

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer



Trustees
Scott Ruggles
Liz Fessler Smith
Andrea C. Voorheis
Michael Powell

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

7525 Highland Road • White Lake, Michigan 48383-2900 • (248) 698-3300 • www.whitelaketwp.com

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Virtual Regular Meeting

June 9, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or

1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 890 8390 1684

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Minutes of May 12, 2021
5. **Call to the Public**
6. **New/Continuing Business:**
 - a) Stanley Park temporary sign
 - b) Geocache in Vetter Park
 - c) Recommendation on DLZ proposal to design the Triangle Trail
 - d) Dog Park Study
7. **Other Business**
 - a) Summer Meeting Schedule
8. **Communications:**
 - a) Member Comments

Adjournment: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14th, 2021.

All interested parties are welcome to attend. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Clerk's Office as least 5 days before the hearing. For more information regarding this public hearing notice, please call the White Lake Township Planning Department at 248-698-3300 ext. 5 or visit www.whitelaketwp.com

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING – June 9, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976, AS AMENDED. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

Reason for allowing participation by electronic means:

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable citizens, in-person contact should be limited. Critical mitigation measures include social distancing and limiting the number of people interacting at public gatherings. This includes public meetings.

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – <http://www.whitelaketwp.com/Government/Boards-Commissions/Meetings-Minutes-Agendas> by end of day, **Friday, June 4, 2021**, but possibly sooner.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the electronic meeting may do so by:

Dialing the phone number below and enter the meeting ID and password when prompted.

Telephone Access: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or
US Toll-free: 1 888 788 0099

Meeting ID: 890 8390 1684

Where to watch the meeting:

The meeting will be available to view live on our YouTube Channel which can be easily reached from the live meeting link located on the White Lake Township website home page www.whitelaketwp.com or by visiting:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYPorjfGrhCND368R_Cyg_w/featured. Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

Procedure for public participation by electronic means:

In order for the Township to allow electronic participation in the meeting, there must be full opportunity for both the general public and the members of the public body to both hear and be heard at appropriate times during the meeting, except during any closed session portions of the meeting. Public participants will be muted upon entry to the meeting, but will have a chance to speak during public comment or at public hearings if one is involved.

Once connected to the meeting, members of the public wishing to participate in the virtual public comment or virtual public hearing must alert us that they wish to speak by pressing *9 on their telephone keypad. Pressing *9 will activate the “raise hand” feature signaling to us that you wish to comment. Because of limitations with muting and unmuting members of the public, there will only be one public comment period which will be announced by the meeting moderator at the appropriate time. Participants who have “raised their hand” to speak during public comment or public hearings will be called on one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. When you are unmuted, please introduce yourself by stating your name and address for the record. You will then have (3) minutes to share your comments with the Parks & Rec Committee. At the conclusion of your comments or your (3) minutes, you will be muted and removed from the public comment queue.

Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments via e-mail to justinq@whitelaketwp.com by **Noon, June 8, 2021**, the day before the meeting.

Procedures by which persons may contact members of the Parks & Rec Committee prior to the meeting:

Members of the public may contact members of the Parks & Rec Committee prior to the meeting via e-mail to justinq@whitelaketwp.com.

Procedures for accommodations for persons with disabilities:

The Township will follow its normal procedures for individuals with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting. **Please contact the Township Clerk’s office at (248) 698-3300 X-113 at least two days in advance of the meeting.** An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Virtual Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
May 12, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson, White Lake Township
CJ Bratta, White Lake Township
Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison, White Lake Township
Kathleen Aseltyne, White Lake Township
Deb Deren, Vice Chair, White Lake Township
Andrea Voorheis – Township Board Liaison, White Lake Township

Absent: None

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Grubb moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 6 yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Bratta moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021 as presented. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 6 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one raised their hand from the public virtually to make public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Stanley Park Entrance Sign

Mr. Quagliata showed the concept for the Bloomer Park entrance sign. The Stanley Park sign would need to go out for quote if that was the direction the Committee wanted to go. The proposed budget for the sign was \$20,000. Ms. Carlock suggested a temporary sign in case it needed to be moved, possibly putting the permanent placard on a temporary base. The grant would pay for the sign base. Mr. Quagliata didn't think the entrance drive would move. Mr. Quagliata stated we had a conceptual plan but sometimes the final site plan adjusts. Ms. Voorheis would like to see a temporary sign. Mr. Bratta liked a consistent sign design throughout the Township. Ms. Carlock agreed, that was done with quality park systems.

b. Stanley Park Update – Parking Area, Picnic Tables, Lawn in Park Core

Mr. Quagliata stated the picnic tables were ordered. Six tables were ordered: 2 standard, 2 square, and 2 ADA compliant tables. The tables had steel powder coated frames with recycled plastic tops. The cost was \$5,000. The tables had a 50-year warranty and were made in the USA. They would need to be assembled when delivered. An anonymous doner paid for one of the picnic tables. Ms. Carlock liked someone donated one and suggested maybe we could offer them on our website as a memorial. Mr. Quagliata stated the parking lot had been graded and asphalt millings were added. Some small rocks line the parking area. The beach area was being cleaned. The meadow area in the core of the park had been graded and seeded. The Township was going to have a cleanup day on Saturday, May 15th from 9a.m.-12p.m. A dumpster was down in the park and garbage bags for light debris would be provided. A Facebook post would be shared. Ms. Aseltyne noticed a lot of concrete and wondered if we would be picking that up. Mr. Quagliata said nothing heavy would be picked up. Ms. Aseltyne asked what the blue tape on trees indicated. Mr. Quagliata stated it meant they had been trimmed last fall. Our maintenance department, specifically John Wheaton, had been doing a lot of work at the park. Mr. Wheaton had been working in Stanley Park on his own time as well and Mr. Quagliata wanted to recognize him for his hard work. The dog waste stations had been purchased and would be installed.

c. Bylaw Amendments

Mr. Quagliata went over the Bylaws, which were discussed at the last meeting. The Township Supervisor reviewed the amendments and gave his consent to move forward. Ms. Deren felt the changes were accurate. Previously, Ms. Carlock didn't know the Committee had bylaws, and these were very nice. Mr. Quagliata noted the amendments would simplify and modernize the bylaws; the original bylaws were from 1997.

Ms. Aseltyne moved to adopt the bylaw amendments as presented. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: Carlock – yes; Bratta – yes; Grubb – yes; Aseltyne – yes; Deren – yes; Voorheis – yes. 6 yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Member Comments

Staff report: Mr. Quagliata noted we were still waiting on an announcement for the Ralph Wilson grant. Next year we would need to start on our five-year plan update. Mr. Quagliata noted we may start a study on dog parks to research this further. The Committee would probably meet outside in July, August, and September. Next month we may or may not meet in person. The State had updated some of their Covid policies. Mr. Quagliata shared the State Vaccination to Normal Challenge.

Mr. Bratta asked about the status of the Triangle Trail. Mr. Quagliata noted the Township had applied for a grant to reconstruct Elizabeth Lake Road between Highland Road and Teggerdine Road. It was a \$1.6 million dollar grant; the Township would contribute \$400,000. The roundabouts at Teggerdine and Oxbow Lake were slated for 2022. Mr. Bratta thanked Mr. Quagliata for his hard work with the picnic tables. He would like to look into trails that weren't gravel or anything yet but just mowed at Stanley Park. Could we do that prior to developing the park?

Ms. Grubb noted at the last Planning Commission someone asked about free passes for seniors through Oakland County Parks. No one was aware of a program for free passes for the seniors. Ms. Grubb provided an update from the last Planning Commission meeting.

Ms. Aseltyne said some people had asked her why we weren't having concerts when other communities were. Mr. Quagliata stated it would be hard to monitor how many people would attend. He added the Township wasn't going to police mask wearing and social distancing, we were all on the same page at the last meeting and hopefully next year we could plan events. Ms. Aseltyne said she did some research and there could be a lot of problems with dog parks so it was smart to discuss this ahead of time. Ms. Aseltyne noted the Huron River Watershed Council could help us with some cleanup for the parks. Ms. Aseltyne said Lakewood Village wanted some help with their parks.

Ms. Carlock noted she was just looking at the Oakland County numbers for COVID, and we were not out of the woods and we were doing the right thing by not holding events. Ms. Carlock was looking forward to positive results on the grants we had applied for. She was happy the Township was pursuing grants. When we get to the recreation plan, she would like a non-motorized plan and a consultant who specialized in that – a pathways plan. We had so many trail projects, we could prioritize and seek tap grants. She agreed with Ms. Aseltyne about dog parks, they typically were run by a larger agency and staffed.

