

Kent's Point Public Comment solicited by the Orleans Conservation Commission
regarding the Environmental Assessment by LEC

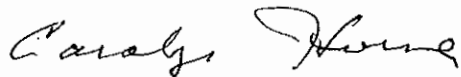
Public comment period end date: January 17, 2025

December 9, 2024

To Whom it may concern:

I am away for the holidays and unable to attend the meeting, but I want to express my concern about any limitations put on the use and enjoyment of Kent's Point by pet owners and their dogs. I am one of many Cape Cod residents who is without a spouse, or partner and in my case, without my children as well. Kent's Point has been a place for me and my dogs, past and present, to find companionship and lasting friendship. I cherish the opportunity to escape the feelings of loneliness and isolation, and I respectfully take advantage of this special place every day.

Thank you for your understanding and thoughtful consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Horne".

Carolyn Horne

28 Arey's Lane

South Orleans, MA

From: [Susan Rosebery](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Usage
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:49:29 PM

You don't often get email from slrosebery@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Many don't realize the community that exists through dog walking. It's a healthy activity for dogs and humans.

Off leash exercise is important so dogs can really get some exercise.

The dog community is aware that Kent's is a jewel and loves and respects that land as much as anyone.

We thank you for your service to our community.

Susan Rosebery

From: [Judith Kelly](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's point
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 2:32:58 PM

You don't often get email from judyakelly58@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I have lived in Orleans since 1994 and that is when I discovered Kent's Point.

Since that day I walk there every day with my two dogs, Nick and Bleu.

I have many people there who are now friends. It is great exercise for me and my dogs to walk the Point.

In all the years that I have done this walk, the people I meet with or without dogs are very friendly and nice. I love to greet vacationers who are there visiting for the first time and share my thoughts with them about how great Kent's Point is.

I have heard at one of your meetings that people get knocked down by dogs that are unleashed but in all the times I have been there I have seen that happen only once. People in general have control of their dogs and do not want to see anyone not in control.

Please do not change this piece of heaven in having a leash law enforced.

Judy Kelly

From: [Barbara O'Connor](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents point
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024 6:38:18 AM

[You don't often get email from oconnor130@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good morning,

As a property owner and part time resident of Orleans, I am asking for you to keep Kents point open and accessible to everyone- people, dogs, leashed or not. Its nice to have a place in town to walk my dog, meet locals, and enjoy the beauty of our town. Please don't let a few people ruin it for the rest of us

Sincerely
Barbara OConnor
30 quanset rd
Orleans

From: [Amanda Gemme](#)
To: [Roberta Smith](#)
Subject: [Re: Kent's Post](#)
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 9:02:26 PM

You don't often get email from amandalee.gemme@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
To whom it may concern (and hopefully a dog lover)

As a Harwich resident, community hospital nurse, and dog lover, I frequent Kent's point weekly, especially after long shifts when myself and my two german shorthaired pointers need to air out some stress and energy (both extensively recall and e collar trained.) When I walk Kent's point, I know full well it is a dog walk (as it is posted absolutely everywhere) and I set my expectations to also assume the risks that come with that. But in my experience, Kent's point attracts what I have always encountered as friendly, responsible and responsive dog owners. A lot of owners I encounter even leash their dogs when passing us just to be sure the interaction will be friendly before unleashing again and allowing our dogs to mingle. Because of this responsible owner community, I feel far safer bringing my dogs with my 6 month old baby strapped to me to Kent's than I would a fenced community dog park.

We live on a peninsula. That means an absolute plethora of scenic walks along beaches and marshes and ponds, most of them with leash laws and even barred dog access during the on season. (All of which are also eroding regardless of what foot prints or paw prints frequent them) Please don't take away yet another local off leash staple. There are other infinite walks for those who'd like to leash and those individuals can respectfully stroll those areas where they won't encounter off leash dogs.



Sincerely and woof,

Amanda Crosby, Bruce, and Crosby
153 Depot Road
Harwich, MA 02645
amandalee.gemme@gmail.com

From: [Julianna Brown](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Kent's point
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 8:01:06 PM

You don't often get email from juliannabrown11@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening Mr. Smith,

I am reaching out to you in regards to Kent's Point. My name is Julianna and I have lived on the cape my entire life. Growing up on Cape Cod, one of the core values that was instilled in me in school was that it is our responsibility to respect and protect the seashore, and this is something I have always taken seriously. Protecting sand dunes, politely asking people to get their children or dogs off of them to try to prevent any man made erosion, picking up trash on beaches, bringing any forgotten dog waste bags to trash cans, etc. I love Cape Cod and the many beautiful places we can explore here, and believe that protecting our environment is extremely important and as year round resident's we have a responsibility to do so.

I have been taking my goldendoodle, Bailey, to Kent's point on a weekly basis for the last 8 years. Walking at Kent's point with my dog has been one very precious constant in our life. I work as a nurse and used to drive from Yarmouth port to Kent's every day I had off, which usually ended up being three days per week at least. We now live in Brewster right over the Orleans line and are so lucky to be so close to it now. I have seen many different people and dogs come and go over the years and one thing I am certain of is that off leash dogs and their owners are not the cause of excess wear and tear on Kent's point, and have not caused an increase in safety concerns. Having gone to Kent's point for so many years I have watched the terrain change. I am not an expert, but I have not observed any new trails made by dogs, have not observed any holes dug by dogs left unfilled by their owners, and have not observed any unusual odor from dog waste. Over the past 8 years it has never, ever crossed my mind that the land is being abused. What I have thankfully observed is efforts being made by the town to stop erosion by closing certain trails by placing fencing which is so appreciated.

I would estimate I have visited and walked Kent's point somewhere around 1,200 separate times. (8 years, 3x/week) Of those probable 1,200 walks, never once have I witnessed a dog being aggressive towards a person, jumping on a person injuring them, or a person being tripped by a dog falling and injuring themselves. I have never felt threatened by another dog there. My dog and I tend to keep to ourselves on our walks and most of the dogs and owners have always been respectful and kind. The only injury I have ever witnessed at Kent's Point was my own, when I tripped walking into the park on the steps and sprained my ankle! And this was definitely not the result of my dog. I tripped over my feet and am the only one to blame.

Kent's point provides a place for responsible dog owners to bring their dogs to run and exercise, smell and explore in a beautiful place. Trying to keep up with my dog all of these years has been one huge way I am able to stay active. It brings social engagement to those that may not access that elsewhere and provides a sense of community amongst dog owners.

Orleans and the rest of Cape cod has countless beautiful trails and places to explore, but the number of places you can bring your dog off leash is extremely limited. To take that privilege away would be heart breaking to so many. I do not know of any other location aside from Thompsons Field in Harwich that dogs can be walked off leash. It truly has felt like a

sanctuary all of these years to my dog and I. The second I turn onto frost fish road her tail starts wagging a million miles a minute, and being there brings us both an immeasurable amount of joy. I understand not everyone likes dogs and may not want to be around them on a walk. Thankfully for those that do feel that way, this view is reflected in the extremely limited number of places dogs are allowed to be walked off leash, and the options for somewhere one can go for exploring, hiking and walking without dogs off leash are countless.

I appreciate your time in reading this and I hope you will keep me and Bailey in mind if there ever comes a time a decision needs to be made regarding Kent's Point and off leash dog walking. It is a privilege and we do not take it for granted.

Kind regards,
Julianna Brigham and Bailey



Bailey over the years at Kent's Point

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cynthia J Benton](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point assessment
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024 1:32:04 PM

You don't often get email from 3910lea@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello there! My name is Cynthia Benton and I live at 56 Old Colony Way in Orleans. I would like to weigh in on some of my concerns regarding this upcoming public introduction to the Kent's Point assessment by Brian Madden.

One of my concerns is seasonal consideration. A traffic study in July does not replicate to October and cannot be generalized.

I submitted to the board of selectman a petition for them to consider mediation over the "dog issues". I think it's stupid to go at this in recriminating fashion. We have common interests that aren't being addressed such as safety, ecology and public appreciation. We should work as one to outline guidelines for the use of Kent's Point is my opinion. I think anyone interested in the issues of Kent's Point should sit down together. I would hate for recommendations to come out made by someone who is unfamiliar with the area. I have been familiar with the area for 65 years And consider myself a steward if you will. I was a summer kid on little Pleasant Bay, which is where "the river" leads to.

I really do not want restrictions made on the enjoyment of Kent's Point but I think that some may be inevitable. So I don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. The most likely recommendation I think would be preferable to ALLOW DOGS OFF LEASH DAILT BEFORE 1 PM AND TO REQUIRE DOGS AFTER 1 PM TO BE LEASHED.

Further, I would hope that the committee would refrain from limiting the enjoyment of Kent's Point to Orleans residents only. The use by non-Orleans persons and dogs contributes to the wider meaning of community and I am horrified at the thought of dogs being closed into cars or our hotel rooms because they have nowhere to go when they're out of town visitors Visit here.

I thank you for your consideration and your assistance in getting us to a healthy and safe enjoyment of this beautiful Kent point.

Cynthia J Benton
56 Old Colony Way unit a
Orleans

From: [Cynthia J Benton](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Friday, December 13, 2024 3:05:37 PM

You don't often get email from 3910lea@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

hello again! I have just one further request regarding Kent's Point. When I was serving visitors to the point, many of them were saying how grateful they would be if there were a Porta potty there somewhere.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Benton

From: [Pamela Bankert](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 12:59:45 PM

[You don't often get email from pambankert@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I have been a year round resident of Orleans since 1997. My dog, Mango, and I very much appreciate and respect the beauty of Kent's Point. Mango is on voice command and really cherishes his "off leash" time. He does not approach people or annoy others. He will play with dogs who are interested but will walk away if they aren't. As a 57 lb. Standard Poodle, he needs exercise as well as mental stimulation. Sniffing his way along Kent's Point trails on his own schedule is fun and educational for him. I would be at Town Hall on the 16th except that Mango is having gastropexy surgery that morning and I am not planning to leave him alone until the vet says I can do so safely. It is my hope that the Town of Orleans will allow Kent's Point to be used as it has been, for the pleasure and enjoyment of owners and their dogs.

Thank You for your time,
Best,
Pam
Pamela Bankert
235 Tonset Road

From: [laurie.novak](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 2:03:13 PM

You don't often get email from laurie.novak@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

As an Eastham resident I walk at Kent's Point regularly, and although I do not own a dog I enjoy interacting with the dogs and owners there. I am a birdwatcher and the winter ducks in the waters surrounding Kent's Point are a big draw. I find the vast majority of dog owners are respectful of all and clean up after their pets. Also the erosion on the south side seems consistent with high tides and storms rather than human or dog activity. I would be very sad to lose access to this beautiful area (which I mostly use in the off season). Thanks for your consideration.
Laurie Novak

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Diego Torres](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's - a much needed offleash space
Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 6:27:37 PM

You don't often get email from diegotorres722@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello - Writing to say that Kent's is such a valuable resource for us and our dogs! The only place he can go for an off leash walk and swim. We care for Kent's and always look forward to our visits. It's our dog's favorite place. Thank you, Diego

From: [Morgan Hunt](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents: our dog's favorite walk
Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 6:28:36 PM

You don't often get email from mm.hunt93@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Happy Holidays!

Writing in on behalf of myself, my dog, and my countless friends and their fur counterparts to express how important Kent's Point is to our lives.

Kent's is the place my dog first learned how to swim, and is the only place he can enjoy a swim to escape the summer heat. We avoid ponds because of the likelihood of toxic bacteria, and avoid places dogs are not allowed, of course.

There are so many beautiful places on the cape for others to enjoy a walk in nature, but the same is not true for a dog to enjoy an offleash walk.

I can sense my dogs excitement as soon as we turn down the dirt road. He knows the freedom to come - a chance to trail through the woods, to run down to the water and splash around, a chance to be a dog.

We have met many good doggos at Kents over the years, and struggle to think of any bad experiences. Those that frequent Kents are responsible stewards of its beauty. For the hopefully few and far between instances of miscare that unfortunately happen, I would hope that the community who is respectful and mindful of what Kent's provides, would not be punished by other's misteps.

The Cape seems to be changing rapidly in recent years. I hope that we can hold onto our charm, our sense of community, and our traditions. I hope that when we see misdeeds we call them out and hold eachother accountable. I hope that when we face challenges, we come together for sensible solutions that honor this beautiful place we call home and the people who have made it so. I hope I'll be able to take my dog offleash at Kent's for years to come.

Thank you for your time,
Morgan Hunt (and Brody)

From: [Marion](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point for Dogs!
Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024 10:52:32 AM

You don't often get email from marionilenefischer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing in favor of keeping Kent's Point open to dog owners and dogs regardless of where on the Cape one lives. I have lived in Chatham and now Brewster. My children and I have enjoyed 25 years of beautiful walks in every season.

I think dog owners do a good job of keeping the peace and picking up the poo.

I am unable to make the meeting because I am not on the Cape.

Keep Kent's Point free and open to all as always.

Happy Holidays, thank you, Marion Fischer

ps. Still interested in funding and donating a bench.

From: [Will Lenihan](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Pt Dog Restriction
Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:44:59 AM

You don't often get email from will@resonance.nyc. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing because i heard there was a possibility of restricting kents point dogs for Orleans residents only. My dog's ashes were laid in kents point. My family and I have been going there for 20 years. Please don't change this it bring me and my family so much happiness to take our dogs there year after year.

Thanks,
Will

From the Desk of Pete Norgeot

To ConsCom for the December 16, 2024, Hearing

(from a mailing sent to KL residents on 12/09/2024 by v. Huestis, KL Council
Responses by P. Norgeot, Abutter)

Summarized:

- *“Environmental Degradation – Because of overuse of the property, which has spiked dramatically in recent years, the land and vegetation was deteriorating. New paths* were being formed, and the state of the property was declining significantly.”*
 - From the actual petition, January 31, 2024 – *“Erosion is dramatically changing the landscape. Excessive overuse year-round is creating unintended new trails, impacting existing plant life and preventing new growth.”*
 - Failure to acknowledge that *“new paths”/trails, and consequent damage to flora & fauna, are created by unleashed dogs, and owners chasing them.*
- *“Traffic and Safety Concerns – As many of you know, visitors to Kent’s Point often drive recklessly and without concern for other drivers or pedestrians. Near-accidents are a reality throughout the year. They are almost daily realities in the summertime.”*
 - The legal right of way is only ten (10) feet wide in places and NO Keziah’s Lane resident lives on any portion of the legal right of way, except the Norgeot family who does NOT support the petition.
 - The town does not acknowledge or recommend the use of Keziah’s Lane as an alternative access route. There is however, a significant number of scofflaws that refuse to use the dirt road access. They can be aggressive, rude, and threatening when approached and advised to use the legal access. Residents do not have the authority or the means to prevent that use.
 - Those using Keziah’s Lane for access ARE trespassing (signs indicate no access to Kent’s Point) and the Orleans police chief, in 1993, stated that OPD could not prevent trespass leaving enforcement to residents who have no power to do so.
 - There is no way to identify or segregate residents, guests, Sailing Assn. members, or Kent’s Point visitors. (although a dog in a car could be a giveaway)
- *“Safety Concerns at the Property – There have been injuries and near-injuries at Kent’s Point because of a lack of regulation, causing physical safety concerns.”*
 - Chief McDonald has provided me with a report of incidences at Kent’s Point. They keep a log of such “incidences”. There are remarkably few “dog-injury-related” reports. Mostly reports of loose dogs. Based on the OPD 4-year report, we, on our property, have many more aggressive dog issues because of unrestrained dogs.
 - Like all other “concerns” in the January 31st petition (from people who do NOT abut Kent’s Point) that have been put forth, there is zero detail about specifics of any kind. Simply reckless, unprovable allegations.
 - As the single, directly affected Kent’s Point abutter, over whose property ALL visitors to Kent’s Point must travel, (at least by vehicle) and who was the only Keziah’s Lane representative on the Kent’s Point Task Force, and who has all

From the Desk of Pete Norgeot

those TF minutes and agendas, not a single petitioner ever contacted me for information.

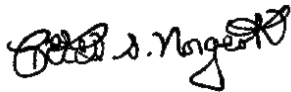
- *“Since that petition was submitted, the Conservation Commission has taken steps to gather information and data around Kent’s Point, all with an aim to understand the issue beyond anecdotes. That information gathering included conducting a car count last summer, which showed nearly 1,000 cars per week in visits specifically to the property. In addition, earlier this year, the Commission engaged an outside consultant and environmental expert to analyze the state of the land, including vegetation, wildlife, and otherwise. In short, that consultant was tasked with outlining what is currently happening at Kent’s Point and why from a conservation standpoint.”*
 - As with the petitioners, no member of ConsCom has contacted me (the sole year-round abutter) in their current “information gathering” about anything related to KP management or complaints.
 - Anyone, being even slightly interested, would recognize that a thousand cars entering Kent’s Point per week would mean a thousand cars exiting over the same ten (10) foot wide, legal right of way. One thousand cars, some coming in, and some going out, traveling over a 10-foot-wide right of way that the Town Council opined should not exceed the number of passages that Charlotte Kent would have made at that time. (Town Council even specified how many that might be, but ConsCom conveniently left out that information)
 - While the “outside consultant” has yet to post his/her findings publicly, and ConsCom has decided not to respond to his/her findings prior to the day of the public hearing on 12/16/2024, one can only speculate why there is no documentable proof of any living creature on Kent’s Point since dog urine has changed the PH level so dramatically.
 - In the same manner that the so-called “Independent Kent’s Point Task Force” was created to ensure that Kent’s Point would never be regulated according to the well-written and planned 1995 Kent’s Point Management Plan (95KPMP), ConsCom loaded the “Independent” task force with its own members and followers. (the chair and the secretary WERE the Chair & Secretary of ConsCom.....coincidence?)
 - They eliminated the 95 KPMP and replaced it with the 2002KPMP which eliminated regulation of nearly everything, including regulation of dogs. You need to read, and compare, both to see what ConsCom’s intentions were.
 - Even with their regulations that Kent’s Point must close from (sic) sundown to sunrise, There are headlights in the parking lot on a nightly basis. Used needles and condoms show up periodically. The OPD checks it frequently but can’t set up shop there. BTW – The OPD, despite the 1993 declaration of only responding to felonies, has been very cooperative and deserve credit for their frequent patrols.
 - Everyone agrees that Kent’s Point is a beautiful place that should be available to everyone wishing to be there without having to fear for their safety. I personally

From the Desk of Pete Norgeot

feel that it should only be for the taxpayers who paid for it but that would require a system (and personnel) to provide identification and ways to enforce compliance.

- The 95KPMP provided guidance to ensure safe usage, compliance with conservation requirements (and Charlotte Kent's stated wishes) and solicit input from neighbors to assist with that.
- All that ConsCom had to do was comply with Massachusetts State Regulations AND the 95KPMP (which allowed for amendments as needed) to ensure the viability of Kent's Point in the manner in which they convinced Orleans taxpayers to buy it.
- ConsCom won't even provide timely data (not opinion/hearsay) required for interested folks needing facts for the December 16th public hearing. It is hard to see any significant differences between now and 2015.
- Kent's Point is a beautiful property which ConsCom has failed to maintain as its charter requires. The law is the law. The facts are the facts.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter S. Norgeot
45 Keziah's Lane
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [Cynthia Hastings-Boffoli](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 10:31:48 AM

[You don't often get email from cynthiahastingsboffoli@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Attn: Ms. Kristyna Smith
Conservation, Principal Clerk

Dear Ms. Smith,

Kent's Point is a very special place for me, my puppy and my whole family. To be in nature and enjoy it's natural beauty, is truly a gift.

We are always considerate of others, and pick up any trash that may be along our way. It is a special place where we meet up with old friends and make new ones. There is no other place like it, and we treasure it every day.

Please let us know what we can do to improve the situation. We love Kent's Point and cherish it in so many ways.

Sincerely,
Mr & Mrs Robert Boffoli
4 Larboard Lane
Orleans, Massachusetts

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pete Norgeot](#)
To: [John Jannell](#)
Cc: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: A bit more
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 10:53:36 AM

Hi John,

Thank you for accepting my thoughts for the record. I would humbly ask that you also include the following information which might be helpful in lieu of lack of similar information.

Not knowing what the findings will be from the outside consultant, I would like you to pass along the following information which was taken from the Merck Veterinary Manual. <https://www.merckvetmanual.com/>. You have to dig a bit on that website, but it is a source that the town probably has not consulted regarding PH levels of soils which, I believe is the sole cause of the exodus of wildlife on Kent's Point:

Dog Weight (Kgs)	Dog Weight (Lbs)	Urine Output/hr. (mL)	Urine Output (Ounces)
15.91	35.00	31.82	1.08
79.55	175.00	159.09	5.38
47.73	105.00	95.46	3.23

The town has acknowledged that 1,000± cars/week visit Kent's Point. In 2015, Patty Platten reported putting out over 15,000 "mutt mitts" which as we all know do NOT catch urine.

Since no one (to my knowledge) has determined what percentage of the 1,000± vehicles contain dogs, and if so how many, it is impossible to estimate the gallons of urine spread throughout the property (including the once-pure fresh water seeps) or the changes caused by it all.

Rough calculations based on 10 years of urine spreading:

- ***If only 10% (100) of the 1,000± cars had dogs*** w/ an average weight of 105 lbs. would excrete 3.23 ounces/day if they only urinated once. (no dog, at least males, urinates just once)
- An average of the 100± dogs/week is 142/day. That would calculate to 45.87 ounces of urine/day
- In the 10 year period (2014-2024) that would have 3,650 days.
- That would come to 167,425.5 ounces. At 128 ounces/gallon, that would equal 1,308 gallons.
- If the percentage of cars w/ dogs is higher (as I strongly believe it is) the gallonage rises accordingly.

This is not accurate. Averages are not reliable. This is meant to demonstrate that without someone actually doing the research, major decisions on anything should not be made. There

are people with no agendas that could undertake this but that would require people with no agendas.

Thanks John,

Pete

From: Tim Counihan <tcounihan@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 3:33 PM

To: John Jannell <jjannell@town.orleans.ma.us>

Cc: Devon Puglia <devon.puglia@gmail.com>; Carol Counihan <ccounihan@hotmail.com>

Subject: Questions for tonight's workshop

John -

Unfortunately I won't be able to attend tonight's workshop so I thought I'd send you a couple of comments/questions.

First - the neighborhood has been looking for the presentation for the past week. Given that it wasn't with the agenda or on the Kent's point page of documents, we assumed that it hadn't been posted. I have since sent them the link.

I have to admit that I didn't find the presentation very informative. Just pictures and maps.

A few questions for tonight:

- How does the current environmental assessment compare with the one done in 1988 (Scope of services 1.1)?
- Did the consultant observe the "rich and diverse mixture of native and naturalized plant species" seen in 1988 (and the ladies tresses)? Or the "rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife" commented on in that study?
- Given the extensive literature regarding the impact of free running dogs on conservation areas (see below), does the consultant think that they may have adversely impacted Kent's Point?
- During the field assessment (1.4) what wildlife did the consultant observe? How many off-leash dogs did they observe? As to public use, how many children or seniors did they observe that were not accompanied by dogs?
- How much of the coastal erosion would they attribute to humans and their pets?

Best,

Tim

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2017/09/28/impacts-of-dogs-on-wildlife-water-quality-science-review.pdf>

From: [Neil Immerman](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re:Kent's Point
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:33:06 PM

You don't often get email from neil.immerman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Orleans Conservation Department,

I have owned a cottage in Eastham for the last sixteen years. Over this time, my wife and I have walked at Kent's Point with our dog. When we are here, we go to Kent's Point once or twice a week. We often make a stop at the Hot Chocolate Sparrow, Snow's or somewhere else in Orleans for some shopping or a bite to eat.

When walking at Kent's point, we enjoy meeting the other dog owners, who are inevitably friendly and careful with their animals. The dogs love to run and chase with each other. Our experience is that the people who go to Kent's Point with their dogs care about the place they are visiting and greatly appreciate this opportunity. In recent years, the number of places where dogs can run off leash in this part of the cape is sorely limited. Thus Kent's Point is not just a treat for the dogs and for their owners; it is a location that fills an important local need. I know that without Kent's Point, it would be far less pleasant for us to spend our summer on the cape.

I hope that Kent's Point can be preserved as it is—a beautiful and friendly place for people to walk and where dogs can be off leash. Please let me know if there is any way I can help the Conservation Dept. preserve this treasure.

Sincerely,
Neil Immerman

From: [Ashley](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 12:04:15 PM

You don't often get email from ashmk187@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I am writing as a follow up comment to the conservation meeting yesterday. I was hoping to attend but was unable.

I am a Chatham resident and have resided in Chatham my entire life. I graduated from Chatham High School in 2005 and have been a social worker for the Commonwealth, covering the Cape and Islands, for the past decade. My daughter attends Nauset Middle by school choice. I walk my dog almost every morning at Kent's Point after dropping her off.

My love of Kent's Point runs much deeper than just the past couple years. Since high school, I have been walking our family dogs and now my own at Kent's Point. It is such a special place. It's a place where nice people go with their friendly dogs so they can mingle, run, swim etc...

In the 20+ years that I have been going to Kent's Point, I have never once encountered an aggressive dog, unfriendly person or an unkept trail. The residents who utilize this land are clearly respecting it and treating it like the special place that it is.

Dogs have very few places to run free on Cape. This is even more true in the summer and spring when the beaches are closed to them. Dog parks tend to be dangerous in my experience and certainly do not provide animals with an outlet for enrichment, being in nature and being free.

Every living thing deserves to run free and trained dogs do not always belong on leashes especially on wooded trails. Dogs are our loving companions, not just property we keep leashed at all times. I was shocked to learn this was even up for discussion. It feels like something summer residents would bring up- not the actual people who live and keep these towns going year round.

Thank you,

Ashley Kent

From: [Dom Barbara](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent point
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 11:43:44 AM

[You don't often get email from djbarbara033@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello -

My name is Nick Barbara. My dog, Vinny, and I frequent Kent Point for walks. Most dogs there are off leash and I have never seen a problem of any kind and we have been going there since 2016. I hope it remains leash free.

Thanks Nick Barbara

Sent from my iPad

From: [Susan Landau](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024 6:45:40 AM

You don't often get email from susan.landau@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing regarding maintaining off-leash walking at Kent's Point.

My husband and I own a cottage in Eastham. We have been coming to the cape in the summers for thirty-eight years, ever since our son was a toddler. In the early days, we would take morning and evening walks along the bay with our son, then our son and daughter, and always with our dog. But over the years, dogs were banned from the bay beaches from mid-June to Labor Day, though for a time one could still walk dogs off leash at the beach on Dyer Prince Road in Eastham. Then that, too, ended. So did walking with dogs off leash at Pamet Hollow. Those are real losses. Dogs, like people and other animals, need time and space to play and run, but doing so in summer on the Upper Cape is increasingly impossible.

The one place along the water one is able to still walk dogs off leash in summer is Kent's Point. It is a wonderful place. We have been coming for years once or twice a week, often stopping at Chocolate Sparrow on the way back for a cappuccino and chocolate. It is a pleasure we would hate to lose. Indeed, it would make the cape a less attractive place for us to be. We first found Kent's Point about thirty years ago, and have been walking there ever since. We are particularly fond of the bench in honor of Everett Hafner, someone we both knew at Hampshire College. It is a favorite place of ours to sit.

Over the years, we have walked our dogs in many places off leash. Kent's Point has always been remarkable in that regard. Though we often run into multiple sets of people with dogs off leash, the dogs are under control with everyone very careful about putting a dog back on leash if there are children or other people about who prefer dogs on leash. There is care and much friendliness by and amongst the dog owners. And there are happy and well-behaved animals, chasing and running about in ways that are not very obtainable otherwise in this part of the cape—especially in summer.

We are aware that some neighbors of Kent's Point are not overly fond of the dog walkers. But the fact is that the cape has many places for people who want to walk where dogs are not allowed—on or off leash. Fort Hill and Red Maple Swamp are two nearby places for such walkers, as is the walk from the Salt Pond Visitor's Center out to the ocean. Kent's Point is one of only two places to walk with dogs off leash in the vicinity (the other is Wiley Park).

The treasure of Kent's Point, which is a much beloved spot of many, should not be allowed to disappear because of the unhappiness of a few.

You would be removing an important and valued neighborhood resource.

Thank you.

Best,

Susan Landau

From: [John Pershing](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#); [John Jannell](#)
Subject: Kent's Point environmental study
Date: Friday, December 20, 2024 9:12:22 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from johnpershing3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I attended the meeting on Monday night and below are my thoughts on the presentation. I realize that the final report is still in process, and that some of these concerns may be addressed in the final report.

>

> To me, the biggest problem with the presentation is that it did not consider the environmental impact dog use is having on Kent's Point. I've admired Kents Point all my life, and have been birdwatching there since it was opened to the public. It's clear to me that the wildlife on Kent's has diminished over the years and the ever increasing number of dogs visiting the site is likely a major factor in the decline.

>

> Related, there's the question of the environmental impact of the massive amount of dog urine poured onto the sandy soil of Kent's. While one hopes that most of the dog feces make it into the dumpster, the number of off leash dogs wandering out of sight of their owners makes it likely that a considerable amount of feces will not be collected. There is an increasing number of solid studies about the negative impact of dogs on parks and conservation land, but the presenter seemed unaware of those issues.

>

> There are safety issues created by the heavy presence of unrestrained dogs at the site. The Town of Orleans provides no enforcement of the "no unrestrained dogs" policy. The result is that Kent's has become a mecca for people who want to run their dogs, and they are happy to travel far for the privilege. The beach portion of Kent's is a favorite spot for dog owners to play fetch with their pets, and no dog is restrainable when running down a tennis ball.

>

> Related to enforcement, there is a large sign at the Baker's Pond parking lot that includes a prominent list of banned activities--the first listed is no unrestrained dogs-- and at the end of the list it boldly says there is a \$300 fine for these activities. This is at least a nod to enforcing the laws at that site.

>

> This raises the question of liability to the town the next time someone is seriously hurt by an unrestrained dog at Kent's Point and sues the town for negligence for not enforcing the ban on unrestrained dogs.

>

> Last note, I promise. I understand that the previous environmental report's methods and data are not the same as the current report in process. However, I was surprised that the presentation did not try to address changes that have occurred at Kent's since the last study. For example, has Kent's seen an increase or decrease in animal and plant species since the last report?

>

> With thanks for the work you have done to move this study along,

>

> John Pershing
15 Keziah's Lane
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [Prince, Alice S.](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 21, 2024 12:15:22 PM

You don't often get email from asp7@cumc.columbia.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please preserve the current “off-leash” status for dogs and people enjoying Kent’s Point!

As a 20+ year Orleans tax- payer – my dogs and family have enjoyed Kent’s Point as a lovely spot for kids, parents, grandparents and their pets to wander – sniff, greet and chat. It is a local gem that is well appreciated by the community; kept tidy and policed by its many devoted habitues. It would be a major loss to the community if the shared enjoyment of the area were to be compromised by the vocal complaints of the self-entitled few who seek to change the dog-friendly ambiance into that of just another restricted park. Thanks for your consideration



Alice Prince, MD
104 Tar Kiln Rd
South Orleans MA
508 240-7615
914 420-6394

From: [Paul Starobin](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 21, 2024 2:37:48 PM

You don't often get email from paul.starobin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Conservation Commission,

I am a longtime Orleans resident and property owner who prizes the ability of dog walkers to walk their dogs, off leash, at Kent's Point. I have done so myself for a dozen years. It is tremendous exercise for the dogs to be able to be off leash, and tremendous for their spirits. I know of no other place in Orleans where this can be done. It is wonderful too, for the dog owners, to have this pleasure with their beloved dogs. Of course we have a responsibility to make sure our dogs are behaved and under our control, even off leash, and we understand and honor this obligation.

So I would like to add my voice to all of those who aim to preserve off leash at Kent's Point. And to make one further comment: I respect everyone's property rights in Orleans. But I know from personal experience that this effort to require leashed dogs at Kent's Point is motivated by a spirit by at least some of those who own property around Kent's Point to curtail traffic to Kent's Point, especially in the summer. 'Leashed dogs' strikes me as an indirect way to accomplish this core objective.

Several summers ago, a property owner actually blocked the main road into and out of Kent's Point, with his vehicle. He verbally accosted me for using the road at all. I wish I had his name--but I thought it was best under the circumstances simply to leave the area, with my dog, as quickly as possible. (I was on my way out.)

Thanks for your consideration of my point of view. Kent's Point is a wonderful treasure in Orleans for off leash dogs and their owners. Please preserve!

Yours,

Paul Starobin
12 Sherman Rd.
Orleans

From: [Fred Fried](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024 10:19:11 AM

You don't often get email from fredfried@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Kristyna Smith,

For 30 years since we moved to Orleans we have been walking Kents Point with our three generations of dog companions. There is not a day goes by that we don't say what a gift it is to the Orleans community - for the health and well being, the exercise and social interaction of both people and dogs. With the beaches closed to dogs from April 1 to after Labor Day, Kent's Point is the only place in Orleans where dogs can safely exercise year round. Kent's Point is an important community asset for young and old, human and canine, to meet and greet and enjoy the beauty of nature. All the dog owners we have met, and we have met many, are respectful of the area and want to preserve it. We look forward to working together to make sure this gift remains the enormous benefit it is to living in Orleans.

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts.

Respectfully,

Fred and Barbara Fried

17 Nichols Road,

Orleans, MA

From: [Maggie Phelan](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's point
Date: Sunday, December 22, 2024 8:27:25 PM

[You don't often get email from reddma5@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I'm writing to advocate to keep Kent's point off-leash friendly for dogs under voice control.

This is a wonderful community of dog owners where dogs can socialize and meet off leash - which helps dogs behaviorally for all interactions. We love walking here solely for this reason.

We love to walk around, swim, and play with other dogs and often meet with friends from other towns here, bringing business to the town for lunch, coffee, or errands after our meet ups.

This is the last place like this, aside from Thompson's field in Harwich.

I've never really understood why people feel the need to try to remove the handful of dog friendly places from our community - 99% of cape cod is not dog friendly.

If off-leash places are removed, we will be forced to walk with them off leash in other places (beaches, walking trails, parks) where others who would like to avoid dogs will unknowingly encounter them. I am a responsible dog owner with a voice controlled dog and if off-leash walking is not a designated option somewhere, I'm still going to do it, just out in the world with all these people who are trying to avoid off leash dogs. I'll take the \$100 fine. My dog answers to my call, and would never hurt anyone, and I always pick up after him, so that's the only risk for me. Really, all you will be doing is punishing the honest people trying to do the right thing and respect other residents. As a person with an older mother who likes to walk and really dislikes dogs - and when I had unsteady toddlers, I like knowing the reverse is true as well - all the off leash people are at Kent's.

Truly, if you remove this from Kent's, all the off-leash dog people aren't going to go away, they're just going to spread out everywhere - still off leash to the disappointment of these people advocating for this position.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maggie Reddington Phelan

From: [Nargiza Yuldasheva](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 5:41:04 PM

You don't often get email from nyuldasheva@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Conservation Commission,

I am a resident of Orleans and property owner, and I love to walk my dog, off leash, at Kent's Point. The dogs love this activity, it is very healthy for them. And it is good for dog owners, too. I understand the need to keep an off-leash dog under control, and I do that.

Please add my name to all of those who want to preserve off leash at Kent's Point. I think that the call for leashed dogs is really more about people who live in the Kent's Point neighborhood, who want to make Kent's Point less attractive to dog owners, so fewer people will drive through the neighborhood to get there. But that does not go to the purpose of this wonderful conservation land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Nargiza Yuldasheva
Orleans

I would like to address the following points with the workshop attendees, the Conservation Commission and the Town of Orleans citizen and residents.

