



Friends Of Lighthouse Field (FOLF) Mission Statement

“We support the preservation of the beauty and recreation opportunities for humans and dogs off-leash at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach.”

FOLF Supports:

- multi-use policies at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach
- the current split-hour compromise for off-leash dog policy at the park
- preserving the beauty and undeveloped nature of the field
- responsible stewardship of the park with and without dogs

FOLF Does NOT Support:

- turning the field or beach sites into a dog park
- fencing to separate dogs from people at Lighthouse Field
- reducing the amount of space or time for off-leash dog use
- increased development in the field (e.g. paved trails, new picnic areas, playgrounds)

It’s a Santa Cruz tradition! Off-leash dogs at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach is a Westside neighborhood tradition. The updated plan for the park gives nothing new to dogs—in fact, the amount of space allowed for unrestricted access by humans and dogs is being reduced by about 25%, to protect and restore certain habitats in the field.

The off-leash policy is working. With more than 10 years of regular use by off-leash dogs and their people, along with all the other park users, safety and environmental statistics are good:

- No dog aggression or “dog dominance” reports are present in a review of almost 2 years worth of calls for service and incident reporting to the police, EMT, County Animal Control Services and SPCA for Lighthouse Field State Park
- No health problems have been traced to the dogs at the field or the beach
- Water bacteria counts at Its Beach are as good as—or better than—other Santa Cruz beaches
- Wildlife surveys done in 2003 show an increase in bird species diversity compared to similar surveys done in 1984
- Monarch butterfly populations at the field have increased in the past 5–10 years

A park-loving and dog-friendly community is established at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach. Westsiders and people from all over Santa Cruz come to the park daily because it is a beautiful, enjoyable—and safe—place to be with or without a dog. For years there has been a community of people who share enjoyment of dogs, who care about the field, and who have taken an active role with Parks and Recreation staff by sponsoring periodic volunteer clean-up days, providing additional clean-up bags, and educating the public on park rules and responsibilities.

Lots of public space without dogs off-leash is available, too. People who want a public space without dogs have the option of being at the park between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. every day. They also have many other beautiful parks and beaches in Santa Cruz, several within less than a mile of Lighthouse Field, and many more parks within 1–3 miles.

Public space in the City which excludes dogs or allows dogs on-leash only:

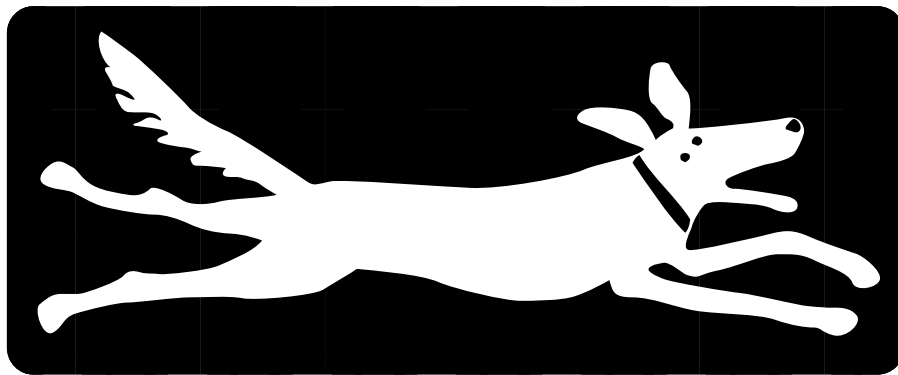
- Pogonip, and Moore Creek Preserves: 750 acres of protected, natural space
- DeLaVeaga Park: apx. 550 acres, of which approximately 45% is the golf course
- Additional open space, beaches and neighborhood parks: 800–900 acres

Share the 2% About 2% of public space in Santa Cruz is available—part time—for recreation with off-leash dogs. There are more than 1,800 acres of open space and parks in the City of Santa Cruz. Less than 33 acres of this space allow dogs off-leash, and 27 acres of that available space is at this park. We support the continued sharing of this 2%, and are opposed to further restriction of off-leash space. With ongoing public education and responsible dog owners, the Field and Beach can continue to be shared safely and successfully.

How did FOLF get started? In Fall 2001, Parks and Recreation undertook a routine update on the original 1984 General Plan, rumors started spreading about banning dogs from the park. In the spring of 2002, concerned individuals came together and formed Friends of Lighthouse Field. The purpose was to gather and disseminate information, and to assure that our voices were represented at public hearings. The “**I like dogs and I vote**” bumper sticker campaign successfully demonstrated the broad and enthusiastic level of support in the community, and showed that FOLF was not a small special interest group, but was embraced by a large cross-section of Santa Cruz citizens. Since spring 2002, hundreds of people have spoken at public hearings, written letters to the city, and over 2,500 individuals have joined FOLF.

For further information, explanation, and references for facts cited in this document, or to learn more about the issues surrounding Lighthouse Field and Its Beach, please visit our website, www.folf.org, or contact us at info@folf.org.

share the 2%



 www.folf.org 
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