Ms. Deren talked with some residents at Hidden Pines and they really liked that park. There had been some discussion about a half marathon in the Township. Highland Recreation and Indian Springs would have one. Ms. Carlock suggested posting the events on Facebook.

Ms. Voorheis apologized for not being at the last meeting but appreciated the Zoom meetings to keep up on the meetings. At the Board of Trustees meeting last night, they approved the purchase of three new police vehicles. The No-Haz day was June 5th at Kohls. We had a new Fire Chief, John Holland. Ms. Voorheis thought John Holland was the longest serving White Lake Township employee at this time. He was the first home grown Fire Chief we had in a few years. As always, stay safe and be healthy, and get vaccinated and bring us back to normal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT

2040 Airport Rd.
Waterford, MI 48327



ph. 248.618.0000 ext.103
eric@eaglegraphics.com




STANLEY

COMMUNITY PARK



(1) 36"x64" computer printed & UV laminated vinyl applied to alupanel (double sided)

\$480.00

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Customer:	Justin Quagliata	Date:	5-28-21
Company:	White Lake Township	Salesperson:	Eric Holtfreter
Terms:	_____	Estimate:	\$480.00
Comments:	_____		



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

June 26, 2020

Mr. Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Charter Township of White Lake
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, Michigan 48383-2900

**RE: Proposal for Professional Civil Engineering Services Civic Center Loop Pathway Project
White Lake Township, Michigan**

Dear Mr. Kowall:

DLZ Michigan, Inc. (DLZ) is pleased to submit this proposal to White Lake Township (TOWNSHIP) for professional engineering services related to the Civic Center Loop Pathway project.

The following agreement between DLZ and the TOWNSHIP is separate and distinct from any other agreement between DLZ and the TOWNSHIP.

DLZ will provide the following services to the TOWNSHIP in conjunction with the Civic Center Loop Pathway project. Per the TOWNSHIP's request, we have separated the fees to include both base and alternate bid fees. The base bid includes services related to the pathway along Elizabeth Lake Road and Teggerdine Road, while the alternate includes additional services related to the pathway along M-59. Please refer to Exhibit B for limits of the proposed base and alternate bid services.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. Design Development, Construction Documents, and Bidding Phases Services

- DLZ will complete a topographic survey of the project corridor from center line of the roadway to right-of-way (ROW) including locating visible utilities.
- DLZ will make a recommendation on the final design of the proposed pathway and ADA ramps.
- DLZ will prepare a complete set of drawings for pathway construction.
- DLZ will prepare specifications for bidding.
- DLZ will coordinate with appropriate governmental agencies and obtain necessary permits to complete the project.
- DLZ will prepare an opinion of probable cost for the proposed construction.
- DLZ will assist in taking bids and make a recommendation as to the lowest responsible bidder.
- DLZ will attend a pre-bid meeting and prepare meeting minutes and participate in the bidding process.

4494 Elizabeth Lake Rd, Waterford Township, MI 48328 | OFFICE 248.681.7800 | ONLINE WWW.DLZ.COM

B. Construction Phase Services

- DLZ will organize and attend a preconstruction meeting and prepare minutes of the meeting.
- DLZ will review shop drawings/submittals.
- DLZ will perform construction staking for the project, including grading limits, pathway alignment (horizontal and vertical), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps.
- DLZ will provide full-time inspection of the project, while major work is being performed. DLZ staff will keep records of all work activity in Daily Field Observation Reports and track all work items.
- DLZ will complete material Testing in accordance with MDOT requirements.
- DLZ will review and advise the TOWNSHIP on pay quantities and pay applications.
- DLZ will review contractor's compliance with general contract requirements.
- DLZ will provide weekly updates to the TOWNSHIP and assist the TOWNSHIP with resolving any complaints or concerns that arise during construction.
- DLZ will provide as-built information for the final project construction.

MATTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

- It is DLZ's understanding that should the TOWNSHIP wish to complete the design of the 8-foot wide pathway along M-59, that portion of the project would be bid as an alternate.
- It is DLZ's understanding that the existing crosswalks crossing M-59 will be maintained and the proposed pathway will tie into these existing ADA ramps.
- It is DLZ's understanding that the intersection of Teggerdine Road and Elizabeth Lake Road will be reconstructed soon, and the proposed pathway design will account for the intersection realignment.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Standard Terms and Conditions, as set forth as attached Exhibit A, are incorporated here into and made a part of this Work Order Proposal. The Client referred to in the Standard Terms and Conditions means the Charter Township of White Lake.

PROFESSIONAL FEE

- For **Base Bid** DLZ design services related to Teggerdine and Elizabeth Lake Road pathways described in **SECTION A** of the **Scope of Services**, DLZ proposes to charge, and the Township agrees to pay a Not to Exceed Fee of **\$35,000.00**.
 - For **Alternate** DLZ design services related to the M-59 pathway described in **SECTION A** of the **Scope of Services**, DLZ proposes to charge, and the Township agrees to pay a Not to Exceed Fee of **\$20,000.00**.
 - For **Base Bid** DLZ construction engineering services related to Teggerdine and Elizabeth Lake Road pathways described in **SECTION B** of the **Scope of Services**, DLZ proposes to charge, and the Township agrees to pay a Not to Exceed Fee of **\$29,500.00**.
-



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

Proposal for Engineering Services
Civic Center Loop Pathway, White lake Township
June 26, 2020
Page 3 of 3

- For **Alternate** DLZ construction engineering services related to the M-59 pathway described in **SECTION B** of the **Scope of Services**, DLZ proposes to charge, and the Township agrees to pay a Not to Exceed Fee of **\$18,000.00**.
- The design and construction fees are based on a total project construction estimate of **\$560,000** and a three (3) to four (4) month construction schedule.
- Invoices will be rendered monthly based on the actual hours expended multiplied by the rate shown on the Exhibit B Rate Schedule of Fees for the classification of the individual providing services to the TOWNSHIP.

DLZ and its employees comply with all coronavirus protocols and guidelines, including all updates and revisions thereto, issued by the States in which DLZ provides services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DLZ time and expense for additional safety protocols or training required by the Charter Township of White Lake or its representatives are not included in this proposal and will be invoiced at DLZ's standard rates.

Neither Party will be responsible or liable for delays caused by persons, events, or circumstances for which the Party, its employees, subcontractors, and subconsultants are not responsible including, but not limited to, Acts of God including delays attributable to the coronavirus pandemic.

If you approve and accept this Proposal, please sign, date and return one copy of this Proposal for our records. Should you prefer to issue a Purchase Order as your official acceptance, we request that you reference this Proposal in your paperwork.

DLZ appreciates the opportunity to submit this Letter Agreement for professional services. This offer will remain open for acceptance for 60 days. If for any reason you should have questions, please do not hesitate to call Michael Leuffgen, P.E. at (248) 681-7800.

Respectfully,
DLZ MICHIGAN, INC.