It amazes me how people who use and visit Kent's point have for the last 26 years have been saying the said thing about how marvelous and beautiful Kent's Point is to visit. When each and every year for the past 20 years of town management by the Con Com. The property's wildlife, habitat & environment have been degraded.

We have come to a point at this workshop to realize that even the human use to come and enjoy the natural beauty have had their experiences degraded. The recreational aspects of the acquisition have overwhelmed the purpose of the Town Meeting voters (.) There is no accountability for those who do not respect the investment the Town has made. (\$1.7MM) For those who behave badly out on the Point have no expectation of accountability are free to as they have they are entitled to do as they are please.

The conservation of the property has reach a management point to avoid disaster of the primary reason it was acquired. The Town has not performed in compliance of the deed Miss Charlotte Kent conveyed to the Town. It was said last Thursday evening that "Miss Kent would be rolling over in her grave if she knew/saw the condition of and behavior that occured on the Point. Both the former Select-person and myself have had life-long appreciation, respect and knew Miss Kent as to how she &her family protected, managed and loved the point for her entire life.

I strongly suggest that the Town of Orleans through it's Conservation Commission:

1. Manage public access to this property,
2. Control and restrict the access to the Point for Orleans' residents & taxpayers,
3. Use a beach/park sticker program to control access of vehicles to the Point,
4. That officials patrol (Conservation Warden, Police or volunteer monitors) the point and deal with inappropriate behavior,
5. That wildlife takes precedence over human activity,

6. Open & close areas and trails to allow for a resurgence of wildlife and their life cycles, such as birds and nesting,
7. Restrict the nuisance of unleashed dogs on the point,
8. Install game cameras to monitor wildlife population and behaviors, for public safety and as a means to discouragement of bad human behavior and documentation of such behavior,
9. Enforcement of the rules & regulation posted and set by the Town of Orleans Conservation Commission,
10. Revisit the Rule & regulations, enforcement and wildlife successes or failures on a regular basis such as annually.

On November 7, 2022 while walking my leashed 7 month old puppy on the main/central trail of the Point.

We were mobbed by a group of 5 unleashed dogs, Details have been documented and sent to Con Com and other Orleans officials. The owners/handlers remained indifferent to beledderent during this incident. I found back at the parking lot a white van was parked there, since I had arrived and began our walk. The van contained collars, harness, leashes that a dog trainer would use. It was apparent to me and others who had received my complaint that this individual was in operation of a dog walking/training exercise. Operating a business on Town property. This van had no Orleans stickers confirming them as resident. I did record and provided the MA vehicle to officials.

The Point has been overwhelmed by us humans. Loved to death. Enjoyed beyond it's carrying capacity.

Stickers are the best control to manage out of towners' use of the Point. During several visit during the summer season and Fall I went to the Point parking lot to observe vehicles and where they may come from.

My counts are below:

Nov. 7, 2022 21 car total,

10 cars with MA plates

6 cars with Orleans stickers

11 cars with out of state plates

5 cars without of Orleans stickers (2 cars with other town

stickers0

Aug. 31, 2022 25 cars total,
11 cars with MA plates
6 cars with Orleans stickers (3 with out of state plates)
14 cars with out of state plates
12 cars without Orleans stickers (2 were other town stickers)

Several incident of public safety and personal injury that required a Rescue call to the point and trip to the hospital. One broken leg, one broken ankle, one man treed and suffered multiple dog bites. Picnics disturbed by dogs. Other leashed dogs, small dogs had been rushed or chased. All of these are a result of unleashed dogs.

While the Town Bylaw is not sufficiently strong enough, Per our Chief of Police it is difficult to enforce. And changes to this bylaw were subverted at Town Meeting by certain dog owners group and specifically the leader of this group. Spoke to sway the voters that it is essential an un-American, even unconstitutional to interfere with the rights of dog walkers. This is a disservice to the Townspeople, frightens people from visiting the Property that they helped pay for. Intimidates those who have complaints to report same to official. It is NOT clear to the average person using the Point what the rule truly are.

Please consider these management tool seriously and implement them to protect the public, the wildlife and the Town from a legal liability.

Respectfully

Vincent A. Ollivier

The impacts of dogs on wildlife and water quality: A literature review

Compiled by Lori Hennings, Metro Parks and Nature, April 2016

SUMMARY

Metro periodically reviews the science literature behind its natural resource policies to ensure policies are based on the most current science. Recently staff reviewed the scientific literature regarding the impacts of dogs on wildlife to inform Metro Regulatory Code Title 10.01, which excludes pets from most Metro properties. The only exceptions are service dogs, leashed dogs on some regional trails, Broughton Beach, boat ramps and properties managed by others through intergovernmental agreements that are integrated into larger parks where leashed dogs are allowed (e.g., Forest Park).

Any human related activity can disturb wildlife. In order to meet Metro's dual goals of protecting natural resources and providing access to nature, Metro has tried to strategically locate trails in less sensitive habitat and to ensure that human activity is as non-disruptive as possible. Part of that strategy has been to allow public access, while limiting certain activities such as bringing dogs into natural areas.

The evidence that dogs negatively impact wildlife is overwhelming. It is clear that people with dogs – on leash or off – are much more detrimental to wildlife than people without dogs. Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) are considered to be a subspecies of wolves (*Canis lupus*), and wildlife perceive dogs as predators.⁽³⁰⁾ Impacts include:

1. **Physical and temporal displacement** – The presence of dogs causes wildlife to move away, temporarily or permanently reducing the amount of available habitat in which to feed, breed and rest. Animals become less active during the day to avoid dog interactions. Furthermore, the scent of dogs repels wildlife and the effects remain after the dogs are gone.
2. **Disturbance and stress response** – Animals are alarmed and cease their routine activities. This increases the amount of energy they use, while simultaneously reducing their opportunities to feed. Repeated stress causes long-term impacts on wildlife including reduced reproduction and growth, suppressed immune system and increased vulnerability to disease and parasites.
3. **Indirect and direct mortality** – Dogs transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife. Loose dogs kill wildlife.
4. **Human disease and water quality impacts** - Dog waste pollutes water and transmits harmful parasites and diseases to people.

INTRODUCTION

Metro owns 17,000 acres of parks and natural areas and does not allow dogs or other pets on the vast majority of these lands. Exceptions include service animals, leashed dogs on some regional trails, Broughton Beach, boat ramps and certain properties managed by others through intergovernmental

agreements that are integrated into larger parks where leashed dogs are allowed (e.g., Forest Park). The policy that prohibits visitors from bringing pets to most of Metro's managed parks and natural areas was initiated by Multnomah County in the 1980s and continued in practice after Metro assumed management of those parks in the early 1990s. After a review of the scientific literature and meaningful public discourse, Metro formally adopted the pets policy into its code in 1997 (Metro Council Regulatory code Title 10.01 adopted in Ordinance 96-659A).

To ensure this decision reflects the most up-to-date information, Metro staff examined 54 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and several research reports relating to the impacts of dogs in natural areas, including numerous literature reviews on the impacts of various types of recreation on wildlife and habitat.^(10, 28, 42, 54, 61, 63, 65, 68, 71, 73, 77) The results of our literature review are summarized below.

PHYSICAL AND TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT

Displacement may be the most significant impact due to the amount of habitat affected. The presence of dogs causes most wildlife to move away from an area, which temporarily or permanently reduces the amount of functionally available habitat to wildlife. The research is clear that people with dogs disturb wildlife more than humans alone.^(5, 10, 33, 38, 39, 41, 44, 61, 68, 69) These effects reduce a natural area's carrying capacity for wildlife, and also reduces wildlife viewing experiences for visitors.

Studies on a variety of wildlife in many countries and settings demonstrate that dogs along trails and in natural areas significantly alter wildlife behavior.^(9, 33, 39, 41, 49, 53, 58) A 2011 literature review found negative dog effects in all 11 papers that examined such effects.⁽⁶⁵⁾ Studies demonstrate dog-specific impacts on reptiles,^(29, 31, 48) shorebirds and waterfowl,^(24, 32, 51, 69) songbirds,^(5, 9, 10) small mammals,^(33, 39, 56) deer, elk and bighorn sheep,^(4, 36, 38, 44, 49, 59, 63) and carnivores.^(22, 33, 52, 58)

A study in France found that two hikers disturbed an area of 3.7 hectares walking near wild sheep, whereas two hikers with dogs disturbed 7.5 hectares around the sheep.⁽⁴¹⁾ In Chicago, migratory songbirds were less abundant in yards with dogs.⁽⁹⁾ Dog walking in Australian woodlands led to a 35% reduction in bird diversity and a 41% reduction in the overall number of birds.⁽⁵⁾ The same study showed some disturbance of birds by humans, but typically less than half that induced by dogs.

Studies in California and Colorado showed that bobcats avoided areas where dogs were present, including spatial displacement^(22, 33, 52) and temporal displacement in which bobcats switched to night time for most activities.⁽²²⁾ The Colorado study also demonstrated significantly lower deer activity near trails specifically in areas that allowed dogs, and this effect extended at least 100 meters off-trail.⁽³³⁾ This negative effect was also true for small mammals including squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks and mice, with the impact extending at least 50 meters off-trail.

Evidence suggests that some wildlife species can habituate to certain predictable, non-threatening disturbances such as people walking on a trail in a natural area; this effectively lowers the stress response. Part of this adaptation may be due to wildlife learning what is and isn't a threat, and also

avoidance of hunters.^(19,55,63,70) Habituated animals still react, but amount of habitat affected is not as large.^(55,56,63,70) However, dogs – especially off-leash dogs – may prevent wildlife habituation because wildlife consistently see them as predators. Dog-specific disturbance has been studied for birds, with no evidence of habituation even with leashed dogs, even where dog-walking was frequent; this effect was much weaker for people without dogs.⁽⁵⁾



Even the scent of dog urine or feces can trigger wildlife to avoid an area. Therefore, the impacts of dog presence can linger long after the dog is gone, even days later. One literature review found that predator odors caused escape, avoidance, freezing, and altered behavior in a large suite of wildlife species including scores of amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species from other studies.⁽³⁰⁾ The scent of domestic dogs has been shown to repel American beaver (*Castor Canadensis*), mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa*), deer (*Odocoileus* species), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and a wide variety of wildlife native to other countries.^(20,30) Mountain beaver cause economic damage to young tree stands in the Pacific Northwest, and foresters are considering using dog urine as a repellent.⁽²⁰⁾ An experimental study demonstrated that dog feces are an effective repellent for sheep, with no habituation observed over seven successive days.⁽¹⁾



One Colorado study showed mixed effects of dogs on wildlife.⁽⁴⁴⁾ The study compared effects of pedestrians alone, pedestrians with leashed dogs and unleashed dogs alone on grassland birds. Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*) and Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) waited until dogs were closest to flush – that is, they fly or run away. This could be an attempt to remain undetected against the greatest threat, but could also mean that these bird species perceive humans as a greater threat than dogs. However, the same study found strong dog-specific impacts on mule deer in woodlands. A literature review found that ungulates (deer, elk and sheep) had stronger flight responses in open habitats compared to forested habitats.⁽⁶³⁾ Unlike small ground-nesting songbirds, larger animals would have no cover and could easily be seen in open habitats.

The disturbance effects of off-leash dogs are stronger than on-leash and substantially expand the amount of wildlife habitat affected,^(32,59,63,69) and the unpredictability of off-leash dogs may prevent wildlife habituation in large areas of habitat.^(5,10,32,61,69) The negative effects are increased even further when dogs and people venture off-trail, probably because their behavior is less predictable.^(44,67) Off-leash dogs are likely to reduce the number and types of wildlife in large areas of habitat.

7 different papers cited

A Colorado study found off-leash dogs ventured up to 85 meters from the trail, although this result was from 1 square meter plots covering a very small percentage of the area.⁽³³⁾ Remote cameras in another study documented the same dog 1.5 miles apart in the same day.⁽⁶¹⁾ In Utah, mule deer showed a 96% probability of flushing within 100 meters of recreationists located off trails; their probability of flushing did not drop to 70% until the deer were 390 meters from the recreationists.⁽⁶⁷⁾ A California shorebird study found that off-leash dogs were a disproportionate source of disturbance, and that plovers did not habituate to disturbance; birds were disturbed once every 27 minutes on weekends.⁽³²⁾

To illustrate the potential of dogs to displace wildlife we explored two well-known local park examples that allow dogs on leash. Forest Park is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S. and was always intended to connect urban dwellers with nature; people have been walking their dogs there since before the park's 1948 dedication. Forest Park covers 5,172 acres of forest, including approximately 80 miles of trails and service. Using a very conservative 25-meter buffer around mapped trails to represent the "human + dog on leash" area of disturbance and assuming 100% compliance with leash rules, the area affected would be 1,406 acres – that's 28% of the entire park. In 651-acre Tryon Creek Natural Area, 207 acres of land (32%) is within 25 meters of a trail.

DISTURBANCE AND STRESS RESPONSE

Stress response is the functional response of an animal to an external stressor, such as seasonal changes in temperature and food availability or sudden disturbance.⁽³⁾ Specific stress hormones are released to enable the animal to physically respond to the stressor. Acute stress response, when an animal reacts to an immediate situation, can benefit an animal by triggering it to respond appropriately to a threat.

However, chronic stress such as repeated disturbances over time may reduce wildlife health, reproduction, growth, impair the immune system and increase vulnerability to parasites and diseases.^(16,27,75)

Dogs cause wildlife to be more alert, which reduces feeding, sleeping, grooming and breeding activities and wastes vital energy stores that may mean life or death when resources are low, such as during winter or reproduction.^(8,32,40,41,69) Animals release stress hormones and their heart rates elevate in response.^(3,27,37,38) When stress becomes too high, animals may flush, freeze, or hide.^(26,30)

Several studies document that disturbance reduces reproductive success for some wildlife species.^(11,35,40,50,63) Numerous studies found that female deer and elk, and deer and elk groups with young offspring, show greater flight responses to human disturbances than other groups.⁽⁶³⁾ Stress hormones may cause male songbirds to reduce their territorial defense, females to reduce feeding of their young, nestlings to have reduced weight and poor immune systems, and adult birds to abandon nests.^(11,34,35,76) A Colorado study showed that elk repeatedly approached by humans had fewer young.⁽⁵⁰⁾ Although research is lacking on whether dogs specifically reduce the reproductive success of wildlife, the fact that humans with dogs create much stronger disturbance effects than without dogs^(5,33,38,41,44,61,68,69) implies that these stress effects would be magnified if people had dogs with them.

INDIRECT AND DIRECT MORTALITY

Dogs chase and kill many wildlife species including reptiles, small mammals, deer and foxes.^(12,13,29,31,48,58,62) A Canadian study found that domestic dogs were one of the top three predators that killed white-tailed deer fawns.⁽⁴⁾ In northern Idaho winter deer grounds, an Idaho Fish and Game conservation officer witnessed or received reports of 39 incidents of dogs chasing deer, directly resulting in the deaths of at least 12 animals.⁽³⁶⁾ A study in southern Chile revealed that domestic dogs preyed on

most of the mammal species present in the study area.⁽⁶⁰⁾ A 2014 literature review of dogs in parks identified 19 studies that investigated the effects of dogs preying on wildlife.⁽⁷³⁾ Of these, 13 reported observing or finding strong evidence of dog predation on wildlife. The Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center took in 1,681 known "dog-caught" injured animals from 1987 through March 2016.⁽²⁾

Dogs transmit diseases to wildlife and vice versa including rabies, Giardia, distemper and parvovirus.^(18,23,66,74) A Mexico City study concluded that feral dogs continually transmitted parvovirus, toxoplasmosis and rabies to wildlife including opossums, ringtails, skunks, weasels and squirrels.⁽⁶⁶⁾ Large carnivores such as cougars are especially vulnerable to domestic dog diseases including canine distemper.⁽⁷⁴⁾

HUMAN DISEASE AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS

Under the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Metro is a Designated Management Agency to protect water quality in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. Limiting dog access at most natural areas is one of Metro's commitments to DEQ, because dog feces pollute water. Feces are often delivered to waterways through stormwater.⁽⁵⁷⁾ The average dog produces ½ to ¾ pound of fecal matter each day – a hundred dogs can produce more than 500 pounds of waste per week.⁽⁴⁵⁾ The DEQ identifies pet waste as a significant contributor to one of the region's most ubiquitous and serious pollutants, *E. coli* bacteria. Contact with *E. coli*-polluted water can make people sick. Because dog waste can be a relatively simple source to reduce or eliminate exposure to *E. coli*, DEQ considers reducing or eliminating dog waste an important action item in jurisdictions' clean water implementation plans for the Willamette Basin watershed.⁽⁴⁷⁾

Humans can catch parasites and diseases such as hookworms (causes rash), roundworms (may cause vision loss in small children, rash, fever, or cough) and salmonella (causes gastrointestinal illness) from dog waste.^(7,57) Aside from potential illnesses, dog waste can negatively affect visitors' experience in a natural area. Dog waste left on the ground is a leading complaint in Portland parks, and violators may be fined up to \$150 per incident.⁽¹⁴⁾

Several examples illustrate local dog impacts. A Clean Water Services DNA study found that dog waste alone accounts for an average of 13% of fecal bacteria in stream study sites in the Tualatin River Basin.⁽¹⁷⁾ Off-leash dog walking is documented to cause erosion in Portland's Marshall Park, creating sediment problems in stream water.⁽¹⁵⁾ In 2014 Portland school administrators expressed concern because playgrounds had become "a minefield for animal waste" from people using school grounds as after hours, off-leash dog parks, threatening the health of school children.⁽²¹⁾ The City of Gresham found extremely high levels of *E. coli* bacteria in water quality samples of a very specific stretch of a stream, where dog feces were found along stream banks behind several yards with dogs.¹ The city sent letters to

¹ Personal communication with Katie Holzer, Watershed Scientist at the City of Gresham, Oregon, 4/11/2016.

residents in the neighborhood about the incident and how to properly dispose of dog feces; the levels have not been elevated in follow-up sampling.

BELIEF, BEHAVIOR AND REALITY

People do not always take responsibility for their impacts on wildlife. Several studies demonstrate that natural area visitors, including dog owners, often don't believe they are having much of an effect on wildlife, or assign blame to different user groups rather than accepting responsibility themselves.^(6,64,67,68)

Some natural area visitors assume that when they see wildlife, it means that they are not disturbing the animals – or worse, that because they didn't see any wildlife, they didn't disturb any.⁽⁶⁴⁾

For example, in Utah, about half of recreational visitors surveyed did not believe that recreation was having a negative impact on wildlife; of those that did, each user group blamed other groups for the strongest impacts.⁽⁶⁷⁾ In Austria, 56% of people surveyed at a national park agreed that wildlife is in general disturbed by human activity.⁽⁶⁴⁾ However, only 12% believed that they had disturbed wildlife in their visit that day, and dog-walkers ranked their activities as less disturbing than other user groups' activities. When asking different user groups to rate the impacts of overall human disturbance on wildlife, dog-walkers rated the impacts the lowest, at 2.6 out of 5 possible impact points.

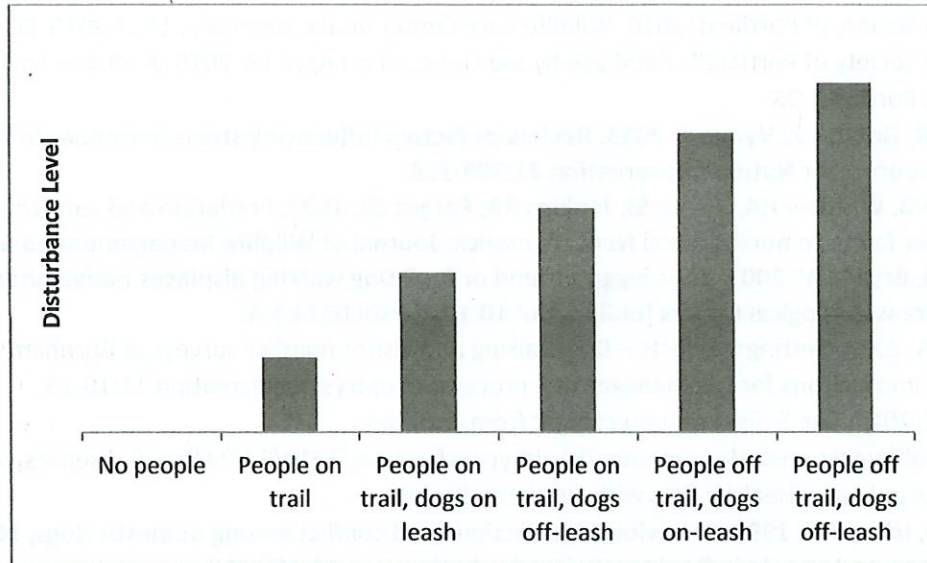
Surveys indicate that many dog owners desire fewer restrictions, while non-dog owners often feel the opposite.^(72,73) However dog owners don't always follow the rules, and some dog owners allow their dogs to run free in leash-only natural areas.^(32,52,73) In a Santa Barbara study, only 21% of dogs were leashed despite posted leash requirements.⁽³²⁾ And despite regulations and claims to the contrary, dog owners often don't pick up their dog's waste.^(6,32) An English study revealed that although 95% of visitors claimed to pick up their dog's waste only 19-46% actually did so, depending on location within the park.⁽⁶⁾

DISCUSSION

In summary, people and their dogs disturb wildlife, and people are not always aware of or willing to acknowledge the significance of their own impacts. Wildlife perceive dogs as predators. Dogs subject wildlife to physical and temporal displacement from habitat, and dog scent repels wildlife with lingering impacts. Dogs disturb wildlife which can induce long-term stress, impact animals' immune system and reduce reproduction. Dogs spread disease to and outright kill wildlife. People with dogs are much more detrimental to wildlife than people alone; off-leash dogs are worse; and off-trail impacts are the highest (Figure 1).

Urban wildlife is subjected to many human-induced stressors including habitat loss, degraded and fragmented habitat, impacts from a variety of user groups, roads, trails, infrastructure, noise and light pollution.⁽²⁶⁾ These stressors will increase with population; from July 2014 to 2015 the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region added 40,621 new residents.⁽⁴³⁾ Current population in the region stands at 2.4 million, with another 400,000 residents expected over the next 20 years.

Figure 1. Conceptual illustration of the relative impacts on wildlife due to people without and with dogs.



Among medium to high density cities, Portland currently ranks second in the total area covered by parks at nearly 18%, and also second in the number of park acres per resident.⁽²⁵⁾ Of 34 park providers in the Portland region, all but four allow dogs in most or all of their natural areas, typically on-leash; more than two-thirds also offer dog parks or off-leash dog areas (Table 1 at end of document).

Wildlife conservation is not the only valid reason to preserve natural areas. Park providers must weigh the trade-offs between wildlife, habitat, water quality and recreational values. But when considering different types of public access in a natural area, it is important to understand that the research is clear: people with dogs substantially increase the amount of wildlife habitat affected and are more detrimental to wildlife than people without dogs.

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Table 1. Park providers' dog policies in the greater Portland, Oregon metropolitan area.

Parks provider	No dogs allowed	Some parks allow dogs	Dogs allowed	On-leash	Free to roam	Off-leash areas or dog park
Audubon Society of Portland	X					
City of Beaverton		X ²		X		X
City of Cornelius			X	X ³		
City of Durham			X	X		X
City of Fairview		X ⁴		X		
City of Forest Grove			X	X		X
City of Gladstone			X	X		X
City of Gresham			X	X		X
City of Happy Valley			X	X ⁵		X
City of Hillsboro			X	X		X
City of Lake Oswego			X	X		X
City of Milwaukie ⁶			X	X		X
City of Oregon City			X	X		X ⁷
City of Portland		X		X ⁸		X ⁹
City of Sherwood			X	X		X
City of Tigard			X	X		X
City of Troutdale		X ¹⁰		X		X ¹¹
City of Tualatin			X	X		X
City of West Linn			X	X		X ¹²
City of Wilsonville			X	X		X
City of Wood Village			X	X		
Clackamas County			X	X		X
Clean Water Services (Fernhill Wetlands)	X					

² All parks except fountain provided by Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District.

³ Considering off-leash dog area at Water Park.

⁴ Dogs on leash allowed at all parks except Salish Ponds (no dogs).

⁵ Dogs on leash except prohibited in playgrounds.

⁶ All city parks are operated by North Clackamas Parks and Recreation Department.

⁷ The City of Oregon City is currently testing off-leash areas in three parks.

⁸ Dogs on-leash except prohibited at Foster Floodplain Natural Area, Tanner Springs Park, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, Riverview Natural Area, and the amphitheater at Mt Tabor Park.

⁹ 33 off-leash dog areas.⁴⁶

¹⁰ Most parks: dogs not allowed. Exception: Sunrise Park and large Beaver Creek Greenway, leash only. Considering two more on-leash dogs allowed parks.

¹¹ Plans for an off-leash area at Sunrise Park.

¹² One off-leash dog area: field near parking lot at Mary S. Young Park. Off-leash dogs were identified as an issue by parks board.

Parks provider	No dogs allowed	Some parks allow dogs	Dogs allowed	On-leash	Free to roam	Off-leash areas or dog park
Federal / State (Sandy River Natural Area)			X ¹³	X	X	X
Metro		X ¹⁴				
N. Clackamas Parks & Recreation			X			X
OR Department of Fish and Wildlife			X	X ¹⁵	X	X
OR Parks & Recreation Department			X	X		X
Port of Portland		X ¹⁶		X		
The Nature Conservancy	X					
The Wetlands Conservancy			X ¹⁷	X	X	
Tualatin Hills Park and Rec. District		X ¹⁸		X		X
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	X					
U.S. Forest Service ¹⁹			X	X	X	X

¹³ Leashes required only on/near Confluence Trail and in parking area. Leash-off everywhere else. Region's largest off-leash area, and heavily used.

¹⁴ Metro does not allow dogs except for service dogs, leashed dogs on regional trails, Broughton Beach, boat ramps and properties managed by others through intergovernmental agreements that are integrated into larger parks where leashed dogs are allowed (e.g., Forest Park).

¹⁵ All dogs must be on leash, except while hunting during seasons authorized on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, or pursuant to a valid "Competitive Hunting Dog Trial Permit" or "Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Individual Dog Training Permit."

¹⁶ Includes Vanport Wetlands and mitigation sites. No dogs allowed except Government Island State Recreation Area (leased to Oregon Parks Department).

¹⁷ No formal policy.

¹⁸ Dogs allowed on-leash except Tualatin Hills Nature Park and Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

¹⁹ Refers specifically to the Sandy River Delta, owned and administered by the National Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

How to Have a Trail-Friendly Dog

By Sue Meisinger

Whenever I walk on one of OCT's trails, I'm reminded of the delicate balance the Trust seeks between our human need for recreation and the preservation of nature. I'm usually walking with Max, our 25-pound mutt, who's eager to sniff everything and see what's around the next tree. And when we meet up with other dog walkers, I'm reminded of the importance of "dog management" on trails. It's not just about Max and me enjoying the outdoors: I need to be a responsible steward of nature while we're out there.

I love that OCT allows dogs on almost all its trails. I'm also fine with OCT's policy that requires visitors to keep their furry friends on a leash. This simple requirement serves a vital purpose: protecting the wild creatures that call these lands home. Unleashed dogs pose a significant threat to wildlife, disrupting their habitats and potentially causing physical harm. The presence of unleashed dogs leads to stress and disturbances that can have long-lasting effects on fragile ecosystems. Wildlife will alter their behavior and may abandon an area where dogs are allowed to roam. My friend Bob Granger summed it up nicely: "Our dog loves walking freely, but she has never met a critter she doesn't want to chase. We are visitors in the woods, and good visitors don't harass the residents." Leashed dogs are safer, too: chasing wildlife near roads is perilous, and tangling with a raccoon or fox can mean a mandatory quarantine due to the threat of rabies.

But having a trail-friendly dog goes beyond keeping canine companions on a leash. It also entails picking up after them. Dog poop is not a fertilizer. It contains two main types of pollutants that cause significant harm to local waters and



The author and Max on an OCT trail. Sue is a longtime trustee of OCT.

Did You Know?

Dog waste contains nearly 2 times the intestinal bacteria per gram compared to humans, and a million times more than a wild rabbit. (This and next item: USEPA, 1993)

Two to three days of waste from 100 dogs in a 20-sq mile watershed can contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay to swimming or shellfishing.

You can find more good information on dogs and trails at thetrustees.org/content/guidelines-for-dog-walkers. OCT's dog policy is on our website under "Trust Documents."



Unleashed dogs pose a significant threat to wildlife, disrupting their habitats and potentially causing physical harm.

natural lands: nutrients and pathogens. When dog waste ends up in water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that suppress oxygen and cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. It also carries bacteria and parasites that can transmit diseases to humans.

As fellow dog walker Patty Platten notes, "Not picking up one dog's poop is a problem. But multiply that by the hundreds of people who walk their dogs on OCT lands. If they don't clean up after their pets, it becomes an environmental hazard for us all!" So we bring our bags on walks and carry out their contents. The Orleans Pond Coalition stocks "mutt mitts" on most local trails if you forget bags. And make sure those bags make it into the trash bin, where they can be safely disposed of.

The Trust allows leashed dogs on most of its properties and requires owners to pick up after them. But, as clearly stated, this policy is subject to change if noncompliance becomes an issue. I was among the OCT board members who voted unanimously for the policy years ago, believing that the Trust has an obligation to strike a balance between making its trails available to the public for quiet enjoyment while protecting the lands' natural character and integrity.

Being able to walk my dog on OCT land is one of the many reasons I love Cape Cod. If everyone practices good dog management, we'll be able to do it for a long time.

From: [Steve Roche](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Support for Off-Lease Dog Walking at Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024 10:10:46 AM

Hi Krystyna -

I just wanted to send a quick note to express my strong support for maintaining the current policy allowing off-leash dog walking at Kent's Point. I'm sure you have heard all of the supporting arguments already, regarding the health and socialization benefits for both dogs and people. As a Vizsla owner, daily off-leash activities are not optional, and Kent's offers one of the only opportunities in town to allow dogs to run and interact with other dogs and people... in their full glory. It's wildly popular with dog owners... and many non-dog owners who want to experience other people's dogs in action.

As a resident of Orleans, I have been enjoying the benefits of off-leash dog walking at Kent's Point for over a decade now. During this time, I have consistently observed responsible dog ownership and have never witnessed any serious negative incidents or conflicts with other park users. People who are concerned about getting hurt at Kent's by off-leash dogs have many other hiking opportunities in town, where there are fewer dogs off-leash. At the end of the day, you simply can't protect people from all risks of hiking... from dogs (even on leash), coyotes, humans, slips/falls, etc. Kent's has a certain risk/reward profile, other areas have a different profile.

I urge the Orleans Conservation Commission to carefully consider the positive impact of off-leash dog walking at Kent's Point and to maintain this valuable recreational resource for the community.

Happy to share/discuss more if that would be helpful.

Thank you,

Steve Roche

From: [Robert Graffitti](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024 12:06:00 PM

You don't often get email from rgraftitti@optonline.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

December 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my support for preserving off-leash dog walking at Kent Point in Orleans, Massachusetts. Kent Point provides an invaluable space for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs in a responsible and respectful manner.

Off-leash walking is a great opportunity for dogs that promotes physical activity and mental well-being. Kent Point has open spaces and scenic trails that is an ideal environment for off-leash dog walking.

It is also worth noting that the majority of off-leash dog owners in our community prioritize responsible behavior, ensuring their dogs are well-trained, under voice control, and respectful of other visitors and wildlife. With proper enforcement of current regulations and continued education efforts, any potential issues can be mitigated while maintaining the ability to walk our dogs off-leash.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Robert Graffitti
Eastham, MA

From: [Rosaleen Doherty](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: RE: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 6:08:36 PM

You don't often get email from rosaleendoh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Town of Orleans:

We live at 50 Ellis Road in Eastham, next to Goose Hummock on the Cove. Over the past 10 years, our dogs and family have enjoyed Kent's Point almost daily when we are here on the Cape. We are part time residents, but we are in residence throughout the year.

We understand that there is discussion regarding requiring all dogs to be leashed at the park. Of course, the safety of people in the park is of the utmost importance, however, in all the times we have been there, we have never seen a human or dog hurt by an unleashed dog. We understand though, there must be incidents. Kent's Point must be the park we have frequented the most in our lives. Our dogs, family and we enjoy it because it is one of the few places where our dogs can be safely off leash and not violating the rules of the Town.

This piece is unique in this area and most areas. Dog parks are great, but they unnaturally brings unleashed dogs into a situation where there are many unleashed dogs together. Not all dogs enjoy this multitude of dogs and they lead to many dog injuries. Kent's Point allows dogs under voice control to spend time with their humans and safely encounter other dogs in a beautiful natural environment.

I have one dog that was leash reactive for a few years. I walked her in Kent's Point on a leash and she was approached by unleashed dogs many times. These situations could be stressful, but most times the owner called the dog off or came to separate the dogs. I went into Kent's Point safely introduce my dog to a more free environment. I got that dog extensive training, and today we walked Clancy the 10 year old Whoodle in the park without a leash with no issues. She walked with her new companion dog, Frankie, the 10 month old Australian Terrier. Frankie walked with a 30 foot lead, because she cannot be trusted to be off lead yet and needs more training.

Frankie recently had an emergency veterinary visit because she was walking at the Windmill, on leash, in Orleans. She ingested cannabis, per the vet, that she picked up at the park which has many people sitting on the benches watching the Cove. The vet informed us that they are seeing this to an extreme level since the legalization of cannabis in Massachusetts. Dogs have a ton more receptors for the drug and can die from ingesting just a little bit. As you know, there is the new cannabis shop right up the street from the Windmill.

The vet stated that heavily used human parks are one of the most common ways dogs ingest cannabis. This only trails the fact that they could find it in their home. Having a more natural place to walk our dogs has now become a life or death issue, so Kent's Point is even more important to our family and we no longer walk our dogs at the Windmill.

In closing, we would like to say that the Town of Orleans has given local residents a gift that we can experience almost no place else for the benefit of our dogs and our families. There are countless other parks and places on the Cape to walk our dogs on leash or that human walkers can feel safe if they do not want to encounter an off leash dog.

Though we know trusting the local residents to train their dogs is sometimes hard, maybe education would be a more beneficial outcome, rather than banning all off leash walking for all local residents.

Thanks for your consideration of this comment and we hope that you will keep Kent's Point the gift to the human and canine community that it has become these many years.

Respectfully,
Rosaleen Doherty and Jay Kenney
50 Ellis Road
Eastham, MA 02642

Rosaleen Doherty

617-807-6022

[Schedule with Rosaleen](#)

[Rosaleen's Complete Contact Info](#)



From: [Karen Jahn](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 10:18:12 AM

You don't often get email from karen_e_jahn@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good day to you all,

I am writing to you regarding the on-going discussion regarding Kent's Point.

I am a dog owner in town. I walk from Sandwich to Provincetown with my dog and he is on a leash.

I have had the opportunity to observe and be confronted by dogs off leash as well as meet their owners at Kent's Point and other areas.

If a town has a leash law and responsible dog owners follow the law there is good reason. Not all dogs are predictable, not all people are in control of their dog or dogs and not all people have their dogs in sight while off leash.

An off leash dog is a security and safety issue for many including children and seniors. They can be knocked over and many are fearful of dogs regardless of the dog's personality.

While I love my dog, I don't want to be greeted by an off leash dog while on a walk. I don't want to be responsible for that person's dog and if I am waiting or watching or restraining my dog or their dog so they don't fight, I now have to deal with a dog that is not my dog until the owner "arrives". My dog, while normally a good dog may or may not choose to "like" a dog or protect me and I cannot predict how my dog will respond to a particular dog.

When hiking in some of the more remote areas on the Cape, off leash dogs get stuck in the swampy, vine full thickets. They often will confront and chase wildlife.

