



O.L.A.E.'s gift to Edmonds Veterans Plaza a go!

We have just received notice that we will be allowed to put some sort of "dog/plaque" feature in the new Edmonds Veterans' Plaza. The Plaza was approved by City Council last year in June and the design concept was approved by City Council in the January 20, 2015 meeting after public comment.

A copy of the concept is available if you would like and if you email o.l.a.e@comcast.net we will send out the PDF. It is a stunningly beautiful concept with five marbled walls, representing each arm of the Military, along the north ends of the Public Safety building with a waterfall separating each arm.

There will be square blocks for folks to sit on and on the South side where the current military dedication can be found, there will be a garden and a sitting area. We have yet to be part of the design process so we are uncertain what we can design (dog sitting, dog laying, tombstone, plaque, etc.).

There is a great article in National Geographic dated June 2014 about "Hero Dogs – A Soldiers Best Friend". The article discusses how dogs have been involved with the military dating back to the days of Benjamin Franklin who suggested the use of dogs for fighting against the Indians. In 1835, during the Second Seminole War, reportedly the U.S. Military used bloodhounds to track Native Americans. Dogs were said to guard soldiers during the Civil War and both sides used dogs during World War I and II. In Vietnam, an estimated 4,000 dogs were employed to lead jungle patrols. At the height of the wars in Afghanistan, it was reported that more than 2,500 dogs were in service. Currently, more than 500 canines are actively deployed.

Dogs of course, have been a fascination of humans for year and much of it boils down to the dog's extraordinary sense of smell. A dog's nose is up to 100,000 more acute than a human's sense of smell. The selflessness of the loyal dog and their ability to want to hunt makes these bonds wonders of nature. It has also been proven that dogs also help Military Veterans" returning from war.

So, we are EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE that we will be REQUESTING DONATIONS for this very special

project. Many of us who have visited Veteran's Memorial Plazas all over America have never seen canines honored so we are pleased to hopefully be the first in the nation. All donations are tax-deductible. Visit www.olae.org for all the details about our wonderful group.

Serious Planning of Marina Beach and Off-Leash!!!!

This is an exciting time for the City of Edmonds as a master plan design was adopted and approved by City Council last year. The Parks Department is working with the firm Walker Macy, Ltd., to complete a Master planning process for Marina Beach Park.

Why is this plan needed? Through the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan as well as the Strategic Action Plan, the restoration of the Edmonds Marsh has been highlighted as a high priority by the Citizens of Edmonds. The best way to accomplish the restoration of the Marsh, which would include bringing back the salmon habitat in the Marsh, the day-lighting of Willow Creek, would have to occur. There have been lots of environmental, feasibility, and stormwater studies that can be found at the City's website <http://www.edmonds.gov> and one can look for things like the PROS plan under the parks and recreation department or the stormwater study under public works in the governmental sections. One can also email diane.buckshnis@edmonds.wa.gov as she can provide you the links or talk to you about it.

The best way to see a current update is to go here: <http://edmondswa.swagit.com/play/04072015-1291/#0> Click on ITEM #6 to watch the current presentation. To get a greater view of the Options click on this link <http://www.edmondswa.gov/agendas.htm> and look for Item #6 and click on the second item Site Context.

The City has held many stakeholder meetings (O.L.A.E.'s representatives were Julie Nealey, Ann Aldrich and Diane Buckshnis) and one open house regarding the Marina Beach Master Plan. Two more open houses will occur and those dates are at the conclusion of this piece. Currently there are three options as when adding the required buffers to Option A and B, both areas of Marina Beach were totally disrupted and in the case of **Option A, the dog park will be gone.** We will try and get this option and information in our bulletin board in the next week.

To all you dog park lovers – pay attention as **Option A's conceptual rendition** WILL TOTALLY REMOVE THE DOG PARK because of the 100 foot buffers that are needed for grant funding.

Option B's rendition cuts right in the middle of Marina Beach and this path is longer and apparently, according to environmentalist, is better for salmon recovery as it meanders up to the Marsh. Because of the buffers, this rendition will definitely impact the quality of park use at Marina Beach.

Option C – Given recent public input regarding the buffers this option was created and has been reviewed by the planning board and it takes the creek right down the middle of the area where the old pipeline use to be. This seems to be the most equitable for all current users of Marina Beach as well as the Off-Leash Area; having said that, concern was voiced by two Council Members regarding parking and the removal of parking because of this option. BUT PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A PROCESS!

Two additional open houses will occur on **May 6th** from 6-7:30 and the second is **June 17th** same time and both are at the Library's Plaza Meeting room. These open house meetings are very important as there are some vocal citizens that feel we need to relocate the dog park to a place where the dogs do not have access to the Puget Sound. So, if you love this park, it is important that if you make your voice to be heard to either come to the open houses, or come to any Council Meeting and speak your opinion. *Council Meetings are very Tuesday at 7:00* and audience comments are generally right in the beginning or email Council Members. Remember – this is a normal governmental process and everyone opinions.

Business Matching Funds

Special thanks (again) to Dr. Alan MacGill and Dr. Janiine Babcock for donating to O.L.A.E. and allowing the Gates Foundation to match their Yappie Club donation. This is a wonderful benefit and O.L.A.E. will gladly fill out the paperwork if you have a corporation that matches your donations.

About US

O.L.A.E. (Off-Leash Area - Edmonds) became a non-profit organization in August 2005, to fulfill our mission to steward and maintain the off-leash dog area in Edmonds. We always need volunteers and financial donors. Please visit www.olae.org to learn more about us and our mission.

Become a Member

There are a lot of good reasons to become a member. Member dues go towards promoting and improving our dog park. Members will receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter which provides information on upcoming events, news and educational features. All donated funds are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Off Leash Area Edmonds (O.L.A.E.)
P.O. Box 1562
Edmonds WA 98020 - 1562
EIN #16-1730771

Please check one: New Member Renewal
Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dog(s) names: _____

Can we email you the newsletter: Yes
Contact me to help volunteer: Yes

Annual Membership

- \$ 10 Individual
- \$ 20 Family
- \$ 50 Sassy Supporter
- \$100 Barking Lounge
(free advertising on O.L.A.E. website).
- \$200 Yappie Club Level
(free advertising on O.L.A.E. website & newsletter).

Make check payable to **O.L.A.E.** Thanks!

Current Yappie Club Sponsors:

David and Heather Revell in loving memory of Riley
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Rebecca Lucan (<http://www.rebeccaluncan.com>)
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ON



Note: O.L.A.E. is not responsible for any illness or injury incurred during park visit. For information, please visit www.olae.org and look under rules and responsibilities.