

The shared use of the Dyer Prince Rd Recreation Area is a privilege treasured by many Eastham residents and visitors and their dogs. It is one of life's simple pleasures inviting people to come together and enjoy their pets, the beautiful natural area, and each other for a few hours a day on a very limited section along Eastham's Cape Cod Bay. It is good for the town as an attraction and for its citizens as a recreational opportunity.

Eastham dog owners deserve this recreational access. About ¼ of the households in Eastham enjoy dogs as family pets. The Dyer Prince Area has about 300 yards of waterfront. That is 3% of the six+ miles of Cape Cod Bay waterfront in Eastham. It is but 1 of 10 town "beach" recreation areas. It is an area not desirable as a bathing beach due to topography and vegetation. Hours of access to dogs and their handlers is already limited to before and after prime beach time.

We have many volunteers willing to go to work to preserve the current public access to Dyer Prince Area with our dogs.

Below is a synopsis of some of the issues that have come to our attention and a brief overview of our recommendations and comments. We look forward to having a conversation with you in an effort to retain the use of the Dyer Prince Area as currently allowed.

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Possible mitigation / response</u> |
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| Dog feces is a public nuisance | <p>Agreed. Dog feces is as intolerable to dog owners as it is to any one else. This is a matter of education and enforcement. EDOA maintains a degradable disposable dog waste bag station and is willing to provide signage and volunteers to encourage visitors to know and prepare to follow the law. EDOA will sponsor a schedule of clean up sessions.</p> <p>EDOA welcomes a policy of zero tolerance on this issue (i.e. 1st time fine) and supports a warrant article to that effect.</p> |
| Health problems created by dogs | <p>EDOA met with the Board of Health on this issue. EDOA presented evidence that while potential exists there were in fact no diseases or health incidents caused by dogs in Eastham or any other area community reported to area health agents or agencies. The BOH concluded that if current rules are adhered to that there was no threat to human health presented by having dogs at the Dyer Prince Area. This opinion was shared by Jane Crowley, Health Agent.</p> |
| Nitrogen pollution ruining water quality | <p>This may be so but it is not significantly coming from the dogs. Over 70% of nitrogen pollution is from septic systems. Only 7% is from rain runoff which includes animal wastes including wild birds, mammals, dogs, and the largest segment lawn fertilizer. Given the tidal flush of this area the charge of nitrogen pollution coming from the presence of dogs is an unsubstantiated and unsupportable claim.</p> <p>However, even the appearance of causality by dog waste can be mitigated by enforcement of the law.</p> |

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| <p>There is too much traffic – too many dogs</p> | <p>There are many popular Cape Cod activities that draw crowds. They are not closed to all because they are annoying to the few.</p> <p>However, as much of the traffic is out-of-town and involves un-stickered (beach permitted) cars EDOA recommends that the sticker rule be enforced. This will cut down on traffic and dogs. It may also stimulate beach sticker sales that could more than offset the costs of enforcement.</p> |
| <p>Private property rights are being violated</p> | <p>We agree that legal property rights need to be respected. Again, the EDOA invites education and enforcement. People who know the rules are likely to follow them. Improved (and civil) signage, the new access path from the parking area and encouragement from our volunteers is recommended so that a neighborly relationship can be maintained.</p> |
| <p>Dogs are dangerously “out of control”</p> | <p>Again we invite enforcement. Direct voice control is a reasonable expectation for this area. It is the ability to run the dogs, allow socialization, and swim that is the prime attraction for dog owners in this area. EDOA volunteers could help monitor. Citizen monitoring of the Provincetown Dog Park maintains safe control in that facility. We encourage the Animal Control officer to ban or fine any dog owner who is not being responsible in this regard.</p> <p>It is not appropriate to forbid all dog owners from enjoying this privilege because of a few.</p> <p>Note: There was but one dog-on-dog incident last summer. The animal control officer reports that there were no incidents reported to her of dogs biting humans or dogs out of control in this area in the summer 2009 season.</p> |
| <p>Dogs need to be on a leash</p> | <p>More regulation. We do not live in the city. Dogs need to be able to run in open areas unleashed especially when swimming and if under the effective voice control of the handler. It is in the interest of dog socialization with humans and other dogs and in the interest of proper training that dogs have an opportunity to be trained untethered at times.</p> <p>Dyer Prince Area presents one of the few, if not the only, public place that a dog owner can work or play with the pet in this way. It is the PRIME ATTRACTION of this recreational space for dogs and handlers to be able to interact off-lead.</p> |