Off leash dogs will also go to the bathroom and the owners have no idea where the waste landed and therefore the waste more often than not, is left and not picked up.

Dogs waste carries parasites and can cause illnesses in other dogs.

Laws regarding pets and in this case dogs, are for the owners. Not all owners are responsible. We often avoid Kent's Point because of the owners not leashing and picking up after their dogs. There are many other places

"Orleans Dog Walkers" can go rather than this small, fragile place but to avoid a place because leashing is not observed, enforced or controlled is also a local issue.

Perhaps enforcement and a fine could provide some small amount of education and guidance for our community or create hours where off leash is allowed.

We did walk there this morning and observed one dog off leash, another on and dog waste both bagged and not bagged, all of which never made it to the trash can. Nothing to get excited about but there were signs asking for people to support the off leash dogs at Kent's Point.

I do not. I would prefer that dogs on a leash were the norm. I hope that is the case for all conservation areas in town.

Thank you,

Karen Jahn
30 Mill Pond Road

From: [Janet Cohen](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Fwd: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 10:26:00 AM

You don't often get email from janetc543@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello.

I'm writing to ask you to please help keep open the only place I know of where my dog can run free in season or out. My partner and I own a house on the Cape, but we live in a city where dogs are always restrained and spend most of their time on concrete.

It is such a joy to let our beloved companions have some freedom and to see them run freely as animals should be able to do.

We never let them get too far from us to clean up, and we have seen the same behavior in most of the people we have met at Kent's Point. This is a very special place for us: please keep it available as it is today. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Janet Cohen

From: [Tom Champlin](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's point
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 10:39:07 AM

[You don't often get email from tchamplin@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I am writing this email to express my support in maintaining Kent's point as an off leash location to walk your dog.

I have been walking my dog at Kent's point for well over five years and it has been a very enjoyable experience watching my dog interact with other dogs and playing in the water and generally enjoying the freedom and happiness that goes along with running free in a pristine environment.

My observations indicate that the predominant visitors at Kent point are dog walkers, and most people with dogs have them off leash with no problems or altercations. People are also very diligent about cleaning up after their dog and caring for the property.

If there were to be a leash law imposed, the entire experience of Kent's point would be degraded in my opinion. As stated above, I have not been witnessed to any negative situation as a result of dogs running free and off of leash. There are very few locations where're off leash dog walking is possible.

I can see no benefit requiring dogs to be on leash at Kent point.

I recognize that there are differences of opinion about having dogs on versus off leash, however, I feel it would be a disservice to the vast majority of visitors at Kent point to require dogs to be on leash.

Feel free to call me if you want additional input.

508.494.1231

Regards
Tom Champlin
Brewster Ma

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Al Fournier](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024 11:19:30 AM

You don't often get email from fournier.al@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a cape resident and dog owner, I have found Kent's Point an enjoyable place for myself and my dog. The pleasure I get from strolling the scenic paths and that my pet has as he frolics at the beach are precious. I utilize the park frequently, have leash in hand always, but often as we get closer to the point let him off leash. I also always pick up after my dog as I recognize my responsibility as well. Personally, if the ability to allow dogs off leash is rescinded many dogs will be extremely disappointed as well as their respective owners.

Other dog owners I have encountered while at KP have been courteous, helpful and conscientious about respecting the grounds. If only the tides were to follow suit, each storm seems to batter the point more than any pets could.

Sincerely,
Albert Fournier
6 Colonial Way
Harwich MA 02645

From: [Claire Fitz-Gerald](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Comments
Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024 12:12:51 PM

You don't often get email from csfitzgerald@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Town of Orleans' Conservation Commission's recent evaluation of the Kent's Point Conservation Area and consideration of proposed measures to improve conservation.

I am writing to express my support for the proposed measures presented by the environmental survey consultant at the meeting of the Conservation Commission on December 16, 2024. Specifically, I support: (1) Improved signage to direct users to designated trails and eliminate foot traffic in unauthorized areas; (2) drainage/runoff improvements to support trail stability and minimize erosion resulting from storm events; and (3) limited pruning and/or invasive species management, as appropriate.

I am also writing to express my support for continued public access to Kent's Point for non-residents, as well as off-leash dog walking. I walk with my dog at Kent's Point several mornings per week, year-round. Walking at Kent's Point allows us a treasured opportunity to briefly step away from our daily responsibilities to be in nature and appreciate the beauty of Cape Cod. I particularly appreciate Kent's Point in the summer months, when most water access is restricted for dogs. Kent's Point supports its own little community, and we see and speak with many of the same people each time we visit, both dog walkers and non-dog walkers alike. We honor this community and beautiful place by being respectful, well-behaved guests: We stay on the trails, my dog comes when called, and I pick up and properly dispose of his poop. Please, please allow the Cape Cod community to continue to enjoy Kent's Point by continuing to allow access for off-leash dogs and non-residents in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Claire Fitz-Gerald
Chatham, MA

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Claire Fitz-Gerald
csfitzgerald@gmail.com

From: [Maggie Taylor](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 9:35:20 AM

[You don't often get email from maggiets63@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Sent from my iPhone

Kent's Point has been an awesome place in my & my dogs life for 10 years now.

In all that time we have not witnessed or been involved in any unpleasant situations, have met truly awesome people & dogs

I respectfully ask the Conservation Dept to continue the policy of allowing our dogs freedom

Thank You

Maggie Taylor

Chatham

From: [John Moran](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Opposition Letter
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 2:55:51 PM

You don't often get email from alpineadvisory@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

December 31, 2024

Town of Orleans
Conservation Committee
Via Email: Attn K. Smith

Re: Kent's Point

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee;

I write to have my opinion and experience recorded as part of your deliberations to recommend imposition of a dog leash regulation. I am a full-time resident of Orleans and have enjoyed walking my various trained dogs over the twenty years "off leash" at Kent's Point.

I strongly oppose this ultra hazardous petition. Dogs naturally do the "butt" circle dance when greeting each other. Oftentimes, this dance results in leashes being tangled up, stuck and pulled. As noted in the conditions report on Kent's Point, many of the pathways have run outs and exposed tree roots. Being a senior, I fear this proposed regulation will increase the probability of falling due lease entanglements.

Walking with my dog at Kent's Point is an important element of my social, mental and physical well-being and that of my dog. Dogs need to run and are less aggressive off-leash than restrained. With or without leash restraints there will be dog owners who should not own a dog, and no amount of regulation will change an untrained, non-socialized dog. For nineteen years I traveled to London, UK often. A city of eleven million residents does not have a leash requirement and many dogs run freely in the city's great parks.

Kent's Point is a jewel that enhances our well-being. This proposed leash requirement would increase the risk of falling and deprive many seniors of the existing health regime of simply walking and talking with neighbors and fellow dog owners. As noted by a citizen during the special hearing in November, the police have three dog incidents reported in the past 20 years without specifying if this were on or off leash incidents.

Kindly record me in opposition to the proposed leash restraint regulation.

#ss# John M. Moran

John M. Moran
12 Pochet Rd
Orleans Ma 02653

Mobile Phone 617 413 6771

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From: [Benno Canner](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 3:22:46 PM

You don't often get email from bennoboaz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to express my desire to keep Kent's point as a safe and comfortable place for dogs and dog owners to walk off leash. I am not a full time resident but spend as much time on the cape as I can (on and off season). My dog is a rescue from the Brewster shelter and Kent's point was an amazing place for him to learn to safely walk with me off leash. Where I live in the Catskills is very rural as well, more so in some ways, but there is nowhere that feels as contained and safe for him to run free. It's very special that it is so contained and so separate from the surrounding areas and for this area of the cape, where there are so many beautiful places to walk and appreciate the natural landscape, Kent's point stands as the only place for dogs to run freely, especially during the busy season when most beaches are off limits. I would be very sad to learn that this is no longer the case.

Best,
Benno Canner

From: drgol2000@yahoo.com
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Point
Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 9:52:06 AM

You don't often get email from drgol2000@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I have walked the trails at KP for over thirty years...daily or twice daily. In all that time I have rarely seen incidents that would rise to the level of "dangerous" due to unleashed dogs. It is true that those events may have occurred, but their prevalence as a function of the overall usage is miniscule---and probably no more of a threat to the populace than the ruts and roots that also pose a problem to the walkers.

Furthermore most, if not all dog owners are conscientious about their pets behavior, and/or other dog walkers are quick to point out/correct negligent behavior on the part of others.

This is the only area for dogs to run free, and I strongly believe that the rules should stay as they are. Alternatively, if some kind of official enforcement is needed I'm sure there would be plenty of people willing to act as "wardens."

Finally, I do agree that the point has become overloaded with people/cars. I would support a restriction to town folk either by some form of registration, fee, or sticker.

Len Goldstein

December 31, 2024

Department of Conservation
Orleans Town Hall
19 School Street
Orleans, MA 02653

Dear Conservation Department,

My name is Roe Osborn and my wife is Laurie Sullivan. As Orleans residents and dog owners we've had the privilege of using Kent's Point on a regular basis several times a week for years. In our decades-long experience of walking at Kent's Point, people who use Kent's Point have always been good stewards of the property, which can be seen by how extraordinarily clean the property is with virtually no litter. The vast majority of folks we see there are dog owners and by and large, those dog owners are very responsible in cleaning up after their pets. And for the most part those dog owners act very responsibly in keeping their dogs under control—ironically without any posted rules or guidelines.

Recently we have also become painfully aware of the delicate eco-systems at Kent's Point, witnessing erosion of the banks and trails as well as the degradation of native species' habitats. The effects of climate change, sea level rise and the changing dynamics of Pleasant Bay on Kent's Point have only been exacerbated by the people who use the park for recreation purposes. The recent studies done by the conservation commission have magnified these issues and have underscored the need to educate users of Kent's Point about its fragility. The rail fences installed recently have been moderately successful in discouraging traffic in certain areas, and most users of the park have heeded those gentle urgings.

The first and best way to educate users about the vulnerability of Kent's Point—as well as to clearly spell out the expected behavior of dogs and their owners—is through a network of signs throughout the park. Those signs should identify established trails for walkers. They should also include identifying and labeling any connecting paths between the main trails that the studies deem acceptable. Connecting paths that need to be restored to natural habitat should also be clearly labeled. Signs indicating that these areas are closed for habitat restoration are effective for both education and for dissuading usage. Fallen tree trunks can be placed to strategically limit use of these areas. Tree trunks are also a subliminal way to mark—and keep walkers on—established paths.

Principle access points to the beach should be labeled clearly and signage should discourage people from by-passing fences and using short cuts to the beach. The beach is bordered by ecologically delicate areas where walking poses a danger to native species. Signs should explain that foot traffic is strictly prohibited in these areas. At the same time education sign boards like those at the National Seashore can further educate walkers as to the particular species of flora and fauna at Kent's Point.

Rules for dog owners, should be posted in large print at the main entrance to Kent's Point. There are presently two different sign boards where this could happen. These rules should include keeping your dog under control at all times, (either on leash or by voice command), cleaning up after your dog and carrying out and disposing of any waste bags, staying on established trails, staying off fragile banks in the waterfront areas, and obeying any restrictions or concessions that might be made for walkers during

for certain hours of the day. At the driveway entrance to the property, signs should urge drivers to “park smart,” using only designated parking spaces and driving in a one-way pattern around the driveway circle.

Recognizing that there are folks who are not dog owners, but who want to walk the property without encountering unleashed dogs, we would be in favor of designating certain hours every day where all dogs would have to be leashed, without exception.

Finally dog owners and walkers at Kent’s Point should form a volunteer group to take a more pro-active role at the property. That group could assist the crews that maintain Kent’s Point, helping to clear brush after storms as well as on regular maintenance days. They could help to place fallen tree trunks along the sides of established paths as well as across non-established paths. The group could also help with native plantings in habitat restoration areas. They could help install the signs throughout the property that were described before. Members of the group could also distribute guide maps to outsiders who are unfamiliar with Kent’s Point or the rules governing its use. Lastly members of that group could also help police the property to remind everyone of the rules, especially keeping people and animals off the fragile banks and keeping dogs on leash during restricted times. The more time and effort that all of us put into Kent’s Point, the more dedicated and committed we will be to the stewardship and sustainability of this amazing property.

Sincerely,

Roe Osborn and Laurie Sullivan
137 Rock Harbor Road, #10
Orleans, MA 02653

roe@capecreative.com

lasull@hotmail.com

From: [Deb Faragi Sweet](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: KENT'S POINT
Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 12:50:57 PM

[You don't often get email from deborahfaragisweet@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello, we were very disappointed to see the signage here condemning off leash walking here at Kent's Point. We reside in Eastham and have found this area to be a pleasant non confrontation al place to walk our 90lb Airedale off leash. We are always prepared to leash him up if the situation requires and always pick up after him. We have never come across a dog that we have had a problem with. People respect the property and it is always litter free. The cape has become a very dog unfriendly environment. You may be aware that Wiley Park in Eastham is facing the same issues. There are many places for people to walk and fewer and fewer places to walk dogs, especially off leash, which is a totally different experience for both the dog & the walker. Please preserve this special place for off leash walking. Thank you!
Debbie Faragi Sweet
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bruce Sweet](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 1:16:56 PM

You don't often get email from bsweet60@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

We are seasonal Eastham residents who enjoy walking our dog at Kent's Point, primarily offleash. It is a beautiful area that both us and our pup love in all seasons. Our experience has been to meet other responsible dog owners who's dogs are also off leash. There a very few places dogs are allowed off leash. The exercise and experience our dog has off leash is much healthier than having to live with the constraints of a leash. We hope we will be able to continue to share Kent's Point in this fashion with other dogs and there owners in the future.
Bruce Sweet

From: [Mary Jane Treacy](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Regarding Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025 10:53:05 AM

You don't often get email from maryjane.treacy@simmons.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Although I do not bring my dogs to Kent's Point, I do know many Orleans residents who do and have made life-long friendships with other dog-lovers. Communities have been formed with members who are of different sexes, ages, politics and backgrounds, who cross social divides with ease due to their daily interactions at Kent's. This human community is frequently mobilized to help one another at times of joy, need, illness, and deaths. At a time when many towns are grappling with their residents' isolation and social needs, I can see no better example of an organically developing community that benefits humans and animals alike.

Now to address the issue of leashing dogs. Many people, like myself, move to the Cape because we want the companionship of our pets, especially dogs. This is another way to combat isolation, mental distress, aging, etc. It is here, rather than in urban areas, where we can offer dogs the physical as well as mental well-being that they need. Dogs need to run, to move, to socialize with other dogs. Dogs that are forced to live their lives "contained" have more behavioral problems than do those who are allowed free movement, play time, socializing under reasonable supervision. Kent's is just this kind of place: dogs are not near roads with heavy traffic, nor in a residential neighborhood. Kent's is set apart, offers a safe space for dog owners to teach their dogs how to be good canine citizens in a society that is increasingly unwelcoming to domesticated as well as wild animals. We reduce their habitats and their activities, then punish them for following their natures. Kent's is a little oasis of hope.

Finally, I want to add that some people who come to Kent's just do not understand what a dog is and how to "read" its behavior. Some--I suspect with little experience with animals--are determined to use Kent's as they might a Central Park; running, bicycling even, hollering/gesturing aggressively at them under the expectation that a dog is like a stuffed toy: without emotional responses, reactions, etc. I would like to see some poster--as they have at the Brewster Dog Park--with some educational information. Then too, even some dog owners with little experience around other dogs, indicate that they do not know how to read a dog's body language, confusing dog play with aggression. Again, Brewster also has a poster with some basics. I bet that they would happily share the contents with Orleans. Maybe dog owners could chip in to cover the minimal costs, so there would be little drain on the town budget.

Are there some dog owners who may not be good citizens themselves, leaving dog feces or not paying attention to their dog's behavior? Sure, but very few. Are there dogs who should not go to Kent's because they don't react well to other dogs. (this is because they have not been socialized as puppies, and so this is the fault of humans) or are too aggressive. Again, yes, but I have heard of only one of two in the over ten years I have been living in Orleans with dogs. I suggest some educational posters/rules at the top of the entrance to Kents. which would also give some authority to the Kent's human community to monitor and -hopefully gently--educate /guide their fellow humans. However, please consider this: we do not shut down a road because some driver has caused an accident; nor do we close a school because some child has behaved badly. Kent's is a jewel for Orleans that benefits all. Education rather than

prohibition will keep it this way.

Mary Jane Treacy, Ph.D.
211 Rock Harbor Road
Orleans

From: grifomorgan@comcast.net
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Cc: grifomorgan@comcast.net
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025 12:13:42 PM

You don't often get email from grifomorgan@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Let me introduce myself. I'm a full-time Orleans resident and live quite near Kent's Point, at 47 Monument Road. I'm aware of the recent meetings and discussion regarding the environmental wellbeing of the conservation area, as well as the ancillary debate centering on dogs who frequent the park, often unleashed. I cannot emphasize enough that the vast majority of dog owners who frequent Kent's Point are both responsible and responsive pet owners. Their dogs (mine included) are well behaved, and both dogs and owners are keenly aware of, and obedient to, the expectations of the others they encounter and the pristine nature of the area. They make sure to remove pet waste and are careful to follow established trails.

Of the eight+ years I've lived here, and before that when I visited Kent's Point from my home in Chatham, I could count on one hand the number of times I encountered a dog less able to "follow the rules", and those incidents seem to center on summer visitors who own dogs unaccustomed to being off leash.

Allowing dogs a designated spot to play is vital for their physical and mental well-being, as it offers them the opportunity to explore nature freely and interact with other dogs, fostering their social behaviors. In Orleans, MA, Kent's Point and other communal spaces not only enhance the overall happiness of our pets but also contribute *significantly* to a strong sense of community among residents. Dog parents frequently gather, share stories, and cultivate friendships while their pup companions play, which also helps strengthen bonds within our neighborhood. Access to these natural environments, where both pets and their humans can enjoy the fresh air and scenic beauty, truly makes Orleans a treasure. This shared experience nurtures a vibrant community spirit, emphasizing that dogs are not just pets but integral parts of our families and our community life.

Losing the ability to spend time with my dog outdoors in a spot like Kent's Point would most certainly have a negative impact, and while I am very sensitive to the importance of minimizing negative environmental impact and erosion to the area, that is far more a factor of the large increase in foot traffic during summer months when non-residents frequent the area.

It's my sincere hope that Orleans residents will have a strong voice when decisions regarding the area are made.

MM

Mary Morgan

917-647-5706

grifomorgan@comcast.net

mary@nestnewengland.com



From: [Peter Melcher](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, January 4, 2025 1:03:36 PM

You don't often get email from petermelcher@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To who ever it may concern,

We live at 24 Tom's Hollow Lane, S Orleans, MA.

We enjoy walking with our small dog at Kent's Point for its diversity and charm. We have met many others who are always friendly and also with dogs off leash. The dogs have been curious, friendly, well behaved and we've never had a problem with people or dogs. The combination of woods and beach is especially nice and our dog enjoys both while being off leash she gets to be free but never goes to far from us. I find that most people that take the time to walk their dogs are responsible and respectful of others and the areas they walk. I believe that the dogs deserve to be off leash when all is safe for owners and others.

Peter and Anna Melcher

Peter Melcher
Pbm Construction Inc
Petermelcher@icloud.com
310-428-4732

From: [Tracy Murphy](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, January 4, 2025 8:23:02 PM

You don't often get email from tracymurphy185@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

First, I don't want to miss the chance to thank you for the important (and difficult!) work you do to take care of Orleans. It has often seemed to me that a good amount of your work is about educating people who might not be aware of the responsibilities of owning and caring for the environment in Orleans.

I hope you'll take the report on Kent's Point as a similar opportunity to educate visitors to Kent's about how to be thoughtful, responsible, and enlightened visitors.

I wasn't able to attend the workshop on the 16th due to another board meeting, but I did watch the video. I appreciate the chance to offer my input.

I walk at Kent's as often as possible, always with my (20 pound, well-behaved!) dog, and often with one of my children or friends. I treasure those walks! I was surprised to hear people at the workshop talking about not wanting to walk at Kent's because of unruly dogs... That has not been my experience at all. It's a really wonderful, year-round community, and I feel very safe there, and safe having my dog there. And while I know this is outside the scope of ConsCom, I really think Kent's is a difference-maker for older people in Orleans, who are able to get exercise, socialize, and bond with their dogs when they're there. One person I know who walks at Kent's with his dog was in the hospital for a few weeks last year. He was released in the morning and was at Kent's that afternoon, with a walker for stability, surrounded by friends.

I do appreciate and share the concerns about people going off the trails and on the banks, as well as overcrowded parking lot. I don't see it often, especially in the off-season, but I do see folks head down to the water at the first fence from time to time. There should be signs at multiple points (right where the trail starts, at various points along the way) that explains expectations for visitors: stay on the trail, stay off the bank, clean up after your dog, keep your dog with you. These signs would educate people who might not know what climbing on the bank can do, and it would also empower the rest of us to say, "Look at this sign. These are the rules for visiting." The vast, vast majority of people I encounter at Kent's are responsible, but I do occasionally see someone climbing over the fence and would love a sign to point to!

I can also appreciate the frustration of nearby residents about traffic. I think restricting the parking lot to residents-only would go a long way towards resolving concerns about overuse. In January I'm often one of a handful of cars there, but sometimes in the summer I encounter a line of cars waiting to park, and I can see how that would be aggravating for neighbors.

Thank you for hearing me out!

Sincerely,
Tracy Murphy
Gull Lane
Orleans

From: [Brooke Torres](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Cc: [Conor Fernandez](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Off Leash Dogs
Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 8:04:37 PM

[You don't often get email from brooketorres43@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hi, I'm reaching out about the proposed change to require dogs be leashed at Kent's Point.

Our family has a home in Orleans right across from Kent Point. The family has spent generations of summers in Orleans - first rentals, then eventually buying a home where my father in law spends half his year.

We come out year round from our home in Boston and absolutely love spending time on the Cape both on weekends and during more extended stays. It is our special place.

We strongly hope that Kent's Point will remain a place where our dog can be off leash.

We have a 6 month old vizsla puppy who loves everyone he meets, and when on the Cape we take him to Kent's Point daily.

He is a very busy guy, and the ability to run off leash is a huge value add for our family, as it allows us to really meet his needs and enrich his days as much as being there enriches ours.

We also train him for recall, and as dog owners, we only let him say hello when other people want to say hello or when we've confirmed another dog is friendly too. We feel that is the responsibility of the owner, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Attached are a couple pictures of Otis living his best life on Kent's Point since he was little, and, of Otis taking some big naps after, probably dreaming happily of his excursion.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brooke Torres Fernandez and Conor Fernandez

Otis hoping to give his
mom (me) a mid hike kiss
at Kent's Point



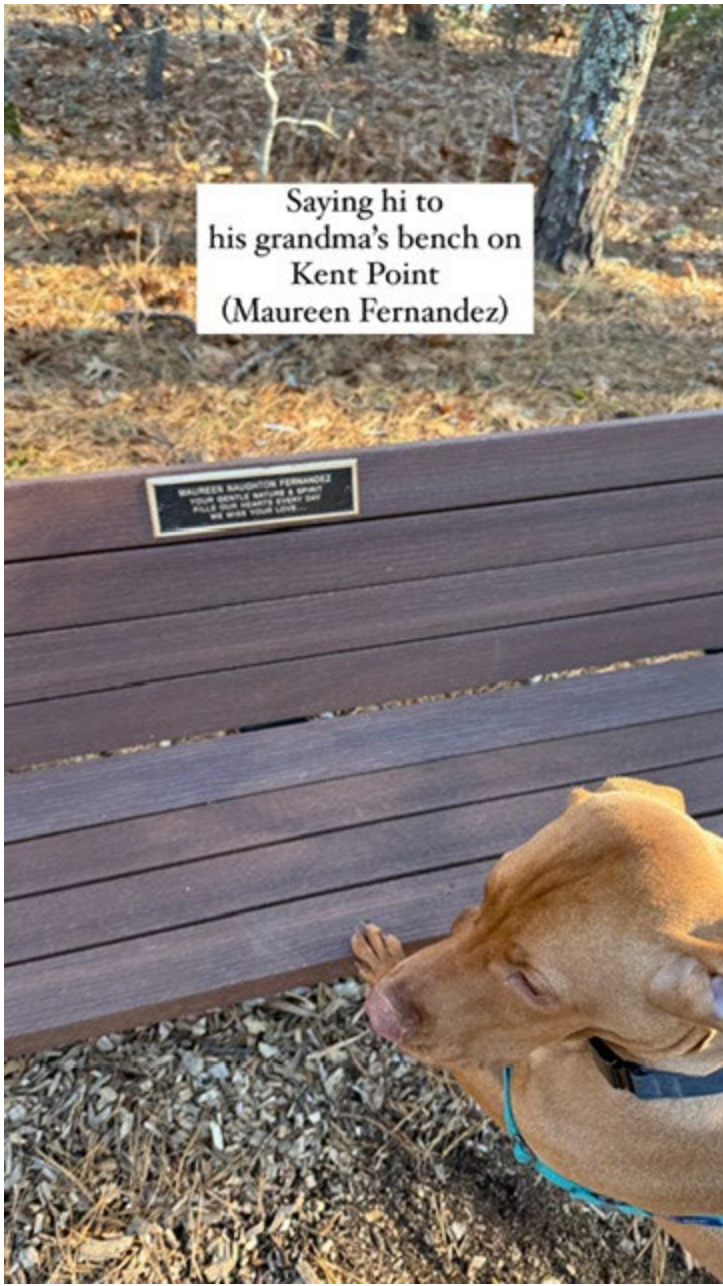


Happily snoozing in the car after a Kent Point adventure

So happy to be
running free, always checking
back with his mom and dad to
stick with us



Saying hi to
his grandma's bench on
Kent Point
(Maureen Fernandez)



Otis at 3 months at the point (before he was ready for off leash responsibilities!)





3 month old Otis ready for a nap after a big adventure at Kent's Point where he first put his toes in the water (brave guy!!!)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Frank Fernandez](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Proposed Dog Leash Requirement at Kent's Point
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 9:45:52 AM

Good morning.

Our family started visiting Orleans regularly during the 1980's. We fell in love with the community, its natural beauty, and purchased our home on Kescayogansett Rd in 2010. Since then, our family has especially enjoyed the variety of nature Orleans has to offer. The Ocean and Bay beaches, the fresh water kettle ponds, the plentiful hiking areas and all of the magnificent Conservation Trust areas.

I understand that some people are nervous and even afraid of dogs off leash. However, we all live in Orleans and it's important that we share our wondrous natural resources and get along together. Getting along together requires compromise. Of all the beaches, conservation areas and trails our beloved Orleans has to offer, Kent's Point is the only area we have where our dogs can be off leash. Our dogs are part of our families and we need to care for them. And anyone who has a dog understands their need to have some freedom of exercise.

Orleans has had an off-leash policy on Kent's Point for as long as I can remember. I believe that this policy reflects the thoughtfulness of our community leaders over the years, and their understanding that in governing, compromise within the community is essential. I fully support our off-leash policy as it has been a mainstay of Kent' Point, and contributes significantly to breadth of how Orleans balances the use of its natural resources for the benefit of our entire community.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion. I love Orleans.

Frank Fernandez and Family
14 Kescayogansett Rd
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [Susan Warner](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent"s Point - off leash
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 6:19:24 PM

[You don't often get email from smwarner2@verizon.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am an Orleans resident who values our off-leash walking at Kent's Point. We walk our dog daily and thoroughly enjoy this beautiful opportunity. We have never experienced a negative encounter by either a pet owner or a dog. All dogs we have experienced are of a sweet temperament and well-behaved. And if not, those owners keep them leashed.

I have found that this beautiful walk is positive for everyone involved. Generally, pet owners are respectful of picking up any dog waste. If not, those of us who frequent this beautiful spot daily pick up any waste that we notice on our walks. It would be a shame for us who value this spot and value our dog's ability to run, swim and play freely - to lose this most valued ability.

If there is another meeting to discuss this issue, please let me know and my husband and I will attend.

Best Regards,
Susan Warner
35 Samoset Road
E. Orleans

From: [RACHEL DU PLESSIS](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Re. Kents Point
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 8:55:01 AM

You don't often get email from rach@pilgrimshalt.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it might concern,

As a local all year round resident I am writing to express my sadness at the prospect of Kents Point being purely an on leash area to walk my dog. Firstly I am so grateful as a dog owner that the late Miss Charlotte Kent gifted the town her beautiful land in order for it to be shared. It is truly a special place for both dogs and humans alike. My dog and I first discovered it two years ago when we adopted her and it became her safe place to run and explore and actually learn to swim having never been near water. To be able to allow her to run freely and play with other dogs has been truly wonderful for both her and us at the same time being wholly mindful of having her fully under control and able to recall when needed. The physical and emotional benefits to off leash walking are invaluable for a dog and allow it to be stimulated, mentally 'exercised' but can also create a healthy bond between the owner and dog in terms of training, recall and obedience.

Whilst I understand the concerns from residents/others that they feel that dogs are not under control whilst off leash I would argue that we have witnessed dog issues with anxious owners and aggressive dogs on leash and aggressive behaviour from their owners as they struggle to control physically their dogs.

I think the bigger issue is how does Kents Point manage their numbers, does Kents Point become a place for just residents which seems slightly unreasonable in part and how can on and off leash dog users work together to bring a happy balance. I think the issue also lies in part with those dog owners who have control over their dog and feel comfortable with meeting other dogs and enjoying what Kents Point has to offer and those dog owners who want it to be on leash only because they don't have control over their dogs.

We love Kents Point respect the property and are thankful for the town for sharing it with us. If it was to become more restrictive it would take away a lot from what was intended to be.

Many thanks

Rachel D.P

East Orleans Resident.

From: [Kim Reilly](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Point!
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:10:08 PM

You don't often get email from kimreilly40@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello!

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the ability of dogs to be off-leash at Kents Point. For over 15 years, we have enjoyed walking at Kents Point, and in all that time, I have never had a negative encounter with another dog or person. This area has long been a treasured space for dog owners, their pups, and nature lovers alike, fostering a sense of community and freedom.

Allowing dogs to be off-leash is essential for their physical and mental well-being. Our dogs need exercise—running, fetching, swimming, playing, and exploring are all vital activities that contribute to a happy, healthy life. Keeping them on a leash limits their ability to engage in these natural behaviors and, in some cases, can even create tension among dogs, as being on a leash can make them feel restricted and unsafe. Of course, every dog and owner is different, and responsible pet ownership is key, but a complete restriction would be unfair to those who have enjoyed this privilege responsibly for years.

With 559 miles of coastline on Cape Cod, much of it becomes inaccessible to dogs during the summer months. Places like Kents Point are among the few remaining where our dogs can truly be free to explore, socialize, and enjoy the natural beauty of the area. These spaces are more than just recreational; they are essential to the well-being of both pets and their owners.

I respectfully urge you to consider the importance of off-leash access at Kents Point and the positive impact it has on our community. Please don't take this away from us and our beloved pups.

Have you considered making this area accessible to Orleans residents only? Another topic I realize.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Reilly

50 Bridge Road Orleans

Year round resident

From: [Maryellen McAndrews](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Point Workshop
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 2:15:01 PM

You don't often get email from memcandrews@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To : Members of the Orleans Conservation Commission

Thank you for holding the workshop on December 16th, to present findings and receive public questions and comments on the debilitating changes to Kents Point. You have, over the past several months, heard concerns expressed about the degradation of the once beautiful conservation land known as Kents Point. The presentation by LEC and findings which discuss significant erosion issues, the creation of new paths, and damage to vegetation and wildlife support the public's concern that overuse of the land, particularly over the past ten years has led to significant and concerning deterioration. Overuse, both by people and their dogs is the greatest cause of this degradation of the land . You know the statistics, including the results of the Commission's car count which by itself is more than enough to necessitate your taking action to limit access to Kent's Point.

You are the stewards of conservation lands in Orleans. As such I implore you to act expeditiously on a plan which will limit the access to Kents Point, including enforcement against violators.

Thank you.

Mary Ellen McAndrews
18 Keziahs Lane

From: [joan barrett](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:36:35 AM

You don't often get email from joan12molly@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Conservation Commission:

We are residents of Orleans and have been for over 20 years. Previously we were residents of Brewster for more than 20 years. We are long time Cape Cod residents in fact my husband is born and brought up here. As you may know we have seen many changes. Mostly not for the better. We feel that many people that have moved here have tried to control and change our beautiful Cape Cod into a New Jersey, New York or Connecticut. We have already lost many walking paths to these people that want to control nature and the way conservation is handled in this town.

Our Kent's Point is a gem that has been saved and donated to this beautiful town for the use of all who are able to enjoy their animals and nature. We have safely walked the paths for years with our family dog off leash. We never have encountered any aggressive behavior from any dog. We have never seen any person destroying areas that are damaged because of erosion. Erosion is a natural problem we all face with this climate change. I don't believe anyone in the neighborhood had any problems or at least the ones I have spoken to have not.

Please consider the percentage of people that enjoy this area with their dogs off leash and walk regularly with not a problem at all instead of a complainer or two that have so many other options to take a beautiful walk without a dog or with a dog on leash. Please keep the natural way we have always known to be the way Cape Cod was supposed to stay and don't let another natural property be taken away from our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns.
Joan and Dennis Barrett
13 Linda's Lane

From: [Amy Bogue](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:20:36 AM

You don't often get email from abogue.tn14@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Town of Orleans Conservation Dept.,

I want to express my gratitude of many years enjoying Kent's Point, in Orleans, both with and without my dog. I've been walking this area for 15+ years and have never had a bad experience. I use Frost Fish lane to access the area and occasionally meet another vehicle there on the road. There are access signs on the roads leading into Kent's that are visible for visitors. Off subject, I'll tell you my road in Chatham is a private maintained road and many vehicles, other than home owners, access this area for various reasons (sometimes just a turn around spot).

I am an advocate for a year round, off-leash access for dogs as is vital to their health and our community; Kent's is a special place to have this access. Very few places allow dogs in the peak season of summer which seems to be April - October in some areas of the Cape. The majority of people I meet at Kent's have dogs with them, some on and some off leash walking and playing and I've never experienced a bad situation with any owners or animals.

Most pet owners are good stewards of this conservation area and keep the area clean of pet waste by the bags provided or bringing their own. It is nice to have Nauset Disposal, a community business, pick up the pet waste and keep the area clean.

I hope that the Kent's Point conservation area will be kept for all to enjoy and without a pet leash law so that pets can also enjoy and play freely for their healthy well-being.

Thank you,
Amy Bogue
158 Holly Dr.
S. Chatham, MA 02659
(508) 776-7329

From: [David SILVER](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:27:21 AM

[You don't often get email from silverdave@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I live in Orleans, at 74 Beach Road on the way to Nauset, just past the Barleyneck. We hold a deep belief in environmental conservation. This past summer, we put in a field of pollinating wildflowers you may have seen. I'm recently retired, and hiking in Kent's Point has been a big part of my exercise routine each day. I am able to do a fast walk, and my dog is able to run free. He has great energy, and loves to sprint down paths or dive into the woods, and he easily runs five times as much as me. Off-leash is so important for dogs and their owners. The exercise an energetic dog needs is much more than I can give him by walking him. He needs to raise his heart rate and preserve muscles and bones like me, but at a far higher rate of exertion, everyday. Kent's Point is imperative for that. He loves Nauset Beach off season, but Kent's Point is what he depends on. And for me, he motivates me to get me out of the house, suited up, and doing exercise, which I need.

When it comes to conservation areas, we are generally trying to build community, to preserve the environment, and to invite participation. When we try to exclude whole classes of people who regularly embrace a site, we are trying to make fewer people in the community enjoy it. In general when sites like these fall out of use they lose their constituency, their support and their relevance. This contributes to less funding and them falling into disrepair. The more people in the community can find a use for it, generally the better, since it is valued more widely.

