

Mayor Jason Buelterman

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CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE:
For immediate release

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Tybee Bark Parks: Fabulous Dogs, Quirky People

Tybee Island, Ga. – (August 18, 2008) The Tybee Dog Park is no more, but the Tybee Bark Parks are taking its place. Two dog parks are now on the north end of Tybee Island, near the River's End Campground and RV Park. The Small Bark Park is for dogs less than 20 pounds, while the Large Bark Park is for larger dogs or small dogs who think they are large dogs.

Mayor Jason Buelterman will lead a Leash Cutting Ceremony for the two parks on Saturday, August 23rd, from 10:30 – 11:00 AM. This celebration will be a dedication of the two new parks, rather than a grand opening, as the City and several volunteers and organizations on the island will be working together to add furnishings, a gazebo, artwork, and doggie fountains. In preparation for this week's event, the City is obtaining and placing directional signs to help people find their way to the parks.

Dog lovers will be able to make donations to assist in the creative efforts of the parks by purchasing species-specific pictures dedicated to their current or past pets. Artists and decorators will be creating entrance signs, and focus will be on making the Bark Parks a pleasant gathering place for pets and their people. The fences and open spaces will be the home to various forms of outdoor art. Coordinated by the City's Community Development Department, and created by the hard-working team at the Department of Public Works, these fenced in areas will be decorated by local dog lovers making a team effort to turn the parks from functional to fabulous.

Located near the corner of Fort Street and Van Horne, the Bark Parks will be a positive selling point for the City-owned campground, providing a place for campers to exercise their pets conveniently. The volunteers and City staff are hoping to create sites that are interesting and relaxing for our visiting dogs, where all our Island visitors and residents can make new friends.

About Tybee Island, Ga.:

The City of Tybee Island, Georgia is on the outermost barrier island off the Savannah area coast. With a wild bird sanctuary, over three miles of ocean beaches and salt marshes on the back river, outdoor recreation activities abound for visitors to the island. As a key defense point to the important Savannah port, Tybee's Fort Screven, Tybee Fort Theater, Fort Pulaski, and the Tybee Island and Cockspar Lighthouses combine with the unique architectures of the island's raised cottages to form a rich backdrop for history buffs. Attracting a strong artistic community, there are several local supporting art galleries. Keeping the island interesting year round are several arts festivals, the Annual Pirate Fest, the Beach Bum Parade, St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Hot Rod Run, the Beach Bash, and the Christmas Parade, as well as fireworks displays on Independence and New Year's Days off the Parker Pier and Pavilion. The Marine Science Center cooperates with Georgia's DNR to protect threatened sea turtle species by searching for nests, protecting their eggs, and making sure hatchlings make it to sea. For visitor information, stop by <http://www.tybeevisit.com/>, and to find more about the City of Tybee Island, visit our web site at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/>.

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Copies of this release can also be found at <http://www.cityoftybee.org/PressReleases.aspx>.

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