

Friends of River Park LEADERSHIP TEAM



Kate with Trace and Wolf

Meet **Kate**, an Altadore resident, and long-time off-leash advocate. After stepping down as the president of the Pet Loss Support Group, she continued with dog-related interests. She joined the Friends of River Park leadership team, became a member of an off-leash task force (led by Alderman Brian Pincott and Bill Bruce Director of Animal and Bylaw Services) and signed up as a City of Calgary Dog Ambassador.

Kate has gratefully enjoyed River Park with her dogs since 1972. She has seen many changes in the park over the years including substantial growth in park use. As a responsible pet owner, she worked selflessly in the late 80's and early 90's as part of a team dedicated to keeping the area clean. Many of the people involved in the initial clean ups walk the park today with their current pets.

The City of Calgary awarded Kate for initiating annual clean-ups and educating fellow park users about maintenance and care of the park. The Parks for Paws, River Park clean-up efforts was the impetus to motivate other groups to care for their parks, and annual City of Calgary clean-ups are now a highly recognized campaign each spring. Thanks for your hard work Kate!



Colleen with Rosey

After volunteering for many clean-up events at our check-in table for well over a year, we finally convinced **Colleen** to join the leadership team in September 2009 and be recognized for her work.

Colleen and her family, two cats and dog are local residents. She and her Flat Coated Retriever look-alike are fixtures at River Park. While walking Rosey, Colleen is often recognized by many children and their parents as a neighbourhood schoolteacher.

Colleen walks River Park once or twice each day throughout the year. During each walk, she can be seen picking up garbage, cigarette butts and feces. At our events she talks to dog owners about the importance of keeping the park clean and having well-behaved dogs. Colleen's official role on the Friends of River Park leadership team is public education.



Linda with Chica

Long before owning a dog, **Linda** became an Off-leash Calgary member because of her strong beliefs about off-leash advocacy. After acquiring her first dog in 2003, Linda began walking in River Park and joined the Friends of River Park leadership team in 2007.

One of her first tasks was to visit the majority of the 141 parks listed on the City of Calgary's website and evaluate them for their suitability as an off-leash area. From there, she helped to create the Friends of River Park's Off-leash Parks presentation. The timing was perfect. Alderman Brian Pincott and Bill Bruce, the director of Animal and Bylaw Services were working together to develop a task force to help determine off-leash needs in the city in advance of Alderman Pincott's motion to City Council for a full review of off-leash areas in 2009. They requested a copy of the report as a starting point for their review. Besides sitting on the off-leash task force, Linda is also a Volunteer Park Ranger for the City of Calgary and volunteers for several organizations that are dear to her.

Linda donates a great deal of time to River Park. She donated money towards dog waste bags as well as many give-away items for our clean-up efforts and social events over the years.



Candice with Sirra and J Ke

Candice has enjoyed River Park with her dogs for over 20 years. She is the founder and team lead for the Friends of River Park Society. Originally the group was formed in 1999 as an opportunity to socialize but the group's focus took a new direction when news of two paved pathways and reduction of space drew concerns about off-leash access in River Park.

Since 2006 she has represented dog owners at various meetings with several competing interest groups and also sits on the off-leash task force with Alderman Brian Pincott and Bill Bruce, Director of Animal and Bylaw Services.

Candice was involved in the direction and creation of the Calgary Off-leash Presentation, a review of off-leash spaces in the city. She is also a City of



Matt and Heather with Ember

Matt and his wife, along with their cat and dogs, are local residents. Off-leash walking at River Park is a favourite part of their family's daily routine. Shortly after acquiring their first Duck Toller, Matt was quick to offer a hand with a pail and shovel at our bi-monthly clean-up efforts in River Park.

Matt joined the Friends of River Park leadership team in February 2009. Matt is a software developer and amateur photographer who generously offered his time and talent to develop and maintain the website for the Friends of River Park. During his spare time Matt enjoys hiking with his wife and dogs.

Matt is a bright, well-spoken off-leash advocate who has assumed a role on the communications team. He spoke on behalf of dog owners at the September 2009 Open House for River Park and area and is happy to field any future media inquiries for our group.

Matt also offers his time and expertise to printed projects and presentations. He and his wife generously donated money toward dog waste bags for River Park.

We're thankful that Matt has come on board to help with promoting the Friends of River Park Society's work.

Calgary Dog Ambassador, specifically for River Park. She is well connected in the dog community, with contacts that include various City of Calgary department representatives, the Off-leash Calgary executive, veterinary clinics and pet care services.

Candice maintains the email distribution list for River Park, writes a monthly off-leash newsletter, organizes park events and is the liaison between City officials and dog owners. She created the concept and design of River Park's dog waste bags and also donated money toward them. She is passionate about preserving off-leash access in the park.

Candice works as a communications professional specializing in print media, event planning, writing and strategic planning.



Nadina with Jorja and Qimmiq

Nadina started walking at River Park with two former furry family members in 1990 when River Park and Sandy Beach and all of the Britannia Slope were all off leash. She now enjoys all of the areas with Jorja and Qimmiq, her rescue dogs that she fondly refers to as Morley Shepherds.

Nadina has always been a strong off-leash advocate and was quick to sign up as one of the original members of the FRPS leadership team to lend advice and expertise in animal behaviour. She feels many current spaces are inadequate or unsafe and off-leash space has been significantly reduced over the years. She's concerned that designated space is not keeping pace with the city's growing dog population. Nadina would like to see a fair share of spaces designated as dog-only "Bark Parks".

Nadina is the owner of a restaurant and pub called Swans as well as a dog daycare called Hounds Lounge located in Inglewood.

Devoting most of her time to the dog daycare, she has discovered the most amazing hands-on study in dog behaviour and has found it a step up from just dog ownership.



Patty with Xena and Bailey

Patty, her husband and their two dogs are area residents and long-time walkers in River Park. As a family, they have supported many clean-up efforts over the years.

In September 2009, she joined the Friends of River Park as a member of our communications team. Patty offers her expertise for strategic planning, printed projects and presentations. She handles media inquiries for our group and has been quoted in the Calgary Herald. She and her husband also donated money towards dog waste bags for River Park.

Patty has her own communications business that specializes in event coordination, strategic planning and media relations. She enjoys an active lifestyle that includes squash and motorcycle riding and of course, walking her dogs in River Park.