the Port so watch for signs. The stream is currently undergoing tests for contamination. We share this area with bird watchers, the homeless and partygoers. Be respectful, careful and watch for broken glass. Garbage can near the beach. No dispenser.

**Bloedel Donovan Park:** Located on the West shore of Lake Whatcom off Electric Ave. This is the most beautiful partially fenced park (with a big goose problem). There is a big parking lot and lots of water access. In summer off leash use is limited to 6AM to 10AM before the park gets busy and to keep the geese away. Between Oct 15 and May 15 off-leash hours are extended.

**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TREES FOR SQUALICUM PARK**

Several years from now the City Parks Department will develop a fenced dog park in the new Squalicum Park.

It is two and half acres of bare ground—not a single tree. At the moment there is no available funding to develop the park but we have offered to provide and plant trees. This will be a huge project for us.

We will need volunteers for an organizing committee and fund raising. We need your help and your dollars.

**PADDEN DOG PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

**A stewardship group has formed to oversee improvements to the fenced dog park area at Padden.**

It will take involvement by all users, it means not only keeping the park clean of dog poop but planting trees and shrubs, spreading mulch.

The stewards are Bonnie, Sandy, John, and Dave regular park users. A new bulletin board will be installed near the water bowl that will be exclusively for information pertaining to the work in progress and need for volunteers.

It is going to take an attitude change to make this park special and enjoyable. We are very lucky to have a two and a half acre fenced space, but it is up to us to make it better.

We met with Rae Edwards—park volunteer coordinator and Craig Witt Park grounds specialist to form a plan of action.

Work has been done on the drainage problems but it will take the heavy rains in the winter months to see how successful this has been. We requested some groupings of shade trees this is the time of year to do planting. So keep a watch on the bulletin board for work parties. Mulch will be delivered to cover the wettest part and to make a “high and dry” path from front gate to the back.

Grateful Dogs will buy ten yards of sand for a digging pile for the “digger dogs.” Also we will look into some agility equipment.

Anyone wanting to donate money to help with improvements may send donations to Grateful Dogs. Remember we are a 501(c) (3) organization so your donations are tax deductible.



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**Celebrating Long Time Memebers**

I can't say enough good things about these folks but if I had to describe them in familiar canine terms, I'd say that the AHS Dog Team Leaders honored here today form a mix as strong as pitbulls, as loveable as golden retrievers, as loyal as chows, as formidable as rottweilers, as energetic as labs, and as smart as border collies.

**Support Off-leash Areas - Join Grateful Dogs!**

Your membership is vital! Grateful Dogs is dedicated to monitoring and improving our off-leash areas. These areas are constantly subject to review and some face possible closure and/or are under continual pressure from opponents. **Please join or renew your annual membership today!**

Your support is critical to the success of the off-leash program. With the recent budget cuts in most state agencies - including the Bellingham Parks Department - Grateful Dogs will have to fund many of the improvements to off-leash areas ourselves.

Examples of what we would like to accomplish this quarter are:

- Improve muddy areas using an alternate surface materials such as gravel or wood chips.
- Continue to lobby for more off-leash area locations

Grateful Dogs is a 501(c)(3) organization and will gladly accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation. You can also contribute through your workplace - if your company matches donations, designate Grateful Dogs! Our Federal ID # is 30-0317079.

Stay informed about upcoming Grateful Dog news, events and changes to the off-leash areas by joining Grateful Dogs and receiving the quarterly newsletter.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Celebrating Long Time Memebers of the AHS Dog and Lummi Teams:

**Vicki Niles, Bekki Dodd, Janet Hanan, Kathy Charles and Joyce Swanson**

*By Jesse Larsen*

Led by these five volunteers, the AHS Dog and Lummi Teams are composed of a large number of volunteers, and yes, we'll admit it, some people who got talked into volunteering, all of whom work together to improve the chances for some of the many unwanted, abandoned and homeless dogs in Whatcom County.

If I were a dog who needed help, I would want Vicki, Bekki, Janet, Joyce or Kathy to be the people who knew about it. Their love for dogs is unconditional until the dog proves otherwise (which rarely happens), and they are relentless in their efforts to save a dog's life.