Of course if your goal as a nearby homeowner is to discourage community use, restrict car traffic, and see fewer people use streets in front of your home, their effort makes sense. They don't want Kent's Point to be popular. Everybody has seen the signs on Keziah's Lane describing the privacy of the road and who (only residents of Keziah's Lane) can use it. If people nearby can make fewer people pass by, they gain privacy at the expense of the community. And each person they prevent is a win for them. So if it falls into disuse, that is actually a win, since there will be no traffic left to bother them.

I have seen dog interaction with other visitors for years now. Many visitors who see dogs want to pet them or say hello, and they encourage interactions between people which we want as a community. They play together and I speak regularly to the folks whose dogs visit around the same time as mine. For the most part, people are conscientious about cleaning up, and being in control of their dogs for those who don't like them. The idea that anybody is fearful of entering Kent's Point because of off-leash dogs seems like someone's hyperbole, or at least an irrational fear not present when experienced on-site.

The area is also not oversaturated with people. The parking lot is never full off-season, and I always have a space during Summer. We see a few groups of people on our walks but often feel the place is quiet and quite solitary. Off leash dogs encourage a use by people who need to exercise their pet, and promote the regular and often daily use of the area, providing a useful foundation of support for all that Kent's Point represents, to the environment, to Orleans, and to the community.

Thank you for your consideration, and hopefully, your understanding.

Sincerely,
David Silver

From: [Carrie Webb](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's point
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 6:41:23 PM

[You don't often get email from carriecwebb@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my support to continue to allow dogs to play and socialize at Kent's point unleashed. As a resident of Orleans , we have been walking our dogs for over 20 years at Kent's Point. It is a great place for those young and old to enjoy the company of their family pets off leash. Not only do the pets enjoy it, but it provides a safe place for a lot of the older citizens to enjoy each others company and exercise together. People are very good about picking up their dogs poop and throwing it away.

Thanks for hopefully keeping Kent point dog friendly.

Carrie Webb

6 Lake Farm Lane Orleans

Sent from my iPhone

From: trishe@comcast.net
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 4:21:07 PM

You don't often get email from trishe@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Conservation Commission:

We are retired senior citizens that adopted an adult Mountain Cur dog several years ago that needed a home. That breed is smart, loving, and needs plenty of exercise - more than many can give him if he is leashed. Spencer has lots of energy, even at 10 years old, and needs to be able to run/walk free every day. There are so few places this type of dog is welcome, so we sincerely love and appreciate Kent's Point.

We come often from Chatham. We love the town of Orleans and frequently eat and shop there... and we know of no town that has anything like Kent's Point. It is a rare gem.

In our frequent visits to Kent's Point, we have never witnessed an aggressive loose dog. We have seen barking dogs that are leashed, but never a loose aggressive dog. We have never seen a dog fight or felt threatened there. Certainly, dogs are social and inquisitive. They run to meet other dogs so yes, you do see several dogs together at times. They are not fighting or threatening; tails are wagging as they introduce themselves and communicate, then play together. And those dog owners, without exception, are smiling and friendly.

Kent's Point is perfect because it has so many trails and can accommodate many visitors with dogs without being over-crowded. Some people are threatened or frightened by any loose dog; this is true. But there are so many other "people places" they can choose from. Not true for dogs. Please don't take away the very best dog park and trails that exist anywhere. It is better by far than the best dog park.

After many years working for local and state government, I know it is true that if people understand the rules, most willingly abide by them. More signs with explanations are a valid suggestion. We always abide by the signs and do what we can to help. Clearly, Mother Nature wreaks significant damage to the landscape too, as is clear from massive chunks carved out from the shoreline. Kent's Point is certainly worth our respect, appreciation and extra effort to keep it special.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Patricia & Edward Eldridge
South Chatham

From: [Betsy Furtney](#)
To: [John Jannell](#)
Cc: [Kristyna Smith](#); [Andrea Reed](#); [John Pershing](#); [Kevin Galligan](#)
Subject: Feedback for the Kent's Point Conservation Area
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 5:22:24 PM
Attachments: [Dogs on Beaches Regulations.pdf](#)

I attended both the CHO presentation on the history of Kent's Point as well as Mr. Madden's 12/16 presentation. I've let the information settle over the past few weeks and here are the conclusions I would like the Conservation Commission to consider as you move forward with management recommendations for Kent's Point..

1. ACEC 1987 Designation and 1988 gift from Charlotte Kent

The ACEC designation was recommended by the Conservation Commissions, Select Boards and Planning Boards of the 4 abutting towns, 72% of the 9,240 acres are within Orleans. The goal was to protect this outstanding resource area by the most stringent standards possible. I have not seen the legal document from Charlotte Kent, but I believe she believed the ACEC designation and keeping the parking lot at 7-9 cars would protect her land as a valuable conservation area. I think it is really important for residents to understand this history and the standard of care required by both legal documents.

I also would be very interested in reading what the 1988 environmental consultant created in terms of baseline data for the property.

2. The NHESP and Bio Map designations further delineate the resources to be protected for the benefit of wildlife. These include Diamondback Terrapin Habitat and foraging areas for terns. I have volunteered on site at both WBWS and Henson's Cove to further the protection of the terrapins. In both locations dogs are not permitted because they will disturb females from attempting to nest and may dig up new nests or chase/eat hatchlings. At Kent's Point loose dogs routinely scatter shorebirds, wasting the birds energy and reducing the habitat available to them for foraging in contradiction to the NHESP designation.

3. I have advocated for over a decade to set up a process for invasive plant management for town owned properties. Many of them are out of control with invasive plant species and the town needs to recognize its complicity in the loss of native plants and the significant reduction in biodiversity that results from not actively managing these areas. One has only to look around the Kent's Point parking lot to see monocultures of invasive plants which have eliminated native groundcovers and routinely kill native red cedars and Arrowwood Viburnums.

With that information as the backdrop, I agree with Mr. Madden's recommendations to:

1. Identify and remediate areas of erosion using fallen logs, split rail fencing or large native shrubs as needed to block these areas from further public use.
2. Create modest signage to identify trails and hazards. Wherever possible, use existing split rail fencing to post signage rather than adding additional posts.
3. Clearly identify public paths and revegetate with large plant materials any convenience paths created by the public.
4. Research documentation on carrying capacity. Attached is a winter 2024 article from

Audubon Magazine which documents the negative effects of trails and simple human use of these trails on wildlife. The article mentions Quiet Parks International as a potential resource to further understand this issue. Every site has to balance retaining its wildness against public access. In my opinion, at this site the ACEC and other designations require that we err on the side of wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement.

From my experience as a landscape designer, construction project manager and user of the resident outer beach, I recommend the following actions.

1. Limit Kent's Point access year round to Town of Orleans residents with stickers.

2. Identify the specific # of parking spaces to be allowed and redesign the parking lot to exactly that number of parking spaces. The parking lot at 66 Portaniminicut is an excellent example of how this would be accomplished. During the initial year of transition, both the town and Keziah's Lane residents would need to use additional resources to:

- Create resident stickers for property owners of Keziah Lane and set up a monitoring station at the entrance to the Lane. During the transition of off road access via Callahan's Pass, residents of Aspinet Road hired their own "guard" to check stickers and turn non residents away.

- During the transition have 2 staff or volunteers with 2 way radios determine if a parking space is available and turn people away at Monument Road if no space is available. This is the solution used at Callahan's Pass. After being turned away multiple times folks will gravitate to other locations, arrive earlier or later in the day or otherwise adjust their daily schedule. This is not an easy option but the access road is narrow and having folks enter and then turn around doubles the traffic for residents and there should be NO option for queuing up at either end of Frost Fish Lane to wait for someone to leave. Either end is simply too tight to residential properties to have cars waiting for access.

3. Allow dogs of Orleans residents on 6-8' leashes to keep them within the public paths. This resource area is too critical to rely on voice command when my personal experience is that many off leash dogs are not under control, are allowed to randomly run through underbrush and other wild areas not part of the public path system. I had two 85 lb. Chocolate Labs, and the key training instructions for walking with your dog on a leash is that if you stop walking your dog automatically sits down and awaits your command to continue. The concerns expressed at the meeting of how dangerous it is to have dogs on leash because the leads will trip people and butt sniffing is expected, is the failure of their owners to properly train and control their dogs.

The on leash only requirement makes initial enforcement clear and immediate. And yes, I believe initial warnings and then tickets will be required to gain acceptance of the leash responsibility. We as a community have not met our conservation responsibilities under the ACEC, NHESP and Bio Map designations and restoring stewardship to Kent's Point will require a year of significant effort to correct the situation.

The Department of Public Works & Natural Resources has regulations for dog access to the beaches (attached). The majority of beaches are closed to dogs from April 1st to Labor Day with Skaket Beach and Rock Harbor allowing them from the Friday before Memorial Day until Labor Day. A special exception has been created at 70 Willie Atwood/Wildflower Lane to allow dogs before 9 AM and after 5 PM from the Friday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. In my opinion it is not the Conservations Commission's responsibility to provide space for dog owners to let their dogs run free at Kent's Point.

A private group may consider raising funds to locate and create a dog park and the Select Board could assist in generating options as a part of the community campus concept currently being considered.

Thank you for considering my input.

Betsy Furtney
71 Pochet Road
860-989-0954

From: [Debra DeMuth](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:45:40 PM

You don't often get email from debradem3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with due respect, to plead with the town of Orleans to allow Kent's Point to remain the community building safe haven that it currently is. We dog owners, community members, nature lovers come together at Kent's and find harmony. Kent's is where we can safely, respectfully enjoy Orleans at its finest. Allowing our dogs to play off leash creates an environment of pure joy; dogs socialize happily and their humans do as well.

We have lived on the Cape for 5 years and Kent's Point is the only place where we have truly felt a part of the community. This is due to the spirit of trust and camaraderie that exists as the dogs interact and the humans connect in a congenial manner.

In the 5 years my dogs and I have been going to Kent's twice weekly, I have never seen a dangerous dog situation. Owners are keenly aware of their pets and maintain safety. To force a leash on the dogs denies them and their owner the opportunity to learn and grow together in an open, unthreatening space (unlike the Brewster dog park where the containment manifests in many dog control challenges). The dogs of Kent's Point are well behaved, well adjusted dogs. The dog owners of Kent's Point are responsible and grateful.

Please, let us maintain this beautiful, peaceful place for our dogs and for us.

Thank you,
Debra DeMuth

Comments on LEC's Preliminary Kent's Point Report

Tim Counihan 1/12/2025

Is Kent's Point a conservation area or a dog park?

If it's a conservation area, where are the wildlife we're conserving it for?

Wildlife Habitat: Both the Town's Scope of Service and LEC's Professional Services Proposal focus on the wildlife habitat present on the site and the impact that public use has had on it. The goal of the study was to recommend mitigation targeted at conserving and improving the habitat of the wildlife species that would naturally be found in the identified habitat types.

While 7 habitat types were listed, there was minimal discussion of either the flora or fauna observed nor the impact of public use on those habitats. There was no discussion of wildlife, because, I would dare say, there is none. And that is the root of the issue.

Peer Reviewed Articles: In the Oregon Metro [study](#), referenced below, they state that **"The evidence that dogs negatively impact wildlife is overwhelming."**¹ This was their conclusion after reviewing 54 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and research reports. Their action was to ban dogs, even leashed dogs, from most properties.

The situation at Kent's Point is even more extreme. The presence of free-running dogs places extreme stress on wildlife and eventually causes it to move away. And unfortunately, "moving away" holds true for parents with small children, the elderly, some women, and even owners of small dogs. I know a significant number of local residents within easy walking distance of the Point who no longer visit it, despite it being one of the most beautiful conservation areas in Town.

As Bob Granger noted in the Fall Orleans Conservation Trust Fall newsletter "Our dog loves walking freely, but she has never met a critter she didn't want to chase."² It is no wonder that the National Seashore, Brewster Conservation Trust,

¹ <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2017/09/28/impacts-of-dogs-on-wildlife-water-quality-science-review.pdf>

² https://orleansconservationtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/SS-Newsletter-2024-compressed_2.pdf

Harwich Conservation Trust, and Orleans Conservation Trust all require dogs be leashed.

“Even the scent of dog urine or feces can trigger wildlife to avoid an area.”³ Dogs are predators and wildlife know it. Unleashed, they run in packs and track down anything that moves, including people.

Unfortunately, what used to be a tranquil conservation area now sees tens of thousands of visitors a year. Anecdotally, the ratio of dogs to owners runs about 1:1. The Kent’s Point Conservation area has been referred to as a “puppy paradise” or “puppy Valhalla”.⁴

ACEC: Almost all of the Kent’s Point conservation area lies within a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern. There are only 30 of these in the state of Massachusetts. These areas have received special recognition because of the quality, uniqueness, and significance of their natural and cultural resources. These areas have special restrictions intended to ensure the areas are conserved, enhanced, and protected.

Kent’s Point is surrounded on three sides by this ACEC and areas of fragile salt marsh habitat. “The average dog produces ½ to ¾ pounds of fecal matter each day = a hundred dogs can produce more than 500 pounds of waste per week... An English study revealed that although 95% of visitors claimed to pick up their dog’s waste only 19-46% actually did so.”⁵ Why would we allow an open septic here when we’re spending hundreds of millions of dollars cleaning up Pleasant Bay.

Conclusion: I would recommend minimally that the Orleans Conservation Commission require that dogs be on leash at Kent’s Point. You did it for Putnam Farm, there is no reason the Conservation Commission can’t do it here. Perhaps another conservation area with a less fragile ecosystem could be designated as dog friendly. Better yet, I would support the development of an Orleans dog park, similar to the one in Brewster.

³ <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2017/09/28/impacts-of-dogs-on-wildlife-water-quality-science-review.pdf>

⁴ <https://wcaithedaily.wordpress.com/2009/08/13/a-puppys-paradise-at-kents-point-in-orleans/>

⁵ <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2017/09/28/impacts-of-dogs-on-wildlife-water-quality-science-review.pdf>

Thoughts on the Preliminary “Report”: I was unable to attend the workshop due to a prior commitment. If the LEC PowerPoint slides were intended to be a preliminary report, I found them entirely deficient in response to both the Town of Orleans Scope of Services and LEC’s Professional Services Proposal. Seven slides labeled Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Findings consisted of maps and a list of 7 bulleted habitat types. Two slides showed pictures of erosion. Two slides labeled Land Use Observations noted that there are informal trails on the site. And the final 4 slides titled Preliminary Property Recommendations consisted of 8 bullet points. No mention was made of wildlife observed (or not) or the issue of dogs. Given their lack of content regarding wildlife conservation, it was impossible to draft questions prior to the meeting, and without multiple reviews of the recording, difficult to prepare this written response to the slide presentation.

Kent's Point Improvement Ideas and Comments

Introduction

Responding to citizens' complaints to the Select Board about the overuse and degraded state of Kent's Point, the Conservation Commission initiated a program to study Kent's Pt. issues and develop solutions. The Commission is approaching this deliberately and with formal process, starting with hiring of LEC Environmental Consultants to survey the current natural state of Kent's.

Brian Maddy of LEC, presented his findings and recommendations at a special evening workshop with ConsCom and town residents on December 16. The meeting was well attended and although Brian's presentation focused on trail and bank erosion, comments from participants on the management of Kent's Pt. were far ranging and need to be addressed. The Conservation Commission asked that residents submit write-ups of their concerns and suggested solutions. Below, you can find mine.

Goal

To develop policies that balance the conflicting objectives and uses of the Kent's Pt. property; wildlife conservation and public passive recreation.

- Although my comments focus on safety and fairness in passive recreation usage, environmental concerns are important too.

Key Areas of Discussion

- Controlling Dogs
- Reducing Overuse of Kent's Pt. (and Related Traffic)
- Suggestions for Signage
- Trimming of Branches Blocking Bench Views
- Potential Survey Questions

Dogs

Problem - Impact on Access

With the overwhelming visitation at Kent's Pt. being dog owners walking their pets, it has effectively become a dog park, crowding out use by other residents who simply want a peaceful walk and an opportunity to enjoy the special views. Dogs running free throughout the property (under voice control, wink, wink) frighten many vulnerable residents who love Kent's Pt. but no longer feel safe walking there.

This goes beyond a generic concern over "safety" and has become a fundamental issue of **access** to a wildly popular shared public resource that should be available for enjoyment by all.

- A staggering 47.6% of full-time Orleans residents are over age 65. For full breakdown of Orleans’ ages, see Figures 1 and 2. Older individuals are of greater risk of being knocked down and suffer greater adverse outcomes if injured than younger, stronger adults.
- Many older Orleans residents who previously loved walking at Kent’s Pt. no longer do so because of the worry that free running dogs present to them. Skeptics may say that this is anecdotal which is true. However, this is heard often enough that it must be taken seriously. If hard numbers are required, surveys can be conducted. The same goes for the number of knockdowns and injuries, which we all know do, in fact, occur frequently.
- Free running dogs also present a worry to people with young children who want to enjoy family outings to Kent’s.

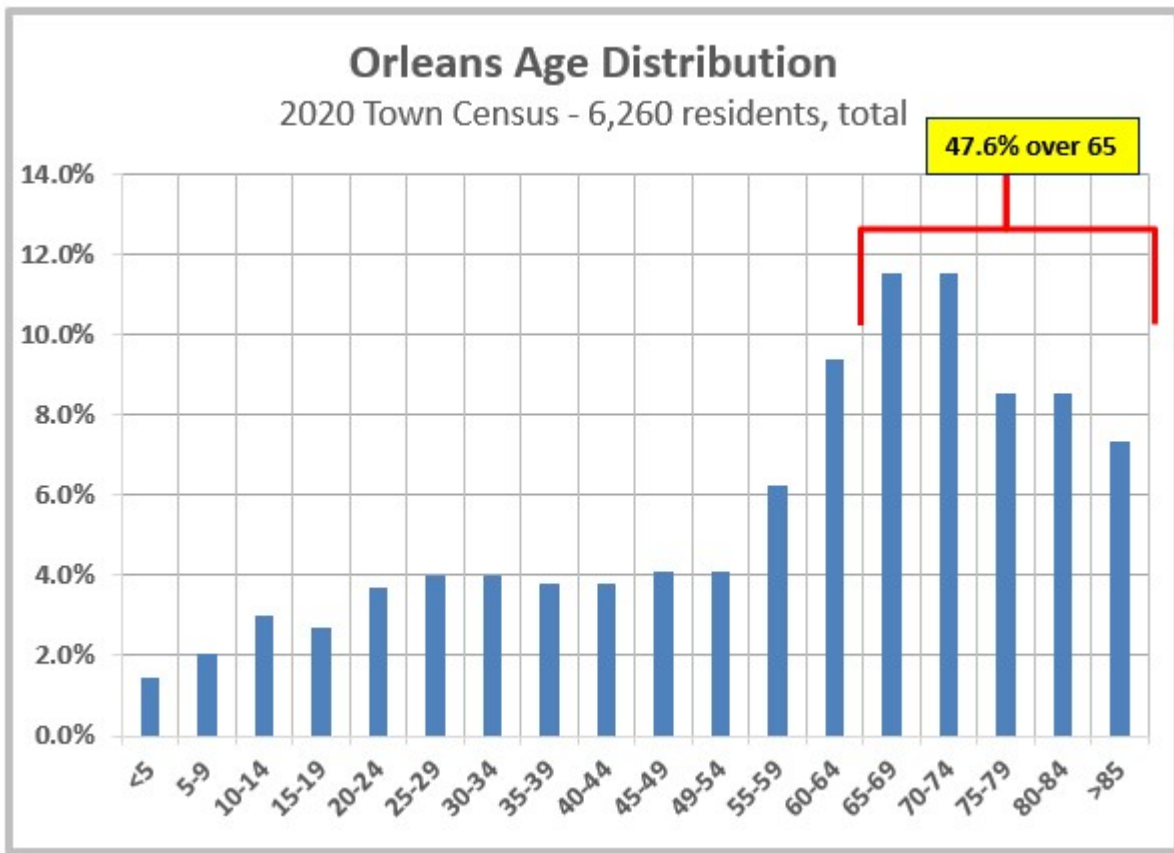


Figure 1 – Age Distribution of Full Time Residents

Age Range	Percent of population
Over 60	56.9%
Over 65	47.6%
65-84	40.2%
70 to 84	28.7%

Range of people who are young enough to walk but most at risk of injury from being knocked over

Figure 2 – Percentages of Fulltime Residents Falling into Difference Age Ranges

My Two Proposed Solutions:

As an incrementalist who believes in introducing moderate changes and then monitoring the results, I forward two potential initial approaches that reflect the principles outlined in the “Handling the Dog Politics” section that follows.

1. Dogs kept on leash in parking lot and on trails but allowed to run free in a designated beach play area

- a. Makes walking on trails safe and welcoming for everyone.
- b. Allows dog owners to continue the important social and physical activity that routine walking of their dogs provide.
- c. Provides a place for high energy dogs to run and play. The beach is ideal. It offers lots of space for play plus water for swimming and fetching sticks.
- d. There is still risk for older people (and people with small children) who want to venture onto the beach but with its generous space, the beach isn't nearly as hazardous as the narrow walking trails throughout Kent's.
- e. Reduces trail erosion from running dogs and protects wildlife (the little that's still left).
- f. Dividing a conservation area by function is common practice. Some signage is required including some that highlights the doggie play area.
- g. Many dog owners, especially those with small dogs, already keep their dogs on leash while at Kent's Pt. The proposed leash requirement would only inconvenience a moderate portion of dog owners.

Overall: Offers major improvements in safety and access with only minor inconvenience to dog owners. Not what they are accustomed to but addresses all of their stated concerns. Requiring dogs to be on leash in high density areas (which Kent's Pt. is) is a well accepted practice throughout the country and the modern World.

2. Set Specific Hours for Dog Access

- a. Suggested hours:
 - Dog Hours: Before 8 AM, after 5 PM (summer), seasonally adjusted to allow at least 2 hours of daylight.
 - Dog-free Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM (summer)
- b. More easily enforceable than leash rules.
- c. During dog-free hours, provides the highest level of confidence for walkers nervous about dogs.
- d. Allows dog owners to conduct visits to Kent's Pt. in exactly the same way that they have been.
- e. The hours that I suggest are designed to allow working people to walk their dogs before and/or after their workdays.
- f. May help to reduce visitation, especially from out of towners, easing some traffic and environmental concerns.

Handling the Dog Politics - Classic Multi-Use Shared Resource Problem

The challenges of developing a plan which addresses the needs of both people who walk their dogs and people who are intimidated by dogs is a classic problem for multi-use public spaces, frequently pitting angry user groups against each other; hikers vs. mountain bikers; swimmers vs. windsurfers; tennis players vs. pickleball players . . . etc.

These issues can and typically are worked out with the following principals:

1. The goal is for everyone to get most of what they want but nobody gets everything that they want.
2. There needs to be a spirit of understanding and respect for all interest groups.
 - This is particularly important in our situation because we are a small community where good relationships with neighbors is critical.
3. Change is harder to accept for the group that is giving up something that they are accustomed to and have taken for granted. They are typically angrier, more vocal, and are more likely to talk to each other and to attend hearings. However, that doesn't give them greater rights.
 - In our case, those who want no changes to rules governing dogs at Kent's Pt. have the stronger voice. This was evidenced by their overwhelming attendance at the Dec. 16 workshop and loud applause for speakers representing their perspective.
 - Outreach to the broader community is vital.
 - To reach the wider population and also provide more objective data for making and selling decisions, townwide surveys should be considered.

Overuse of Kent's Point and Related Traffic

Both the property and the parking at Kent's Pt. are overwhelmed with pedestrian and car traffic with several hundred vehicles per day visiting during peak periods. Extra busy in the summer but highly visited throughout the year.

- Most visitors are there specifically to walk their dogs. It's rare to see a car pull in without a dog.
- Casual surveying of cars in the parking lot reveals that a large percentage of visitors, perhaps over half, are from outside of town. This is true year 'round, outside of tourist season. Impromptu conversations with visitors reveal that there are many who drive daily from neighboring towns, often from far away to walk their dogs at Kent's Pt. I've heard about one woman who drives from Wellfleet every day to walk her dog.
 - Kent's has effectively become the dog park for the lower and outer Cape. When it was established as an area for conservation and **passive** recreation, hosting hundreds of dogs per day, many running free, was unlikely the intent.

Suggestion: Limit Kent's Point parking to those with Orleans beach passes

- As someone who enjoys all of Cape Cod, I personally lament the increased crowding of public natural resources (town landings in particular) throughout the Cape and recent moves by towns to limit parking to their own residents. I also don't think that this is good for tourism. However, this is where things are going and towns need to think of their residents and taxpayers first.
- Those from nearby towns would be free to purchase non-resident beach passes (\$300) that would be valid at Kent's.
- Vacationers would be free to purchase weekly non-resident passes (\$125) that will be valid at Kent's.
- Some people suggest parking ticket machines to reduce visitation while providing a revenue source to fund Kent's Pt. maintenance. Great idea but probably too complicated for now.

Signage

Relative to Dog Rules:

It should be clear that we aren't anti-dog but simply need certain rules for the common good. Signs should be clear and firm but with a friendly spirit. On the following page, I show signs from two conservation areas. Of course, our message would be different to match our particular situation.

- Friendly - not too institutional looking
- Easy to see – not just another generic rules sign that people don't notice.
- In the case of the main Lincoln sign which is constructed like a political lawn sign: It is inexpensive and can be easily moved to strategic locations around the property.

It should be noted that both of these areas, despite being much more extensive in size and less trafficked than Kent's Point, require dogs to be on leash. There is much precedent for requiring dogs to be on leash in conservation areas

The Lincoln property actually has signs designating areas where dogs are allowed off leash, demonstrating the concept of splitting the property into multiple area with different rules (similar to what I suggest for the beach at Kent's Pt.).



Mt. Misery town conservation area in Lincoln - 227 acres



Mt. Misery - Lincoln



Off-leash area near Mt. Misery



Pegan Hill in S. Natick –Owned by The Trustees
82 acres with an empty parking lot for 5 cars

Relative to beach access and people crossing the fence:

I suggest starting with a couple of low key signs attached to the split rail fence, letting new visitors know that they can follow the trail to access the water. This is important because it is clear from examining footprints, that people are climbing over the fence and scrambling down



the embankment to the water. Something like this:

Trimming of branches blocking bench views

I'm a strong advocate of limiting the removal and trimming of trees along waterways to limit visual intrusion of development into the natural setting. The Conservation Commission has performed admirably in keeping Orleans waterways beautiful and special. However, I think that the Commission is overly conservative about trimming at key Kent's Pt. locations:

- Members of the community have generously donated benches to Kent's Pt. but their positive impact is limited by the presence of just a few small branches in critical locations.
- While hiding waterfront homes behind trees is good, in the case of Kent's Pt., what unpleasantries would be visible from the water if some small branches were removed? How can removal of such small biomass impact the ecology of Kent's? The benefit to cost ratio doesn't seem to justify the Commission's strong negative stance.
- Brian of LEC commented on opportunities to enhance the Kent's Pt. experience with some selective trimming.

Examples:



It's hard to justify having ½ dozen spindly 1" diameter branches hide this gem of a view. What environmental benefit does this serve?

- We'd still preserve the main bodies of the trees, stabilizing the embankment.



The FOLP donated bench: View blockage doesn't look too bad but the saplings on the left crowd you. Sitting on this bench would be much more breathtaking if the saplings were cut down. What function do they serve?

Potential Survey Questions (just some preliminary ideas)

- Sent to both year-around residents and out-of-town residential land owners.

Age

Gender

Do you have young children?

On what road (in Orleans) do you live?

Are you familiar with Kent's Point conservation area in Orleans?

Do you own one or more dogs?

- Weight of dog #1 : <25 lb 26 – 35 lb. 36-50 lb >50 lb. (Circle one)
 - Weight of dog #2: <25 lb 26 – 35 lb. 36-50 lb >50 lb. (Circle one)
 - Do you walk your dog(s) at Kent's Point?
 - How many times per week? 1 2-4 5-7 (Circle one)
 - Typically, what time of day? Before 9 AM 9 AM to 3 PM After 3 PM (Circle one)
 - Do you keep your dog(s) on leash? Yes No
 - On the trails? Yes No
 - On the beach? Yes No
 - Would you be willing to leash your dog in the parking lot and on the trails? Yes No
-

Do you walk at Kent's Point without a dog?

- Approximately how often (circle one):
 - Never
 - Less than once per month
 - 1 or 2 times per month
 - Weekly
 - Several times per week

What time of day, typically? Before 9 AM 9 AM to 3 PM After 3 PM (Circle one)

Do you feel uncomfortable with the presence of off-leash dogs at Kent's Point? Yes No

Are your visits to Kent's Point affected by the presence of dogs? Yes No

If dogs were required to be on leash, would you visit Kent's Point more often? Yes No

- **How often:** Less than once per month
1 or 2 times per month
Weekly
Several times per week

Comments: Share any observations or experiences.

From: [Jay Athanas](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Point
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 4:02:34 PM

[You don't often get email from jamesjohna@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am writing to support the current off leash guidelines pertaining to Kent's Point. As a resident, I have frequented the area for over 15 years and experienced nothing but positive interactions. I have met old and young, with dogs and without, it is a wonderful place where everyone, including seniors can interact with other dogs as well as other visitors. It would truly be a disservice to the numerous visitors who have come to respect and enjoy the area through the years. I strongly support the current format and would be quite disappointed with any additional leash regulations.

Thank you for your consideration
Jay Athanas
6 Lake Farm Lane, Orleans

From: [Andrew Athanas](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 4:36:10 PM

You don't often get email from andrew.athanas@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Town of Orleans,

I am a resident and I strongly support the off leash rules at Kent's Point, my address is 6 Lake Farm Lane.

I remember when I was little, we would always walk Kent's Point, and I would love seeing and meeting all the dogs. For the past 14 years I have been taking my own dog to Kent's Point, he went there as a puppy, and he still goes there as an old dog. My family calls it his happy place. He is fourteen now and wobbles around the house, but when we bring him to Kent's Point, he becomes a puppy again, running around sniffing everything having the time of his life.

Kent's Point is one of the best places on Cape Cod, and being able to walk our dogs off leash is the reason it is so special. Young and old- everyone enjoys what Kent's Point has to offer. I have met so many kind people while out at Kent's Point. There is a whole community of dog walkers, families, and people who are brought together by Kent's point- changing these rules would be a great disservice.

I have been frequenting Kent's Point for over a decade, and over the summer I go almost every day. I have had so few bad experiences I could count them on one hand, and there have never been an experience so bad that it sticks out in my memory. Dogs and people are well behaved there. Having a leash requirement would restrict the freedom and happiness of so many dogs and people. Also, there are many studies that suggest that dogs should not meet each other while on the leash. It can heighten their stress which could lead to problems. Off leash rules allow dogs and people happiness.

Best,
Andrew Athanas

From: [Deb Robinson](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 1:42:32 PM

You don't often get email from drobinson@baystreethr.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Orleans Conservation Commission

I am a 2nd generation Orleans resident and a taxpayer for 3 Orleans properties. I understand that our town government has been grappling with the complex issue of off leash dogs at Kent's Point, and I empathize.

Being able to take our dogs to Kents Point to run freely is a joyous part of our lives. It's unimaginable to think that this privilege may be taken away due to the behavior of a small amount of dog owners. The majority of us are responsible dog owners and stewards of the land, but I myself have witnessed unruly dogs off leash and I often return to the parking lot having picked up poop from other dogs. However, I feel strongly that if we put our heads together we can come up with a solution.

I am personally willing to help to volunteer ideas that can provide a win/win solution and to also be a hands on volunteer at Kent's Point.

I'm sure you have heard this from others, but taking away the joy our dogs and their owners experience at Kent's Point would be devastating.

Thank you for your time.

Deb Robinson
30 Franz Road
(508) 246-9596
Bay Street HR

From: [kim hubbard](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Fwd: Kent's Point
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 3:05:34 PM

You don't often get email from kimberlhubbard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)





Hello,

I am not an Orleans resident, but I often visit my aunt on Henson's Way, as do her children and grandchildren and two friendly dog cousins, Lewis and Iggy. Kent's Point is a godsend for our dogs—especially Lewis, who LIVES to fetch sticks from the water. We have never witnessed or experienced any problems with our dogs or others who are off leash, in any season.

Cape Cod has so many rules and regulations about dogs—it's impossible to find places where breeds who need significant exercise can get it—and we've been so grateful for Kent's Point's natural, free range vibes, as well as for all the lovely fellow dog-lovers we meet there. We all sincerely hope the plan to require leashes will be reconsidered. (Lewis says he's actually begging...)

Thanks, all best—and we are keeping our fingers majorly crossed!

Kim Hubbard

From: [Kimberli Bodozian](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 6:23:03 AM

[You don't often get email from kbodozian@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good Morning, A good friend of mine is an Orleans resident. Whenever I come to visit and have my puppy dog with me, we make a point to walk off leash at Kent's point. It's so beautiful and clean! The dogs get such a good work out running and playing with each other. I have never once seen any dog not get along. Please don't take this away from us!
Kimberli Bodozian

Sent from my iPad

From: [Andy LeStage](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 6:43:52 PM

I'm writing to express my support for keeping Kent's Point open for off-leash dog walking. KP has been a part of my life for over 50 years. My home looks across the river at the point, and I love seeing dogs and their owners walking freely along the shore and splashing in the shallows.

I also visit Kent's most days to walk my dog. In my experience, the vast majority of dogs and their owners love the off-leash freedom, and are good citizens with their fellow Kent's visitors. Yes, the occasional dog (owner, really) would benefit from being leashed, but I've never witnessed a problem that would warrant implementing a rule for all dogs.

As for people who are simply uncomfortable around off-leash dogs: go somewhere else. You have literally every other open area in town to enjoy without being bothered. Let us keep one place open for the dogs!

Andy LeStage
14 Hayward Lane, Orleans

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact Kristyna Smith
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:08:13 PM

Contact Kristyna Smith

Your name andrew weinstein

Your email address awein0174@gmail.com

Subject Kent's Point

Message I am writing about preserving the right to have dogs off leash at Kent's Point. I did not attend or see the December 16th meeting, but I gather this right is under assault. There are very few places remaining that allow dogs off leash, and Kent's Point is treasured by a large community of dog owners. Please keep it the way it is respectfully,
Andrew Weinstein
96 Main Street

Attachment Number 1 *Field not completed.*

Attachment Number 2 *Field not completed.*

Attachment Number 3 *Field not completed.*

Disclaimer

The information to be submitted on this form will be sent via email. To protect sensitive information and comply with applicable data security requirements, do not submit the following information on this form: Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, medical information, passport numbers, passwords, or financial information of any kind, including, without limitation, bank account information, routing numbers, credit card number. Please contact the department via telephone if you need assistance with sensitive information.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: [Jack Wood](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 11:24:24 PM

[You don't often get email from jrwood49@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

My name is John Wood and I am a frequent visitor to Kent's Point. This correspondence is in regards to the issues of environmental impacts that are occurring at Kent's Point that were discussed at the public Conservation Commission meeting held on December 16, 2024, at the Town Hall.

I have been an Orleans town resident since 2011. When my wife and I were looking for a Cape Cod retirement home, one of the main reasons that we chose this town, is because of the abundance of accessible public land. When we purchased our home, my wife Linda was finally in remission from her battle with breast cancer and I had one more year left before I was to retire from my career with MDOT. One of our favorite pastimes was walking with our 2 dogs, Bandit and Kenya. Over the years, we've met some amazing people at Kent's Point and have formed some lasting friendships there.

In 2022, Linda developed some health issues that made it difficult for her to be able to walk at Kent's. On a warm Sunday morning in early April she wanted to go for a short walk there. She was thrilled to see a lot of our dog walking friends that she hadn't seen in months. The following Thursday she was rushed to Cape Cod hospital after suffering a heart attack that she did not survive. One of my final fondest memories will always be, the happiness that she felt on her last Sunday at Kent's. So Kent's will always be a special place for me along with all the special people that I've met there. Following Linda's passing, the Kent's community was there to give me support when I really needed it.

