

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA)

Request: I need your help to get an MOA ordinance prohibiting pets and other domestic animals in the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA).

CCENA is the heart of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, and is now owned and managed by MOA Parks and Rec. and by Memorandum of Agreement, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Conservation Easement is held by GreatLand Trust, who purchased the property for donation to the city. FAR has helped to develop and take care of this property before development, during planning and construction, and following the opening. FAR helped write and edit the signage with Alaska State Parks, MOA, GLT, and ADFG. FAR walks the property annually to inspect it with GLT and MOA. FAR continues to grace the area with volunteer stewards who help with trash, wildlife notations, reporting crimes, and helping visitors enjoy the area, as well as helping educate them about the wildlife and the posted rules.

Issue: Although signage at the parking lot and several spots along the trails state that "dogs and other pets are not allowed at CCENA," after being open for more than 4 years, just about every day people bring dogs to CCENA, some on leash, and some off.

When politely told that dogs are not welcome here and pointed to the signage, many people apologize and take their dog elsewhere, or have them sit in the car while they take a short walk. Others; however; persist or even state that no one can stop them from walking their dogs here. CCENA was not intended to include dog walking. (See Background following Table of Contents)

Current State: The CCENA Master Plan, page 18, states that 'due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited to maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public's desire as determined through public involvement (diagram 2, pg. 25). It also states that this management recommendation requires that an additional MOA legislative process—namely the Assembly, will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.

Winter uses—FYI: There is also vague reference to winter use on page 18. During planning it was stated that we should not allow activities in winter that we would not allow in summer if possible, because people are always reluctant to give up their routes when winter is done.

Link: Here is a link to the CCENA Master Plan to which some of us donated a great deal of time and effort.
http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/2012-12-12_MASTER%20PLAN.pdf