

Public Education Piece: Why Leash?

It's finally summertime and you want to get out with your dog to enjoy some exercise and fresh air in the nice weather. You know that we welcome and encourage dog walkers at Edward MacDowell Lake, so you load up Fido and head to our park. As you start out on your walk, you notice a sign: "Pets on Leash" and think to yourself, "But my dog is so nice! Why do I need to keep my dog on a leash?"

1. To protect wildlife from your dog and vice versa

Even the most well-trained dog can find the thrill of chasing a bird, small mammal, or nesting turtle irresistible. A firm grip on your pet's leash can make sure we all do our part to protect the natural inhabitants of the park. After all - it's their home, we're just visiting! Also, if an animal at the park appears to be a threat to you or your pet, if your dog is on a leash you can swiftly move them out of harm's way. Finally, when your dog is on leash, you know exactly where they have done their business and you can properly bag your pet's waste. Pet waste contributes to the spread of disease and pollution in our park. We thank you for picking up after your pet and contributing to the health and well-being of the native wildlife of your park.

2. To protect other dogs from your dog and vice versa

The park is a great place to socialize your dog with other furry friends. As long as every pet is on a leash, this interaction is fun and safe for all parties involved. If their roughhousing starts to get too rowdy, you and your fellow park goer can easily disengage your pets by tugging on their leashes. If the dogs are off-leash - all bets are off. Without the control of a leash, the risk of injury to either dog or either owner is much higher.

3. To protect park goers from your dog and vice versa

Edward MacDowell Lake offers many great outdoor activities for all ages. It's good to remember that the park is a shared space and that not everyone who comes to make use of the natural resources is here to interact with your dog. You simply just do not know how other people feel about dogs - even if yours is an angel! Keeping your dog on a leash makes sure that they do not run up to someone that is afraid of dogs or has had a previous poor experience with an animal, and additionally prevents your dog from potentially knocking over or scaring a toddler or small child.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Edward MacDowell Lake a clean, safe, and fun place to be. We hope to see you and your dog soon!