Terry E. Biederman, PE
Vice President

Attachments:
Exhibit A: Standard Terms and Conditions
Exhibit B: Rate Schedule

Approved and Accepted	
Signature	_____
Printed Name	_____
Title	_____
Date	_____

EXHIBIT A
DLZ'S STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1. INVOICES AND PAYMENT:** Unless the parties have agreed otherwise, DLZ will submit monthly invoices to CLIENT for services performed in the prior month. Except to the extent CLIENT disputes in good faith all or a portion of a DLZ invoice, CLIENT will pay DLZ the invoiced amount within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice; and, in default of such payment, agrees to pay all cost of collection, including reasonable attorney's fees, regardless of whether legal action is initiated. Invoiced amounts not in dispute will accrue interest at eight percent (8%) per annum after they have been outstanding for over thirty (30) days. If an invoiced amount not in dispute remains unpaid sixty (60) days after the date of the invoice, DLZ may, upon giving seven (7) days written notice of its intent to do so, suspend all project services until all unpaid invoiced amounts not in dispute are paid in full. If an invoice remains unpaid ninety (90) days after the date of the invoice, DLZ may, upon giving seven (7) days written notice of its intent to do so, declare CLIENT to be in breach of this agreement.
- 2. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES:** If DLZ's scope of services includes providing professional services during the project's construction phase, DLZ will not have control over or be responsible for contractor means, methods, techniques, sequences, procedures, or schedule, or the contractor's failure to comply with the construction contract documents or applicable laws, ordinances, rules or regulations. If DLZ provides construction inspection or observation services, DLZ will report to CLIENT all contractor deviations from the construction contract documents that come to DLZ's attention. However, such services are solely intended to enable DLZ to maintain familiarity with, and keep CLIENT informed of, the general progress and quality of the contractor's work, and not to require DLZ to perform exhaustive inspections of contractor work for its compliance with the construction contract documents, which shall remain solely contractor's responsibility.
- 3. CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS:** In the event additional services are required due to a change, after the date of this agreement, in CLIENT's requirements, or in the applicable law, standards, or governmental requirements or policies, DLZ will be entitled to additional compensation for such additional services.
- 4. SURVEY STAKING:** If DLZ's scope of services includes survey layout, DLZ will not be responsible for subsequent disturbances of its layout except to the extent caused by DLZ or persons for whom it is responsible.
- 5. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:** Except to the extent otherwise provided in this agreement, CLIENT is responsible for all third-party fees and charges including, without limitation, fees and charges for inspections, zoning or annexation applications, assessments, soils engineering, soils testing, aerial topography, permits, rights-of-entry, bond premiums, title company charges, blueprint and reproduction costs, and all other third-party fees and charges.
- 6. CHANGE OF SCOPE:** DLZ's scope of services in this agreement is based on facts known at the time of execution of this agreement, including, if applicable, information supplied by CLIENT. DLZ will promptly notify CLIENT in writing of any perceived changes to its scope of services required by new information or by persons or circumstances beyond DLZ's control, and the parties shall negotiate modifications to this agreement before DLZ begins performance of the revised scope.
- 7. SAFETY:** DLZ will take reasonable steps to protect the safety of its employees, and to perform its services in a safe manner. DLZ is not responsible for project safety other than with regard to its own services.
- 8. REUSE OF PROJECT DELIVERABLES:** CLIENT's use of any project documents or DLZ deliverables, including electronic media, for any purpose other than that for which such documents or deliverables were originally prepared, or alternation of such documents or deliverables without written verification or adaption by DLZ for the specific purpose intended, will be at CLIENT's sole risk.
- 9. OPINIONS OF CONSTRUCTION COST:** Any opinion of construction costs prepared by DLZ is supplied for the general guidance of the CLIENT only. Since DLZ has no control over competitive bidding or market conditions, DLZ cannot guarantee the accuracy of such opinions as compared to contractor bids or actual cost to CLIENT.
- 10. INSURANCE:** During the performance of its services and for two years thereafter, DLZ will maintain the following minimum insurance coverage: General Liability- \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 general aggregate, \$2,000,000 products/completed operations aggregate, \$1,000,000 personal/advertising injury aggregate; Automobile Liability- \$1,000,000 combined single limit; Workers Compensation and Employers Liability- in conformance with statutory requirements, and \$1,000,000 employers liability; and Professional Liability- \$2,000,000 per claim and in the aggregate. Certificates evidencing such coverage will be provided to CLIENT upon request. If DLZ is providing construction phase services, CLIENT agrees to require its contractor to include DLZ as an additional insured on the contractor's General Liability and Automobile Liability insurance policies, and DLZ's above-listed coverage will be excess over the contractor's coverage, which will be primary.
- 11. INDEMNITY:** To the fullest extent permitted by law, each of the parties agrees to indemnify and save harmless the other party from and against all liability, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, sustained by the other party by reason of injury or death to persons or damage to tangible property, to the proportionate extent caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the indemnifying party or its employees.
- 12. CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES:** Neither party will be liable to the other for consequential, special, incidental, indirect, liquidated, or punitive damages.
- 13. LIABILITY:** No employee of DLZ or of its parent, subsidiary, or affiliated companies will be personally liable to CLIENT. DLZ's total liability to CLIENT, and any coverage of CLIENT as an additional insured under any of DLZ's insurance policies, for injuries, claims, losses, expenses or damages arising out of DLZ's services or this agreement from any causes including, but not limited to, DLZ's negligence, error, omissions, strict liability, or breach of contract, will not exceed the total compensation received by DLZ under this agreement.
- 14. DISPUTES:** Any claim or controversy arising out of or relevant to this agreement, or the breach thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in the state in which the project is located, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon any award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be rendered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.
- 15. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS:** The parties agree that the time period for bringing claims regarding DLZ's Service's under this agreement expires on the earlier of one year after completion of the project, or two years after completion of DLZ's project services.
- 16. DELAYS:** DLZ is not responsible for delays caused by persons or circumstances for which DLZ is not responsible.
- 17. SHOP DRAWINGS:** If DLZ's scope of services includes reviewing shop drawings, such reviews are solely with regard to their general conformance with the design concept, and not for the purpose of reviewing or approving their accuracy, completeness, dimensions, quantities, constructability, compatibility with other construction components, or compliance with the requirements of the construction contract documents, all of which remain the contractor's responsibility. DLZ is not responsible for reviewing or approving the contractor's safety precautions or construction means, methods, sequences or procedures.
- 18. ACCEPTANCE:** Both parties will consider DLZ's initiation of services prior to execution of this agreement in order to accommodate CLIENT, at CLIENT's request, as CLIENT's formal acceptance of all of the terms and conditions in this agreement.
- 19. STANDARD OF CARE:** DLZ will perform its services with the care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of its profession currently practicing under similar conditions in the same locale. DLZ does not make, and expressly disclaims, any other warranties, express or implied, relating to its services including, without limitation, warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. DLZ shall be entitled to rely on all CLIENT-provided information except to the extent otherwise stated in the agreement.

CLASSIFICATION	HOURLY RATE CHARGE
Senior Project Manager	\$170.00
Project Manager	\$150.00
Surveyor VI	\$160.00
Surveyor V	\$145.00
Engineer IV/Surveyor IV	\$125.00
Engineer III/Surveyor III	\$115.00
Engineer II/Surveyor II	\$100.00
Engineer I/Surveyor I	\$95.00
Senior Architect	\$155.00
Architect	\$120.00
Architect Intern	\$90.00
Landscape Architect	\$120.00
Senior Geologist/Senior Environmental Scientist	\$130.00
Geologist/Environmental Scientist	\$90.00
Senior Environmental Analyst	\$120.00
Environmental Analyst	\$95.00
Senior Programmer	\$125.00
Programmer	\$105.00
Senior GIS Analyst	\$120.00
GIS Analyst	\$105.00
GIS Intern	\$80.00
Senior CAD Operator	\$105.00
CAD Operator	\$85.00
CAD Operator Intern	\$70.00
Designer	\$100.00
Construction Project Manager	\$145.00
Senior Construction Inspector	\$105.00
Construction Inspector	\$80.00
2 Person Survey Crew	\$190.00
1 Person Survey Crew	\$135.00
Clerical	\$55.00



Alternate, design, permitting, & bidding for 1,200 feet of 8' pathway

Base Bid, design, permitting, & bidding for 3,630 feet of 6' wide sidewalk

Recommendations and Guidelines for Dog Park Site Selection, Design, Operations and Maintenance



2013/2014

Park Advisory Commission Dog Park Subcommittee

MISSION STATEMENT

To create formal guidelines regarding the placement and management of new dog parks and the improvement of existing dog parks in Ann Arbor.

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INTRODUCTION

Dog parks have grown in popularity throughout the country as more people have pets and are asking that communities provide recreational opportunities for them. The City of Ann Arbor is no exception. This planning document has been developed in response to resident advocacy for additional dog parks and to assure that, moving forward, the existing and proposed dog park areas are successful and well received.

The City of Ann Arbor currently has 158 parks covering 2,118 acres. Two of these parks contain fenced off-leash dog run areas, known as dog parks. These include 10-acre Swift Run Park and .7-acre Olson Park. These parks are located at the extreme south and north of the City, and residents have requested that new dog park areas be more accessible to their residence. This document provides historical information on the background leading up to the development of the existing dog parks, information about the existing dog parks in the City, data about dog parks in other cities, guidelines for the location and design of any new off-leash dog parks, and guidelines for how to improve existing dog parks. In addition, details are provided about the process that the City's dog park subcommittee went through to establish these guidelines.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

A Brief History

Public advocacy to establish dog parks dates to the mid 1990's. To address these requests, in 1997, a Dog Off-Leash Taskforce was formed as recommended by staff and the Park Advisory Commission with the goal of gathering and reviewing information, reporting findings, and making recommendations for the design, placement, and management of dog parks. The task force met for seven months. Their work included holding interviews with dog behavioral specialists, and researching materials on dog behaviors and management from around the country.

