



Ross Off-Leash Dog Park

**THE DOGPAW** (Dog Owners' Group for Park Access in Washington) **STORY**

In the past, dog lovers in Clark County have searched for any available open field to allow their dogs to run off-leash. In an effort to solve this dilemma, a group of dog owners who were using the 56 acre future site of Pacific Park informally banded together to secure and maintain the area as an off-leash site. They began paying for dog waste removal at the site and attending meetings of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to advocate for the off-leash dog site. In recognition of the group's efforts, County officials agreed to allow dogs to run free on the site.

In March of 2005, realizing that in order to move forward in their efforts to support and develop off-leash dog parks, DOGPAW became a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation. The group also began partnering with Bonneville Power Administration to utilize their land for off-leash sites. Summer 2005 saw the opening of the Ross BPA off-leash site which was 100% funded and built by DOGPAW.

As plans for the Pacific Multi-Use Park were being finalized, DOGPAW members, feeling they had proven a strong interest and support for off-leash dog parks in the community and believing that dog owners deserve a legal, safe off-leash park, began attending planning meetings in large numbers to advocate for an off-leash area at the Pacific Park. Through their efforts, eight acres—the largest off-leash site in the greater Portland metro area—has been committed as an off-leash area and will officially open this summer. The Pacific Park site will be named in honor of "Dakota," the City of Vancouver Police Department K9 killed in the line of duty.

The opening of the Pacific Park site marks the first time public funds have been used to develop an off-leash site. As DOGPAW continues to work towards identifying and developing future sites

through the publicly-funded parks system, the group will also continue fundraising to pay for maintenance of existing sites and future site development. The group has been working with Pete Capell, Clark County Public Works Director, to identify three potential future off-leash sites and hopes to create the largest, safest, and cleanest off-leash dog park system in our region.

*The DOGPAW Mission: to work with dog owners and the larger community to promote awareness and acceptance, and to increase the availability of safe off-leash areas for dogs in Clark County.*

**BELLS MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

This primitive, four-foot wide shared-use trail serves hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. The trail can be accessed from Moulton Falls



Regional Park at the Hantwick Road Trailhead, or from the Department of Natural Resources' Rock Creek Campground.

Bells Mountain Trail is 7.5 miles in length and begins about .2 miles from the Moulton Falls Regional Park. Its highest point, near the north end, is about

1,500 feet. The trail passes through fir and alder forests and provides glimpses of both Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams.



**ROTARY BENCHES AND PLAQUES INSTALLED AT WILLIAM CLARK PARK**

In honor of the 2004-2005 Rotary Centennial Celebration, the five Rotary Clubs of Clark County funded benches and plaques for the Captain William Clark Park. A portion of the funds raised through the Rotary Clubs will fund a children's play area when it is developed at the park.