Please, Leash your pet

It's a walk in the park!

We all know that parks are wonderful places to exercise both humans and pets. But with community growth and park use on the increase, we are experiencing some problems. We're getting more complaints about pets attacking other pets, damaging facilities, harassing wildlife, and frightening other visitors. The problem? Pets off of their leashes.

**Park rules require all pets to be on a leash not exceeding four feet in length.** Pets must not be left unattended. Pet owners are also responsible for cleaning up any fecal deposits left by their pets.*

With your cooperation, we'll work to keep parks open for everyone, pets included. And that's what we really want to do. Without your help, we may have to consider stronger enforcement efforts and possibly bans on pets in our State Parks.

Thank you for your cooperation.

* Rules for State Parks and Historic Sites, pursuant to the provisions of the “Maine Revised Statutes Annotated,” Title 12, Section 18036. Violation of park rules may result in eviction from the park, and is a Class E crime.
Historic Fort O'Brien
Built in 1775 immediately after the first naval battle of the American Revolution took place offshore, Fort O'Brien was a four-gun battery that guarded the mouth of the Machias River in cooperation with Fort Foster on the eastern side.

British forces destroyed the fort in the same year. This state historic site is one of few Maine forts active during three wars - the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War. Fort O'Brien's layout was altered several times over the 90 years it was active on this site. But the fort's important role in protecting the Machias River and its towns remained unchanged. It was refortified in 1777.

From 1808 - 1818, this was a four-gun crescent-shaped earthwork fort. In 1814 the British captured the fort and burned the barracks. It was returned in 1818.

The Cannon
In the middle of the earthworks of the Civil War era battery is a bronze cannon known as a "Napoleon" or 12-pounder. It fired 12 pound cannonballs, spherical case shot, or cannonister, the latter being made up of numerous small pieces of iron that tore through infantry formations or a ship's rigging at close range. This cannon tube weighs 1216 pounds and was made at the Ames Manufacturing Company of Chicopee, Massachusetts in 1862. It originally sat on a wooden carriage that weighed an additional 1128 pounds. In optimal conditions, this gun could fire a ball 1600 yards, just enough to reach across the mouth of the Machias River.

Fort Machias
Fort Machias (1863 - 1865) was a Civil War five-gun earthworks fort built next to the ruins of Fort O'Brien. Well-preserved earthworks which overlook Machias Bay were erected for a battery of guns in 1863. In 1923, the United States Government deeded the site of both forts to the State of Maine.

The Foster Rubicon
A bronze tablet, mounted on a stone on the east side of Route 93 between here and Machias, reads: Near this spot, in June 1775, the men of Machias, confronted by a peremptory demand backed by armed force that they should furnish necessary supplies to their country's enemies, met in open air council to choose between ignoble peace and all but hopeless war. The question was momentous and the debate was long. After some hours of fruitless discussion, Benjamin Foster, a man of action rather than words, leaped across this brook and called all those to follow him who would, whatever the risk, stand by their countrymen and their country's cause. Almost to a man the assembly followed and, without further formality, the settlement was committed to the Revolution.

Birthplace of the U.S. Navy
On June 12, 1775, about two miles off-shore near Round Island, the first naval battle of the American Revolution took place. This was the first instance of armed naval combat between Americans and a foreign power, and as such, the United States Navy considers Machias one of the "Birthplaces of the U.S. Navy."

Captain Ichabod Jones, a leading citizen of the town had been allowed by British Admiral Graves to bring provisions from Boston in his vessel, the Unity, on condition that he return with timber which was much needed by the British army for the construction of barracks. To ensure the arrangement being carried out, he was accompanied by a small tender, the Margaretta, commanded by Midshipman Moore.

The town, being in great need of provisions and under the guns of the tender, agreed to the terms, but Captain Jones refused to sell provisions to those who had voted against allowing him to carry off the lumber. Angered at his conduct, some of the leading patriots sent to the neighboring settlements for help, and after an unsuccessful attempt to capture Jones and Moore while attending church, attacked the tender. There was some shooting without injury on either side, and next morning the Margaretta made off.

What followed is thus described in a letter written two days later to the Massachusetts Congress by the Machias committee of correspondence:

About forty men, armed with guns, swords, axes, & pitch forks, went in Capt. Jones's sloop [Unity], under the command of Capt. Jeremiah O'Brien; about twenty, armed in the same manner & under the command of Capt. Benjamin Foster, went in a small schooner. During the Chase, our people built them breastworks of pine boards, and anything they could find in the Vessels, that would screen them from the enemy's fire. The Tender, upon the first appearance of our people, cut her boats from the stern, & made all the sail she could-from being a very dili sail, they soon came up with her, and a most obstinate engagement ensued, both sides determined to conquer or die; but the tender was obliged to yield, her Captain was wounded in the breast with two balls, of which he died next morning; poor Avery was killed, and one of the marines, and five wounded. Only one of our men was killed and six wounded, one of which is since dead of his wounds.

Since 1775, the United States Navy has named five different ships the Jeremiah O'Brien in honor of the leader of this first naval victory.