

## Off Leash Dog Area Overview & History

In May 2006, Shoreline voters approved a bond issue to acquire park property and improve parks throughout the community. One element of that bond was to find dog off-leash play areas in Shoreline and build improvements needed for this new facility.

The Study Group, consisting of eight citizen volunteers and two PRCS Board members, was formed June 2007 to evaluate potential sites and develop a system-wide approach for off-leash dog areas in Shoreline. That summer the group began researching other cities' experiences and visited off-leash dog areas in the region as background for developing evaluation criteria. The resulting criteria, supplemented by the group member's own experiences provided the basis for a thorough discussion of potential sites in Shoreline.

After nearly a year of research and discussion, Shoreline's Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) Study Group presented its initial recommendations to nearly 150 Shoreline residents at two public presentations in 2008. The study group presented a comprehensive overview of their findings including a brief history of work, research of criteria, rules, best management practices and the initial recommendations for the system of broadly distributed most promising pilot sites for off-leash activity in Shoreline.

On January 26 the Shoreline City Council approved two pilot sites for off-leash dog parks recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Board and the Off-Leash Dog Area Study Group. The two recommended sites are at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and Shoreview Park.

The City of Shoreline and members of ShoreDog worked together to begin preparing for the opening of the Shoreview site this spring. Richmond Beach Saltwater Park will open this fall.

The Shoreview site is located in the northeastern corner of the park in an open lot that was previously used by the Shoreline Community College as parking. This site was recommended as a traditional Off-Leash Dog area to be open for the entire one-year pilot period. The site recommended for a seasonal timed-use site is the south end of the beach at Saltwater Park. This site would only be open from November 2009 through April 2010 for the pilot period.