

County agrees to allow dogs in nature park

Written by BILL SCHANEN IV
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The Ozaukee County Board last week reversed a decision it made just two months ago by approving an ordinance allowing dogs on leashes in Shady Lane Nature Park in the Town of Fredonia.

The board voted 13-6 with one supervisor abstaining to essentially strike an ordinance it passed in January that prohibited dogs in the nature park, which is part of the county's Hawthorne Hills Park.

Dogs are allowed on leashes in all county parks, including Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve in the Town of Grafton. An exception was initially made for the 62-acre Shady Lane Park at the recommendation of the Parks and Planning Department and Natural Resources Committee because of concerns about the damage dogs could do to the vegetation and habitats in the preserve.

The Shady Lane property, which runs along the Milwaukee River, is considered a natural area of regional significance.



But opponents of the ban argued that the threat of damage caused by dogs would be mitigated by the requirement that canines be kept on leashes.