When they take in a special needs dog, they willingly add fundraising for that animal to their already jammed work and home schedules. If the dog who needs help is a long way away, they get in their cars and go there. When it's time for an AHS foster dog to be adopted, they patiently wade through a lot of wrong-home applications to find the right one.

When I started as a volunteer with AHS just three years ago, my dog Gretta was still alive and everything I knew about dog rescue and adoption I'd learned when I adopted her from an all volunteer group in Vermont.

As the President of AHS for the last two and a half years, I've learned about the other side, the inside, of dog rescue and adoption. When we had an extremely disabled puppy, I was ready to give up on it but the dog team wasn't and that dog is still alive and living a better life than anyone could have ever predicted given the seriousness of his disability.

When we had a litter of puppies with Parvo, I was ready to give up on them but the dog team wasn't. Vicki found people to nurse those puppies back to good health, and then she found them all good homes.

Now I know that when someone reports a pregnant mama dog roaming loose on the Lummi reservation, Joyce and Kathy will do the detective work necessary to find and rescue that dog, help the puppies get healthy, and get that Mama spayed.

When it becomes apparent that lack of vaccinations are making animals on the reservation sick, Joyce and Kathy will organize regular, free vaccination clinics, and then they'll start writing and receiving grants to pay to spay and neuter those same animals.

When abandoned puppies need to be pulled out of a field and nursed to good health, Vicki will rescue the puppies and find the foster home to care for them, or she'll take them home herself. When a lose dog is spotted on a back road, Janet and Bekki will spend many hours looking for it until they find and rescue it. When one of our foster dogs is legally branded as a potentially dangerous dog, Janet can and will find a win-win situation for the dog and for AHS.

When AHS dog team volunteers rescue a seriously abused animal with extreme trust problems, the Dodd Crew - Bekki and her daughters and her niece - will do whatever it takes to win that dog's trust and help her become adoptable, even if it's been three years and she still bites when she's frightened... And when you need to know anything about AHS foster dogs, you can ask Vicki because she knows everyone involved and everything that's going on.

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## BUSINESS LISTINGS

### VETERINARIANS AND ANIMAL HOSPITALS

- **Maplewood Animal Hospital**
- David Rabkin, D.V.M.
- 2869 West Maplewood Avenue
- Bellingham, WA 98225
- Office: (360) 715-1430

## BELLINGHAM OFF LEASH AREAS

- For a complete listing and directions visit our website [www.gratefuldogs.org](http://www.gratefuldogs.org).
- **Arroyo Park:** The trails within Arroyo Park are off-leash; those outside the park are not. Be aware of bicycle traffic. Arroyo Park can be reached by following Chuckanut Dr. South take a left on Old Samish Hwy. just past the Chuckanut Bay Gallery.
- **Lake Padden Park:** Follow the signs along Samish Way to Lake Padden. The east entrance will lead you past the picnic areas and baseball fields. To the left is Bellingham's only fenced off leash area. There are two & a half acres of freedom for your dogs to run to their hearts content. Also a special fenced section for small dogs under 30 lbs. please follow the rules.
- **Sunset Pond and Bug Lake:** Often known as the K-mart puddle. Sunset Pond offers dogs easy water access. Located behind Sunset Square on James Street.
- **Whatcom Falls Park:** This year the trails north of the bridge have been closed to off leash dogs after many wonderful years of use. Now the only segment of trail open is the Waterline Trail. Access is from Lakeway Dr. into the park past the water treatment plant or inside the main gate of the cemetery.
- **Post Point Treatment Area:** Located on the grounds of Bellingham Waste Water Treatment Facility. Directions: Follow Harris St. through Fairhaven turn left on 4th & right on McKenzie. There are two large fields (including Bowser's Bowl). The trails are connected with the interurban trail system found throughout the city. Use designated parking on McKenzie and there is limited parking on 4th Street. Public works is about to lay a new pipe out into the bay so the lower trail will be blocked. They plan to plant new Eel Grass in the lagoon and close it to dogs and their owners for at least two years. We are presently fighting this and will keep you posted.