

From: Yan Ma
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 4:15 PM
To: Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Lewis Creek Park - Dogs

Hi Nancy,

I live a half mile from Lewis Creek Park in Bellevue. I have been a resident of this neighborhood for over 15 years and have watched it grow significantly. I was very excited when Lewis Creek Park was finished so families and people like me can enjoy a local neighborhood recreational area close to home.

I run at the park at least 3+ times a week (all year round) and I noticed the past two years there have been more dog owners who DO NOT follow the leash law. When I run by them I tell them (nicely) that this is a leashed park. They never listen. I have a fear of dogs from childhood, was bitten recently and there are VERY YOUNG CHILDREN who run around the park area.

I have been barked at and growled at to a point I'm thinking about carrying pepper spray on my runs.

Is there anything that can be done? Can we add more signage around the park loop? Can we notify Animal Control?

Thank you for reading this email. I hope there is some action that will be taken.

Regards,
Yan

From: ADySard@bellevuewa.gov

Date: Wed, 13 Feb 2013 13:43:42 -0800
Subject: RE: Lewis Creek Park - Dogs

Hi Yan,

I know that we have spoken on this issue multiple times in person and earlier today. I am so sorry that you were chased by a dog again this morning while trying to enjoy the park. I know that this is a daily problem here at Lewis Creek and throughout Bellevue Parks. I will work to increase patrols throughout this park and try and curb some of this illegal behavior. Unfortunately, Park Rangers can only educate dog owners about the leash laws and are unable to issue any tickets.

The City currently contracts with King County Animal Control and I encourage you to call them whenever you encounter an off leash dog. They have an emergency number which I will post below, but they need to be contacted at the time of the incident and typically will only come out in the event that the dog is a danger or someone is injured. In my experience they do not patrol parks and will not walk trails. Letting King County Animal Control know of this issue might however encourage them to begin doing patrols and ticketing people.

Animal Control did say that if you are able to get a license plate number for the dog owner's car they might be able to send an officer to the home and speak to the owner.

From your email below it sounds as though you were recently bit in our park, next time I encourage you to call the Police, Animal Control and contact a Ranger immediately. I will list our phone numbers below.

I spoke to Officer Woods from the Bellevue Police Department (he is copied here) and he said that it is possible for Police to begin doing patrols and issuing misdemeanor tickets to off leash dog owners in Lewis Creek Park in the event that someone has been bit or if victimization is constant. You may want to look into filing a report about your recent biting and see if Police are able to increase patrols.

Officer Wood also said that you have every right to defend and protect yourself from off leash dogs. So proper use of pepper spray seems allowed in the event that you are being chased or attacked.

I will also contact Randy Ransom who is in charge of signage and see if it is possible to increase the signage in Lewis Creek Park regarding the leash laws. In my experience people are aware of the law they just simple chose not to follow it. However, increasing signage will help Police enforce the laws better and issue tickets easier.

You may also be interested in attending a Park Board Meeting and letting them know of this issue. I will post a link below with more information on how to get involved with Park Board.

I hope I was able to answer some of your questions. If you wish to talk about this further please let me know.

King County Animal Control: 206-296-3961

Lewis Creek Park Ranger: 425-452-4195

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station: 425-452-7225

Mercer Slough Park Rangers: 425-452-2565

Park Board Meeting Information: https://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

Randy Ransom (for signage questions): RRansom@bellevuewa.gov

Officer Woods: RWood@bellevuewa.gov

Thank you,

Alexandra DySard

Park Ranger - Environmental Programs Coordinator

City of Bellevue - Parks & Community Services

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ADySard@bellevuewa.gov