The resulting [report](#), (attached as a hyperlink) released in 1998, addressed design criteria, including size, fencing, gates and entrances, sanitation facilities, water, surfacing, shade, seating, emergency phone, agility equipment, paths, parking, park maintenance, supervision and monitoring, signs, and hours of operation. It also provided information about obtaining a permit, dog park rules, costs and funding, enforcement, changing the City ordinance, and a pilot project. The report was presented to the Park Advisory Commission in November of 1998.

The effort to establish the first dog park did not move forward until 2005 as there were concerns about potential management issues, funding, and resistance from residents. However, the concept of an off-leash dog park continued to gain momentum in the intervening years and advocates continued to lobby to establish one or more dog parks. In response, the City researched potential locations using the criteria developed in the 1998 report. In 2005, the City started discussions with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, who were also hearing from constituents that a dog park was a desired amenity, to explore the joint development of a dog park at Swift Run Park.

Establishment of Dog Parks in Ann Arbor

In June 2007, City Code was amended to provide for dogs to run off-leash in designated dog play areas (i.e., dog parks). In December 2007, a partnership agreement was signed between the City of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission for the development, maintenance, and operation of

a dog park at Swift Run Park. Swift Run was suggested as a location because of its proximity to the County maintenance facility, was not near residences, was adequately sized, and was not being used for any other park purpose.

A second dog park area was established at Olson Park in 2008. This location was adopted after a series of public meetings, in which alternative locations were discussed, including Ward Park, Leslie Park, and South Maple Park, but were not supported by adjacent residents or were not compatible with other city functions for the site at the time. Olson, like Swift Run, is located away from housing. It is part of a larger multi-use park, and does not conflict with or preclude any other existing park use; however it is much smaller, and primarily serves residents in the northern part of the City.

Assessing the Desire for Additional Dog Parks

In the past few years, public advocacy for additional dog parks has again risen to the forefront of desired park amenities. Input from the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan also supported the desire for additional Dog Park areas. This input has been focused on creating additional parks closer to residences, especially one that is centrally located and walkable from the downtown for residents who do not drive.

In 2012, staff suggested West Park would be worth considering since a master plan had just been completed and property purchased along Chapin was not being utilized for any specific purpose. A public meeting was held and there was general support for the concept. However, enough opposition arose that the project was eventually rejected. A new initiative to explore dog park locations was needed.

In response, a subcommittee of the Park Advisory Commission was formed in 2013. Over the course of 2013-14, the committee met more than 13 times. These meetings were posted and open to the public, and public commentary was first and last on every agenda. The committee was tasked with developing a public input plan and a process for determining appropriate criteria to locate dog parks. The committee looked to establish criteria and to test these criteria at several park locations to see if the elements were relevant and a good determinant for a successful location. The committee looked at the parks in the vicinity of the downtown as a first step. Several potential locations were identified to test the criteria before holding public meetings. Two public meetings were held to discuss the criteria and other issues surrounding establishment of dog parks.

After considering strong public feedback regarding the process, the committee decided to take a step back to revisit the existing criteria and develop revised recommendations for locating, designing, and operating a dog park, before proposing any locations and holding public meetings on specific park areas. A key piece of these recommendations relates to process, more specifically, ensuring that the public has a chance to be actively engaged in discussing, reviewing, and commenting on these criteria for locating new dog parks. This document is the culmination of these discussions and provides the framework for how the City can move forward with creating and maintaining successful dog parks. However, it is also understood that this is a living document and will be revisited in the future to consider new initiatives and trends.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To guide the subcommittee's mission, a series of goals were established. These goals cover the process and outcomes for creating new dog parks and improving existing ones. The four goals established by the subcommittee include:

Goal 1 – Evaluate Community Preferences around Existing and Potential Future Dog Parks

To meet this goal, the dog park subcommittee utilized a series of tools including: a community-wide survey, a series of public meetings, targeted outreach to engaged citizens, and discussion during dog park subcommittee meetings.

Goal 2 – Research Best Management Practices to Inform Guidelines for Ann Arbor Dog Parks

To meet this goal, the subcommittee contacted communities from around the country, referenced master plans, and conducted interviews with staff and other community members. From this research, summaries and charts were developed to compare best practices regarding dog parks. Results can be found in *Appendix 4* and *Appendix 5*.

Goal 3 - Provide Guidelines for the Development and Maintenance of New Dog Parks

To meet this goal, the subcommittee set three objectives: 1) To develop criteria for site location; 2) To develop criteria for site design; 3) To establish a public process for decision making regarding siting new dog parks.

To inform the guidelines, the committee reached out to communities around the country to gather best management practices, as well as to learn what might be improved with existing dog parks (*Goal 2*). The research included email, telephone interviews, website research, and review of master plans from other communities. The data was then collated into charts to compare criteria that guide development and maintenance of dog parks (*Appendix 4*).

The committee also created a community-wide survey to assess citizen needs, interests, desires, and concerns regarding future and existing dog parks in Ann Arbor. In addition, two public meetings were held with citizens to review the results of the survey and further discuss issues and opportunities related to new and existing dog parks in Ann Arbor. The subcommittee reviewed the survey and public meeting input in the creation of this document. The results from the survey and meetings can be found in *Appendix 1* and *Appendix 3*, respectively.

Goal 4 – Provide Guidelines for the Ongoing Operation and Improvement of Existing Dog Parks

To meet this goal, the subcommittee inventoried the existing Ann Arbor dog parks, including layout, amenities, operation, and maintenance practices. Enforcement issues outside of the existing dog parks were also studied. Input gathered from the survey and public meetings about what is and is not working well at Swift Run and Olson Parks, and research from other communities, helped the subcommittee to learn about best management practices. The committee also looked at volunteer and educational opportunities to aid in the management of future and existing dog parks.

From this information, the subcommittee made recommendations to improve ongoing operation, infrastructure, and amenities at existing dog parks and to improve enforcement issues surrounding off-leash dogs in parks.

RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Evaluate Community Preferences around Existing and Potential Future Dog Parks (Goal 1)

Research was conducted by asking residents of Ann Arbor to provide input through a number of mechanisms explored below. Additionally, other cities and regions were interviewed to determine best management practices for establishing new dog parks and operating existing ones.

Public Input Methods

Several methods were used to obtain public input including a citizen survey, two public meetings, input at task force meetings, emails, and phone interviews. Each input method provided important information that helped to inform the criteria for site selection and design, as well as recommendations for improvements to existing dog parks.

A questionnaire was designed by the Park Advisory Commission subcommittee with public input and advertised via email, press releases, the City website, and postcards placed at recreation facilities, the City Hall customer service desk, and other public locations. The questions were designed to gain a better understanding of the existing dog population, the desire for or concerns against dog parks, whether and how people use dog parks, and what they like or dislike about them. Questions also addressed dog behaviors, geographic distribution, and locations where dog parks would or would not be acceptable.

A dog park web page was maintained during the public input period detailing the ways in which residents could be involved and provide input. The page listed the survey link, public meeting dates, email address, and Park Advisory Commission subcommittee meeting times and locations. The page is attached in *Appendix 2*.

Two public meetings were held to obtain input. The meetings included discussion about potential location and design criteria, maintenance issues with existing dog parks, concerns about creating new parks, potential locations, and questions about what other communities are doing about dog parks.

Minutes of both meetings and detailed survey results are included in *Appendix 3*.

Summary of Survey Responses

- The survey was completed by over 1,500 people, ranging in age from teens to seniors, and representing all areas of the City, with the majority being from zip code 48103.
- The majority of respondents own dogs and many own more than one dog.
- The majority of respondents do not currently use dog parks, but of those who do, more use Swift Run. Frequency of use ranged from daily use to a few times annually.
- The current dog parks were appreciated for their existence, size, fencing, and distance from homes. The dislikes included ill behaved dogs, fees, lack of shade, and issues with cleanliness.
- Respondents indicated that dog park usage would increase as the distance to the home decreased, with the most popular time for use being late afternoon.

- The most important items mentioned for a successful dog park were cleanliness, maintenance, location, and shade.
- The greatest concerns were cleanliness, dog conflicts, and maintenance.
- Many residents were willing to volunteer at a dog park to help clean, landscape, organize events and activities, and fundraise.

Summary of Input from Public Meetings

- Three public meetings were held with 29 people attending the first meeting, 9 people attending the second meeting, and 17 attending the third meeting.
- Important considerations should include buffers between the dog park and other uses, protection of natural areas and water quality, provision of shade, appropriate surfacing, adequate drainage, and parking so as not to put additional burden on existing neighborhoods.
- Take care of what we have and correct existing issues, including cleanliness, inadequate shade, condition/maintenance of existing dog parks, and issues with dogs running off-leash.
- Location is important, but it is also important to recognize that the City will never be able to provide dog parks walkable from every residence and land other than parks should be considered.
- Research and provide data from other communities to establish best practices when designing and locating new dog parks and managing existing parks.
- Establish an ample and well thought out process for public input.

