



The Long Island Dog Owners Group

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Long Island Dog Owners Seek To Walk Dogs On-Leash in Parks

The Long Island Dog Owners Group (LI-DOG) is seeking the support of elected officials to allow people to walk their dogs on-leash in public parks.

Dog walking is a legitimate form of exercise like running, biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

Given the nation's problem with obesity, public officials should encourage dog walking and provide safe places for people to walk their dogs. People who walk their dogs are 34% more likely to meet federal guidelines for adequate physical activity compared to other Americans. (2011 Michigan State University study)

On-leash dog walking is common in parks in 1,000s of communities throughout the U.S.

The laws in Nassau County that prohibit dog walking in public parks are onerous and out-of-date. They do not reflect current attitudes about responsible pet ownership where people know they should clean up after their dogs.

Forty percent of U.S. households own a dog. That represents more than 177,000 Nassau County families.

There are not enough dog runs to meet the exercise and recreational needs of all the families in Nassau County with dogs.

Nassau County is blessed with 6,000 acres of public parkland. Some of these parks cover hundreds of acres. There is ample space to allow people to walk their dogs in Nassau County parks.

Yet, citizens and taxpayers who own dogs are routinely denied access to 1,000s of acres of public parkland.

People who own dogs have the right to enjoy the same access to public parkland as other residents and taxpayers. Parks play a critical role in providing an outlet for physical activities and enhancing the quality of life of citizens.

The costs for changing the policy are minimal.

The laws governing on-leash dog walking in Nassau County parks are out-of-date and out-of-step with public park systems throughout the country.

We urge you to bring Nassau County park policies up-to-date, so citizens and taxpayers with dogs can finally enjoy the benefits of 1,000s of acres of public parkland.

We are the Long Island Dog Owners Group, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing access to public parkland for Long Island dog owners and their dogs. Check us out on the web at www.lidog.org or email us at lidog_news@yahoo.com.