Over the years I have witnessed some of the negative environmental impacts that have occurred at Kent's. So I applaud the ConCom in their efforts to address the issue by hiring a consultant to do an environmental impact evaluation. I was unable to attend the December 16th meeting but was able to watch it on the community cable channel. I realize that the material presented was preliminary and recommendations have not been finalized. Based on opinions that were presented during the comment period, it appears obvious that the overall concern is the overuse of the park especially during the peak summer season. Some of the recommendations include reducing the number of people coming by restricting parking and providing signage that would educate park goers to reduce activities that have negative impacts to the trails, slopes and beaches.

I believe that some of the human and dog caused impacts are due to the lack of understanding that there are any existing problems at all. In my opinion, this could be addressed by introducing measures that make people aware of these problems. This could include a comprehensive sign at the trail head that explains the areas of concern and lists rules for visitors to follow. In addition, some signs along the trails as well as some new barriers would make it clearer where walking is permitted. At the meeting, there were some commenters that doubted whether people would follow these rules. As a retired state highway engineer, I remember that it was always understood that some drivers would not obey regulatory traffic signs, but most drivers would. I think it's the same here, most people want to do the right thing if they are properly informed.

The other issue that concerns me is the push to prohibit off leash dog walking. Currently the policy is for owners to have control of their dogs at all times. I believe in the importance of the physical and emotional health of our dogs. It's well known that like humans, dogs need socialization. Dogs on leash are more aggressive toward other dogs. That said, owners that don't have control of their dogs shouldn't bring them. In my experience, I believe most dog owners want to follow the rules.

If it is decided to place unwarranted restrictions for the recreational use of the park at Kent's Point, I fear that it would have a very negative effect on the Kent's Point community. I know a number of seniors who walk here; it's the only time they have a chance to socialize on a daily basis. In a time when loneliness has become a serious mental health problem, losing this community would be a real shame.

The privilege of off leash dog walking at Kent's Point should be preserved!

Sincerely,
Jack Wood
44 Long View Drive
Orleans

Sent from my iPad

From: [Connie Chan](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 11:37:36 PM

You don't often get email from connie.chan@umb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Orleans Conservation Commission and the Orleans Select Board:

I am writing to strongly advocate for residents to be able to walk their dogs off-leash at Kent's Point and at other parks and beaches in Orleans.

I am a full-time resident of Orleans and have voted in Orleans since 2017.

I walk my two dogs at Kent's Point frequently and have been impressed as to how well-behaved off-leashed and leashed dogs get along. The paths are clean and free of dog waste, humans are responsible for their dogs, and the vast majority of the time,—everyone, including humans walking without dogs, —has a positive experience. In a community where people are isolated and may be retired or work from home, walking dogs at Kent's Point and other natural areas builds community among different age groups and walks of life. This dog walking community is vital to breaking down social isolation and loneliness in Orleans.

Off-leash walking is important to dogs as well as to their owners. Well-trained and well-behaved dogs who respond to their owners' voice control are confident and happy dogs. Leashed dogs, on the other hand, can have anxiety—pull, strain and bark--when encountering other dogs and humans. Nevertheless, the regular dog walkers at Kent's know to leash their dogs when there is a possibility of a dog conflict or when they see people who are afraid of dogs. And the great majority of the time, dogs and humans do very well and all stay safe.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Orleans Pond Coalition, a citizens' organization which seeks to help keep Orleans' waters clean, from 2019-2023, I am particularly aware of the need to keep Orleans' open spaces clean. Thanks to the efforts of Judith Bruce, former President of the OPC and current member of the Orleans Conservation Commission, the OPC provides over 80,000 mutt-mitt poop bags a year in over 50 dispensers in Orleans, all financed by citizens' donations, — to pick up dog waste and to dispose of it correctly. Nauset Disposal has also been an important partner to this end. I continue to assist OPC as a volunteer who fills two dispensers near Skaket Beach throughout the year.

Orleans is a rural mail delivery community and a right-to-farm community. We are not an urban community where dogs should be on leash 100% of the time. However, there remain very few places where a dog can walk safely off leash, meet other dogs and people, and perhaps go for a swim. Kent's Point is a special

place for this reason and a treasure for Orleans residents, many of whom are responsible dog lovers and owners.

Thank you, in advance, for taking care of our dogs and the dog-walking community.

--

Connie S. Chan
211 Rock Harbor Rd
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [Robin Herr](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Study Feedback
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 6:17:56 PM

Thank you for supporting and initiating an environmental study for Kents Point. I'm a resident of the Kent's Point neighborhood, and have been walking Kent's since it was first purchased by the town in the '80s.

The degradation of Kents over the years has been dramatic. While climate change has certainly taken its toll as the report states, I was disappointed the report didn't address the issue of capacity, overuse, and dogs. An estimated 40,000 people visit Kent's Point annually, and an estimated 44,000 mutt mitts are used. That's a truly astonishing number, especially when one considers that those mitts are collecting *only* the feces, meaning an alarming amount of dog urine saturates the point and the shoreline, a shoreline which is designated as "an area of critical concern."

The information below is taken from the ***The impacts of dogs on wildlife and water quality: A literature review Compiled by Lori Hennings, Metro Parks and Nature, April 2016.***

*The evidence that dogs negatively impact wildlife is overwhelming. It is clear that people with dogs – on leash or off – are much more detrimental to wildlife than people without dogs. Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) are considered to be a subspecies of wolves (*Canis lupus*), and wildlife perceive dogs as predators. (30) Impacts include:*

1. Physical and temporal displacement – The presence of dogs causes wildlife to move away, temporarily or permanently reducing the amount of available habitat in which to feed, breed and rest. Animals become less active during the day to avoid dog interactions. Furthermore, the scent of dogs repels wildlife and the effects remain after the dogs are gone.

2. Disturbance and stress response – Animals are alarmed and cease their routine activities. This increases the amount of energy they use, while simultaneously reducing their opportunities to feed. Repeated stress causes long-term impacts on wildlife including reduced reproduction and growth, suppressed immune system and increased vulnerability to disease and parasites.

3. Indirect and direct mortality – Dogs transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife. Loose dogs kill wildlife.

4. Human disease and water quality impacts - Dog waste pollutes water and transmits harmful parasites and diseases to people.

I'm not advocating that dogs be banned at Kents (though one need only look at the pristine state of lands where there is a dog ban, such as White's Lane / Henson's Cove, to get a sense of the damage dogs can cause.) But I do wish that the study had taken a good, hard look at the damage caused by overuse from a Cape-wide population of dog-walkers and compared it to the habitat and wildlife that existed at the time of the purchase. Kent's Point is anecdotally referred to as "the dog park" by many residents of the Cape. When I googled Kent's Point just now, the three comments below are the first that popped up:

"Beautiful short hike, great for off leash dog walking and swimming."

"great clean trails and "beach areas for dogs to swim, has become our go-to spot for my dog to have some fun and meet some friends on the cape."

"Short easy trail with great views and lots of doggos to pet. Our dog was off leash as were many others."

The off-leash comments are particularly concerning. Dogs running unchecked through the underbrush cause damage and scare away the wildlife. Additionally, there have been numerous, serious injuries to walkers at Kents by unleashed dogs, two of which impacted residents of our neighborhood.

There is no perfect solution to the problem, but I do think that restricting the use of Kent's Point to Orleans residents only, with **leashed dogs**, could make a real difference.

Sincerely,
Robin Herr

From: [David Quinn](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Cc: [karloakes258](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:17:41 PM

[You don't often get email from dquinn.pt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to voice my concern about banning off-leash walking in Kent's Point.

My name is David Quinn and I was born and raised in this town and have walked with my dogs there since the opening of Kent's Point. I also served on the Orleans Board of Health for 3 years- 1997-2000. I have worked at Ryder and Wilcox Inc. for 34 years. I reside at 8 Judah's Way, Orleans.

Kent's Point has seen 2 generations of my Jack Russell's, the current pair are 12 years old. I trained both sets to walk off leash with dog trainers and have always respected that treasured place as many of the people that I see everyday. I spend a lot of time there and have never had a problem with people that let their dogs walk freely. I also have witnessed responsible people that have dogs on leashes that would not be able to walk leash-less. For the most part, people pick up the dog waste, but I usually bring an extra bag incase someone misses their dog going.

This attempt to limit the area to require all dogs to be leashed is obviously an effort to deter people from going there. This will not deter anybody and just will cut the enjoyment of the dogs like mine that live for the half hour we walk we take there.

I have paid taxes in this town for a long time and just had to connect to the town sewer in Phase 1 at a great expense. We don't get a lot of services with our taxes but have this amazing place to take our dogs. This is the only year round location in town to go, especially when it's too windy to go to the beaches off-season.

Please maintain the current status and may I suggest more signage to address the plaintiff's concerns to educate people who are not frequent visitors. The current group of people I see in there are all respectful of the park and the off-leash walking is not a problem there.

Thank you,

David Quinn
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessica Schlesinger](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:40:35 AM

You don't often get email from schlesinger.jl@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I watched the Dec 16 Conservation Committee meeting, and would like to reach out to share my opinions on the future of Kent's Point, specifically continuing to allow off-leash dogs.

My family owns a house at 16 Gesner Rd and we have two four-year-old dogs - a german shepherd and a french bulldog. We have been bringing them to Kent's Point since Fall 2020, and have had nothing but excellent experiences with on- and off-leash dogs there. I don't know what we would do without Kent's Point and the ability to have well-trained dogs off-leash there. Kent's Point allows dogs to safely socialize with other dogs in an environment that is not tightly enclosed, like dog parks which encourage defensive or aggressive dog behavior. We take our dogs there every morning before work or the beach to allow them to run and socialize, especially during the summer when they are not allowed to do so anywhere else in town due to the beach restrictions. We, along with almost everyone else I have met, did not allow our dogs off-leash until they were well trained enough to respond to our voice commands. In the handful of times I have seen a dog not respond to voice commands, the collective community has immediately talked to the dog owner and has the dog in question put on a leash. I strongly urge you to not strip our town of the community we've built there and continue to safely allow dogs to be dogs there, off-leash.

I will agree though that the disrepair on Keziah's Lane is unfair to those living there. As mentioned in the committee meeting, there are tens of thousands of people travelling that road per year; I strongly encourage that if the town is to make any adjustments to the Kent's Point area to make it more safe, that you pave Keziah's Lane, and include as many speed-bumps as the residents would like, to make sure people are following the correct driven roads to access Kent's Point.

Thank you,
Jess Schlesinger
16 Gesner Rd, Orleans

From: [Schlesinger, Meghan](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:58:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[disclaim.txt](#)

You don't often get email from meghan.schlesinger@ubs.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello! I'm reaching out in favor of protecting off-leash walking at Kent's Point. My family lives at 16 Gesner Rd and we spend most of the summer in Orleans. Thank you for spearheading this initiative! We LOVE kent's point and hope we can continue to bring our fur family off leash!

Why we choose to walk our dog off leash?

We have a 4.5 year old working line German Shepherd who is absolutely phenomenal off leash. He love to explore but never strays farther than ~10-15 yards away from us, and he recall is perfect. We also have him on an e-collar as back up in case his response is delayed for any reason. He absolutely LOVES to swim and Kent's Point is one of the few places where he can swim in the summer every day, given Nauset North has been closed to OSV due to the erosion and Nauset South is closed for ~6 weeks due to the piping plovers. The joy on Odin's face when he is at Kent's Point is amazing.

Why this place is important to us?

Being outside in nature is so incredibly important. The exercise that we (as humans) as well as our dogs get by walking around Kent's Point has been so mentally and physically helpful. As mentioned above, especially given so much of the national seashore is closed as any given point in the summer, this is the place we rely on to get the dogs some good exercise and to cool off in the summer.

What our experience here has been like?

Our experience has been outstanding. Everyone who has dogs off leash have been respectful to other humans and other dogs. It is the most civil place to bring a dog off leash as we do not bring Odin to dog parks. It has been the absolute best place to bring dogs off leash in Orleans.

How important our community is to us?

We have made some wonderful Kent's Point friends, people that we wouldn't have met had we not been at Kent's Point.

Negative consequences of a leash requirement?

Biggest issue with leash requirements is dogs get tangled and it can be incredibly dangerous. I've had friends whose dogs have almost drowned given on leash requirements where there is a body of water.

Here is Odin enjoying a quick swim as well as finding a big stick with his dog-grandmother!



Meghan Schlesinger
Director
UBS Securities LLC
1 Post Office Square, 36th Floor
meghan.schlesinger@ubs.com

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***For the full published research report, including important disclosures, go to the ResearchWeb at www.ubs.com.

Dear Conservation Commission members,

In regard to Kent's Point, I write to support the position that Orleans dog owners deserve one reasonably sheltered year-round place to let their dogs play and exercise off-leash. I also make a pragmatic suggestion I hope will be taken seriously by the Town (**see Access Restrictions; Universal Sticker and Education Requirement, below**), as it solves several problems without the adverse side-effects of the solutions proposed thus far.

BACKGROUND

Who Has A Stake In The Dog Leashing Argument

- **Off-leash dog walkers** have a very substantial stake, as a leash requirement will coerce us to abuse our dogs (see *Dogs Need Exercise and Play To Be Happy and Healthy*, below). It will also fracture our thriving community, as some members will leave to find places they can walk their dogs off-leash without being harassed.
- **Neighbors who pay to repave Keziah's and whose properties would be worth more if there were less traffic** have a financial stake, because if Kent's became an "ordinary" area, fewer people would be drawn there. ("Follow the money," as the saying goes.) Petitioners are being coy about this, perhaps because they worry that pursuing financial interests isn't a good look. In this unique situation, I would support the town providing financial relief for the paving costs. Also, I proposed years ago that Keziah's residents set up an escrow account into which we could contribute for that purpose. However, I object to demonization of dogs and their owners to justify an indirect solution (leashing) which I find onerous and unethical.
- **On-leash dog walkers who prefer not to encounter off-leash dogs** have a minimal stake, as they have myriads of places to walk dogs in the style they prefer, and are not prevented from visiting Kent's without their dogs.
- **Dogless walkers who are uncomfortable at Kent's** have a slightly larger stake, although it's not as though they don't have vast opportunities to walk elsewhere. We don't know how large this group is, or how many of them feel strongly about the issue. Petitioners have given us no data about that, choosing instead to sensationalize, malign, and scold (an approach for which they ought not to be rewarded with relief).
- **Persons concerned about the environmental impact of dogs** have a very limited stake, because no significant impact has been shown, and because Kent's Point is a conservation area, not a wildlife refuge, where a tighter standard would be appropriate.
- **Persons, who "just feel like dogs should be on a leash absolutely everywhere and always"** have zero stake, in the same way that people who feel that female dog walkers should be in burkas and accompanied by a man have zero stake. To these people, it's appropriate simply to say, "life doesn't always conform to your extreme, arbitrary preferences; deal with it."

Why Has Kent's Point Deteriorated?

The petitioners and their allies push the conclusion that it's "**too many people**;" however, we don't know what Kent's Point would look like if the same number of people were using it but preventive measures had been implemented back in, let's say, 2000. In other words, the better explanation might well be "**administrative neglect by the Town of Orleans**." Brian Madden's comments on 12/16 did not support the "too many people" narrative. **Brian should be asked about how much deterioration might have been avoided with earlier proactive management.**

The petitioners and their allies also propose that it's "dogs running amok and leaving their waste behind," but Brian indicated that he didn't see dogs as a significant negative environmental influence, and his comment that the fencing "is working" specifically contradicts a Commission member's apocalyptic scenario of dogs streaming under the fences and destroying everything they touch. Additionally, a commenter on 12/16 indicated that dogs are frequently banned from areas because their waste is toxic, but this datum is more relevant to a wildlife refuge, such as Audubon, than a conservation area. Certainly, waste coming from a leashed dog has the exact same impact as waste coming from an unleashed dog.

A commenter also claimed that people and dogs are destroying the cliff by climbing up and down, but since the recent shearing event, most of the cliff at the point is far too steep for a person or dog to walk on. Moreover, the regulars are now mindful about keeping dogs off the area, and there is vastly less foot traffic at the top since the trail was closed. Yes, a dog very occasionally goes up or down an embankment, but the surface disturbance is rarely even detectable. Certainly, efforts should be made to reduce passage even further, but when one considers the intense damage done by runoff, "dog-caused erosion" should be considered a red herring.

Parenthetically, it should be noted that "dog-caused erosion" has a dark history in Orleans as an insincere pretext for restrictions based on other motives. The best proof of this is that after hours were decreed in a partial repeal of the Wildflower Beach closure – meaning that dogs would be going up and down the banks at the entrance – no remedial measures, such as installation of stairs or ramps, were taken to mitigate the supposed effects of their passage.

PROCEDURAL AND PRAGMATIC REASONS WHY DOGS SHOULD NOT BE REGULATED BASED ON THESE PROCEEDINGS

Notice has not been given to all stakeholders. For instance, a leash requirement might make dog-owning tourists choose dog-friendly Provincetown over Orleans, harming our innkeepers and seasonal landlords, who have no idea that such an impact might be on the horizon. A man who left the December 16 meeting when complaints about dogs were raised stated to me that he "thought this was an environmental meeting" based on the notice. Given what the Commission just went through with Mr. Lyttle's citizen petition article, I would think this is the last criticism to which the Commission would want to leave itself open. **This single point is reason enough not to impose a leash requirement.**

Enforcement of a leash requirement would be difficult. Given the wide perception among dog walkers that petitioners' arguments are insincere, and the commitment of dog walkers to their animals' physical and emotional health, some significant non-compliance is to be expected. This creates risks of poisoning the relationship between the police force and a segment of the community, and sparking altercations between dog walkers and vigilante citizen "enforcers."

Petitioners should not be rewarded for their toxic approach. As detailed below, petitioners have relied on illogical and counter-factual arguments, as well as personal attacks (e.g., dog walkers are "entitled" and "comical"), while failing to acknowledge their financial stake in the outcome of the proceedings. Many judicial rules of procedure punish those who make unfounded or abusive filings, as by requiring payment of other parties' costs. If we don't want our administrative proceedings to be drama-filled circuses, we ought to apply the same deterrent principle here. Petitioners should get nothing for their efforts.

SUBSTANTIVE REASONS WHY DOGS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO A LEASH REQUIREMENT AT KENT'S

Dog-Caused Erosion at Kent's Point Is Microscopic In Scope

See "Why Has Kent's Point Deteriorated?," above.

Is Kent's Point Dangerous? "Of Course Not!"

Let's ask the point man on the January petition (Petitioner 1) if Kent's Point is dangerous:

"Of course it's not a dangerous place!" Petitioner 1, December 16, 2024 @ 1:49:17.

This from the same gentleman who claims that a dog pawed at his baby? For goodness' sake, Commission members, if you haven't already, please do the math. Note also, in this regard, that in a text exchange between us (which I will provide to any town official who requests it), Petitioner 1 claims that he can't remember one single detail about the baby incident, which I would think would be indelibly etched on any normal parent's mind.

Granted, there is a "perception" of unreasonable danger. Moreover, if I were quite elderly with brittle bones, I might hesitate to walk there, although that would be true even in the absence of dogs because of the exposed roots (which no one seems to care about). However, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to Kent's Point, often repeatedly, and many elderly residents walk there daily, so there's a prevailing consensus that the area is acceptably safe. Unreasonable dangerousness is also belied by the police reports since 2000, which show only three instances of human injury (see the two Police Reports attachments).

Petitioner 1 doesn't want us to focus on the police reports, perhaps because his tale about his baby isn't included. According to him, police reports aren't a valid metric because one files a report only when "tragedy" strikes. However, the reports are full of reports of minor annoyances. Sure, there might be an unreported injury or two. At the same time, the most recent injury report is somewhat suspect, as it asks us to believe that a dog crashed straight into a human being from behind without being distracted by prey (not likely to be running straight down a trail) or another dog – something neither I nor anyone I've talked to has ever seen happen in their lifetimes. We'll never know for sure if a dog or a root was actually to blame. Bearing these issues in mind, it's reasonable to take notice of the fact that the police reports tend to paint a picture of general safety.

Importance of Dogs to Human Beings, Especially Seniors

According to Cigna Healthcare, research shows that:

1. Pets Make Their Owners Feel Needed
2. Pets Help Their Owners Form Connections with other People
3. Pets Help Relieve Feelings of Loneliness and Isolation
4. Pets Help People be Mindful
5. Pets can Speed up Recovery
6. Pets Help Improve Fitness

<https://newsroom.cigna.com/unexpected-health-benefits-of-pets-for-older-americans>

Many other reputable websites support these general ideas.

Dogs Need Exercise and Play To Be Happy and Healthy; Denying It Is Cruel

Assuming that their position doesn't spring from cruel indifference, some dog owners and non-dog owners seem to think that dogs can be healthy and happy without exercise and play. This isn't a matter of opinion. It's just ignorant. See these sample headings from an article on the Eukanuba ("Proud partner of canine athletes and the organisations that support them") website:

- Exercise Keeps Your Dog Physically Healthy
- Exercise Helps to Keep Your Dog Mentally Stimulated
- Exercise Helps with Behavioral Issues
- Exercise Helps to Release Excess Energy
- Exercise Helps Your Dog to Socialize

This is the text from the last section:

Getting out and being active with your dog offers invaluable opportunities for socialization, as allowing your dog to interact with other dogs during walks or park trips helps to foster, and improve their social skills. Regular interactions with other dogs reduce tendencies towards aggression or fear as dogs become accustomed to various personalities and behaviors.

These positive encounters also translate to better human-canine interactions, as dogs learn to read and respond to cues from their furry companions and their human counterparts. Through shared play, mutual exploration, and the simple act of being part of a pack, exercise transforms into a powerful tool for cultivating a well-adjusted and socially adept dog.

<https://www.eukanuba.com/au/health-and-fitness/health-and-fitness-articles/why-dogs-need-exercise-importance-and-benefits#>

Many other reputable websites support these general ideas.

Petitioners and their allies are fond of spitting the word "entitled" at us. Actually, we consider that dog owners in a rural or semi-rural town have a *reasonable* expectation of being able to care for their dogs so that they are healthy and happy. As a matter of science, constantly forcing a dog to walk at senior-citizen speed, while being pulled away from other dogs all the time, is a subtle form of cruelty. It's not "entitlement," i.e., unreasonable self-centeredness, to resist engaging in such cruelty, at least in the absence of compelling cause. And it's not "loving dogs" to seek to coerce dog owners to mistreat them in this way.

Not Long Ago, No One Got Worked Up About Dogs Being Unleashed; So Who Is Actually "Entitled" Here?

I moved here in 1993. The morning after we moved in, Dr. Padgett's dog showed up at our back door, sans human being, because the house was on its daily "treats route." No one got bent out of shape about such things. Sure, the population is a bit denser now than it was then, but I'd say the main change is that a lot of people have moved here from rich suburbs, and feel "entitled" to demand that Orleans become more similar to the place from whence they came.

Leashing Has Negative Consequences Not Acknowledged By Petitioners

Leashing makes dogs more aggressive. The only times I ever had problems with aggression towards my dog, which has happened twice in roughly 3500 visits, both dogs were leashed.

Leashing makes it very difficult for dog owners who wish to elevate their heart rates to walk at any kind of sustained, consistent pace.

Leashing creates risk of injuries from entanglement, and from sudden pulling, which is a particular risk for elderly persons with brittle bones.

Leashing makes dog owners likely to follow their dogs down an embankment, causing vastly more surface disturbance than the dog.

Options Other Than Leashing Are Available

- **Conservation Wardens**

I offered to do this, meaning specifically that if I had some authority and a ticket book, I'd act as warden while I was there. For this approach to work, you'd need a few people from the dog walking community with the respect of their peers and some reasonable social skills. To analogize to *The Andy Griffith Show*, when Ernest T. Bass comes into town and starts raising a ruckus, Andy needs to go out and talk him down firmly but gently. If you send Barney out there to scold and chide and get into a lather about what's "acceptable," you're just going to make the problem worse. So, if you're willing to consider this, please be realistic about the personality requirements to make the role effective.

- **Empowerment Through Signage**

Short of actually making people wardens, the town could empower us "regulars" to wield more influence with transients or tuned-out owners by posting signs (1) explaining that Massachusetts is a strict liability state for dog-caused injury and damage, and (2) expressing an expectation that dogs will not jump on human beings or attack other dogs, with a warning that violators may be asked to leave. The former signage might give some dog owners pause about letting rambunctious dogs run there, while the latter signage would enable us to call the police if absolutely necessary, while giving us credibility in expressing those expectations to others.

This is a good juncture to respond to some shade thrown at us by a Commission member a few months ago about dog owners "not doing enough" to control bad behavior. Back in 2020, I made several recommendations to the Select Board in my final report as Chair of the Animal Regulation Task Force about using signage to enhance compliance with good behavioral standards (see Report of OARTF Chair 2020 attachment; search document for "sign"). They fell on deaf ears, and nothing whatsoever has been done to give us a foundation for peer-enforcing reasonable standards. The responsibility for that inaction, and its consequences, is the Town's. When a member of a body legally charged with management of the area tries to shift the education responsibility completely onto ordinary citizens, something's seriously wrong. We're into political blame-shifting rather than leaderly problem-solving, and I think the residents of Orleans deserve better.

- **Hours**

Hours would make sense here, provided that they were (1) intelligently crafted with the parking lot's capacity in mind and (2) perceived as having been fairly arrived at, with meaningful opportunities for input. Without getting into detail as to why, the imposition of hours in 2019 continues to be viewed by many dog walkers as procedurally corrupt. It would serve no one to recreate that perception now.

Beyond all that, the petitioners have not asked for hours and do not deserve them. They have swung for the fences, spewing deception, drama and derision along the way. If they want hours, they should be required to come back after the denial of their current petition and propose that in an adult, cooperative, community-building spirit.

- **Mediated Conversations**

The Police Chief suggested a version of this back in 2020, in testimony before the Animal Regulation Task Force. Given that the success of rules depends to some extent on willing compliance, it would be constructive to help the differing groups get to know and respect each other. It's a shame that the petitioners rejected our behind-the-scenes invitations to pause these proceedings and talk with us, and that our mediation petition was not given the time of day by the Town. Following these proceedings and the path they have taken, conversations will be more difficult, but they're still worth considering as a tool in the box, so to speak.

- **"Nuisance Dog" Designation**

A major problem with dog leashing is that it punishes the 97% for the actions of the 3%. Anything that singles out the problem dogs and owners is ethically preferable, and will avoid resentful backlash and the problems of compliance and enforcement. In my report as chair of the Animal Regulation Task Force, I offered a draft of a law allowing for designation of particular dogs as "nuisance dogs," whose owners would be required to demonstrate better control before being allowed to use public lands off leash. (see Report of OARTF Chair 2020 attachment; search document for "nuisance dog.")

- **Access Restrictions; Universal Sticker and Education Requirement**

Obviously, the fewer users there are, the easier everything is to manage. The parking lot may force us into restrictions, in which case it will be important to be mindful, and respectful, of how important the Kent's Point community is to its members.

While traffic is out of the Commission's scope, one plan might not be: Perhaps all vehicular access to Kent's Point could be "sticker-only," with a mandatory online video and a follow-up test on basic rules required in order to qualify. The sticker could be free to residents and fee-based for nonresidents. In my experience, this is the sort of proposal officials immediately and reflexively fend off, because they're technophobes, or because they fear trying something like this until after Eastham or Harwich risks it first, or because they worry that "the appropriation won't pass at Town Meeting" (as though that were somehow preclusive of the attempt). My hope is that the Commission and then perhaps the Select Board will look at this more from a problem-solving perspective. For instance, the project could be shopped to Cape Cod Community College or Nauset High School as an independent study project, and we might be able to get the electronic infrastructure free of charge. In fact, there might not be any sticker cost, either, as perhaps applicants would get a printable ID with their plate number on it that they could place on their dashboard. Who knows? The whole thing might actually generate a profit. **Deputize me to look into it, and I'll come back to you with a report.**

A universal sticker and education requirement would vastly enhance the effectiveness of our new signage, and would also thin the herd of visitors by eliminating those unwilling to go through the hassle and (presumably moderate) expense of acquiring a sticker. On the other hand, by making access available to nonresidents with a real commitment to the area, this approach would prevent the infliction of harm on our Kent's Point community. **So, I hope this suggestion will be seriously investigated.**

SUMMARY OF BAD ARGUMENTS MADE, AND MISLEADING STORIES TOLD, BY PETITIONERS ON 12/16 (QUOTES APPROXIMATE)

(1) "The dog walkers want freedom, but freedom has to give way to conservation." This is a false framing in two respects. First, we're arguing for the right to take good, loving, and responsible care of the sentient beings in our care – not, as this argument suggests, clamoring in juvenile fashion for the right to "do whatever we want." Second, the link between dogs and the deterioration at Kent's simply has not been established.

(2) "I went to Kent's with my leashed dog, was surrounded by aggressive dogs, and had to fend for myself while *entitled* dog walkers did nothing to help me. I'll never subject myself to that again." To my knowledge, with the semi-exception of one dog who rough-housed quite a bit until he matured, none of our dogs are aggressive. I can think of only two dog injuries I've been aware of since 2017. **We love our dogs and wouldn't take them someplace they were going to get hurt.** That should be obvious.

(By the way, as mentioned previously, the only times I ever had problems with aggression towards my dog, which happened twice in 3500 visits, both dogs were leashed.)

As a similar-sounding "surrounded by aggressive dogs" event was relayed to me, people nearby froze in embarrassment because they were seeing a grown man having a meltdown about what appeared to them to be normal canine socializing. Some people are high-strung, and react to their own anxiety with anger, because anger is more comfortable for them. I'm in no position to know, but I wonder if perhaps that's what happened here. Perhaps the sudden appearance of several dogs was startling. If the gentleman in question were to come back a few times, he might find himself getting used to such events. We would certainly support him in that desensitization attempt.

(3) "Dogs and people are climbing up and down the banks." This is covered in "Why Is Kent's Point Deteriorating." Short answer: As of now, this is hardly happening at all.

(4) "They know right from wrong!" This oft-repeated slogan sounds dramatic, but what does it mean? I've spoken to people on the wrong side of fences and they are pretty much all misunderstanding water access, not "Being Evil." As for people driving through the signs on Keziah's, there are two reasons for that: (1) if you're coming from points West, navigation apps like Waze steer you that way; and (2) locals like myself judge the exclusionary rights asserted to be fictitious. My argument on this is simple: Kent's is on Keziah's. If Mrs. Kent were still alive and invited me to a party at her house, no one on Keziah's could block me from driving on Keziah's to get there. Kent's is open to the public, so I am an "invitee" in the same way I would be in the first scenario. Therefore, no one has a right in relation to my passage which I am disregarding. How am I wrong?

Maybe Keziah's residents ought to consider that their troubles stem karmically from their aggressive assertion of rights they don't have. Maybe people would slow down or use Frostfish more if the signs were friendly. Just a thought ...

(5) "German shepherds are going to tackle my children." I was an anxious and protective parent, and I *truly* respect the protective impulse. However, we still need to use our heads and stay grounded in reality. While friendly, the two dogs in question are indeed big and intrusive, and if I were a warden, their owner is someone I would seek out immediately. She knew Mrs. Kent, by the way and fiercely asserts that Mrs. Kent told her she intended dogs to be able to run

free there. (I've heard this from someone else who knew Mrs. Kent as well.) So, it's complicated, but hardly something that couldn't be worked out by parties working in good faith for a solution. I'll tell what isn't a solution, though: trying to make me leash my inoffensive 20-pound terrier, who has walked past Petitioner 1 on a few occasions without giving him the time of day, much less attacking his children, including when Petitioner 1 was hypocritically **walking his own dog off-leash**.

It's also worth mentioning that during a text exchange between Petitioner 1 and me (which I will provide to any town official who requests it), he indicated, and I quote, that his toddler being knocked down "**wasn't a major deal**." So, while I again applaud his advocacy for his children, I find that the line is a little murky here between paternal protection and sensationalism.

(6) "We need access restrictions because the land's carrying capacity has been exceeded." Well, that's what the study is supposed to determine, and initial indications from Brian don't support the narrative. As discussed above in *Why Has Kent's Point Deteriorated?*, it's quite possible that the carrying capacity of the land would be vastly greater if it were properly managed.

(7) "We don't owe it to out-of-towners to let them use our public spaces." While this somewhat crabby perspective is technically true, it overlooks the beneficial effects that tourism, including dog tourism, has on the local economy. It also ignores the likely reciprocal effects in other towns when we close ourselves off to their residents. Finally, it completely ignores that Kent's Point is a tight-knit community, in which people from several towns not only socialize, but support each other through sickness, grief, and so forth. I've met the majority of the people I know on Cape at Kent's, and I've developed a few really meaningful friendships there. In a town which has no community center, and whose atmosphere has become progressively more dour of late, it's a pleasure to see and interact with all kinds of people, and to discover commonalities I would never have known about had we only bumped into each other at Shaw's. We may end up getting forced into access restrictions by the parking lot, but if we do, I think it's important to be mindful, and respectful, of how important this community is to its members.

(8) "We're not going to sign and QR code our way out of this." This is just a slogan. Brian is telling us that signage is an important component, and expert opinion from the University of Toronto agrees. (see "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Signage in Conservation Areas, Natural Areas and Zoos to Enhance the Education of Eco-tourists:")

<https://utoronto.scholaris.ca/items/a6521dde-c350-4578-b316-7560b37ab998>

See also the suggestion for enhancing the effectiveness of signage with a mandatory video in *Access Restrictions; Universal Sticker and Education Requirement*, above.

As for people driving through the signs on Keziah's, see item (4) in this group.

(9) "A woman broke her leg at Kent's and another woman broke her ankle." At first blush, this seems like the same incident recounted in two different ways. Presumably the "broken leg" is the knee injury suffered by one of the petitioners. Where is the supporting data for the ankle injury? Did it really happen? Was it dog-related? Should witnesses really be able to toss out anecdotes like this without a request for substantiation?

And, of course, this brings us back to how unlikely it is that a dog would just crash into someone from behind, risking injury to itself, absent some specific distraction (see *Is Kent's Point Dangerous? "Of Course Not!"* above).

(10) "Dogs are frequently banned from areas because their waste is toxic." As already discussed, this datum is more relevant to a wildlife refuge, such as Audubon in Eastham, than a conservation area. Certainly, waste coming from a leashed dog has the exact same impact as waste coming from an unleashed dog.

(11) "Police reports aren't a valid metric." Of course they are. Is every incident necessarily reported there? Not necessarily, just as every reported incident isn't necessarily completely accurate. But "safety" is one of the announced grounds for the petition, and we've been told that it's a post-apocalyptic scene from *Mad Max* down there. One can't pretend that the fact of only three reported injuries over perhaps 600,000 visits doesn't undermine the danger narrative. Of course, Petitioner 1 did a pretty good job of that himself on 12/16 (see *Is Kent's Point Dangerous? "Of Course Not!"* above).

(12) "If Mrs. Kent could see the parking lot now, she would be dismayed." Maybe. Or, maybe if she took stock of the whole situation, she'd be furious at the years of neglect which have allowed massive gashes in the embankments because of runoff. The speaker doesn't know what Mrs. Kent's assessment would be, and, frankly, exploits her memory by pretending to.

(13) "Leashing dogs is a happy medium." This from a witness who walked his dog on-leash at Kent's, which tells us how he wants things. I would ask, "how is doing things exactly the way you want them done, and exactly the way we find morally offensive, a happy medium, sir?" Perhaps the implied assumption is that banning dogs altogether is on the table, but there is no suggestion of, nor reasonable basis for, such a ban. An actual "happy medium" would be hours, but petitioners have not suggested that, nor do they deserve it. This argument swings for the fences: "Based on this nonsense we are feeding you, give us exactly what we want and nothing less." The appropriate answer is "No. Come back some time, in whatever forum is appropriate, with respect for townspeople whose priorities are different than yours, with good-faith arguments, and with an intention to find solutions everyone can live with, and you may find that your efforts bear more fruit."