Summary of Placement, Design and Management Practices from Other Cities (Goal 2)

Staff and Park Advisory Commission subcommittee members researched development and management practices from numerous cities, and obtained information via phone conversations, email, websites, master plans, and policy documents. Cities contacted include: Baltimore, MD; Boulder, CO; Chicago, IL; Kalamazoo, MI; Madison, WI; Norfolk, VA; Alexandria, VA; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; and Meridian Township, MI. Existing master plans referenced include Denver, CO; Salt Lake County, UT; and Oakland, CA.

Below is a summary of the responses. The data from the research on each city is detailed in *Appendix 5*.

Placement

- **Size:** The recommended minimum size for dog parks varies considerably among cities, but is generally between ½ acre and one acre.
- **Buffer from Residential:** A few cities provide definitive distances from residences, varying from 50 feet to 200 feet. All strive to minimize conflicts and include guidelines such as: making sure that noise and activity levels are no more than other park uses, importance of screening or visual buffers, and having a minimal impact on residences.
- **Water Source:** Most recommend having a source of drinking water for humans and dogs if possible.

- **Parking:** Recommendations include that parking should be readily accessible, close to the site, sufficient/adequate size, and convenient. There were no standards for size; rather it is important to consider parking when locating a dog park.
- **Drainage:** Important aspects included that the site be relatively flat and have permeable soils.
- **Shade:** All recommend some shade as desirable, but not heavily shaded to allow for grass growth and for the ground to dry.
- **Use Conflict Avoidance:** Guidelines include avoiding play areas and other recreational amenities, high use areas, natural areas and water sources, wildlife, trails, community gardens, and historic sites.
- **Protect Wildlife and Natural Areas:** Several cities discuss avoidance of conflicts with wildlife and sensitive habitats.
- **Geographic Distribution:** A few cities have general guidelines, such as a one or two mile service area, but most do not state explicitly how the parks should be distributed through their community.

Design

- **Fence Height and Material:** All cities contacted have galvanized or vinyl coated chain link fences, with a minimum height of 4 feet. Double gated entries to allow for dog owners to unleash the dogs in a corral prior to letting the dog run free are the norm.
- **Surfacing:** There is no consensus as to the best type of surface. Several cities have multiple surfacing types including crusher fines or decomposed granite around the entrance area, concrete, grass, and mulch. For the larger areas, grass is used most often.
- **Separate Small and Large Dog Areas:** Most cities provide small dog areas if space allows.
- **Site Furniture and Other Amenities:** Most provide benches. Some have community bulletin boards to post announcements and some have shade structures. Very few have dog play amenities.
- **Trash Cans and Bag Holders:** All provide trash containers and some provide bag holders. A minority of cities also provide bags.
- **Signage:** All cities contacted post rule signs.
- **ADA Access:** All cities contacted said that they comply with the ADA for access to the site.

Management

- **Staffing:** Cities that have rangers or other park staff monitor dog parks, as well as illegal off-leash activity outside of dog parks, find this helpful for controlling dogs and building community support.
- **Fines:** Cities that issue warning tickets and/or fines find this effective at reducing the number of repeat offenders of illegal off-leash dog activity.
- **Entry Fees:** Fees to use dog parks range from free to \$35 or \$40 per year.
- **Entry Key Fob:** Cities that restrict use of the dog parks to patrons who pay for the permit by installing a key fob entry find that it encourages more people to follow rules, increases revenue, and provides a more equitable system for all users.

- **Hours of Operation:** Dawn to dusk is common.
- **Use Permit:** Obtaining a dog park permit as part of purchasing a dog license is common practice.
- **Volunteers and Enforcement:** A few cities have volunteers involved with the park maintenance and activity programming. Involvement of community members was noted to increase acceptance of the dog park and helps to minimize problems.

DOG PARK GUIDELINES FOR ANN ARBOR

Guidelines for Development and Maintenance of New Dog Parks (Goal 3)

Many of the below criteria are consistent with the off-leash Task Force Report of June 1998. However, several criteria have been updated based on current research and public input. This section outlines guidelines for placement, design, management, and enforcement of both existing and proposed dog parks, and the public process to be followed to establish new dog parks. The guidelines are derived from public input and what the subcommittee learned from research of other city's practices.

Guidelines for Placement of New Dog Parks

- **Size:** The size of dog parks will be dependent upon the particular park in which it is proposed, other park activities, facilities, proximity to residences, etc. Larger is better (at least ½ acre), but if a smaller dog park area is all that can be accommodated in a particular park, and if there is community support, then a smaller size will be considered.
- **Buffer from Residential:** It is crucial to provide a buffer between nearby residences and the dog park. The buffer should allow for neighbors to have no more disturbances from a dog park than other typical park uses. Buffers may include vegetation and/or berms to aid in noise/visual attenuation.
- **Non-residential Adjacent Land Use:** Depending on the type of business or institution, a dog park may be considered either a beneficial amenity or an undesirable facility.
- **Drinking Fountain:** A source of drinking water is highly desirable within or adjacent to the dog park area.
- **Parking:** Sufficient parking, convenient to the site, should be provided such that the dog park does not create undue burden on surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Land Suitability:** The site should be relatively flat and have permeable soils. If a desirable site has excessive slopes, it should be designed such that erosion does not become an issue, water bodies are protected, and visibility to all dogs is possible within the fenced in area.
- **Shade:** Shade is highly desirable. The site should provide a good mix of mature trees and open space/turf grass.
- **Use Conflict Avoidance:** It is important to provide a sufficient buffer between the dog park area and other recreational facilities such as playgrounds, trails, ball fields, picnic shelters, game courts, or any existing heavily used or programmed area.

- **Protect Natural Areas:** Dog park areas should not be located in or in close proximity to natural areas where flora and fauna, such as ground nesting birds, small mammals, and native plants, would be disturbed.
- **Geographic Distribution:** Dog park areas should be distributed in the City such that there is equitable distribution to dog parks in the City.

Guidelines for Design of New Dog Parks

- **Fencing Height and Type:** A minimum of a 4 foot high chain link fence, either galvanized or vinyl coated, be installed around the perimeter of the site.
- **Perimeter Plantings/Buffers:** If the budget and site permit, and if it is necessary to buffer the dog run area, vegetation should be planted on the outside of the fence to aid in the aesthetic quality of the site and to assist in mitigating noise associated with the dog park.
- **Entrance Design:** An entry corral, consisting of at least an 8 foot x 8 foot fenced area with two gates, should be provided to allow for pet owners to safely unleash their dog prior to letting them in the dog run area.
- **Visual Character and Aesthetics:** Dog parks should be located so as not to detract from the aesthetic quality of a park or open space. Ideally, the dog park should be designed to integrate well into the existing site.
- **Surfacing:** A variety of surfaces may be used within a site. Crushed fines at the entry are recommended as this area has a concentration of use. In smaller dog run areas, a larger crushed fines area is recommended as the concentration of dogs may not allow grass to grow. All surfaces should be easy to maintain. If possible, lawn areas should be rested periodically to allow the turf to recover.
- **Separate Areas for Large and Small Dogs:** When space permits, separate small dog areas should be provided for dogs up to 25 pounds.
- **Signage:** Rules shall be clearly posted, including codes of behavior, hours, and requirements for entry.
- **ADA Accessibility:** Barrier free access to the site shall be provided, as well as an area through the corral and at the entry. Barrier free paths through the dog run area should be provided if space and funding permit.
- **Trash Containers:** Trash containers and waste removal bag holders shall be provided in the dog run area, making sure that they are located with easy access for maintenance vehicles.
- **Site Furniture:** Ideally, several benches should be provided in convenient locations to allow for gathering and resting throughout the dog park area.
- **Pathways:** Walking trails around the perimeter would encourage owners to interact with and monitor their dogs more closely, as well as to provide additional ease of access to the entire site, and should be provided if there is sufficient space and funding.
- **Shade:** Trees and/or small shade structures should be provided if the site has insufficient shade to allow humans and dogs to retreat from the sun.

