

--DRAFT--
ALBANY DOG POLICY
CITY OF ALBANY
WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

1. BACKGROUND

The City of Albany encourages dog owners to enjoy their pet ownership in a responsible manner. The Albany Parks & Recreation Commission adopted a policy change for the inland parks and excluded the Albany Trail and other waterfront property for possible future action by the Waterfront Committee. *(add date of P&R action)*

This inland park policy was adopted by the Albany City Council and made part of an ordinance. *(citation required)* The new policy for inland parks requires owners to have dogs under voice control at all times, but excludes dogs from certain times and designated areas of those parks (i.e., swing and slide areas)

Outside the parks, the general rule in Albany is that dogs be under voice control at all times; therefore, Albany does not have a leash law *per se* but does require dogs be under voice control.

Voice control is defined as *(add definition)*

On a leash is defined as *(add definition)*

2. POLLING

The March 24, 2010 report from Voices to Vision activity sponsored by the City of Albany includes a poll of Albany residents on dogs at the waterfront (*Section 16, Survey Results – Overview page 461*). Following that, the WFC conducted preliminary polling separately on two occasions that confirms that Albany residents largely prefer a mix of on-leash and off-leash usage on the waterfront.

The Albany Waterfront Committee (“WFC”) at many of times over the past two years has included dog management on the waterfront as an agenda item. *(add footnote to list dates)*.

3. MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS

The Albany Waterfront is comprised of lands owned and/or operated by several different jurisdictions; for example, the Albany Trail is owned and operated by the City of Albany; Golden Gate Fields is under private ownership by Magna Development International with 100 acres in Albany and about 30 acres in Berkeley; Albany Beach, the Plateau, and parts of the Neck (part of Eastshore State Park) are owned by California Parks and operated by the ~~Eastshore State Park through the~~ East Bay Regional Parks District.

The City of Albany currently retains a right of way on the Neck leading to the Bulb, both of which are currently designated for inclusion in the Eastshore State Park by 2053 or earlier transfer, whichever occurs first.

3. VARYING REGULATIONS

As a result of the multiple land ownership, issues may arise as to jurisdictional differences between the Albany Beach (State Parks) and the Albany Trail, for example. This presents a possible dilemma for enforcement where one area may require voice control and another requires dogs to be on a leash.

4. TOWARD AN UNIFIED POLICY

In order to reduce any confusion for dog owners and their pets, the WFC would ~~adopt~~ propose a new policy for the lands under the City of Albany's jurisdictional control:

5. DOGS ON LEASH

For all areas on the Albany Trail and the Golden Gate Fields provided parking areas, dogs shall be on a leash. The Albany Trail invites users to park their vehicles and unload dogs. Interaction between park users and dogs is intense in this area.

And as dogs exit vehicles they are in transition and adjusting to new surroundings.

If on leash, people without dogs may be assured that any dogs in this area shall be under their owners' direct control, by leash, thereby preventing dogs from approaching them, or their children, without direct owner supervision.

6. DOGS OFF LEASH AND UNDER VOICE CONTROL

Once past the high interaction areas, dog owners may remove the leash from the dog in remote areas; however, their dogs shall then remain under voice control.

Voice control is defined as keeping the dog within 6 feet of the owner under voice control at all times. Owners are not encouraged to let their dog(s) run off into the underbrush, into the wetland areas, or onto the jetties at the point of the Bulb.

In the middle of the Neck and out to the Bulb (the Albany Right of Way), dogs may be off leash out to and including onto the Bulb.

7. GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

Dogs in the Albany portion of GGF (i.e., the occasional parking area behind the Albany Beach) shall be on a leash.

8. STATE PARK DOG USE LAWS

The Beach and the Plateau already have been incorporated into the State Park, where East Bay Regional Park District dog controls apply. It is the understanding of the WFC that dogs are allowed off leash in “remote” areas and on leash in human interaction areas.

Under the EBRPD, policy over which the City of Albany has no control, dogs shall not be allowed on the Albany Beach.

9. DOG WALKERS

An individual owner may not have more than six dogs at one time in any area of the waterfront. Dog Walkers must have an active license on display on their person.

Due to the number of dogs under their supervision, all dogs must be on a leash at all times as voice control is not possible for multiple dogs at one time.

10. ENFORCEMENT

The City of Albany contracts with the City of Berkeley for animal control. The Park District (Albany Beach and Plateau) is subject to patrol by Park Police. The City of Albany Police Department patrols the Albany Trail and the Neck and the Bulb.

The stables and ball fields south of GGF at the foot of Gilman Street are outside Albany and supervised by the City of Berkeley and/or the Shoreline State Park.

Failure to obey dog walking policy may result in penalties and/or fines from any of the jurisdictions crossing over from one into another.

11. DOGGIE CLEAN UP

No matter the location, owners should clean up after their dogs. Dog feces pollute the land and leach into the Bay.

12. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS

Dogs shall not be allowed to enter any designated wildlife conservation areas, such as inside the fences surrounding the mud-flats or the burrowing owl habitat on the Plateau.

13. SEASONAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITY AREAS

In the event that certain areas are taped off for nesting, neither dogs nor their owners shall enter into such designated areas.

14. DOG MISBEHAVIOR

The various policing entities have agreements that extend the limits of their authority across ownership lines; such that, the animal control officer may enforce policies equally on the Beach, the Plateau, or the Bulb, for example.

15. FIGHTING AND BITING

Dogs should be reported for fighting and biting. Certain behavior may be elevated from animal control to local police action.

16. EDUCATION

The City of Albany encourages interested groups to educate the public about responsible dog usage of the Albany Waterfront.

Signs shall be posted at the Waterfront.

Maps will be available for viewing the color-coded areas, [which designate on-leash and off-leash locations.](#)