CONCLUSION

We argue for the simple and moderate position that in a rural or semi-rural town, it is reasonable for dog owners to expect the ability to care for their dogs properly by giving them year-round opportunities to exercise. We have supported our arguments with data showing the benefits of dog ownership and the physical and emotional needs of dogs. We have endured with dignity months of distortions of our actions and motives, and are only now pushing back somewhat, while exercising restraint so as not unduly to humiliate anyone.

We find petitioner's arguments to be lacking in substance, and loaded with unfair and manipulative ploys. We sympathize with their problem in regard to the heavy traffic on their road, and hope that the Town will sincerely explore alternative solutions to that issue, rather than fixating on an approach chosen behind closed doors and presented to voters as a "yes/no" proposition. At the same time, we deserve respect as a community of constructive individuals, and we decline to be the scapegoats for problems we have not caused. Accordingly, we urge you not to "fix" the petitioners' traffic problems at our expense by prohibiting the proper, and ethical, care of our animals.

Finally, I personally hope that town officials will take seriously and carefully explore the suggestion made above regarding a universal sticker requirement with a mandatory educational video.

-- Karl Oakes, 21 Heritage Dr.

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For Date: 12/10/2001 - Monday

<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Call Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Priority</u>
00129215	0644	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL-DOG COMPLAINT [CO	
Call Taker: RR - Dispatcher Robert H Reynolds				
Call Source: Telephone				
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 00 KEZIAHS LN @ KENTS POINT				
Involved Party: [REDACTED] ORLEANS, MA 02653				
ID: RR -				
Disp-06:44:00 Arvd-06:44:00 Clrd-06:44:00				
Narrative: Dispatcher Robert H Reynolds				
Unit: DSP 06:44:53 CD-440-DOG BITE , PAST				
Unit: DSP [REDACTED] INTO REPORT THAT				
ON SATURDAY				
Unit: DSP 12/08/01 AT 0710 HRS HE WAS AT KENTS POINT WHEN				
HE WAS BIT				
Unit: DSP BY A DOBERMAN MIX.HE ADVISED THAT THERE WERE				
THREE OF THEM				
Unit: DSP ALL UNLEASHED. [REDACTED] WAS BITTEN ON THE				
LEFT UPPER				
Unit: DSP THIGH AREA, THE FEMALE OWNER WAS ABLE TO LEASH				
ONE OF THEM				
Unit: DSP AND CALL OFF THE OTHER ONES.A FEW DAYS EARLIER				
[REDACTED]				
Unit: DSP HAD ADVISED THE SAME WOMAN SHE SHOULD LEASH HER				
DOGS. THE				
Unit: DSP DOG OWNER LEFT IN A GOLD COLORED MINIVAN .				
PLATE GIVE WAS				
Unit: DSP [REDACTED] , WHICH DOESN'T MATCH ABOVE				
DISCRIPTION.				
Unit: DSP FORWARDED TO ACO BOUCHER.				
Unit: DSP [REDACTED] ADVISED HE DIDN'T NEED MEDICAL				
TREATMENT				

For Date: 10/29/2004 - Friday

04-4440	1930	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL- LOST DOG/FOUND	Services Rendered 2
Call Taker: FR - Sergeant David M Freiner			
Call Source: Telephone			
Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 0 KEZIAHS LN			
Calling Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]			
Narrative: Sergeant David M Freiner			
[REDACTED] REPORTING SHE LOST HER DOG. IT IS A FEMALE			
BRITME, WHITE WITH RED TIPPED EARS. THE DOGS NAME IS SOFIE.			
SHE LOST THE DOG IN THE KENTS POINT AREA. IF FOUND PLEASE			
CALL [REDACTED]			
Narrative: Sergeant David M Freiner			
[REDACTED] CALLED TO ADVISE SHE HAS LOCATED HER DOG			
Narrative: Patrol Duane C Boucher			
no aco follow up needed/BC			

For Date: 11/17/2005 - Thursday

05-15418	1448	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL	Services Rendered 2
Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson			
Call Source: Telephone			
Location: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT			
Calling Party: [REDACTED] @ 9 SCHOOL RD - E ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]			
Involved Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653			
ID: BT -			
Disp-14:52:07 Arvd-15:04:02 Clrd-15:05:24			

Selective Search From: 01/01/2000 Thru: 12/31/2020 0000 - 2359 Printed: 10/28/2024

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**

██████████ STATES SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE WALKING THEIR DOGS ON KENTS POINT WHEN THE OBSERVED A BLACK LAB RUNNING LOOSE.THEY PICKED UP THEIR DOGS AND THE LAB JUMPED ON HER HUSBAND AND BIT THE DOG HE WAS HOLDING, DRAWING BLOOD. THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE A TAG ON THE DOGS COLLAR WITH OWNER NAME OF: ██████████ ██████████ THEY ARE ENRT TO THEIR VET TO HAVE THE DOG CHECKED. SHE IS REQUESTING THE DOG OFFICER CALL HER RE; HER COMPLAINT. AT ██████████

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**

OFF BUTILIER ENRT TO THE ██████████ RESIDENCE TO ATTEMPT TO LOC THE OWNER OF THE BLACK LAB

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**

OFF BUTILIER LOCATED ██████████ WHO WAS JUST RETURNING HOME AND IS LOOKING FOR THE DOG, WAS ADV WHERE IT WAS LAST SEEN. WHEN THE DOG IS LOCATED HE WILL CONTACT THE PD FOR THE RP'S INFO.

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**

██████████ IN PD WITH PAPERWORK FROM VET. SHOWING TREATMENT FOR PUNCTURE WOUNDS AND COSTS FOR RABIES BOOSTER AND ANTIBIOTICS. SHE HAS GIVEN OK FOR HER CONTACT INFO TO BE GIVEN TO ██████████.

Narrative: **Sergeant Richard P Dinn**

M-14 QUARANTINE ORDER SERVED IN HAND 9 FROST FISH.

For Date: 08/07/2007 - Tuesday**07-7503 1416 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Could Not Locate 2**

Call Taker: KO - Reserve Kerry a O'Connell
 Call Source: Walk-In
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: ██████████ - BREWSTER, MA 02631
 ID: FR -
 Disp-14:19:08 Arvd-14:22:37 Clrd-14:24:34

Narrative: **Reserve Kerry a O'Connell**

██████████ reporting two unleashed yellow Labs who were unleashed and rough housing with her leashed dogs. The plate given was ██████████.(LEAPS down)

Narrative: **Reserve Kerry a O'Connell**

veh-GOA

For Date: 10/28/2009 - Wednesday**09-12179 1525 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Could Not Locate 2**

Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
 Call Source: Telephone
 Primary Id: WI - Patrol Glenn P Wilcox
 Call Closed By: WI - Patrol Glenn P Wilcox 10/28/2009 1544
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: ██████████ - ORLEANS, MA 02653-4612 ██████████
 ID: WI -
 Disp-15:26:39 Arvd-15:30:06 Clrd-15:44:32

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**

██████████ reporting a lost female black and white terrier mix dog in area of kents point. has a collar and tags. family has been searching area for a few hours

Narrative: **Patrol Glenn P Wilcox**

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Searched area roads with negative results. Spoke with dog owner and advised her that evening shift will BOLO for animal. Owner will call if she locates the dog.
Case OK

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
Ofc Boucher in area checking for dog

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
re checked area, info passed to eastham dog owners assoc to assist in search

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
Ofc Boucher in area again checking for lost dog

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
[REDACTED] called at 1550 hrs 10/29/09, dog came home and is OK. He thanks the department for the assistance in looking for her

For Date: 08/15/2010 - Sunday

10-8951 1438 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: GA - Sergeant James M Gage JR
Call Source: Telephone
Call Closed By: WI - Patrol Glenn P Wilcox 08/15/2010 1503
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
Calling Party: [REDACTED] CHATHAM, MA 02633 [REDACTED]
Involved Party: [REDACTED] SEATTLE, WA 98199 [REDACTED]
ID: ML -
Disp-14:40:24 Arvd-14:47:53 Clrd-15:03:16

Narrative: **Sergeant James M Gage JR**
[REDACTED] REPORTING THAT A MAN IN YELLOW KAYAK HIT HER DOG OVER THE HEAD WITH A PADDLE FOR NO REASON. SHE STATED THAT SAME TYPE OF BEHAVIOR BY A MAN IN A YELLOW KAYAK HAPPENED AT KENTS POINT BEFORE. MAN IS STILL AT POINT AND SHE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH AN OFFICER.

Narrative: **Patrol Glenn P Wilcox**
M17 CLEAR OF SCENE

Narrative: **Patrol Michael Lotti**
I SPOKE TO [REDACTED] HE SAID HE DOES NOT LIKE DOGS RUNNING UP TO HIM AND JUMPING, LICKING, OR BITTING. THIS PARTICULAR TIME THE DOG RAN UP TO HIM SNARLED AND SHOWED ITS TEETH. HE DID NOT HIT THE DOG ONLY PUSHED IT AWAY WITH PADDLE. HE SAID THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO HIM A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO AND THAT TIME ONLY HAD TO YELL AT IT. I ADVISED THIS WAS A PLACE PEOPLE WALK THERE DOGS.

For Date: 03/07/2012 - Wednesday

12-2090 1100 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
Call Source: Telephone
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
Calling Party: [REDACTED] - EASTHAM, MA 02642 [REDACTED]
Involved Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653-3236 [REDACTED]
Vehicle: GRY 2007 TOYT RAV4 Reg: PC MA VIN: JTMBD32V875107401
Operator: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653-3236
Owner: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653-3236

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
[REDACTED] REPORTING AN INCIDENT ON KENTS POINT TODAY INVOLVING A PITBULL DOG THAT ATTACKED HER YELLOW LAB DOG. MA REG [REDACTED] REG. TO [REDACTED]

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
OFC BOUCHER OFF AT [REDACTED] D3 FOR FOLLOW UP

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
OFF BOUCHER CLEAR, APPEARS NO ONE IS HOME AT THIS TIME

Narrative: **Dispatcher Christopher K Reynolds**
M18 OFF FOR FOLLOW-UP PER M14

05 NO ONE HOME

Narrative: **Reserve Kerry a O'Connell**
Dinn checked no one home.

Narrative: **Reserve Kerry a O'Connell**
Ofc Boucher left a note on the door requesting [REDACTED]
contact OPD

Narrative: **Patrol Brian D Carchedi**
[REDACTED] CALLED TO ADVISE SHE WAS MADE AWARE OF THE NOTE
ON HER DOOR BY HER NEIGHBOR YET SHE IS IN NEW YORK FOR THE
WEEKEND. SHE WILL CONTACT OPD TOMORROW 03/12/12 WHEN SHE
RETURNS. HER CELL PHONE NUMBER IS [REDACTED].

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
10 day order issued and valid rabies certificate faxed from
Brewster vet hospital

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - E ORLEANS, MA 02643-1019 [REDACTED]
 Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 RP was walking her freinds dog in Kents Point and it slipped the collar and ran off. Greyhound Tan with Brown and White marbling

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 Dog is at namequoit Sialing, M15 will attempt to capture, unable to contact RP by cell

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 Unable to locate at Sailing camp

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 dog is now at river and school

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 RP notified will chack last area

Narrative: **Dispatcher Christopher K Reynolds**
 [REDACTED] REPORTING THE DOG IS NOW IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, CARETAKER NOTIFIED

Narrative: **Dispatcher Christopher K Reynolds**
 [REDACTED] REPORTING SHE IS IN THE IDLE TIMES BIKE SHOP WITH THE DOG, IT IS INJURED AND BLEEDING. SHE WAS GIVEN THE CARETAKER'S NUMBER AND WILL CALL BACK WHEN THEY ARE REUNITED.

Narrative: **Dispatcher Christopher K Reynolds**
 CARETAKER AT IDLE TIMES, WILL CALL BACK WITH AN UPDATE

Narrative: **Dispatcher Christopher K Reynolds**
 [REDACTED] HAS THE DOG

For Date: 06/08/2013 - Saturday

13-6352 1148 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: BC -
 Disp-11:53:32 Arvd-11:57:15 Clrd-11:57:16

Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 [REDACTED] REPORTING A FEMALE WALKING TWO DOBERMAN DOGS IN KENTS POINT TODAY THAT RAN UP TO AND AROUND HER AND HER HUSBAND, MAKING THEM FEEL INTIMIDATED. SHE STATED THEY DID NOT APPROACH THEM IN A MENACING MANNER OR JUMP ON THEM. THEY ASKED THE FEMALE DOG OWNER TO LEASH THE DOGS AND SHE REPLIED THAT KENTS POINT WAS A DOG PARK AND THE DOGS DID NOT NEED TO BE LEASHED.
 THE RP STATES SHE HAD HEARD FROM AN IN LAW OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT INVOLVING THE SAME DOG OWNER.
 RP DID NOT GET A VEHICLE DESCRIPTION OR PLATE OF THE DOG OWNER.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 Checked Kents Point negative results

Narrative: **Sergeant Matthew P Watts**
 APP-WT

For Date: 02/23/2014 - Sunday

14-1934 1156 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: ML - Patrol Michael Lotti

Selective Search From: 01/01/2000 Thru: 12/31/2020 0000 - 2359 Printed: 10/28/2024

Call Source: Walk-In
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - WELLFLEET, MA 02667 [REDACTED]
 Involved Party: DOG OWNER
 ID: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: RP -
 Disp-11:59:52 Arvd-12:04:12 Clrd-12:09:55
 Narrative: **Patrol Michael Lotti**
 [REDACTED] called to report a lose dog in the parking area possibly caused some damage to cars and is jumping on people.
 Narrative: **Patrol Michael Lotti**
 The owner of the dog called and she is in route to the aerea
 Narrative: **Patrol Richard Pellegrino**
 Upon arrival dog's owner already retrieved dog from the woods. Units cleared without incident.
 Case OK. RP
 Narrative: **Sergeant Richard P Dinn**
 Approved DI

For Date: 05/30/2014 - Friday

14-5704 1022 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA [REDACTED]
 ID: BC -
 Disp-10:23:25 Arvd-10:31:16 Clrd-10:31:17
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 [REDACTED] at kents point lot with an older beagle that appears to be lost
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 [REDACTED] called back said owner arrived and has taken the dog

For Date: 10/25/2014 - Saturday

14-12783 1141 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] @ ***UNKNOWN*** - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 Involved Party: [REDACTED] E. ORLEANS, MA 02653-4127 [REDACTED]
 ID: BC -
 Disp-11:42:54 Arvd-11:52:21 Clrd-11:59:44
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 [REDACTED] reporting a found yorkie dog at kents point
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 RP is walking dog to where owner may live
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 dog returned to owner, [REDACTED]
 clear
 Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 ok
 Narrative: **Sergeant William J Norton**
 Approved-WN

For Date: 11/19/2014 - Wednesday

14-13671 1412 Phone - KENTS POINT COMPLAINT Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Telephone
 Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

Rp making complaint regarding loose dogs in Kents Point area. Rp was advised that it was difficult to enforce in that area. His complaint is not about vicious dogs but any dogs in area that may come near him or his wife when they are walking. He was referred to selectman for his issues with this area.

For Date: 12/25/2014 - Thursday

14-15069 1545 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: RP - Patrol Richard Pellegrino
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] @ ***UNKNOWN*** - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: TC -

Disp-15:51:12 Arvd-15:51:13 Clrd-15:51:14

Narrative: **Patrol Richard Pellegrino**

RP advising found she found dog (Collie) with no tags or collar. While dispatching M18, RP called back stating she found the owner.

For Date: 04/18/2015 - Saturday

15-3746 1203 Initiated - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Initiated
 Primary Id: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: BC -

Arvd-12:04:35 Clrd-12:26:21

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

Advised 7 dog owners that dogs must be leashed at all times.

Narrative: **Reserve James P Rosato**

Approved-RO

15-3757 1838 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: DE - Sergeant Daniel S Elliott
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 Involved Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653
 ID: BC -

Disp-18:39:49 Arvd-18:46:06 Clrd-19:13:49

Narrative: **Sergeant Daniel S Elliott**

[REDACTED] reporting a man walking two dogs off leash at Kents Point.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

Responded to complaint and located a female walking a large white sheep dog, she held the collar as I approached and had a leash around her neck. I advised her that the dog must be leashed at all times, and she stated no it does not as the orleans by law does not state that. I stated that it is just this area and she said she was on the commitee. She then said give me a ticket I am not leashing my dog. I advised her that her disobedience will lead to no one dogs being

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allowed and she said So be it. I then asked her for her name and she refused saying Im not going to give it to you why should I. I then advised her I would get it from her car and she stated she did not have a car in lot. I ran the plate of a red prius in lot and identified [REDACTED] from her license photo as the individual that I had encountered.

For Date: 04/22/2015 - Wednesday**15-3909 1318 Initiated - PATROL Services Rendered 2**

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Initiated
 Primary Id: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: BC -

Arvd-13:19:19 Clrd-13:32:02

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

No one in area.

Narrative: **Sergeant William J Norton**

Approved-WN

For Date: 04/24/2015 - Friday**15-3992 0934 Initiated - PATROL Services Rendered 2**

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Initiated
 Primary Id: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: BC -

Arvd-09:34:59 Clrd-09:50:40

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

Two dog owners advised of conservation restriction.

For Date: 09/07/2015 - Monday**15-10714 1337 Walk-In - LOST DOG Services Rendered 2**

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Walk-In
 Vicinity of: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA 02631 [REDACTED]

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**

Lost Hound type dog ,Black and Brown, 50 lbs, Black collar with rabies and Lic tags.

Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**

The owner came in to say that she has found her dog

Narrative: **Reserve Kevin L Higgins**

Approved- HI

For Date: 06/26/2016 - Sunday**16-6508 1218 Initiated - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2**

Call Taker: RP - Patrol Richard Pellegrino
 Call Source: Initiated
 Call Closed By: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher 06/26/2016 1228
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: RP -

Arvd-12:18:52 Clrd-12:27:57

Narrative: **Patrol Richard Pellegrino**

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No dogs unleashed in the area.

Case ok. RP

For Date: 08/21/2016 - Sunday**16-9659 1345 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL No Action Required 2**

Call Taker: BC - Patrol Duane C Boucher
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] ***UNKNOWN*** - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: KO -
 Disp-13:46:18 Clrd-13:47:24
 Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 RP states dog in car, no windows open.
 Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 Owner arrived.

For Date: 09/02/2016 - Friday**16-10300 1305 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Could Not Locate 2**

Call Taker: HE - Dispatcher Joann Henderson
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - NEEDHAM, MA 02492-3536 [REDACTED]
 ID: BC -
 Disp-13:05:34 Arvd-13:05:37 Clrd-13:07:52
 ID: BC -
 Disp-13:08:22 Arvd-13:08:33 Clrd-13:30:46
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 [REDACTED] reporting a lost dog in Kents Point approx
 1/2 hr ago. dark brown female mutt named Ginger. Collar
 with Needham tag. [REDACTED] states she is taking care of
 the dog for a friend
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Joann Henderson**
 clear of Kents Point, unable to locate dog. Spoke with RP
 Narrative: **Reserve James P Rosato**
 Approved-RO

For Date: 09/04/2016 - Sunday**16-10419 1813 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2**

Call Taker: HGG - Sergeant Hannah G Greene
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: PC -
 Disp-18:14:23 Arvd-18:21:31 Clrd-18:39:37
 ID: FR -
 Disp-18:17:26 Arvd-18:17:27 Clrd-18:40:29
 Location Change: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN [Modified: 09/04/2016 1817]
 Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 Rp [REDACTED] reporting she just saw
 a chocolate lab running through her front yard, heading
 towards the parking lot at Kents point.
 Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 Sgt. Freiner off with the owner of dog, attempting to get
 dog out of the woods.
 Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**

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dog still in woods with owner on loc. 05

Narrative: **Sergeant Patrick S Cronin**
case ok

Narrative: **Sergeant David M Freiner**
Approved -FR-

For Date: 04/15/2017 - Saturday

17-3946 1934 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: HGG - Sergeant Hannah G Greene
Call Source: Walk-In
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
Calling Party: [REDACTED], MA 02653 [REDACTED]
Involved Party: [REDACTED] ORLEANS, MA 02653-4907 [REDACTED]
ID: DE -
Disp-19:35:23 Arvd-19:37:19 Clrd-19:45:34

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
Rp [REDACTED] in PD reporting that her dog was bit by [REDACTED] Pit bull at Kents Point at Aprox. 1600hrs today. Rps dog has already been to the hospital but states she was advised it needs to be quaratined by the vet.

Narrative: **Sergeant Daniel S Elliott**
[REDACTED] reported that her dog was bitten by a dog owned by [REDACTED]. Both dogs were off leash on Kents Point, and were playing. At some point [REDACTED] dog, a pit bull, bit [REDACTED] smaller dog. Her dog was treated at the animal hospital, who then told her to report it to the police. Ofc. Boucher notified via email.

Case OK

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
Spoke to [REDACTED], dog is licensed at his residence in Brewster and has valid rabies certificate.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
Called and advised [REDACTED] of findings and advised both dogs were not in control.
Case ok/BC

For Date: 08/07/2017 - Monday

17-10010 0747 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Could Not Locate 2

Call Taker: JSM - Patrol John S Mellin
Call Source: Telephone
Call Closed By: BE - Dispatcher David J Belcher 08/07/2017 0810
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: JSM -
Disp-08:00:06 Arvd-08:02:58 Clrd-08:10:00

Narrative: **Patrol John S Mellin**
Report of a badly injured large black dog in the area of Kents Point. No owner seen in the area.

Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**
Animal appears GOA

Narrative: **Patrol John S Mellin**
1. Unable to locate animal.
case ok

For Date: 11/15/2017 - Wednesday

Selective Search From: 01/01/2000 Thru: 12/31/2020 0000 - 2359 Printed: 10/28/2024

17-14796 1000 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: HGG - Sergeant Hannah G Greene
 Call Source: Walk-In
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling/Inv. Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 Involved Party: [REDACTED] - S ORLEANS, MA 02662-0240 [REDACTED]
 ID: BC -
 Disp-10:01:57 Arvd-10:16:04 Clrd-10:26:20
 Vehicle: GRY 2012 HOND CRV RM4H7C Reg: PC MA 433PP3 VIN: 2HKRM4H75CH606650
 Owner: [REDACTED] - S ORLEANS, MA 02662-0240
 Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 [REDACTED] in PD requesting to speak with officer Boucher in regards to a dog related incident that occurred last thursday 11/9

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 Off.Boucher left message for vehicle owner.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 RP [REDACTED] states that last Wednesday at approx. 1300 hrs while walking at kents Point a dog jumped on her with muddy paws and also clamped down on her elbow with its mouth but did not bite her. She took a picture of the dog owners license plate. I left a message for the dog owner to contact me.

Case ok.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
 Spoke to [REDACTED] and she aplogizes as she was not aware that dog had to be under control at Kents Point.

Narrative: **Sergeant William J Norton**
 Approved-WN

For Date: 05/18/2018 - Friday

18-4710 0958 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Transported to Hospital 2

Call Taker: HGG - Sergeant Hannah G Greene
 Call Source: Telephone
 Primary Id: ML - Patrol Michael Lotti
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Involved Party: DOG OWNER
 Involved Party: [REDACTED] ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: ML - [REDACTED] - W NEWTON, MA 02465-2308 [REDACTED]
 Disp-09:58:30 Arvd-10:04:41 Clrd-10:28:00

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 FD reporting dog bite at Kents point, dogs secured.

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 Parties located by disability ramp at beach.

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
 Clear.

Narrative: **Patrol Michael Lotti**
 Upon arrival I spoke to the dog owner [REDACTED] while Orleans Rescue attended to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated while [REDACTED] was approaching her he started yelling "put those dogs on a leash" in an aggressive manner, upsetting the larger dog (Boxer, Finn). The larger dog (Finn) then attacked [REDACTED], as the larger dog attacked him, the smaller dog (Boxer, Percy) also became defensive and started to bite [REDACTED] also.

I spoke to [REDACTED] and he stated the dogs where about 20 feet from him when he realized the dogs were not on

Selective Search From: 01/01/2000 Thru: 12/31/2020 0000 - 2359 Printed: 10/28/2024

leashes. He stated that he asked the owner to please leash them and after he did the larger dog started to come after him then the smaller dog also started to attack him. [REDACTED]

I advised [REDACTED] that the dogs needed to be kept in her home and have no contact with people or other dogs "Quarantined", until the Animal Control Officer (Boucher) contacted her with further instructions. Owner was advised that she needed to prepare and provide documentation from the veterinarian that all dogs shots are up to date. referred to Animal Control Officer Boucher for follow up. Case OK M.Lotti

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
M12 off at 24 Kings wy following up with dog owners.

Narrative: **Sergeant Hannah G Greene**
Clear.

Narrative: **Reserve James P Rosato**
Approved-RO

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
Issued ten day quarantine order to both dogs. Also issued TBL cite for Failure to Restrain dogs.

Finn is 3 yo Boxer Rabies Exp 09-12-20
Percy is 6 yo Boxer Rabies exp 09-19-19.

Owner stated Finn is the dog that first went after [REDACTED] and Percy then followed.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
Percy is 6 yo Boxer Rabies exp 09-19-19.

Narrative: **Patrol Duane C Boucher**
Called [REDACTED] and advised him of status of dogs.

Refer To Incident: [18-127-OF](#)

For Date: 03/18/2019 - Monday

19-2263 1532 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Peace Restored 2

Call Taker: BE - Dispatcher David J Belcher

Call Source: Telephone

Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN

Involved Party: [REDACTED] - E HARWICH, MA 02645-0000

Calling/Inv. Party: Unknown 508-274-9838

[REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA 02631-2553 [REDACTED]

ID: EA -

Disp-15:34:20 Arvd-15:37:16 Clrd-15:48:19

ID: PC -

Disp-15:34:20 Arvd-15:36:36 Clrd-15:48:19

ADM -

Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**

RP, [REDACTED] called to report a verbal altercation w/ a male while walking her puppy at Kent's Point. RP states that some type of object was thrown at her dog. RP describes male as, W/M, faded blue jeans, dark blue jacket, carrying a orange leash with a white poodle type dog

Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**
M15 w/ involved male

Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**
M16 w/ female RP

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Narrative: **Dispatcher David J Belcher**
Verbal only, parties advised of By-Laws

For Date: 06/27/2019 - Thursday

19-5358 1754 911 - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: TTT - Civilian Terri Therrien
 Call Source: 911
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] WEST DENNIS, MA 02670 [REDACTED]
 Involved Party: [REDACTED] BREWSTER, MA 02631-2679 [REDACTED]
 ID: DE -
 Disp-17:55:05 Arvd-17:58:35 Clrd-18:19:27
 ID: DI -
 Disp-17:55:46 Arvd-17:58:46 Clrd-18:19:26
 ID: HI -
 Disp-18:03:24 Arvd-18:08:39 Clrd-18:19:28
 Vehicle: WHI 2012 TOYT SE CAMRY Reg: [REDACTED] VIN: 4T1BF1FK4CU198306
 Owner: [REDACTED] WEST DENNIS, MA 02670-2622
 Vehicle: WHI 2017 SUBA UT OUTBAC Reg: [REDACTED] VIN: 4S4BSAFC0H3332472
 Operator: [REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA 02631-2679
 Owner: [REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA 02631-2679
 Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**

RP- [REDACTED] reporting that his son's dog was attacked by a pitbull. On call back the dogs are seperated and the owner is walking back to his car now.

Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**
Rp-reports that his dog may have a broken leg.

Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**
Pitbull owner will get the rabies vaccination to the PD tonight.

Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**
M3 transporting dog to the parking lot.

Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**
Owner of the bloodhound will be transporting to his vet.

Narrative: **Civilian Terri Therrien**
Units clear

Narrative: **Sergeant Daniel S Elliott**
[REDACTED] had his bloodhound on a leash in the water at Kent's point. [REDACTED] had her pit bull at Kent's Point on leash, but let him off to run in the water. As she did, the pitbull ran right at the and attacked the bloodhound. The pitbull bit the bloodhound on the nose and leg, causing puncture wounds and moderate bleeding. Its possible that the bloodhounds leg was broken. The pitbull had puncture wounds to his nose. [REDACTED] stated that the pitbull was just adopted 2 weeks ago from the Animal Rescue League and she would retrieve and provide the vaccination paperwork. Both dogs left under the control of their owners. Info passed on to ACO Eagan.

Case OK

Narrative: **Patrol Casey A Ahlman**
Information forwarded to Brewster ACO for quarantine of [REDACTED] dog.

Case ok.

For Date: 02/15/2020 - Saturday

20-1437 1524 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Selective Search From: 01/01/2000 Thru: 12/31/2020 0000 - 2359 Printed: 10/28/2024

Call Taker: MAM - Dispatcher Maryalice Machado
 Call Source: Telephone
 Primary Id: KO - Reserve Kerry a O'Connell
 Call Closed By: TTT - Civilian Terri Therrien 02/15/2020 1547
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling/Inv. Party: Unknown 508-246-0187

Involved Party: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653-3904 [REDACTED]
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] - BREWSTER, MA 02631-0000
 ID: [REDACTED] - ORLEANS, MA 02653-3904 [REDACTED]
 ID: KO -
 Disp-15:25:57 Arvd-15:30:09 Clrd-15:47:10
 Vehicle: Reg: PC MA 358XB4
 Narrative: **Dispatcher Maryalice Machado**
 [REDACTED] reporting that his dog was attacked by 5 or 6 unleashed dogs at Kents Point. RP was unsure if his dog was injured at the time he called, stated they were walking back to his tan Rav4 to get distance from the other dogs.

Narrative: **Reserve Kerry a O'Connell**
 I responded to Kents Point and I was met by the RP's [REDACTED]. They stated that they were walking both of their two dogs on a leash when a group of unleashed dogs ran towards them. They were able to pick up their rat terrier but their 55 lb elder dog was attacked by a white dog with black spots, possibly a Boarder Collie, that had a sore on its head. I asked if their dog was injured and they did not think so but would check when they got home.

I also spoke with [REDACTED] who was leaving and she confirmed the story. She says she walks her yellow Lab everyday at Kents Point and has never seen that group of dogs before. She said they were all off leash and not under voice command of their owners.

I then took a ride down the path and was unable to locate the dog(s) in question.

ok KO

For Date: 06/11/2020 - Thursday

20-4369 1138 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: EA - Patrol Casey A Ahlman
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: EA -
 Disp-11:41:40 Arvd-11:41:44 Clrd-11:41:46
 Narrative: **Patrol Casey A Ahlman**
 [REDACTED] requesting bylaw information on leashing dogs. He was in Kent's point and had a verbal disagreement with another couple who were not maintaining control of their dogs while walking.

Case ok.

For Date: 11/23/2020 - Monday

20-10899 1655 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: JSM - Patrol John S Mellin
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 Calling Party: [REDACTED] @ ***UNKNOWN*** - ORLEANS, MA 02653 [REDACTED]
 ID: APD -
 Disp-16:57:09 Arvd-17:03:31 Clrd-17:24:52
 Narrative: **Patrol John S Mellin**
 Caller reporting her dog got loose on Kents Point. 1 y/o

Golden Retriever named Dusty, w/ collar and tags.

Narrative: **Patrol John S Mellin**
Dog was located by the owner.

Narrative: **Patrol Alexander P Dedinas**
1. Searched for Dusty with negative results. Owner located dog.

Case OK-APD.

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

For Date: 02/15/2020 - Saturday

<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Call Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Duplicate</u>
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20-1437	1524	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL	Services Rendered 2		
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Call Taker: MAM - Machado, Maryalice
 Call Source: Telephone
 Primary Id: KO - O'Connell, Kerry
 Call Closed By: TTT - Therrien, Terri 02/15/2020 1547
 Call Modified By: KO - O'Connell, Kerry
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: KO - O'Connell, Kerry
 Disp-15:25:57 Arvd-15:30:09 Cldr-15:47:10
 Cleared By: TTT - Therrien, Terri
 Vehicle: Reg: PC MA 358XB4
 Narrative: 02/15/2020 1527 Machado, Maryalice
 Modified By: 02/15/2020 1531 Machado, Maryalice

reporting that his dog was attacked by 5 or 6 unleashed dogs at Kents Point. RP was unsure if his dog was injured at the time he called, stated they were walking back to his tan Rav4 to get distance from the other dogs.

Narrative: 02/16/2020 0830 O'Connell, Kerry

I responded to Kents Point and I was met by the RP's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They stated that they were walking both of their two dogs on a leash when a group of unleashed dogs ran towards them. They were able to pick up their rat terrier but their 55 lb elder dog was attacked by a white dog with black spots, possibly a Boarder Collie, that had a sore on its head. I asked if their dog was injured and they did not think so but would check when they got home.

I also spoke with [REDACTED] who was leaving and she confirmed the story. She says she walks her yellow Lab everyday at Kents Point and has never seen that group of dogs before. She said they were all off leash and not under voice command of their owners.

I then took a ride down the path and was unable to locate the dog(s) in question.

ok KO

For Date: 06/11/2020 - Thursday

20-4369	1138	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL	Services Rendered 2		
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Call Taker: EA - Ahlman, Casey
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: EA - Ahlman, Casey
 Disp-11:41:40 Arvd-11:41:44 Cldr-11:41:46
 Narrative: 06/11/2020 1141 Ahlman, Casey

requesting bylaw information on leashing dogs. He was in Kent's point and had a verbal disagreement with another couple who were not maintaining control of their dogs while walking.

Case ok.

For Date: 11/23/2020 - Monday

20-10899	1655	Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL	Services Rendered 2		
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Call Taker: JSM - Mellin, John
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

ID: APD - Dedinas, Alexander
Disp-16:57:09 Arvd-17:03:31 Clrd-17:24:52

Narrative: **11/23/2020 1657 Mellin, John**
Caller reporting her dog got loose on Kents Point. 1 y/o Golden Retriever named Dusty, w/ collar and tags.

Narrative: **11/23/2020 1725 Mellin, John**
Dog was located by the owner.

Narrative: **11/23/2020 1841 Dedinas, Alexander**
1. Searched for Dusty with negative results. Owner located dog.

Case OK-APD.

For Date: 06/14/2021 - Monday

21-5439 1332 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
Call Taker: EA - Ahlman, Casey
Call Source: Telephone
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: EA - Ahlman, Casey
Disp-13:43:56 Arvd-13:43:57 Clrd-13:43:59

Narrative: **06/14/2021 1343 Ahlman, Casey**
[REDACTED] left a voicemail about an injury she sustained from a loose dog on Kent's Point on June 6. She stated the dog was a mutt, all black with white spots. She stated the dog was unleashed and ran up behind her, collided with her legs and knocked her from her feet. She stated she broke her leg and was unable to walk on her own, two other walkers that saw the incident assisted her in walking. Eventually she could no longer walk and her friend drove into Kent's point with her van to retrieve [REDACTED]. She is requesting extra patrols and help in identifying the dog's owner.

Case ok.

Narrative: **06/14/2021 1431 Norton, William**
Approved-WN

For Date: 06/20/2021 - Sunday

21-5717 1903 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
Call Source: Telephone
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: JSM - Mellin, John
Disp-19:03:44 Arvd-19:07:57 Clrd-19:09:53
Vehicle: GRY 2007 TOYT UT FJCRUI Reg: PC MA 55DE32 VIN: JTEBU11F770090453

Narrative: **06/20/2021 1903 Therrien, Terri**
RP-reporting a loose dog.