- **Water:** Drinking fountains should be provided if water is readily available and should include a dog drinker/bowl.
- **Lighting:** As the park areas are open from dawn to dusk, lighting need not be provided as an additional amenity.
- **Agility Equipment:** Amenities such as agility equipment may be included if a user group desires them.
- **Ease of Maintenance:** Service gates and trash barrels should be located such that maintenance vehicles may easily enter from an existing park road, parking lot, or street frontage.
- **Bulletin Board:** A community kiosk and bulletin board should be provided to provide a place to post notifications for meetings, work days, and events.

Guidelines for Management and Enforcement of Dog Parks

- **Staffing:** Staff monitoring of dog parks during heavy use periods is recommended.
- **Fines:** Warning tickets, followed up by fines, are recommended for repeat offenders to help reduce the amount of illegal off-leash dog activity outside of dog parks and enforce use by those who have not paid the fee to use dog parks.
- **Entry Fees:** Fees to use dog parks ranged from free to \$35 or \$40 per year. The City's fees are in line with those around the country. Continue to evaluate fees in relationship to other dog parks.
- **Entry Key Fob:** Restricting use of the dog parks to patrons who pay for the permit is recommended to encourage more people to follow city rules, increase revenue, and provide a more equitable system for all users. A key fob would assist in monitoring who has purchased dog park passes and have obtained the required vaccinations.
- **Hours of Operation:** Maintain current hours to be consistent with all parks: dawn to dusk.
- **Dog Park License:** Obtaining a dog park permit as part of obtaining a dog license is efficient and should be continued. Explore implementation of an online application process to be more user-friendly and increase compliance.
- **Rules:** City rules are consistent with other cities. They should remain as is and continue to be posted. Existing dog park rules are listed in *Appendix 6*.
- **Turf Maintenance:** Design of dog parks should permit resting grass to allow turf to reestablish.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteer involvement should be encouraged to promote stewardship of dog parks. Work with park volunteer staff to help develop programs and events, and recruit stewards.
- **Education:** Develop program to educate park users on dog etiquette, and to educate the community about dogs and dog parks in general.

Process to Establish New Dog Park Sites

Any proposed location should have strong support from surrounding neighbors and, in general, be supported by the community. Buy-in from immediate neighbors is crucial to the success of any proposed location. Given this basic criteria, the following process shall be followed when considering establishment of a new dog park.

1. Establish an ad-hoc committee comprised of members from the Park Advisory Commission, staff, and citizens to identify potential sites using established guidelines.
2. Have committee evaluate sites using the placement criteria (*Appendix 7*) to ensure the greatest opportunity for success while considering geographic distribution.
3. Using the scoring sheets, narrow the sites to those that score the highest.
4. Develop a concept plan for the site being considered that shows the proposed location in the particular park or public land, the access points, parking, amenities, and landscaping.
5. Plan for public input using the Community Engagement Tool, including conducting an online questionnaire available to all citizens, and notifying all residents within ¼ mile of the proposed site by mail with the link for the questionnaire, and the date and place for the public meeting.
6. Hold public meeting to discuss the site being considered and include the input received from the email questionnaire.
7. If there is general support for the project, concerns and suggestions are shared at the public meeting and staff will explore modifications to the concept plan.
8. If, after the concept plan is modified, opposition to the plan is still such that the project lacks the necessary support to succeed, then the second site on the list of potential parks will be considered, and the public process will be repeated.
9. When a proposed location is generally supported, being sensitive to residents in close proximity to the proposed dog park, the ad hoc committee will vote on the proposed site.
10. If the committee approves the proposed site, it would then be brought to the Park Advisory Commission for discussion and recommendation.
11. If the Park Advisory Commission approves the proposal, the site will be brought to City Council and include a public hearing so that City Ordinance can be modified to accommodate the proposed site.

Guidelines for Improvements to Existing Dog Parks (Goal 4)

In order to improve existing dog park areas, it is important to inventory what we have and explore what is working and what needs improvement. Lessons learned will also inform maintenance practices for new dog parks. The City currently has two dog park areas, Swift Run and Olson Parks. The inventory of these parks follows, as well as recommendations for improvements.



Inventory of Existing Dog Parks

OVERVIEW OF SWIFT RUN DOG PARK

- Location: 2998 E. Ellsworth Road at corner of Platt Road
- Size – 10 acre grassy field area with 5 foot high perimeter fencing
- Large and small dog run areas
- Gravel parking lot with approximately 30 spaces
- Double entry/exit control gates (wheel chair accessible)
- Mowed trail, landscaping, and benches
- On-site portable toilet and nearby, off-site, flush-restrooms (Southeast Area Park at Northwest corner of Platt and Ellsworth)
- Trash receptacles and dog waste disposal stations
- Posted rules, signage, and information kiosk

ISSUES AND POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SWIFT RUN DOG PARK

1. The location of the park on a former landfill limits the types of amenities that can be installed as footings are not permitted that might puncture landfill cover.
2. The condition of the parking lot has been a source of complaint because of muddy conditions and rutting. Paving the parking lot should be considered.
3. Requests have also included water and permanent restrooms. However, no water is available at the site due to the fact that there is no water main in the vicinity.
4. Continue to explore improvements to surfacing.

OVERVIEW OF OLSON DOG PARK

- Location – Dhu Varren Road at corner of Pontiac Trail
- Size – .7 acre grassy field area
- 5 foot high perimeter fencing
- One area – no separate large and small dog run areas due to space limitations
- Paved parking lot for all park uses
- Two double entry/exit control gates (wheel chair accessible)
- Benches
- Flush restrooms on-site
- Drinking fountain with dog bowl located near restrooms
- Trash receptacles and dog waste disposal stations at entries to dog park
- Posted rules, signage, and information kiosk

- Separate maintenance/entry gate for mowing/maintenance equipment
- Surfacing consists of gravel and grass
- Wind and shade shelter
- One bench in fenced in area and other under shade structure
- Shade trees within fence, but not many mature trees

ISSUES AND POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS AT OLSON DOG PARK

1. Maintenance of the surfacing has been challenging because of the small size and clay soils. Staff has experimented with different surfacing types, including woodchips and gravel.
2. Trees have been planted, but they are still small.
3. Location serves north area of town, but is too far from other parts of town.
4. In response to public input, improvements made to the dog park after initial construction include a wind/shade structure, a second entry corral, and installation of a variety of surfacing types.

Suggestions for Improvements to Existing Dog Parks

1. Continue to evaluate surfacing. Make changes to improve drainage, wearing surface, and turf quality.
2. Work with Park Volunteer staff to find ways to engage volunteers for clean up days and other dog park events.
3. Establish a plan for future amenities and improvements so that if funding for park amenities is donated, there is a plan for inclusion in the existing dog parks.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Community Questionnaires

The subcommittee decided that questionnaires of the general public would allow a greater number of residents to participate in the public process. The questionnaires were posted on the City's website, emails were sent out via govDelivery, two press releases were posted, and post cards were placed at City Hall as well as several recreation facilities. The first questionnaire was available to the public for several weeks in August 2013, and the second in February and March, 2015. The results are as follows:

Questionnaire #1

Over 1,500 individuals completed the first questionnaire

2/3 were female (67.1%); 1/3 male (32.9%)

Age Breakdown for Respondents:

0.2% - under 18

2.1% - 18-24

42.4% - 25-44

45% - 45-64

10.3% - 65+

Zip Codes for Respondents:

58.8% from zip-code 48103

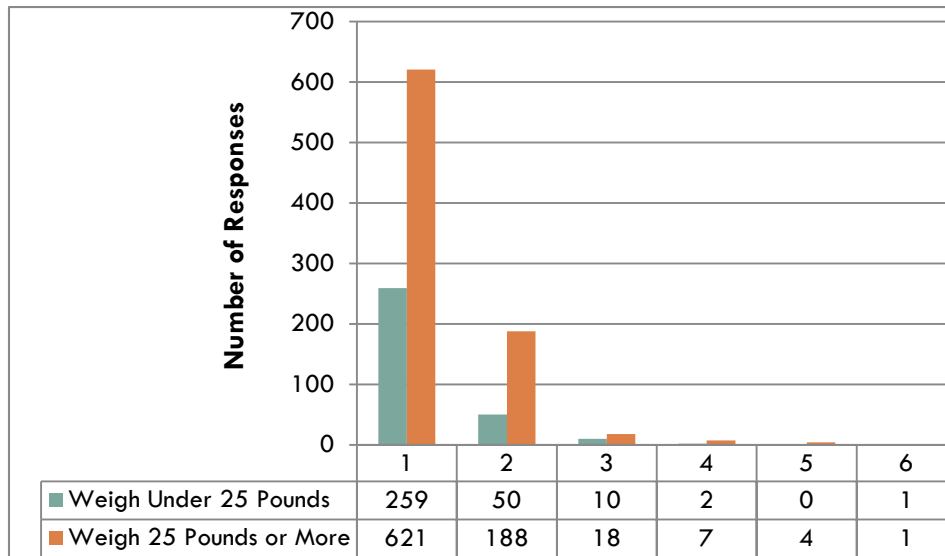
18.9% from zip-code 48104
 15.2% from zip-code 48105
 7.1% from zip-code 48108

Q1: Do you currently have a dog?

