



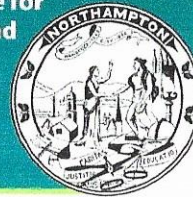
NOBODY WANTS TO SEE DOG WASTE on a trail and most visitors are good about picking it up. Dog feces causes problems even when it is out of sight in the woods. The EPA has identified dog waste as a significant source of pollution because it contains harmful bacteria, including *E. coli*, and parasites, such as giardia, roundworm, and hookworm, that can be washed into our waterways. People and dogs have contracted diseases and parasites from contact with water polluted by dog feces.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

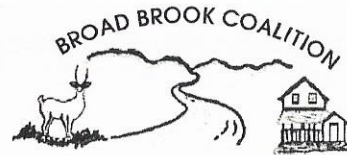
- Always collect your pet's waste in a plastic bag; bags are available at the main entrances to the FLCA.
- Dispose of the bag properly in a waste receptacle off site.

NORTHAMPTON ORDINANCES REQUIRE THAT:

- Dogs must be on leash at all times.
- Owners are responsible for removing dog waste and disposing of it off-site.
- Poop bags must not be left on trails.



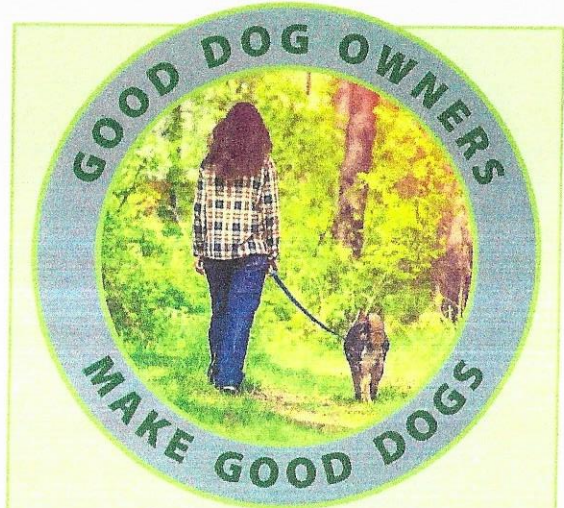
Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area is a Northampton Conservation Commission Property.



P.O. Box 60566, Florence, MA 01062

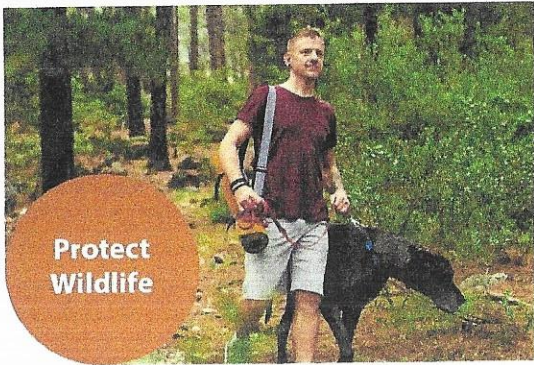


MA SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS



**RESPECTING
CONSERVATION LAND,
WILDLIFE, AND VISITORS**

We welcome you and your dog to the **FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA**. We understand that your dog is an important part of your life, and we're pleased to provide this opportunity. With your help, we can ensure your dog does not negatively affect other visitors, wildlife, ponds and streams, soil, and water quality.

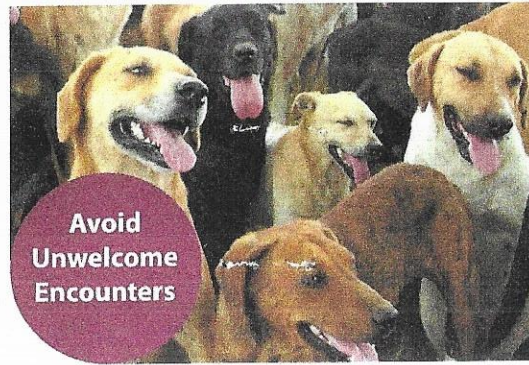


DOGS, ESPECIALLY WHEN UNLEASHED, can cause serious and potentially life-threatening issues for wildlife:

- Dogs can chase, harm, and sometimes kill wildlife.
- They can flush birds from nests, which exposes eggs and nestlings to the elements and to predators.
- Just having dogs in wildlife areas can subtly alter wildlife behavior in harmful ways. For example, many mammals and birds perceive dogs as predators and will avoid areas where dogs have urinated.
- Leashing dogs protects wildlife, prevents sensitive vegetation from trampling, and helps both you and your dog avoid tick bites and tick-borne diseases.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

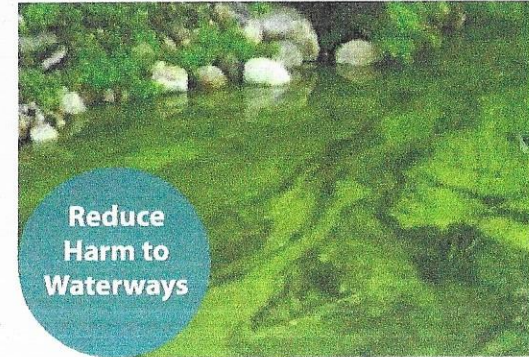
- Keep your dog on leash at all times.



WHILE YOU MAY LOVE YOUR DOG, other visitors may not enjoy dogs or may even fear them. It can be frightening to see an unleashed dog running toward you, even if you like dogs. They might jump on or bark at people and other dogs. In rare cases, uncontrolled dogs have bitten people or attacked other dogs.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Keep your dog on leash at all times.
- Do not walk more than three leashed dogs at one time.



MOST DOGS LOVE WATER.

If they love it too much, however, they can have a significant negative impact. Causing erosion to stream banks and pond shores.

Many lakes and ponds in Massachusetts harbor toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that can seriously harm or kill dogs even after very short exposures.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Keep your dog from wading or swimming in streams, wetlands and ponds.

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