

# VIP (Very Important Pooch) Parks Report

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Hi Everybody! My name is Margie. I'm a black GoldenDoodle, which might be a little hard to explain, but let's just say that my contentment, oozing charm, and attention-grabbing cuteness pretty much says it all.

I've been asked to tell you all about my favorite Tualatin Park. As a girl who lives in the moment, I have to say that my favorite park is always the one I'm currently frolicking in, so you can see how it can be hard to pick just 'the one'. However, my family has taken me to

just about every park in Tualatin, and I can say they each have a special fascination for me.

Brown's Ferry Park appeals

to my wild side. It's like being on safari, except that frogs, salamanders, birds, and squirrels are my idea of big game. I'm on my leash of course, and while I can't get far, I use my imagination to see all sorts of exotic and dangerous wildlife out in that tall grass. And the smell of the river right nearby is just intoxicating! On a hot day, nothing's better than to sit a spell under a shade tree and just watch the water slowly drift by. Sometimes, I bark at the kayakers that go by and, friendly sorts that they are, they wave back.

Atfalati Park is always a great place to be any day of the week. Our favorite activity is taking a nice brisk walk around the edge of the park. So many things to smell and see! I often meet up with a little dachshund friend of mine, and it's fun to spend some time catching up while our families do the same. Sometimes, if we're lucky, there's a baseball game going on that we can stop and watch for awhile. I don't really understand the rules, but I surely do appreciate any kind of game where you get to chase a ball.



Tualatin Community Park has got it all in my book. My family and I can run, we can watch the skateboarders or visit with the kids on the play structures, or we can embark on a nice long walk to Cook Park. There's always lots of people there, and many opportunities for what I like to call Canine Conferences. It's a peaceful place to just sit with my family and enjoy some belly rubs, or bird watch, or after a good workout, take a delicious little dognap in the sunshine. And, I've heard that there will soon be an official dog park section just for me and my pals!

I could go on and on, but I do believe I hear the sound of someone taking my leash out of the closet – and you know what that means! Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy – we're going to the park! Hey, maybe we'll see you there.

Oh, and by the way, if anybody out there (two legged or four) would like to tell me about your favorite Tualatin Park, I'd love to hear from you. Just email me at

[www.protecttualatinparks@gmail.com](mailto:www.protecttualatinparks@gmail.com)



**Margie** has lived in Tualatin for 3 years (which is 21 in dog years). She loves long walks in the parks, playing ball in the back yard, and perfecting her high jump.

## We Are Almost There! Update from Protect Tualatin Parks Petition Committee



SUBMITTED BY: PROTECT TUALATIN PARK CORE COMMITTEE

Calling all supporters! If you haven't turned in your signature sheets, please do so as soon as possible. If you want us to pick them up, call the Hotline 503-807-0129 or send an email to [protecttualatinparks@gmail.com](mailto:protecttualatinparks@gmail.com). We want to thank all of the volunteer circulators that have already submitted their signature sheets. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Protect Tualatin Parks charter amendment, if the voters approve it in March 2011, places reasonable curbs on the city's ability to alter, sell or otherwise allow the conversion of city parks to non-park uses.

As of the first week in August, our volunteer circulators have collected over 2,300 signatures from Tualatin registered voters. To get the petition on the March 2011 ballot, we need 1,924 confirmed signatures or 15% of Tualatin's registered voters. The reason we have collected more than the minimum is because the election rules are now very strict on what is acceptable as a "qualified" signature.

Although it was our goal to make the deadline for the November 2010 election, in hindsight, it is fortunate that we did not. You may recall reading about the many statewide petitions that failed to qualify in meeting the minimum signature requirements. This was largely due to the new signature sheet rules that prohibit family members from filling in one another's printed name and address information. This new rule empowers election officials to disallow an entire sheet of 10 signatures if the sheet contains this

type of error. Fortunately, we now have time to make those corrections.

Additionally, we will be meeting with PGE representatives in September to work on draft language for ordinances consistent with the charter amendment that will support and protect their ability to perform ongoing maintenance and upkeep of their infrastructure within Tualatin. Protect Tualatin Parks has one main goal: to preserve park assets on behalf of the citizens whenever possible. Therefore, before any major and substantial non-park changes of use are undertaken, all such changes would be approved by a majority vote of the citizens of Tualatin. A major change is conversion to non-park use – it is not remodeling the Senior Center, expanding soccer fields, or expansion of City-owned natural areas. Major changes would be construction of traffic roads or sewage pumping stations on City-owned parklands. Our efforts center around maintaining the beauty of our parks and preserving the livability of our neighborhoods. Citizen involvement is key to this process, so we urge you to join in our effort.

We ask residents to check out our web site [protecttualatinparks.org](http://protecttualatinparks.org) for more information about the charter amendment, especially our new section, due to be launched on September 15, "Myths and Misunderstandings". You may also contact us with any questions, or if you want to help us with rumor control, email us at [protecttualatinparks@gmail.com](mailto:protecttualatinparks@gmail.com).

Thank you again, Tualatin, for your outstanding support of our efforts!