Currently have a dog – 67.5%
 Do not have a dog – 26.2%
 Planning to get a dog – 6.2%

Q2: If yes, how many dogs?

Participants were asked to list the number of dogs they owned under 25 pounds and/or over 25 pounds.



Q3: Do you currently use any existing dog parks? If so, which dog parks do you use? Respondents could select all that applied.

Swift Run – 332
 Olson Park – 158
 Do not use dog parks – 956

Participants were also able to list other area dog parks. Other sites mentioned included:

- Animal Kingdom
- Arise Dog Park
- Mill Pond
- Paw Run
- Neighborhood

Q4: How often do you use dog parks?

- I don't use dog parks – 61%
- A few times annually – 16.6%
- Once a month – 7.6%
- Multiple times per week – 6.8%
- Daily – 1.9%

Q5: What do you currently like about the existing dog park(s)?

This was an open ended question. The most common responses are listed below:

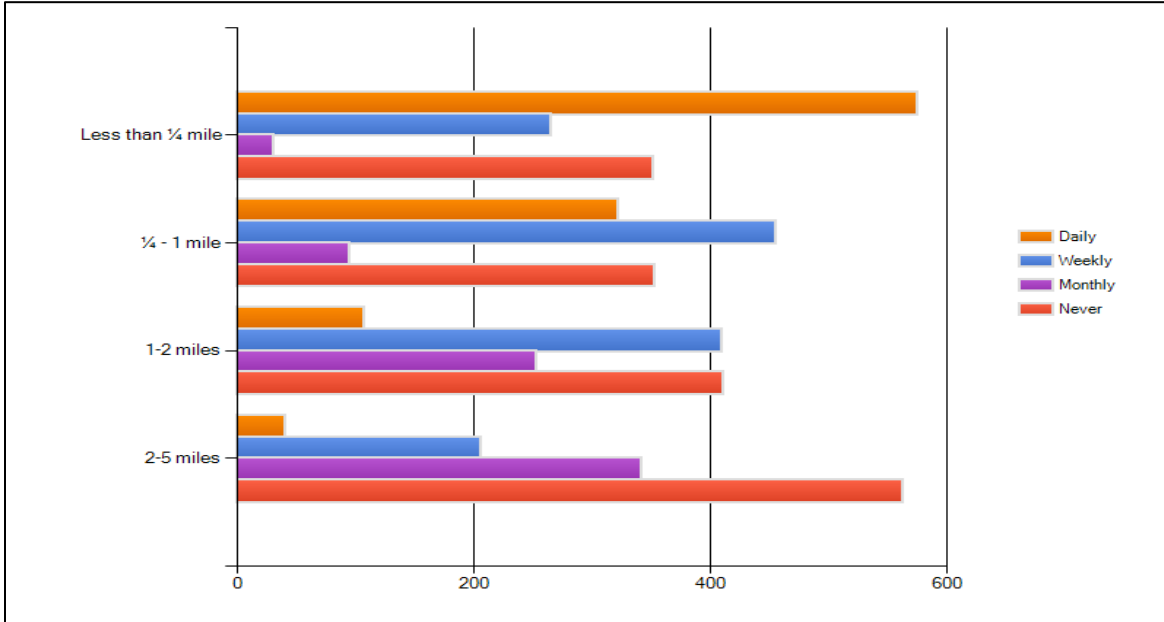
- That they exist
- The space – size
- Secure fencing
- That they are close to my home
- That they are far from my home
- No competition for other uses – outside existing parks
- Seating
- Nothing
- That there is a legal place for dogs to play off-leash

Q6: What do you dislike about the existing dog park(s)?

This was an open ended question. The most common responses are listed below:

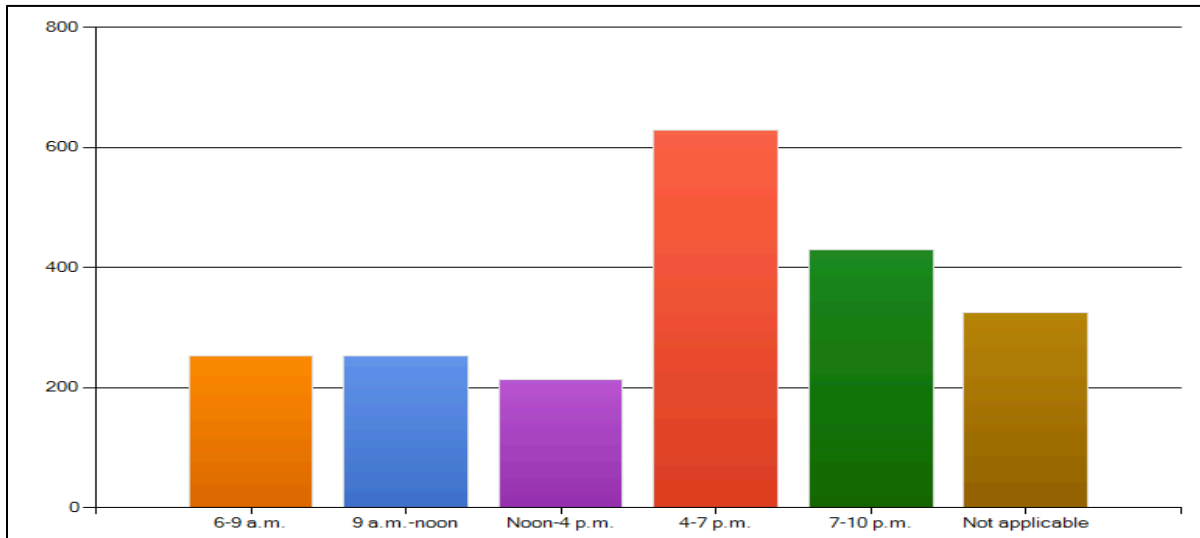
- Ill-behaved dogs
- Fee charged
- Location – too far away
- No water
- Not enough shade
- Cleanliness
- No enforcement

Q7: If a dog park were located at a given distance from your residence, how often would you use it? (Check all that apply):

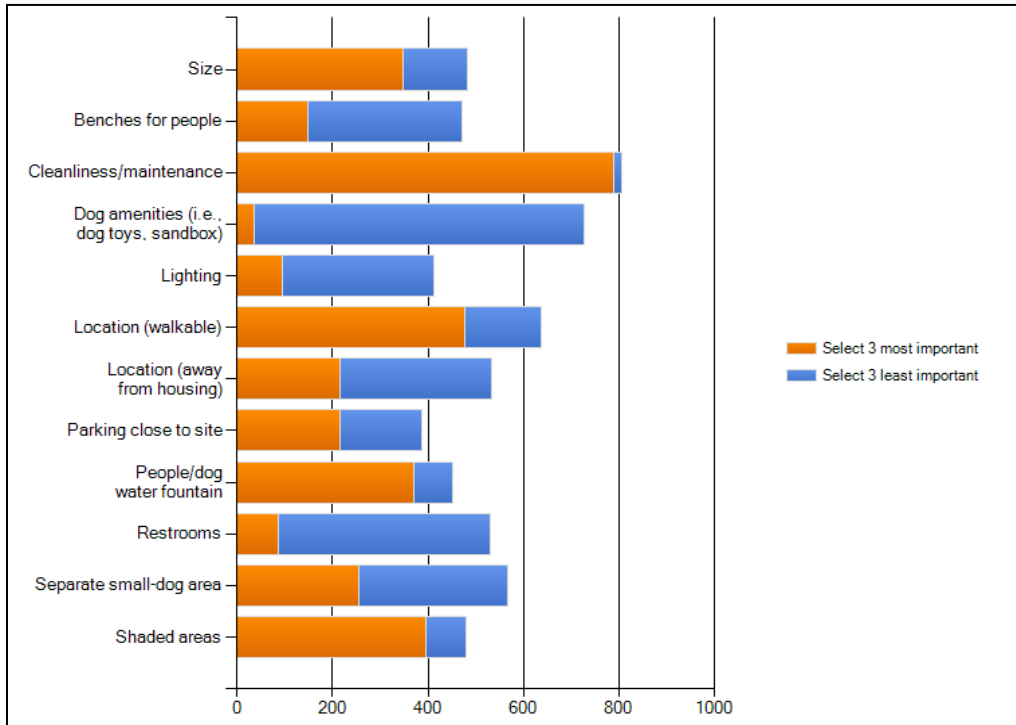


68.8% Would use a dog park daily if it was less than 1/4 mile from their residence
 63.5% Would use daily or weekly if it was 1/4 to 1 mile from their residence
 56.1% Would use weekly or monthly if it was 1-2 miles from their residence
 78.7% Would use monthly or not at all if it was 2-5 miles from residence

