

A Howlin' Good Time

OFF-LEASH NEWS



A typical winter day in River Park



FEBRUARY 2022

River Park Clean-up

Please lend a hand. Find details about our next effort on this page.



Events

As a result of the pandemic, many animal rescue fundraising events were scaled back or cancelled. These organizations rely on the generosity of donors to run programs and services that support animals in their care. If you're able, please consider donating time, talent or treasure to your favourite animal charity.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

If for any reason you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

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Clean-up Effort: River Park Needs Our Help

A few days of above zero temperatures has melted snow to reveal a substantial amount of unattended doggie doo in the park.

Leftovers are the mostly result of inadvertent inattentiveness for various reasons, including people socializing, enjoying the scenery, looking at their phone or watching their footing in slippery conditions. And yes, there are a few irresponsible people who just don't bother to pick up after their dogs.

Unfortunately it all adds up and we need to make things right! Let's provide some TLC to benefit the park as well as every person and every dog. While we protect the health of the park, we will reduce germs in our cars and homes carried in by our dogs' paws and our shoes.

Join our clean-up and participate for any amount of time. All contributions count! Following are the details.

Who	Everyone and their dog
What	River Park Clean-up
When	Saturday, Feb 12 9:30 - 11am
Supplies	Bring a pail & shovel, or gloves & bags
Note	Due to the pandemic, we will not have a sign-in table.

If someone acknowledges your efforts during our clean-up, tell them about our group and encourage them to get involved. They can join the newsletter distribution list or follow us on social media. Refer them to information posted on the bulletin board or they can find us online.

We will post the clean-up effort on social media. By all means, please spread the word. It would be great to have high participation.

Thanks for your help and consideration. Hope to see you there!



Some Facts About River Park

Over the years, people and dogs have come to love River Park for many reasons. Whether users are local or come from other neighbourhoods, this regional park is affectionately known to dogs and parents as our happy place.

Here are two interesting facts about River Park:

a) The City of Calgary assigns a classification to all parks, which determines the amount of maintenance it receives. River Park is Class C. In comparison, Olympic Plaza is an example of a Class A park.

b) The walk-way in the middle of the park is a trail, not a path. The reason it's not a path is because the surface is not paved. Although some people would love to have a paved pathway, it would change the rules for off-leash use meaning dogs would have to be on-leash.

Just for fun, take a few moments and answer this short River Park questionnaire. Although there's no prize, it's great information to know about the park we love.

1. Who donated the land known as River Park?
2. How large is River park?

3. What are the operating hours?
4. How long has the park allowed off-leash privileges?
5. Where is lost and found located?
6. What type of advertising is allowed in the park?
7. How are dog waste bags supplied for the park?
8. What type of use is allowed in the park?
 - a) kite-flying
 - b) on-leash dog walking
 - c) picnics
 - d) off-leash dog walking
 - e) running
 - f) cycling
 - g) cycling with a dog
 - h) tobogganing
 - i) all of the above
9. Name the memorial area near the bulletin board.
10. During which months is the water fountain operational for people and dogs?
11. Name 5 invasive weeds that grow pervasively throughout the park?

Answers

1. Eric Harvie 2. Twenty-one hectares 3. Monday - Sunday 5am to 11pm 4. Since 1987 5. In the middle of the park, on the south side of the bulletin board 6. None - for profit business advertising is not allowed in public spaces 7. Friends of River Park fundraises for bags (as needed) and stocks bag dispensers on a weekly basis 8. i) all of the above; it's multi-use 9. Cat Margetts Memorial Park (the park within a park) 10. Typically May through October (weather-dependent) 11. Crested Wheat Grass, Foxtail, Kentucky Blue Grass, Smooth Brome and Thistle



Pet Help and Support

If you have a pet and are struggling to make ends meet, connect with Pet Food Help and Support Alberta.

This Calgary-based organization is a group of non-judgemental members and volunteers that offers access to pet food, support, supplies and Alberta resources to those in need.

Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information and to sign up.



Making the Seasonal Shift

Christmas has come and gone. Our appreciation to Shirley, Dan, Steve and Candice for removing festive tree decorations in River Park.

Leadership Team News

A big thank you to Andreas W for his contributions to the Friends of River Park Leadership Team.

Andreas joined the off-leash advocacy team in 2013 in an advisory role. He's very passionate about promoting the health and social benefits of animal companions.

Then there's another side to Andreas; he has a slightly warped sense of humour. We asked him to put it to good use and help us keep up with all the fun stuff (and more) related to people and dogs. He created our Twitter account and managed content for several years.

Andreas is a microbiologist who admittedly becomes a weeping mess when watching movies such as 'My Dog Skip' or 'Marley and Me'.

Please join us in giving thanks and wishing him well as he retires from employment and leaves his off-leash volunteer role. He, along with his wife and their dog and cat, recently moved to another province.

