

Dog Waste Stations Project 2019

The Red Dot Association of Shediac Bay



Submitted October 11, 2019 by:

Andy Malolepszy

Pierre Wedge

Helen Wedge

Art Melanson

Trudy Brydges

Purpose:

In 2017 the Department of Environment and local Government’s investigation committee asked the Red Dot Association to help control dog waste near Parlee Beach and surrounding areas. Dog waste was found to be one of the contaminants contributing to water quality issues along the beaches of Shediac Bay.

Stations Installed

A dog waste station prototype was designed by members of the Red Dot Association in April 2017 and once approved by DELG fifteen (15) stations were installed in Pointe-du-Chêne and an additional ten (10) in Beaubassin-Est, Aboujagane, Cormier Village and Cap Pele. Our partners Beaubassin-Est Council, Pointe-du-Chene LSD, Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf, Parlee Beach Park, Vision H2O and local campgrounds selected entrances to the beaches, nearby trails and at Pointe-du-Chene Wharf. and have contributed in maintaining the stations.



The dog waste project has completed its 3rd year and has proven to be effective and appreciated. The usage of these stations has increased each year. The stations are popular and effective. Clean trails and beach areas are what people want and expect. The stations collected 9000 poop bags or approximately 6750 lbs over the summer. The amount is a 30% increase over the first year 2017.

Non-dog waste garbage being tossed into the bins continued to be an issue. However, in a way it is a positive problem as at least it is not being littered on surrounding areas. Vandalism

was not an issue this year.

A local resident was hired to do weekly maintenance on the stations. This involved emptying the bins and replenishing bags as needed each week. The bins were removed, cleaned and stored at the Parlee Beach Park for the winter as part of the maintenance.

Educational materials were mailed out alerting the public of adverse health effects of uncontained dog feces. Materials were locally sourced and all signage was bilingual.



Summary:

It is felt that the stations were well used this summer based on the number of dog waste bags used and the fullness of bins on garbage pick-up days. Positive feedback was heard from the public (both dog and non-dog owners). Management/ staff of Parlee Beach Provincial Park, Vision H2O and the Community of Beaubassin-Est.

There was the expected misuse, initially, of the garbage bins (household waste, fast food containers, cans, bottles ...). Decals indicating “dog waste only” helped to improve proper usage although the problem did persist at one station on the west side.

The Red Dot Association would like to thank the public for using these stations which helped to keep the beaches and trails cleaner. A huge thank you also to the staff at the Provincial Park, the staff at Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf, the staff of Ocean Surf Campground and private citizens from Beaubassin-Est, Cormier Village and Aboujagane who made sure the bins were emptied and bags replenished as needed. Much of this was voluntary. And thanks for the support of Kevin Gould from the Department of Environment and Local Government.

Recommendations for 2020:

- Provide this seasonal service on a permanently funded basis;
- Continue to promote the use of these dog waste stations through educational material and social media.
- We have received comments from time to time that the dog stations were overfilled and that their use was not limited to dog waste. The majority of this was at the start of the season but it does come up from time to time. In 2020 we plan (with the help of the LSD and the Beaubassin-Est council to send posters to be placed on the fridges of cottages so that seasonal residents are aware of the stations;
- We have also seen and received calls that in the offseason (October-May) waste was left in the area of the dog stations. We have thus placed signs that the dog stations have been removed and will be replaced next June.
-

Comments:

“The dog waste stations were an excellent addition to the new trail; they were tastefully installed and maintained and brought attention to the fact that all fecal waste needs to be accounted for in our beautiful yet vulnerable watersheds.” Michael Chadwick, President, Vision H2O

“Je te remerci pour ton beau travail nous n’avons pas eu aucun déchets de chiens dans les sentier grace au poubelle. » Andre Bourque, conseiller, Communauté rurale Beaubassin-Est

“We here at the Park approve of the project. It’s very beneficial for the environment and it enhances the experience for the patrons.” Michel Mallet, Park Manager, Parlee Beach Provincial Park.

« I would say the comments we are receiving are rather positive. But, we are however receiving comments from time to time that they were not properly maintained and that their use was not limited to dog waste. The majority of this was at the start of the season but it does come up from

time to time. Continued education for the users are a definite must. We thank you for your continued support in assuring that these are properly maintained and for your commitment to the environment.” Yves M. Landry, Chief Administrative Officer, Communauté rurale Beaubassin-Est

“The dog stations have been used a lot and the comments from the users have been A+.... It has worked to keep the wharf clean and this was a great idea.” Victor Cormier, Manager, Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf

Partners:

- Pointe-du-Chene Local Service District
- Pointe-du-Chene Wharf
- Parlee Beach Park
- Ocean Surf Campground
- Vision H2O
- Communauté rurale Beaubassin-Est