Narrative: **06/20/2021 1915 Therrien, Terri**
Dog return to owner

Narrative: **06/20/2021 1916 Mellin, John**
1. Dog located by owner prior to my arrival.

case ok

Narrative: **06/20/2021 2246 Mellin, John**
Approved - JSM

For Date: 07/28/2021 - Wednesday

21-7426 1750 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

Call Taker: JSM - Mellin, John
 Call Source: Telephone
 Call Modified By: MAM - Machado, Maryalice
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: IRD - DeLuca, Ian
 Disp-17:53:37 Arvd-17:58:51 Clrd-18:18:31

Narrative: **07/28/2021 1753 Mellin, John**

██████████ called to report that her gray long haired Chihuahua got away from her at Kents Point. If seen call

Narrative: **07/28/2021 1818 Mellin, John**

Checked the area of Kents Point, unable to locate.

Narrative: **07/28/2021 1825 DeLuca, Ian**

1. Checked the area around Kents Point for a missing dog. Unable to locate- Clear.

Case Ok.

Narrative: **07/28/2021 2231 Rosato, James**

Approved-RO

Narrative: **07/29/2021 1244 Machado, Maryalice**

Dog located by owners. Clear.

For Date: 07/29/2021 - Thursday

21-7446 1322 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: MAM - Machado, Maryalice
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: NHB - Bohlin, Neill
 Disp-13:23:22 Arvd-13:28:32 Clrd-13:30:48
 Vehicle: GRY 2010 HOND UT PILOT Reg: PC MA 12VD13 VIN: 5FNYP4H53AB026152
 Narrative: **07/29/2021 1323 Machado, Maryalice**
 ██████████ reporting a silver Honda Pilot that has dogs inside.

Narrative: **07/29/2021 1332 Machado, Maryalice**

Windows are all open, dogs do not appear to be in any distress. Clear.

Narrative: **07/29/2021 1455 Bohlin, Neill**

case ok-nhb

For Date: 09/06/2021 - Monday

21-9068 1432 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL No Action Required 2
 Call Taker: BE - Belcher, David
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: DI - Dinn, Richard
 Disp-14:33:02 Clrd-14:36:54
 ID: BDB - Beatty, Brian
 Disp-14:34:08 Clrd-14:36:54
 Narrative: **09/06/2021 1436 Belcher, David**
 RP, ██████████, called from Kent's Point to say that there is a Golden Retriever with a leash attached wandering around but no owner/caretaker with the dog.
 Narrative: **09/06/2021 1437 Belcher, David**
 Modified By: **09/06/2021 1446 Belcher, David**
 RP called back to say that the owner is reunited with his dog.
 Narrative: **09/06/2021 1535 Dinn, Richard**

Approved DI

For Date: 10/01/2021 - Friday

21-9921 1035 Other - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: BDB - Beatty, Brian
Call Source: Other
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
Narrative: 10/01/2021 1037 Beatty, Brian

calling to report a golden retriever has been attacking her dog at Kent's Point. It has occurred 5-6 times between 1700-1730. First name of the owner is [REDACTED] but could not provide a last name. [REDACTED] was advised to call OPD the next time this incident happens and ACO Eagan will be advised.

Case ok.

Narrative: 10/01/2021 2251 Dinn, Richard
Approved DI

For Date: 04/05/2022 - Tuesday

22-2978 0955 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
Call Source: Telephone
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: REM - McDonough, Riley
Disp-09:56:35 Arvd-10:02:32 CIRD-10:09:14
Narrative: 04/05/2022 0956 Therrien, Terri

RP- would like to report her dog was attacked yesterday by a off leash dog.

Narrative: 04/05/2022 1322 McDonough, Riley

1. [REDACTED] reporting her dog Zara, 8 month old german sheperd was attacked yesterday by an off leash dog at Kents Point. [REDACTED] states the other involved dog owner is named [REDACTED] and she drives a gray Jeep Wrangler. [REDACTED] dog is white with brown spots. [REDACTED] states [REDACTED] dog was off leash and came charging towards Zara causing her to fall over. [REDACTED] also reporting no injuries to Zara. [REDACTED] was informed there is no leash law in Orleans however the dog needs to be within control of owner. Email sent to ACO Eagan regarding this incident.

Case ok. REM

For Date: 05/12/2022 - Thursday

22-4083 1934 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: MAM - Machado, Maryalice
Call Source: Telephone
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
Narrative: 05/12/2022 1935 Machado, Maryalice

[REDACTED] reporting his mothers jack russel terrier mix got loose in the area. States the dog has on a red collar and a blue harness.

For Date: 11/02/2022 - Wednesday

22-11009 1638 911 - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
Call Source: 911
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

ID: DGC - Chahine, Daniel
 Disp-16:39:32 Arvd-16:45:15 Clrd-16:57:18
 DI - Dinn, Richard

Narrative: **11/02/2022 1639 Therrien, Terri**
 Found dog. yellow lab

Narrative: **11/02/2022 1652 Therrien, Terri**
 owner located

Narrative: **11/02/2022 1726 Chahine, Daniel**
 Modified By: **11/02/2022 1728 Chahine, Daniel**

1. Lost dog found at Kent's point. While speaking with the RP [REDACTED], the owner of the dog [REDACTED] arrived on scene and retrieved the dog. All 10/4.

Case ok.

Narrative: **11/02/2022 2322 Dinn, Richard**
 Approved DI

For Date: 11/07/2022 - Monday

22-11220 1342 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: AMC - Clark, Angela
 Call Source: Walk-In
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: EA - Ahlman, Casey
 Disp-13:54:38 Arvd-13:58:13 Clrd-15:14:45

Narrative: **11/07/2022 1354 Clark, Angela**
 RP reporting he was walking his dog and 5-6 big dogs came running towards him all off leash.

Narrative: **11/07/2022 1447 Ahlman, Casey**
 [REDACTED] at the station to report he was at Kents Point when several off leash dogs approached him and his dog on the path. By his description the dogs came to owners when called, thereby abiding by the leash law. I further explained the leash law and also stated extra patrols will be conducted in the area.

Case ok.

For Date: 12/15/2022 - Thursday

22-12536 1116 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: EA - Ahlman, Casey
 Disp-11:17:42 Arvd-11:22:03 Clrd-11:35:29

Vehicle: GRY 2008 TOYT UT RUNNER Reg: PC MA 28JH92 VIN: JTEBU14R480130933

Narrative: **12/15/2022 1118 Therrien, Terri**
 RP reporting that there is a woman with 2 husky's that have no control. They apparently chased another dog and now that dog is missing.

Narrative: **12/15/2022 1135 Therrien, Terri**
 located the lost dog.

For Date: 02/07/2023 - Tuesday

23-1307 1012 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2
 Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
 Call Source: Walk-In
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: WN - Norton, William

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

Disp-10:13:09 Arvd-10:17:59 Clrd-10:24:48

Narrative: **02/07/2023 1014 Therrien, Terri**
 Modified By: **02/07/2023 1016 Therrien, Terri**

RP in station wanting to report that his dog was attacked but not injured at Kent's Point last night.

Narrative: **02/07/2023 1030 Norton, William**

came in to report that his dog was attacked last night while at Kents Point. Only description was a husky type dog, possibly a malamute, with a dark face. Owner described as a fit male in his 50's. did not wish to report that the dog was not leashed as its sort of an unspoken way that people let their dogs run. just wanted to make us aware in the event we get other calls about the aggressive dog.

Approved-WN

For Date: 06/14/2023 - Wednesday

23-5319 1347 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Could Not Locate 2

Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: DI - Dinn, Richard
 Disp-13:48:10 Arvd-13:48:15 Clrd-13:48:15
 ID: HGG - Greene, Hannah
 Disp-13:48:10 Arvd-13:56:21 Clrd-13:58:57

Narrative: **06/14/2023 1347 Therrien, Terri**
 RP reporting a small grey cattle dog running loose in the area

Narrative: **06/14/2023 1931 Dinn, Richard**
 Approved DI

For Date: 08/02/2023 - Wednesday

23-7212 1705 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: TTT - Therrien, Terri
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
 ID: NHB - Bohlin, Neill
 Disp-17:05:58 Arvd-17:14:06 Clrd-17:14:17

Narrative: **08/02/2023 1706 Therrien, Terri**
 RP reporting a blonde labadoodle running loose with an orange collar.

Narrative: **08/02/2023 1711 Therrien, Terri**
 M11 has the dog in view, dog not willing to get close to him.

Narrative: **08/02/2023 1714 Therrien, Terri**
 Dog with the owner

Narrative: **08/02/2023 1716 Bohlin, Neill**
 case ok-nhb

Narrative: **08/02/2023 1740 Cronin, Patrick**
 approved-pc

For Date: 10/23/2023 - Monday

23-9937 1358 Phone - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: KKW - White, Kyla
 Call Source: Telephone
 Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN

Selective Search From: 01/01/2020 Thru: 09/19/2024 0000 - 2359 Printed: 09/19/2024

ID: DI - Dinn, Richard
Disp-13:59:08 Cldr-14:02:58
ID: NHB - Bohlin, Neill
Disp-14:03:16 Cldr-14:03:20
ID: DI - Dinn, Richard
Disp-14:11:32 Arvd-14:15:23 Cldr-14:15:24

Narrative: **10/23/2023 1359 White, Kyla**

RP calling about a small brown dog running around the parking lot, has a collar but no tags

Narrative: **10/23/2023 1415 White, Kyla**

dog and owner reunited, clear

For Date: 12/19/2023 - Tuesday

23-11500 1444 Walk-In - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: WN - Norton, William
Call Source: Walk-In
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: PC - Cronin, Patrick
Disp-14:44:54 Cldr-14:47:44
ID: PC - Cronin, Patrick
Disp-14:47:54 Arvd-14:48:36 Cldr-14:59:31

Narrative: **12/19/2023 1444 Norton, William**

[REDACTED] in station reporting incident at Kents Point

Narrative: **12/19/2023 1541 Cronin, Patrick**

1. RP reporting that while at kents point a females dog was off leash and was jumping on her, even growling at her. She was screaming at female owner to control her dog and woman stated RP shouldnt be on the trails if she doesnt have a dog. Rp provided plate of other involved party and would like us to speak to her (MA PC 4CAC16).

case ok

Narrative: **12/19/2023 1541 Cronin, Patrick**

approved-pc

Narrative: **12/23/2023 0718 Dedinas, Benjamin**Modified By: **12/23/2023 0719 Dedinas, Benjamin**

On, the above date and time I followed up with the involved parties. I was unable to locate a current phone number for the involved vehicle but spoke with the daughter of the RO. [REDACTED] stated that she has a small Yorkshire Terrier and her father has a Jack Russell Terrier. She did not know anything about an incident at Kent's Point and is aware of the restraint bylaws. A voicemail was left with the RP requesting a call back.

For Date: 02/01/2024 - Thursday

24-849 1257 Initiated - ANIMAL CONTROL Services Rendered 2

Call Taker: BJD - Dedinas, Benjamin
Call Source: Initiated
Primary Id: BJD - Dedinas, Benjamin
Location/Address: [ORL 3744] KENTS POINT - 37 KEZIAHS LN
ID: BJD - Dedinas, Benjamin
Arvd-12:57:56 Cldr-13:01:25

Narrative: **02/01/2024 1301 Dedinas, Benjamin**

1. Area checked. No bylaw violations.

Case OK

Final Report of the Orleans Animal Regulation Task Force Chair

Including recommendations offered by Karl Oakes in his individual capacity as a task force member. To be read in conjunction with comments submitted by other members.

As amended, September 17, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Origins of the Orleans Animal Regulation Task Force (OARTF)

The OARTF is in part an outgrowth of citizen responses to regulatory decisions made by the Orleans Select Board (1) to apply the Skaket dog restrictions to Wildflower Beach (70 Willie Atwood Road), and then (2) to confine those restrictions to the interval between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Citizens opposed to the restrictions, and/or to the process by which the restrictions had been enacted, asked for the Task Force in order to create a solid and comprehensive factual and legal record for a reasoned decision on the matter. Some citizens wanted to do the same in regard to the April 15 commencement date for restrictions at Skaket beach, which was enacted in 2015. Some may have had other or additional concerns.

Eventually, the Select Board agreed to a task force, with a charge set forth in the next section. Some of the items specifically referred to in the charge, such as a dog park, appear to reflect the concerns and priorities of the Select Board or some of its members. The OARTF has understood its responsibilities as responding to Select Board concerns, as well as pursuing other aspects of the overall mosaic of dog-related issues in Orleans.

B. The Charge, and Official Comments in Regard Thereto

The OARTF Charge reads as follows:

The Task Force is charged with completing certain tasks that will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1. Review existing Town General Bylaw Chapter 85, Animal Control; DPW & Natural Resources Rules and Regulations; and Nauset Beach Off-Road Vehicle Rules and Regulations as they relate to the issues of dog access, restrictions and owner requirements.*
- 2. Identify and catalog current town properties/areas where dogs are permitted, with and without restrictions, and identify any potential new properties/areas that could be considered for general dog access, or as a defined dog park (open or fenced).*

3. Research potential ideas, options and bylaws gathered from other communities, including grant funding sources, that may be adaptable to Orleans.

4. Present an interim report with findings and recommendations for policy, regulation and/or general bylaw changes to the Board of Selectmen by December 31, 2019.

5. Task Force will meet at least once a month, or as needed based on their work plan.

In the course of the Select Board proceedings establishing the Task Force, and again at the first meeting thereof, members of the Board and the Town Administrator confirmed two important understandings: (A) by its plain language, the charge is "not limited" to the enumerated matters; (B) while it would have been convenient to have matters which are required to be presented at Town Meeting reported to the Select Board in time to prepare the warrant, it was not expected that all such matters would necessarily be resolved by December 31.

In addition, a key narrative which is not expressed in the Charge but which was voiced by Select Board members before and during the early stages of the OARTF's deliberations was as follows: The attack on a jogger by two dogs at Kent's Point in 2018 proves that the reference to "control" of dogs in Orleans Bylaw 85-2 – which is so vague as to be difficult to enforce – is "not working." According to this narrative, the definition needs to be tightened up so that it can be enforced, and resources need to be devoted to the enforcement effort, partly to shield the Town of Orleans from the lawsuits which are bound to be filed if there are ever any other dog attacks at Kent's Point.

A related intention, expressed by two Select Board members in local newspaper articles after the 2018 attack, and before the Wildflower closure, was to concentrate all canine off-leash activity in a dog park near the new Tri-Town sewage treatment facility just South of Namskaket Creek. This of course would require moving dogs, or at least unleashed dogs, off of other public lands.

While some members of the Task Force adopted the assumptions and preferences underlying these narratives, others did not. This report is the result of an independent process of evaluation, which did not give these assumptions and preferences any special credence or weight.

C. OARTF Objectives

In its interim report, the OARTF identified the following objectives, subject to amendment as necessary or desirable, and not in order of priority:

- To identify specifics of dissatisfaction, if any, within the community pertaining to existing Town of Orleans dog regulations and enforcement.

- To assist summer visitors, part-time residents, and guests from neighboring towns to understand and respect Orleans dog regulations.
- To engage local government agencies, businesses, and community organizations in helping Orleans remain a recognized dog-friendly town.
- To determine existing Orleans dog regulations that may need to be changed.
- To identify dog regulations for access to conservation and town-owned lands in Orleans.
- To strengthen compliance with Orleans dog regulations.
- To strengthen enforcement of Orleans dog regulations.
- To ensure that Select Board decisions about dog-related matters are made in responsive public forums accessible to all.
- To identify new lands in Orleans that may be opened for dog access.
- To increase knowledge about dog behavior and owner responsibility.
- To propose training opportunities intended to help dog owners gain necessary and appropriate control of their dogs.
- To advance inventive signage informing dog owners and other members of the community of their rights and responsibilities when using conservation and town-owned lands in Orleans
- To promote safe and responsible use of conservation and town-owned lands for dog walking in Orleans.
- To prepare a report that will assist the Select Board in meeting their responsibility for continuing human and animal compatibility in Orleans.

The intention behind these objectives was to present to the Select Board a comprehensive set of solutions to dog-related problems, rather than simply rubber-stamping a narrative that enforcement of a stricter "control" definition, combined with concentration of off-leash activity in a dog park, was the best way to proceed.

D. OARTF Proceedings, and the Creation of This Report

The OARTF met 13 times between early September of 2019 and early March of 2020. A

March 17 meeting was cancelled before the official shutdown, and then there were no further meetings until August 3. The progression of meetings went roughly as follows:

One initial formative meeting

Four meetings during which proposals for quick simple regulatory changes and an application for dog park funding took center stage

Two meetings to reorganize under a new chair and define objectives

A meeting to generate an interim report

Five meetings to try to identify noncontroversial regulatory changes which could be passed on to the Select Board in time for Town Meeting

One final meeting to attempt to regroup

In the personal judgment of the current Chair, six of those 14 meetings were marginally useful at best, and many of the more productive meetings were nevertheless impeded in ways which it would be out of scope to comment upon in this context, but which appeared to have a generally focus-scattering and demoralizing effect. A lack of focus, procedural consensus, and optimism was especially apparent when the OARTF attempted to resume its deliberations on August 3, following a five-month hiatus during which the business of the Task Force had largely slipped into collective oblivion.

Thus, when the Charge of the Task Force expired, and the Chair was offered an extension of time in which to meet and collectively draft a report, the Chair's inclination was to decline the offer and to begin by drafting a report individually. The report was distributed to members of the OARTF, who were invited to join the report, or write concurring and/or dissenting comments. The Chair left open a window of possibility that the Task Force could continue for a time, but declined to pursue further meetings in the face of a tepid response to an exploratory email message.

Incidentally, while some of this is common knowledge to the Select Board, for the benefit of those who might not be aware, the Chair deems himself qualified to make specific regulatory recommendations because he is a graduate of the NYU School of Law, admitted to the NY State Bar since 1982, and the author/editor of over 100,000 pages of legal encyclopedic material, much of which has focused on administrative law in a variety of contexts. In January of 2020, he was quoted by name by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals on the subject of robbery, in the case of *United States v. Carr*, 946 F.3d 598 (2020).

E. Summary Of Primary Recommendations

(1) The OARTF considered two types of definitions of control:

- one geared toward prescribing the dog owner's intervention to stop the dog's undesirable behavior, and the dog's response to that intervention;

- the other geared toward prohibiting the behaviors which a "control" requirement is designed to prevent.

For reasons explained in detail in the extended discussion of recommendations, the Chair recommends that the Select Board adopt a definition of "control" framed in terms of the canine behaviors which control is meant to avoid, to wit:

Dogs must be leashed, or under voice control or control by means of electronic device. A dog which charges human beings in such a manner as to cause a reasonable person concern for his or her safety, jumps on human beings, attacks other dogs, or attacks human beings shall be considered not under control for purposes of this provision.

Note that recommending a definition of control based on undesirable behaviors moots theoretical discussions about how exactly to frame a definition based on owner intervention and canine response thereto.

(2) Enhance compliance with that definition at Kent's Point with:

- (a) better signage;
- (b) OPD-hosted meetings with the Animal Control Officer to support good practices and discuss and resolve problems;
- (c) additional bylaw language making serious or repeated violations of behavioral expectations grounds for finding a dog to be a "nuisance dog";

To wit:

A dog who engages in these behaviors repeatedly, or who attacks a human being even once without provocation, as determined by the hearing authority in a proceeding under M.G.L.A. 140 § 157, will be considered a nuisance dog for purposes of that statute by operation of law, regardless of whether it technically satisfies the definition of "nuisance dog" in M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A. Such designation will not be prejudicial to a superseding determination by the hearing authority, on suitable evidence, that the dog in question is a "dangerous dog" under M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A.

See the extended discussion of recommendations for a discussion of why this particular language is recommended.

- (d) preferably, a "dog-pass" system controlling access to Kent's Point and making permission to use the area conditional on good canine behavior;
- (e) alternatively or in addition to (d), parking controls, or, as a last resort, hours restrictions.

F. Basic Values And Assumptions

Above all, the Chair takes the role of proposing regulations in a fiduciary spirit, meaning that the good of the town and its residents has to come before the Chair's own preferences, and that the Chair is required to consider all aspects of every issue. In spite of this effort towards objectivity, the Chair holds certain values and assumptions which may influence the findings and recommendations expressed in this report. In the interests of transparency, the Chair discloses them here:

- Prohibition and enforcement may or may not be the most effective approach to solving a problem, and should enjoy no presumption of greatest suitability.
- A small town is more likely to thrive if problems are solved in ways that build community.
- It is important that a community feel positively about its police force.
- Dog owners can be insensitive to the impact of their dogs' actions on the environment and on other human beings.
- Dogs, especially younger ones, need to run, socialize and play.
- Denying dogs these fundamental needs is a form of animal cruelty.
- Orleans' "dog problem" is above all a "Kent's Point problem."

As to the last item, the Kent's Point problem is really an amalgamation of real and perceived difficulties:

(1) The area is overused. Neighbors are bothered by high traffic volume. Certain areas are being eroded, by dog and human traffic, or, in the case of the cliff at the actual point, almost exclusively by dog traffic. Degradation of local flora has been noted. Although the trails are generally clean and some dog owners pick up after the negligent ones, some amount of solid dog waste is left on the premises.

(2) Some dogs misbehave, as by charging human beings, jumping on human beings, attacking other dogs, and/or, in the exceptional case, attacking human beings. This has led to some unquantified portion of the local population feeling uncomfortable about walking through the area.

(3) There is a perception that the Town risks being sued if there is another dog attack at Kent's Point. This perception is false. Massachusetts is a strict liability state (see M.G.L.A. 140 § 155). Individual dog owners are responsible for all damages caused by their dogs. Voice control or control by electronic device is the baseline norm in Massachusetts state parks. Municipalities incur liability only when they inject themselves into dog-related situations, such as by promising to deal with a dangerous dog and then doing so

ineffectively, or creating an enclosed dog park and then failing to ensure that the gate can be reliably secured.

H. Interplay of Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Matters; Unintended Consequences

The Chair has noted numerous cues that the regulatory proposals in the Charge are considered more important than the non-regulatory matters the Task Force included in its objectives. Readers of this document are urged to consider that the ultimate objective of town government is not “to pass regulations,” but rather to (1) solve clearly defined problems, while (2) minimizing unintended negative consequences. Accordingly, a complete consideration of a regulation should include consideration of the unintended negative consequences it may generate, including the potential for its abuse, as well as its likely effectiveness and the convenience of administrators and enforcers. In addition, alternative approaches such as public education should be considered as enhancements to or substitutes for any prohibition.

II. REGULATORY PROPOSALS

A. Background

At least three layers of law pertain to dog-related matters in the Town of Orleans:

- (1) The Constitution of the United States (potentially relevant to enforcement);
- (2) Massachusetts animal control statutes; and
- (3) Orleans bylaws, particularly but not exclusively Chapter 85.

The OARTF considered about a dozen distinct regulatory proposals. Some are appropriately viewed as possible new or amended bylaw provisions. Others are more appropriately understood as specific to Kent’s Point, and may therefore require approval through a review of the Kent's Point Conservation Management Plan.

B. Primary Recommendations

(1) Enforceable Definition of Control (Orleans Bylaw 85-2)

Orleans Bylaw 85-2 currently states in part:

All dogs shall be restrained or under the control of a responsible person at all times while off the premises of its owner.

While defining voice control was not explicitly mentioned in the Charge, some Select Board members stated that they wanted an “enforceable” definition of control. It is

important to understand that enforcement comes in two varieties:

- Proactive enforcement, which means sending police patrols out to find people who are violating the requirement of control
- Reactive enforcement, which means police enforcing the definition of control after being called to the scene of an incident, or when happening to observe a violation

There are also two basic approaches one can take to defining control:

(1) Defining control in terms of the outcomes the regulation is trying to avoid. A regulation framed this way might read:

Dogs must be leashed, or under voice control or control by means of electronic device. A dog which charges human beings in such a manner as to cause a reasonable person concern for his or her safety, jumps on human beings, attacks other dogs, or attacks human beings shall be considered not under control for purposes of this provision.

(2) Defining control by "describing what control looks like," or more specifically describing what an owner must do in response to a dog's undesirable behavior, and what the dog must do in response to that intervention. A regulation framed this way might read:

Dogs must be leashed, or under voice control or control by means of electronic device. A dog which (1) is not called by its master immediately upon request, or (2) does not begin decisively returning to its master within three seconds of being called shall be considered not under control for purposes of this provision.

Many other formulations are possible. However, variations in the details of the characteristics of control are completely unimportant to the threshold question of which general approach is more desirable. Efforts to craft the "best possible" version of a regulation describing what control looks like are moot if an "outcomes-based" regulation is a generically better solution.

Benefits and limitations/detriments of an "outcomes-based" regulation (OBR)

Benefits:

- An OBR clearly defines expectations.
- An OBR is reactively enforceable.
- An OBR does not require the owners of dogs who are intrinsically inoffensive, by virtue of temperament and/or size, to restrain their dogs for little or no reason.

Limitations/detriments:

- An OBR is not proactively enforceable.
- An OBR's effectiveness is dependent on non-regulatory enhancements, such as public education.
- An OBR does not address the problem of congestion, meaning that this will have to be handled separately.

Benefits and limitations/detriments of a "describing control" regulation (DCR)

Benefits:

- A DCR clearly defines expectations.
- A DCR is reactively enforceable.
- A DCR is proactively enforceable – however, this is a double-edged sword as discussed below.
- If a DCR is proactively enforced, it may reduce congestion to some degree

Limitations/detriments:

- Politically, a DCR can easily be characterized as a stealth leash law, forcing people who wish to avoid exposure to fines to choose between (a) investing the time, effort and expense required to train their dogs to come reliably on command, and (b) leashing their dogs. Thus, it may be difficult to pass.
- A DCR requires the owners of dogs who are intrinsically inoffensive, by virtue of temperament and/or size, to restrain their dogs for little or no reason. (This is a considerable source of resistance to a "describing control" approach.)
- If applied to the entire town, as opposed to only at Kent's Point, a DCR puts restrictions on dog owners in areas where problems have not been demonstrated.
- If used as a proactive enforcement tool, a DCR invites the Orleans Police Department (OPD) into a role which may be inconsistent with their community policing model, and which may breed resentment among dog owners.
- If used as a proactive enforcement tool, a DCR invites the OPD into potential violations of the Fourth Amendment, given that requiring a dog owner to demonstrate control

after an initial refusal would be a seizure which would have to be justified by probable cause.

- If used as a proactive enforcement tool, a DCR incentivizes dog owners to refuse to demonstrate control, as well as, in a worst-case scenario, to warn each other to leash dogs when the patrol car approaches, creating an unprecedented “as against them” culture in relation to the police.
- If used as a proactive enforcement tool, a DCR may discourage dog owners from vacationing here, especially as word of negative interactions with the police will spread on internet travel sites.
- If used as a proactive enforcement tool, a DCR may contribute to a sense that Orleans is not a fun place to live, and discourage young families in particular from moving here, perhaps inadvertently sabotaging economic development goals.
- By setting a standard which most dog owners cannot reliably live up to, a DCR invites open conflict with other users of the area, who may insist that dog owners be able to demonstrate control in order to remain in the area.

In light of all these considerations, the Chair recommends that the Town adopt an “outcomes-based” definition of control. This can be applied to the Town as a whole, as a bylaw, without sparking intense pushback. The Chair also recommends that the new bylaw be enhanced with the following measures:

- Clear signage at the pedestrian entrance to the main trail, from the parking lot, explaining that Kent’s Point is a conservation area, and that there is an expectation of consideration for the land, the water, and other users of the area. The signage should also state the new control bylaw verbatim, and provide a terse summary of the Massachusetts strict liability law. Citations to both enactments should be included.
- After COVID-19 recedes, OPD hosting of community events at which dog owners can meet with the Animal Control Officer and with other citizens, to discuss matters of concern.
- Adoption of an additional sentence in 85-2 to fill a conceivable gap between “nuisance dog” and “dangerous dog” under current Massachusetts law (see next section)

In addition, the Chair recommends that the following measures, which will have a greater impact on congestion, be considered, and that at least one of them be adopted:

- Requiring a “dog pass” to use Kent’s Point (see Recommendation (3) below). This approach may be seen as “complicated,” but it will decisively and dramatically improve the situation at Kent’s Point as no other realistically available governmental intervention

possibly can, and it also happens to be revenue-producing.

- Requiring a sticker for out-of-towners to park at Kent's Point, available for a fee.
- As a last resort, establishing hours for use of the area by dogs, but only after well-advertised public hearing and careful data-gathering about usage patterns.

(2) Filling the Gap Between "Nuisance Dog" and "Dangerous Dog"

State law includes a provision for an administrative response to the problem of a nuisance dog or dangerous dog (M.G.L.A. 140 § 157). Unfortunately, the definition of a nuisance dog under the statute is too restrictive to include dogs who might misbehave in various ways in public, and the dangerous dog provisions are remedially so extreme (potential euthanasia) that there is a reluctance to invoke them. State law (M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A) defines:

- A "nuisance dog" as a dog that: (i) by excessive barking or other disturbance, is a source of annoyance to a sick person residing in the vicinity; or (ii) by excessive barking, causing damage or other interference, a reasonable person would find such behavior disruptive to one's quiet and peaceful enjoyment; or (iii) has threatened or attacked livestock, a domestic animal or a person, but such threat or attack was not a grossly disproportionate reaction under all the circumstances.
- A "dangerous dog" as a dog that either: (i) without justification, attacks a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death; or (ii) behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or to a domestic or owned animal.

At first glance, it might seem that a rambunctious dog might fit the statutory language of "a dog that ... by ... causing ... interference ... a reasonable person would find such behavior disruptive to one's quiet and peaceful enjoyment;" however, "quiet and peaceful enjoyment," like the more-often used phrase, "quiet enjoyment," is a property law term in Massachusetts, referring to the enjoyment of leased premises. So, technically, the statute does not apply to, for instance, a big dog which regularly charges walkers at high speed.

The simplest solution to this problem is to add pertinent language at the end of amended Town Bylaw 85-2, making it read as follows:

Dogs must be leashed, or under voice control or control by means of electronic device. A dog which charges human beings in such a manner as to cause a reasonable person concern for his or her safety, jumps on human beings, attacks other dogs, or attacks human beings shall be considered not under control for purposes of this provision. [Addition:] A dog who engages in these behaviors repeatedly, or who attacks a human being even once without provocation, as determined by the hearing authority in a

proceeding under M.G.L.A. 140 § 157, will be considered a nuisance dog for purposes of that statute by operation of law, regardless of whether it technically satisfies the definition of "nuisance dog" in M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A. Such designation will not be prejudicial to a superseding determination by the hearing authority, on suitable evidence, that the dog in question is a "dangerous dog" under M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A.

As a footnote, the "hearing authority" is currently the Select Board, but it appears that the Board could delegate its authority to a different entity, either existing or created specially for the purpose, if it so desired. Note also that "by operation of law" essentially means "automatically."

Caveat: The Select Board will not be able to enforce "nuisance dog" remedies against out-of-town dogs. However, the Kent's Point pass system described below in item (3), enables the Town to take immediate and effective action with respect to out-of-town dogs causing problems on site.

(3) Requiring a "Dog Pass" to Use Kent's Point

A "dog pass" could be required to use Kent's Point, in accordance with the following:

- Form: The pass would be in the form of a brightly-colored, easily-removable plastic medallion which dogs would be required to have attached to their collars while on premises. Colors could change yearly.
- Fees: The medallion could be free to licensed Orleans dog owners and other property owners who apply, with a fee for out-of-towners. Fees will greatly reduce usage of the area by people without a commitment to walking in that particular location, and could be used to finance needed fencing and signage improvements at Kent's to protect sensitive areas from erosion.
- Issuance: As a condition of issuance, owners might be required to watch a video, in the same manner as required for issuance of an ORV sticker. Given COVID-19 complications, the video could be online and applicants could receive an electronic temporary pass to print until such time as they were able to arrange for pickup from a Town office. Temporary passes could be affixed to blank medallions available at all times at the OPD upon presentation of the temporary pass. This way, subject to printer availability, passes would be immediately usable on application.
- Use of pass to enforce behavioral expectations: Suspension or revocation of the pass could be provided for in the case of violations. Precise details of the suspension and revocation provisions can be worked out in the future if the general idea is deemed appealing.
- Enforcement of pass requirement itself: An important benefit of this approach is that it

is proactively enforceable without giving rise to Fourth Amendment concerns, as the medallion would be visible to law enforcement officers by casual observation. Another important benefit is that residents could call for police enforcement upon observing a violation without having to engage in direct, potentially conflict-provoking personal interactions. In addition, the temporary pass system would avoid calls to enforce the pass requirement when applicants were innocently waiting for an opportunity to pick up their permanent passes.

This approach may be seen as “complicated,” but it will decisively and dramatically improve the situation at Kent’s Point as no other realistically available governmental intervention possibly can. As a peripheral benefit, it is revenue-producing. Moreover, if coupled with a public education initiative stressing the special beauty and high sensitivity of the area, these measures should seem reasonable, and not provoke the sort of resentment likely to meet some other forms of intervention. If the Town is capable of administering the ORV program, there is no reason why it should not be capable of administering this program as well. The ultimate question is, do we want an edict, or do we want a solution?

C. Secondary Regulatory Recommendations and Observations

The Task Force met 14 times between early September and early August. Because of time devoted to such matters as getting oriented, defining objectives, discussing the dog park, and writing the interim report, only seven meetings were devoted to regulatory proposals. Consequently, we visited certain secondary matters only in passing, and, except for exempting service dogs from license fees, came only to vague or partial conclusions about them. These secondary matters include:

(1) License fees

The Task Force voted to recommend exempting service dogs from the license fees imposed by Bylaw 85-6(A).

(2) Leaving the scene of a dog attack

Maine has a law (7 M.R.S.A. § 3955) criminalizing leaving the scene of an assault by a dog that causes an injury that requires medical attention for a person. We agreed that it was a good potential addition to the bylaws, but did not reach a consensus on a penalty for violating it. This is something the Select Board could determine on its own.

(3) Solid waste:

All Task Force members deplore the leaving of solid canine waste in public places and many of us see the current fine amount as low. However, we uncovered research indicating that raising the fine will not alter the behavior unless people have a greater

expectation of being caught. Further action should be taken to develop an approach to raise public awareness and increase the perceived risk of apprehension. In the meantime, not picking up solid waste can certainly be made a ground for loss of user privileges at Kent's Point if the Kent's Point dog pass system is adopted.

(4) Removal of dog from listing as dangerous or nuisance dog

The American Kennel Club recommends amending dangerous dog laws to make it possible to remove a rehabilitated dog from the list. The Task Force did not have time to consider this issue. There may be a need for language making it clear that a nuisance dog designation can be terminated when the dog owner has taken remedial action as well. Perhaps the Select Board could consider this on citizen suggestion at a later date.

(5) Noise regulation – barking:

The existing law is the Orleans noise ordinance, Town Bylaw 120-1. There was some conversation with the Chief of Police about possibly enhancing this bylaw, but the Task Force never focused on this as a priority item.

(6) Tethering:

Existing law in Orleans is the state statute, Ch 140, section 174E. The Task Force found no reason to consider an additional regulation.

D. Bayside Access and the Special Matter of Wildflower

(1) Skaket and Rock Harbor

The issue of dates for dog access at Skaket and Rock Harbor was resolved with Nate Sears during Task Force meetings. The cutoff date is now the Friday before Memorial Day rather than April 1.

(2) Wildflower Beach

Some inconclusive conversation was had, shortly before the COVID-19 shutdown, about the hours restrictions at Wildflower.

First, photographic evidence was submitted tending to show two to three dozen persons using the area on sunny afternoons, but only a handful of people present at or about 10:30. There was sentiment both for and against recommending a change from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, but no vote on this matter was taken.

There was also brief conversation about a "flats-only any time" alternative to the time restrictions. We did not have an opportunity to explore the pros and cons of such a

policy in any depth.

