



Press Release

NRSP Foundation Offers Recommendations for Dog Walk

The Nissequogue River State Park Foundation has met with New York State Parks Long Island Regional Director, Ron Foley, and Park Manager, Vance Crippen, to discuss the possibility of establishing a dog walk in the park. We spoke in detail about the challenges and concerns associated with allowing such a use in the NRSP. Currently, there are dog walks in 6 state parks on Long Island, including at the adjacent Sunken Meadow State Park. Presently, the activities allowed in the NRSP are jogging, hiking, biking, sporting events, wildlife viewing and boating at the marina. Many parts of the property are off limits to visitors until the cleanup and the remediation of the buildings is completed. Although many people love dogs and have walked them on the property in the past, we have to be mindful of others who do not. Our state parks officials are primarily concerned with providing a safe, clean and appropriate environment for our residents and wildlife. The foundation respects and supports these priorities for our state parks.

However, dogs are an important member of many families and there may be a place for them to join their owners for a casual walk in the NRSP. The Nissequogue River State Park Foundation has requested that our State Parks officials consider the following recommendations:

- In lieu of a master plan for the park, and with the understanding that a designated dog walking area could change with the completion of a master plan, we support a pilot program that will allow for dog walking at a specific designation on the park's grounds.
- The dog walking area must not disturb areas of the park that are used by visitors, especially children, for recreational activities and other purposes. Nature and wildlife, including fauna and flora, must also be protected.
- Dogs must be walked with a leash no greater than 6 feet in length.
- Owners must clean up their pets waste.
- The NRSP Foundation will help fund cleanup stations and materials to encourage the Parks Department to initiate this pilot program.

The NRSP foundation will continue to work closely with our state officials to enhance and beautify this unique and special park. The foundation's efforts will help protect and preserve the fragile ecosystem on and adjacent to the property and meet the diversified recreational and cultural needs of our residents for generations to come. For additional information about the NRSP Foundation visit ourstatepark.com.

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