

You, Your Dog, and Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)



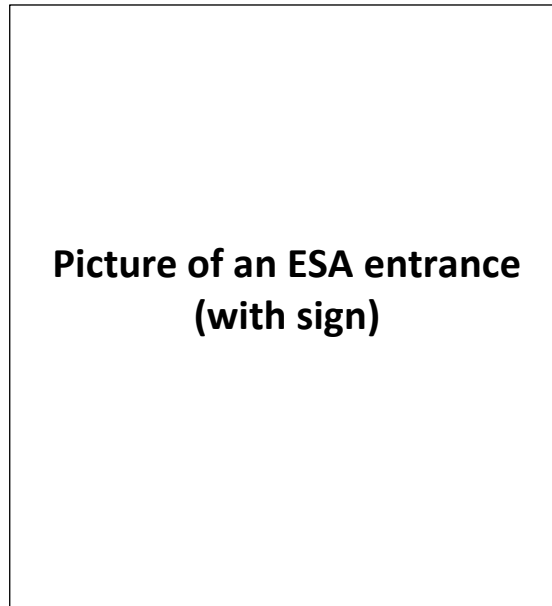
Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)...

are designed to preserve and protect nature by minimizing human and pet disturbance to rare and endangered plants and animals and significant natural features

ESAs may have animals and plants that are dangerous to your dog.

Your dog is not allowed off-leash in ESAs.

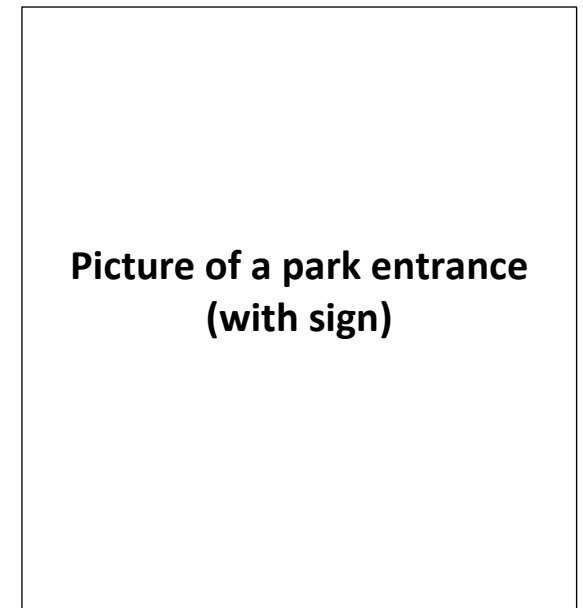
You and your leashed dog must stay on the marked trails.



Parks ...

are designed for recreation. You and your leashed dog can play and wander much more freely in a park.

London also has 'dog parks' specially designated for your dog to roam and play off-leash



Wild animals

Some animals can seriously harm or kill your dog, especially when he's off-leash:

- **Coyote**—an off-leash dog is more likely to encounter a coyote. Coyotes are more afraid of people than dogs.
- **Raccoon**—well-armed with teeth and claws and not afraid to use them when cornered by any dog —no matter how large)
- **Skunk** —need we mention the smell – and the difficulty of its removal?)

Any animal - no matter its size - can scratch or bite your dog in self-defense. Even minor bites or scratches can transmit serious infections to your dog and lead to a large veterinary bill.

Even if your dog “wins” in an encounter with a wild animal, your dog may injure or kill a bird or animal that the ESA was designed to protect.

The mere presence of your dog can affect the feeding, mating, or nesting of rare and endangered birds and animals.

Collage of coyote, raccoon, and skunk images

Poisonous Plants

Many wild plants can also harm or kill your dog.

Milkweed is found in some natural areas in London, such as ESAs. Milkweed is prized for its role in providing food for the endangered monarch butterfly. Milkweed contains several **poisons** that can seriously harm or kill your dog.

Picture of milkweed and monarch here

Many other plants in ESAs can seriously sicken or kill your dog. These include:

Poison oak	Poison ivy
Poison sumac	Foxglove
Dogbane	Castor bean
Water hemlock	Pokeweed
Giant hogweed	Bloodroot
Thorn apple (jimsonweed)	Yew
Many mushrooms	

Even if your dog does not get sick or injured by running, rolling, or digging through plants, she may be damaging rare or endangered plant species.

Need More Information?

Names and locations of ESAs

Names and locations of parks (highlight dog parks)

Resources online

City of London contacts