Finally, an amendment was proposed to require Administrative Procedure Act-type notice and hearing before access to public lands was restricted, with mandated consideration of least-restrictive solutions, and a written decision explicitly addressing public comments. Nate Sears raised concerns that the law as drafted would interfere with closures he is mandated by law to order. The shutdown occurred before efforts could be undertaken to address those concerns by amendment.

Thus, the Task Force has no substantive recommendations regarding Wildflower. However, this should not be taken as an endorsement of the current rule, or especially of the process by which it was crafted. Issues, including perceptions of impropriety, remain and are unlikely to disappear by virtue of the passage of time. For instance, one narrative circulating in town has it that the improvement in the solid waste situation there is the result of razor clams having migrated away, and clambers no longer bringing their dogs there, which would mean that the problem was unrelated to the dog owners who are currently having to abide by the hours restrictions. It would be healthy to address such issues frankly at some point, in whatever context is most likely to be constructive. Among other things, it might make sense to hold a well-noticed public hearing which includes not only expression of citizen points of view and the reception of evidence, but actual public deliberation of the issues by the Select Board, and a written decision which addresses the arguments made during the hearing.

E. The Dog Park

In its December 31, 2019 Interim Report, the Task Force stated:

With respect to a dog park, to date, we have:

- *noted an unresolved question as to whether there is significant demand for a dog park in Orleans*
- *touched upon a concern that funders might not be receptive to the expressed motivation for the Orleans dog park plan, were it disclosed as it should be;*
- *found reason to believe that grant funds might cover only a moderate portion of construction costs;*
- *raised questions about maintenance costs;*
- *noted the possibility that such a structure might actually expose the Town to a greater risk of civil liability, should defective or poorly maintained components (such as a gate which doesn't close) become causally linked to a dog-inflicted injury.*

The Task force intended to return to this topic, and one member (who has since resigned from the OARTF) submitted an extensive draft on the subject, but there was no further deliberation about the dog park before the shutdown. The member in question would

have been invited to submit his draft separately, but has resigned from the Task Force in the interim.

III. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS NOT CONSIDERED

The OARTF did not fulfill every one of the items in the Charge, or every one of its own objectives and potential investigations and action items.

A. CHARGE ITEMS

Specifically, the Task Force did not complete these Charge items:

- *Evaluate DPW and Natural Resources Rules and Regulations and Nauset Off-Road Vehicle Rules and Regulations. (Charge Item 1)*

- *Formally identify potential new properties/areas that could be considered for general dog access, or as a defined dog park (open or fenced). (Charge Item 2) The Task Force heard a presentation by Conservation Administrator John Jannell on this subject, but did not pursue the matter further.*

- *Research potential ideas, options and bylaws gathered from other communities, including grant funding sources, that may be adaptable to Orleans. (Charge Item 3). The Task Force considered some noise ordinances from nearby towns and the Maine law prohibiting leaving the scene of an assault by a dog, but its consideration of enactments from other communities ended there.*

B. OBJECTIVES

In addition, the Task Force did not complete, or at least offer meaningful recommendations pertaining to, the following objectives which it considered relevant and had set for itself:

- *To engage local government agencies, businesses, and community organizations in helping Orleans remain a recognized dog-friendly town.*

This objective assumes that there is economic value in being so recognized.

- *To ensure that Select Board decisions about dog-related matters are made in responsive public forums accessible to all.*

This is alluded to in connection with the discussion of Wildflower, but no specific recommendation is offered.

- *To propose training opportunities intended to help dog owners gain necessary and appropriate control of their dogs.*

This might be something the Orleans Dog Owners Group can address after COVID-19 recedes.

C. POTENTIAL INVESTIGATIONS; ACTION ITEMS

In addition, the Task Force did not undertake the following investigations and/or action items which it considered relevant to balancing the various interests involved in regulation of canine access to public lands:

- *Assessing the impact of dog restrictions on tourism*
- *Investigating the placement of educational materials in rental properties*
- *Investigating ways of enhancing Animal Control Officer effectiveness, beyond the proposed social/educational events at the police station*
- *Researching effective signage, particularly with respect to solid waste*
- *Investigating ways of making apprehension for solid waste violations appear more likely*
- *Investigating the possibility of making more containers available for solid waste*
- *Researching ways of preventing and/or mitigating environmental damage at Kent's Point*
- *Investigating possibilities for cooperation with local veterinarians in educating owners of potentially dangerous dogs*

IV. CONCLUSION

While the task force left some stones unturned, this report provides a solid foundation with respect to what appears to have been a central issue: how to define "control" so as to enhance dog owner compliance with the basic norms of courtesy and consideration for other users of public lands. (As indicated in the top header, the report should be considered as including any and all comments submitted separately by individual members.) Considering the mix of perspectives and personalities, the shutdown, and various other impediments to completing the multitude of tasks assigned, this collection of narratives is a respectable result. In the opinion of the Chair, the OARTF is a good case study for the Town in how volunteer committees can and can't be expected to function, and what kind of support might set them up for more comprehensive success.

From: SHEILA MCGORMAN
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: re:Kent's Point
Date: Friday, December 13, 2024 6:59:58 AM

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To those who it may concern,

I am a native of Orleans. Born, raised, & own a home here. This has always been a dog friendly town. As a child, growing up, we had a dog & a cat. No one ever thought twice about our animals outside. But today it's a hot issue. Their safety, & the safety of others is the biggest reason. Kent's Point is the only year round place for dogs to run, exercise, play, socialize, & be a dog in town. I believe it's crucial this is preserved as a place for dogs to go. I also think that dogs that don't socialize well, or who are aggressive, should be on a leash. As long as owners have control of their dogs, and clean up after them, I see no reason for dogs to not be allowed at Kent's Point. I urge that Kent's Point continues to be a place for dogs to run off leash, as long as the owners have voice control, & carry a leash.

Sheila McGorman

Orleans

774-323-2005

From: victoria.milne
To: [Kristyna Smith](mailto:kristyna.smith)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:18:58 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My familiarity with Kent's Point began in 2009. That is when I began my employment at Agway of Orleans and had just adopted a yellow Labrador retriever. The locals suggested it as a great place to go and my dog and I found it to be so. Since then, that good dog passed away and I now have a black Labrador retriever. The yellow Labrador was not a swimmer, but did so love to walk the trails with me, meet other folks and their dogs, rest a moment at a bench enjoying the view, and make use of the garbage can thoughtfully provided as we left.

This dog, Tobey, was highly trained and very well behaved. He did not go where he was not supervised, he did not bother dogs or folks that prefer he stay away. He could heel, sit, lay down, come, retrieve all with a simple point of a finger.

My current dog, Lincoln, is a swimmer. He loves the trails as well, but really adores all the space for swimming, going after sticks or balls, happy as all the other dogs he meets on our way around.

Lincoln came to me in 2020 as the pandemic began. Prior to that there was one area of erosion near the mouth of The River where the bench on the high knoll was located. It has been closed off. Since then, there is another area that has eroded on the path closest to The River. The previous area that was closed off has had further damage because of storms. Both spots had fallen trees whose roots could no longer hold the paths in place.

As a year around resident, I have not seen evidence of, nor witnessed any attempts to degrade the land. What damage has taken place is a result of natural forces.

Since Covid, the number of users of Kent's Point increased and has remained so. However the numbers are much higher in the summer. If I take Lincoln there in July and August it is less frequent, usually in the morning. Because the opportunity for a dog to swim in the summer is limited, Kent's Point is a welcome exception. Yet everyone seems to know how it works, all getting along in my experience. It's particularly delightful to watch the sailing school in action then.

The roads to Kent's Point are the only two, one paved and has private signs, the other unpaved and there are no private signs, but there is a speed limit sign. The unpaved road has ruts which helps people to slow down. The spaces to allow on-coming cars work well, people allow each other the right of way.

There are other places on Cape Cod where dogs can be off or in leash and swim, but not many. Two examples are in the Town of Dennis, the 'Indian Conservation Lands', and Flax Pond Conservation Area. Both have open access to all, with garbage receptacles provided. The Indian Lands also doubles as a parking lot for the Rail Trail.

One wonders how it could be justified that Kent's Point might be closed to some people, yet anyone from Orleans could go to either of the Dennis areas with no issues? Off season, other towns have similar resources, but many are closed in the high season, beaches included.

Harwich has many areas with trails but the ponds within them often have Cyanobacteria.

The Cape has a reputation as being dog friendly because there are so many wonderful places to be out of doors exercising with them. The whole of New England is remarkable for being a destination for rescued dogs from the South and West of our country where dogs are not cared for with the same commitment.

Hopefully the Town of Dennis will recognize Kent's Point as the sanctuary it is, truly a gem and one worth protecting. Please look at it as a valued area and consider more signs or public notices about considerate behavior of both dogs and their walkers. But it seems to work well as is, and I hope it remains that way, open and friendly.

Thank you.

Victoria Milne

From: [Fran](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent Point
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:43:24 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Many people I am acquainted with, from Truro to Brewster, visit Kent Point regularly, for its beauty and happy, uplifting vibe. That vibe of course, is mostly due to the many happy dogs who visit daily.

Although not every dog owner at Kent Point chooses to walk their dog off-leash, I have only once interacted with someone who seemed bothered by the off-leash dogs. Many elderly and disabled people are not able to walk far, so Kent Point is invaluable for them: their dogs get to run full speed and get the exercise they need. The dog whisperer, Cesar Milan, says there are three things dogs need, in this order of importance: exercise, food and affection.

If someone is opposed to off-leash walking, there is a plethora of gorgeous scenic places that require a leash.

I am a professional dogwalker, and I walk dogs all over the Cape. The most common complaint I hear (mostly in the summer) from our visiting dog owners is that the Cape is such an unfriendly place for dogs, due to all the on-leash laws. Of course I then recommend Kent Point, and have yet to hear of anyone who didn't love the experience. Before or after visiting Kent Point, many of us out-of-towners (I'm from Wellfleet) will visit Whole Foods, Joe Mamas, the Chocolate Sparrow, etc. Of course I have no proof, but I'm willing to bet Kent Point boosts many of Orleans' businesses.

I am not sure why someone would want to eliminate the one open-air, scenic space for off-leash dog walking in our area, but there is surely a solution for every complaint: A large billboard that spells out the rules, large fines for any violation, etc.

The strongest argument for keeping Kent Point an optional leash oasis cannot be contained in words, punctuation and type: it is the experience of witnessing dogs, running free along the beach, chasing new friends through the trails and racing at top speed, with a joy that is undeniable, intoxicating and very, very contagious.

Sincerely,
Lisa Klugman
(508) 246-7729

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [gail.schlesinger](mailto:gail.schlesinger@gmail.com)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 9:01:24 AM

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I am a home owner and dog lover who lives in Orleans (16 Gesner Road). It has come to my attention that the Town is considering stopping this being an off-leash area for dogs. I can not understand why the Town would consider this as this is a haven for all of us who have dogs.

Even prior to having a dog, I would walk Kents Point and I loved seeing the joy of being off leash brought to both the owners and the dogs. I now have 2 "grand dogs" that I bring here routinely and they love running in the open space and swimming in the water. This is so great for their health and well being.

I have never experienced any issues with other off leash dogs or with other owners. Everyone is kind and respectful to each other and keep appropriate control of their dogs. We all talk about what a wonderful place this is for both the humans and our dogs.

Kents Point is a beautiful place and it would be a travesty for the Town to take this away this being an off leash area for dogs from all of us. I therefore hope that the Town makes the right decision and keeps this intact as an off-leash area.

Respectfully,
Gail Schlesinger
16 Gesner Road, Orleans
617=875-1035

**Comments on Kent's Point Conservation Area: Environmental Assessment Public
Workshop presented Dec. 16, 2024 by Brian Madden, LEC
Carol Counihan 23 Herring Brook Way, 1/15/25**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments on this draft assessment. I reviewed the PowerPoint slides and listened in person to Madden's 12/16 comments. The information I expected to see and hear from the Town's and LEC's Scope of Service seems incomplete and therefore very difficult to comment on. To be responsive to the Scope of Services, Madden should provide the data and analyses spelled out in the Scope of Services in a written, final report. The public should get an opportunity to review this written report before the Commissioners base policy decisions on it.

I'm concerned that the discussions during Conservation Commission meetings and workshops thus far have focused on "the continued public use and enjoyment" of the site rather than the biodiversity and conservation values of the site. My comments focus on these.

Observed Changes in Use Patterns at Kent's

I have been walking regularly at Kent's Point for the last 14 years. It is a jewel among conservation areas and, as an ACEC on Pleasant Bay, incredibly valuable for the diversity of habitats and wildlife species it supports.

From 2010 to 2020, the impacts of foot traffic (trampled vegetation, soil compaction) were concentrated on the main trails. A few informal trails had been started and coastal bank erosion was evident on the south side. Starting in 2020 (COVID) and ever since, Kent's has seen a dramatic increase in visitation. At the same time, there has been a noticeable increase in erosion of inland trails, coastal banks, and the head of the Point. Since 2020, many new informal or "rogue" trails have effectively doubled the trail network (and the highly impacted areas). In some places, there has been loss of vegetation, collapse of the coastal bank, and downed trees. This dramatic increase in recreational use must have had an impact on resident wildlife and birds and the habitats supporting them. I rarely see wildlife anymore.

I kayak regularly in The River and other waters surrounding Kent's Point. Before COVID, I regularly saw state-listed male Diamondback terrapins in Frost Fish Cove. I no longer see them there.

My house has a direct view of the southwest corner of Kent's Point across Lonnie's Pond. Before COVID, there was no trail access to that area. Since 2020, because of new, rogue trails, it's not unusual to observe 5 or 6 people and their dogs on the southwest corner of the property adjacent to Lonnie's Pond oyster arrays. I don't think *E. coli* from dogs mixes well with oysters that people consume raw. The Kent's Management Plan states that "...two corridors totaling 5 acres (are) reserved as areas of undisturbed natural habitat for fostering wildlife." Is the southwest corner of the site supposed to be one of those undisturbed areas?

Baseline Conditions

An environmental assessment is a snapshot in time and is meaningless without a comparison to baseline conditions. Luckily, **we have a detailed environmental assessment of Kent's (IEP, 1988), which can serve as that baseline.** The 1988 assessment documented six major, diverse habitats that supported large and small mammals, birds, amphibians and other organisms that predators feed on, as well as critical habitats for several U.S- and MA-listed species of concern. Eight mammals were identified by scat, prints or sightings. 24 bird species were sighted. The assessment covered the wildlife benefits of the habitats present. The habitats documented in 1988 were diverse enough to justify calling Kent's Point a potential "Wildlife Conservancy Area."

Field Data Collection

Did the consultant conduct any field data collection? Did he observe individual wildlife and birds or note their presence through sign, scat, or prints? The Scope of Services calls for such data and a list. Did he conduct transect studies and document the method so data collection can be repeated in the future? The Scope of Services calls for this. How do the US and state-listed species noted in 1988 compare to the Rare species mapped by NHESP today?

Habitat Evaluation

For wildlife habitat, Madden has downloaded four publicly available maps, which represent potentially important, but **not** observed wildlife habitats:

- FEMA (based on topography, flood map to determine vulnerable areas of the property due to sea level rise),
- ACEC (MA, The Pleasant Bay ACEC boundary follows the 100-ft buffer to the 10-ft contour line, protects extraordinary resources including wetlands and waterbodies),
- Biomap (MA, a tool to assist in strategies and measures for conserving biological diversity)
- NHESP (MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species, current to 2021) Uses polygons to delineate Priority Habitats of Rare Species, which are protected in MA. **Polygon PH-2157** shows The River, portions of Lonnie's River, and the shoreline to Kent's point as Priority Habitat of Rare Species for the Diamondback terrapin.

It would be helpful to have one map in the final report that displays the conservation status data from all four sources.

Please explain the relevance of these maps to the Orleans Conservation Commission in terms of policy decisions affecting future conservation.

What can Madden add after checking with Mass Audubon and Orleans Conservation Trust about "terrapin gardens" at Henson's Cove Conservation Area (formerly White's Lane)?

Please provide more information on the tern habitat briefly mentioned on 12/16.

Did the consultant observe major habitat types during his on-site visits? If so, what are they? How do they compare to the major habitat types documented in 1988? Have some stayed the same? Have others disappeared or been degraded?

In your expert opinion, is the degradation due to: impacts from human use, erosion from sea level rise and storm surge, or ecological succession that occurred because Kent's Point wasn't managed for wildlife as recommended in the 1988 assessment?

Do the habitat types present today still represent enough diversity to constitute a potential "Wildlife Conservancy Area"? If not, how could the property be managed or restored to that level of biodiversity?

Public Use and Impacts

There are no data on current use patterns and related impacts from public use in the Powerpoint or 12/16 comments, although the Scope of Services calls for it. A few photos show: highly compacted coastal and inland trails, "informal" trails through sensitive areas, collapsed coastal banks, and an osprey nest that is not on Kent's Point land. (The pole is located on private property held in conservation by OCT.)

Users of Kent's Point know the primary uses are (my estimate of order):

- Orleans residents, renters, and non-residents walking with dogs and using the "dog beach," some dogs running free,
- resident walkers without dogs, and
- infrequently, people with physical disabilities traveling by car to the viewing platform.

According to the Cape Cod Commission traffic study 7/29-8/6/24, **1093 cars visited Kent's Point in one summer week** (this would be 56,836 cars a year). The number of visits in non-summer months is of course lower, so one could estimate there are ~30,000 visits per year to Kent's. This number should be compared to conservation areas of similar size in Orleans and other towns. The traffic study was available to Madden yet his draft Powerpoint and 12/16 comments did not include it yet.

Which areas are most highly impacted by this heavy usage?

Mitigation Measures

Madden briefly described general mitigation measures including signage, education, abandoning informal trails, runoff improvement, new plantings and invasive species management, shoreline protection, closure of sensitive areas, and vista pruning. It is very difficult to give meaningful review comments on such general recommendations. The Commissioners need to have site-specific data on existing habitats, resident species, habitat degradation, and high impact areas, in the final, written report to make solid mitigation and policy decisions.

Carrying Capacity

The "carrying capacity" of conservation land was raised by a Commissioner at the Dec 16 meeting. I submit that **~30,000 visitors a year to a 27.7-acre parcel preserved for "open space conservation purposes" is simply too many. It's too much for the roads, for the neighbors, and especially for the wildlife and "ecological health" of this valuable property.**

As the landlord, The Commission should protect this valuable ecological resource now. Please don't wait to find an agency-published, "carrying capacity per acre" number to conclude that Kent's Point is overused. The total number of users must be reduced to manage the impacts from public use. Environmentally sensitive areas should be closed to the public and allowed to regenerate as non-disturbance zones. And unique or vulnerable areas should be restored and managed for long-term conservation purposes following a site-specific, land-use management plan.

Carol Counihan 1/15/25

January 16, 2025

Conservation Commission
c/o John Jannell, Conservation Agent
Conservation Department
Orleans, MA 02653

Re: Kent's Point

Dear John,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment draft summary presented by Brian Madden.

We all agree that Kent's Point is a beautiful and rare location for residents and visitors alike to walk and enjoy the magnificent views. Like many, we have walked it every week for many years, more frequently the past 7 years with our dog. We look forward to the Town making needed improvements to the use of the property.

In short, Brian's assessment highlighted several deficiencies and recommendations to remedy same which are plain for anyone to see.

Without repeating them all, they include more and better signage to direct walkers and intelligently placed fencing to do the same. The more recently installed fencing has been an improvement and supports the notion that it will be effective.

These two alone will go far to eliminate what appears to be the primary source of erosion, humans walking where they shouldn't be.

Better signage at the parking lot will improve the education of visitors to appreciate the need to act in accordance with the limitations set forth.

We believe it is significant to note that nowhere in his presentation did Brian cite dogs as a source of damage or erosion to the property. While there is presumably some, it appears that it is far down the list of primary factors at Kent's Point.

As for dogs and the underlying question of whether they should be required to be on leash or not, we believe this issue has been conflated with "environmental concerns" to effectuate a policy change when it is really a public use policy question.

This is a question of a reasonable use in the context of the entire Town's public lands and their relative availability for public use.

In all our visits, which number in the hundreds, we have observed 1-2 incidents in which we felt a dog was too aggressive to our dog. We felt that the owner did not control the dog properly, and we told them so. In truth, the percentage is so small, we couldn't hazard a guess as to what it is.

It is true that on occasion, eager dogs can bump into or jump up against people and this can be especially concerning for the elderly or the unsteady.

There are also roots in the trail which can trip you. Mari took a fall this past year and injured her wrist. We are not consequently demanding that all trees' roots be removed.

The record shows that the number of incidents is very small. Instead, there is a need to understand and accept the fact that one place in town will have this small risk.

There is no other location to let a dog run free with the partial exception of Wildflower Beach before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. during summer and all day at beaches during "off season".

Summer is when we have our most population however, and this is when the availability is at its least.

That an extremely small number of people have had unsettling incidents over many years and thousands, if not tens of thousands of visits, is not a sound basis to remove a public good enjoyed by thousands. To the contrary, to apply that logic, we should demand that all Orleans conservation lands' leash requirements be removed because one dog owner demands that they be allowed to let their dog run free. It would be ridiculous.

Signage at the parking lot should clearly indicate that Orleans requires that dogs be under voice command and if they are not, they must be on a leash. It should be clear that this is an area where dogs run free and there is always the risk that one might bump into you or jump.

To eliminate this legitimate public use in the only location dogs can run because a minority demands it is unreasonable within the context of several dozen Conservation areas which enjoy that restriction.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Mari Porcari & David Abel
26 Captain Curtis Way
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [C Hiden](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:32:04 PM

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Dear Members of the Orleans Conservation Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for preserving opportunities for dogs and their owners to enjoy off-leash walking within our community. These spaces are invaluable not only for the physical and mental well-being of our dogs but also for fostering a sense of community among residents.

Off-leash walking with Hudson, my 12-year-old canine, has become an essential part of my life. It allows my dog to exercise freely and socialize with other dogs in a way that is not possible when leashed. This freedom to explore and interact promotes Hudson's health, happiness, and overall development. Regular off-leash time also helps reduce anxiety and boredom, making Hudson a better-behaved and more balanced companion at home.

For me personally, these outings are more than just an opportunity to bond with my dog—they provide a chance to connect with other dog owners and neighbors. Off-leash areas naturally encourage conversations, shared experiences, and the building of friendships. They foster a sense of camaraderie and mutual understanding that strengthens our community. I have met countless people during these walks who have enriched my life in unexpected and meaningful ways.

I understand the importance of balancing conservation goals with public use, and I fully support responsible dog ownership practices, such as cleaning up after our pets and respecting designated areas. I believe that maintaining access to off-leash walking areas can coexist harmoniously with the protection of our natural spaces.

In conclusion, I urge the Commission to prioritize preserving these opportunities for off-leash recreation. Doing so not only enhances the quality of life for our canine companions but also strengthens the fabric of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to making Orleans a wonderful place for both people and pets.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hiden

15 Lucy's Lane

From: [E Greco](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 4:13:12 PM

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Town of Orleans,

I am a Cape Cod resident and I strongly support the off leash rules at Kent's Point.

My family has always taken our dogs to Kent's point, and it holds a special place in our hearts. Kent's Point is one of our favorite spots on Cape Cod, and off leash dog walking is the reason it is so special. Kent's Point has a unique community where young and old can all come together. Removing the off leash rule would negatively impact countless people and dogs.

Over my whole life, I have only had great experiences with Kent's Point. There are minimal incidents here between dogs, and I think the reason behind that is because of the off leash rules. Many studies show that dogs should not meet each other while on a leash because it restricts their natural instincts and can cause stress. Requiring a leash not only would affect the happiness and freedom of the dogs and people visiting Kent's Point, it would also cause more problems to arise.

Best,
Emily Greco

From: [Melissa Brown](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kents Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 3:31:37 PM

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Having seen the poster at Kents Point I am responding to the off leash matter. *I am an Orleans resident who walks her dogs there. I have been overwhelmed by the number of non residents who overuse Kents Point. I have met many people from different towns and gotten to know some of them They are from Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, and Eastham. I do not wish to lose my privileges of off leash because of out of towners using our park and contributing nothing to the town but poop left in the woods or in bags.*

From: [Melissa Brown](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Continuation Of Kents Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 3:39:26 PM

You don't often get email from missiebrown121@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Often , when the weather is decent, groups of people arrive and walk all of their dogs. They usually have a cup of coffee or drink and pay no attention to what their dogs are doing because they are all talking. I have had to remind them that my smaller dogs (Cavalier King Charles Spaniels) do not like to be rolled over or jumped on or mounted. Frequently in the summer I and my friends avoid Kents Point because It is overrun with out of towners (just look at the beach stickers or license plates). I do not feel we need to give up our conservation land for them.

I have pushed for a sticker program just like we have done for the overused landings in town. I would even contribute \$ to pay for 2-3 weeks of increased patrol of the lot as long as tickets are given.

Kent's Point Observations

Date, Time, Weather	Vehicles	Orleans	Other	
Jan 4 Sun 32 Arrival Leaving	15 12	5 2	2 Eastham, 1 Harwich Rest unknown	12 unknown Noon
Jan 6 Cloudy 24 Arrival Leaving	5 4	1 1	1 Eastham	3 unknown 3 unknown 11:30
Jan 7 Clear 21 Arrival Leaving	3 5	2 2	1 Eastham 2 Eastham	1 NY license 1 pm
Jan 9 Sun 23 Arrival Leaving	5 4	1 1	1 Eastham	4 unknown 3 un known 2pm
Jan 11 Cloud Arrival Leaving	13 11	10 8	2 Eastham 1 Eastham	1 unknown 2 unknown 11am
Jan 14 32 Arrival Leaving	4 6	4 3	1 Eastham	3 unknown Noon
Jan 15 Sun 27 Arrival Leaving	6 7	3 2	1 Eastham 2 Eastham	3 unknown 3 unknown 10am

From: [dale wade](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 4:31:53 PM

You don't often get email from dalemwade@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Orleans Conservation Commissioners,

I walk at Kent's Point every day, no matter the weather, and many days twice with my 26 # labradoodle. It keeps my pup happy and both of us fit. She is off leash much of the time but when I call her back (if there is a child or a person having trouble walking) I put her on leash. She loves the freedom of running and playing with other dogs. We have yet to encounter any dogs creating trouble. A person "knows" their own dog and knows if the dog would create a problem they are kept on leash. Kent's has been open to off leash walking for decades. I believe there have been very few incidents where people have been hurt during those years.

The issue with receding banks is caused by the nature of the place, tides and winds.

The whole Cape is experiencing traffic issues caused by the number of people who have moved here to enjoy the beauty of places like Kent's Point.

There are very few other places to walk a dog off leash and I don't know what I would do if I lost this community of friends and the ability to walk my pup here off leash. Kent's Point is my daily dose of conversation with friends old and new. It actually doesn't seem fair to limit off leash walking.

Sincerely,

Dale Michaels Wade

From: [Ronnie Soldati](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 5:50:17 PM

[You don't often get email from ronnie.soldati@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I have been coming here for 10 years with my dogs and have meant a lot of nice people and dogs. Part of the experience is being able to let them off the leash and let them interact with other dogs. Plus I have meant some great people. I always run into people i know. I haven't experienced any bad behavior and everyone I meant has been very friendly. Please don't take away the freedom of letting the dogs off the leash. Ron Soldati
Sent from my iPhone

From: [gary deroche](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Cc: [Gary DeRoche](#)
Subject: Re:Kents Point
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 9:24:48 PM

You don't often get email from gjderoche@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

hello my name is Gary Deroche I Live in Wellfleet and my dog Willy and I have been enjoying the walks at Kents Point for over six years and wold like to continue as it has become a part of a shopping routine, hardware stores and grocery shopping.

**I am unaware of any conflicts or disturbances that warrant the creation of a private club type arrangement and I personally feel it is contrary to the gift that was given to the town of Orleans... A most appreciated gift to the dog lovers that I consider friends
thank you for you're consideration
Gary DeRoche**

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact Kristyna Smith
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 9:42:37 PM

Contact Kristyna Smith

Your name Anita Anderson

Your email address Capecodanita@comcast.net

Subject Kent's point

Message Please
We have been going to Kent's point for over 25 years with our children , grandchildren and many dogs. Such a beautiful magical space for all. The joy of all the dogs playing and swimming puts a smile on all our faces. Friendships are made there. Please keep the dogs free to play!

Attachment Number 1 *Field not completed.*

Attachment Number 2 *Field not completed.*

Attachment Number 3 *Field not completed.*

Disclaimer

The information to be submitted on this form will be sent via email. To protect sensitive information and comply with applicable data security requirements, do not submit the following information on this form: Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, medical information, passport numbers, passwords, or financial information of any kind, including, without limitation, bank account information, routing numbers, credit card number. Please contact the department via telephone if you need assistance with sensitive information.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: [M. Gaffney](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: A Kent's Point thank you:
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 9:51:15 AM

You don't often get email from theflorax@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Town of Orleans,

I live on the outer cape. I visited Kent's Point yesterday for the first time with my senior dog; I was running an errand in town and decided to look up a 'dog-friendly trail' on Google.

I was unaware that it was a leash-optional park, and was pleasantly encountered with half a dozen very nice dogs walking with their people. It's rare to find any trails that allow off-leash dogs any more, and I try to respect the rules of any place that I visit with the dog.

I saw the yellow notice at the message board to reach out in regards to leash rules at this park, and I wanted to take it as an opportunity to thank you for providing this little corner of woods for my dog to explore happily and independently with other respectful visitors.

I understand the debate surrounding leash rules, and I hope that this park can remain the way that it is.

I will be returning with my old lady dog for a walk whenever we need to visit Orleans, but I will not be spreading word about this park, as I wish it to remain the way that it is- a quiet, sanctuary park for peaceful people and pets.

Thanks sincerely,

Maureene Gaffney & Rhoda

From: [Christine Emerson](#)
To: [Kristyna Smith](#)
Subject: Kent's Point Preservation
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 6:13:28 PM

[You don't often get email from cemerson@optonline.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To the Conservation Committee:

My husband and I are residents at 20 Hayward Lane and are frequent visitors to Kent's Point. We have been following the review of environmental deterioration with interest as we do recognize that as with most coastal embankments there has been erosion. High winds and deluge rains are an issue along with people who do not respect walking down and up embankments. The recent addition of fencing has been helpful and perhaps more fencing will be required. We support the addition of signage more explicitly forbidding activity on the embankments to protect our beautiful park.

We also happen to have a dog who we love walking off-leash at Kent's Point. The fences help deter most, if not all dogs from leaving the established pathways. We have never encountered an issue with our dog or other dogs there. Owners are respectful and careful. We count our dog walking time at Kent's Point as one of our most special activities and a great way to meet and connect with other friends in Orleans, whether they come with dogs or not. And our dog, Coco, counts her time at Kent's Point as one of her happiest times of day splashing in the water and socializing with her four legged friends.

I don't believe there is any other off leash venue in East Orleans during the summer. Please, please, please don't take this away from us and Coco. It is one of the things that made us love Orleans and invest in our retirement home here.

If traffic is an issue for the neighbors, perhaps parking should be restricted to Orleans residents only who have a sticker, with the town ticketing those who are in violation.

Thanks you for your care and consideration-

Christine and Richard Emerson
20 Hayward Lane, East Orleans

Christine Emerson
914-420-1887
Sent from my iPhone

- 3 -

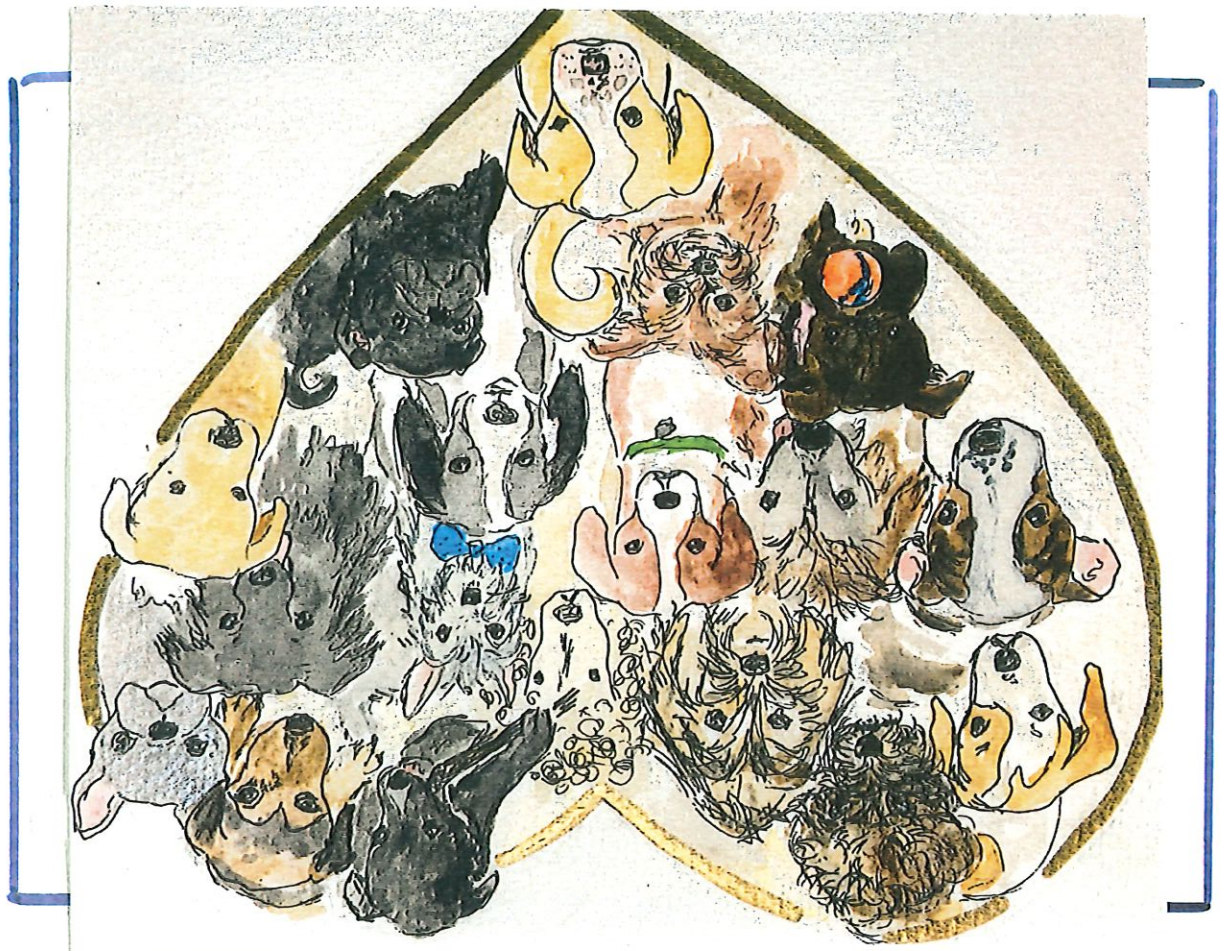
- We live in Brewster
- We volunteer for the dog park there - which our dog tolerates
- We joined Orleans Coalition because we respect Kent Point so deeply -
- I help at SAVE OUR WATERS each year -
- We are very conservation minded -
- We love Kent Point. Thank you!

Jan. 2025

- 1 -

To all whom this decision about
Kent Point concerns,
Please consider,

There must be places for dogs
to be off leash. These places allow
for dogs to explore, run freely,
exercise and engage in natural
behaviors important for their
physical and mental health -
(over)



And allows for natural socialization
with other dogs and people, improving
their behavior and anxiety -

Dog parks are suitable for
only a small population of dogs -
beaches not great for many dogs -

Please don't take one of the
few places for our dogs away.

"our friends"
(Curl from the ♥)

Sincerely -
Kathy and Jeff
Miller
Brewster