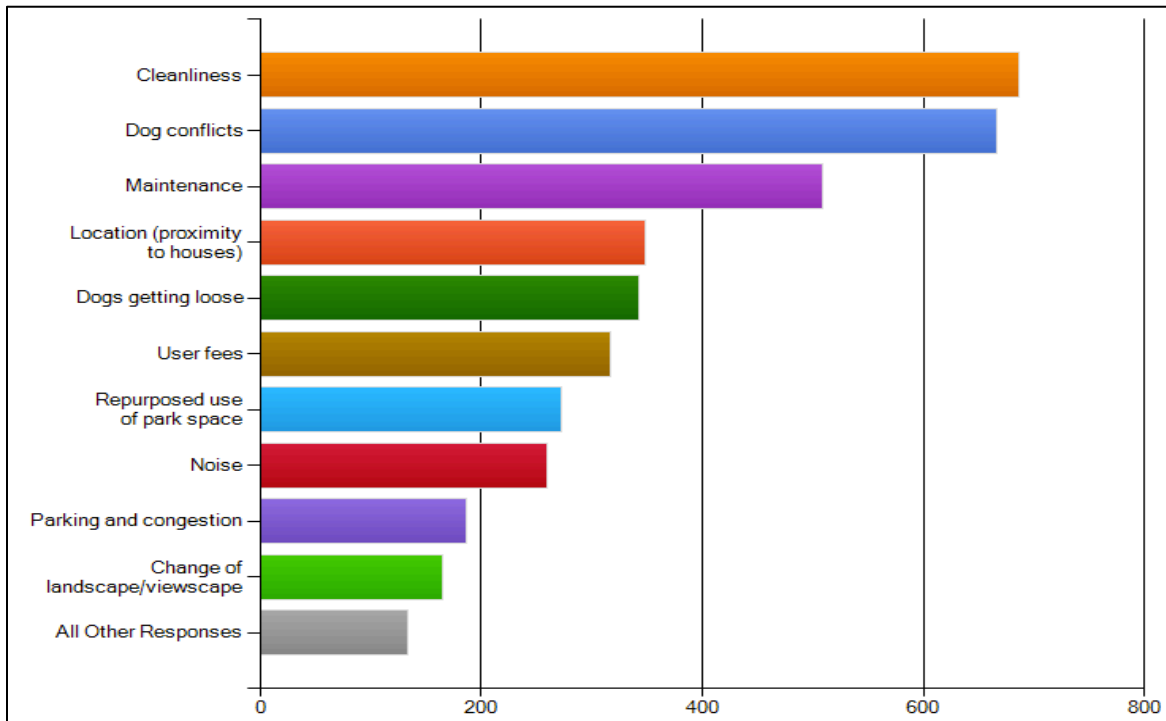
Q8: What times of day do you or would you most likely use a dog park? (Select all that apply.)



Q9: How important are the following items to a successful dog park? Please select the 3 items that are MOST important to you and the 3 items that are LEAST important to you. Selecting more than 3 for each column will nullify the response.



Q10: Are there issues related to dog parks that concern you? (Select all that apply.)



Q11: Would you support a dog park being located in...? (Answer all that apply)

Participants were asked to list parks for each sub-question. Word clouds are used to indicate the variety of responses. The larger the word(s) appear, the more times it was mentioned.

My neighborhood park (please provide the name of the park).

581 out of 943 selected this option.



Larger community-wide park (please provide the name of the park).

478 out of 943 selected this option.



Other community park (please provide the name of the park).

251 out of 943 selected this option.



As many places as the city will provide (please provide locations).

267 out of 943 selected this option.



I do not want a dog park anywhere.

130 out of 943 selected this option.

Q12: Would you be willing to volunteer at a dog park?

Clean – 199

Landscape – 180

Help organize events and activities – 156

Fundraise – 115

Q13: Would you support off-leash dog hours in parks without fencing?

Yes – 40.1%

No – 46.1%

Don't know – 13.8%

The full results of the community questionnaire, including all open ended responses may be found at this link: [PAC Dog Park Survey Results](#) (PDF).

Questionnaire #2

The subcommittee decided that a second questionnaire of the general public was needed after there were requests to revisit the criteria. The questionnaire was posted on the City's website, emails were sent out via govDelivery, a press releases was posted, and emails were sent to everyone who had attended a previous meeting or provided their email. The questionnaire was available to the public for several weeks in February and March, 2015. The results are as follows:

168 individuals viewed the questionnaire, and 40 completed the questionnaire.

Three questions were asked about the process, research and scoring sheet:

Q1: Given the research presented from other cities, and that there are not universally accepted dog park best management practices, does the proposed criteria for Ann Arbor provide sufficient guidance to determine potential sites for a new dog park?

Yes – 55%

No - 42.5%

No opinion – 2.5%

Q2: Do you feel that the proposed scoring sheet provides an objective means to help determine whether or not a particular site should be proposed for a dog park?

Yes – 60%

No – 32.5%

No opinion – 7.5%

Q3: Do you feel that the proposed process to establish new dog park locations provides for an open and fair decision making process for locating dog parks?

Yes – 67.5%

No – 25%

No opinion – 7.5%

The full results of the survey included open ended responses are located on the dog park website page.

Appendix 2: Website Page

A webpage was developed containing information concerning meetings, the survey, and resource materials.

Information on the website included the following:

SURVEY ON POTENTIAL NEW DOG PARKS

Your input and feedback are important to us! The desire for additional dog parks is identified in the current City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (an element of the City Master Plan). In an effort to ensure the Park Advisory Commission is responding to this need in an appropriate manner, the public is being asked for input on where one or more dog parks could be located and what types of amenities should be considered for inclusion in new and existing dog parks.

SURVEYS:

We invite everyone to take the dog park survey, whether or not you have a dog. In total, the survey should take between 5-10 minutes to complete. We greatly appreciate your time, and thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts. The survey link is www.surveymonkey.com/s/7YXPXG or please call 734.794.6230 ext. 42590 to receive a paper copy. The survey will remain open through Monday, Aug. 12, 2013.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 to 9:00 p.m. at Cobblestone Farm Barn (2781 Packard Road)
- Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 to 9:00 p.m. at Traverwood Library (3333 Traverwood Drive)
- Tuesday, March 5, 7-8:30 at City Hall (301 East Huron Street)

EMAIL YOUR INPUT:

a2parks@a2gov.org and visit our website at <http://www.a2gov.org/parks>.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Accommodations, including sign language interpreters, may be arranged by contacting the city clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via email at cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed/mailed or delivered to the Ann Arbor City Clerk's Office, 301 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Requests need to be received at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

PAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Tuesday, April 23, 2013, Monday, May 5, 2013, 8 to 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 31, 2013, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Friday, June 21, 2013, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 8, 2013, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2013, 8 to 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, 8:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 8, 2013, 9 to 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 25, 2013, 8 to 9 a.m., Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, 8 to 9 a.m.

CITY WIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, 7 to 9 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road, Ann Arbor

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013, 7 to 9 p.m., Traverwood Library, 3333 Traverwood Drive (at Huron Parkway)

The Dog Park Subcommittee of the Park Advisory Commission is exploring options for additional dog parks within the City of Ann Arbor. Meetings are open to the public and a space for public commentary is included on the agenda.

You can e-mail Parks Planner [Amy Kuras](#) or call 734.794.6230 ext. 42590 to receive additional information.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Ingrid Ault

Karen Levin

Missy Stults

Staff support include Amy Kuras, Colin Smith, David Rohr

DOCUMENTS THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS REVIEWING INCLUDE:

[Dog Park Questionnaire](#)

[Dog Park Survey](#)

[Dog Park Letter](#)

[Dog Park Article](#)

[PAC Dog Park Survey Results](#) (PDF)

[PAC Dog Park Survey Results](#) (Excel)

The survey results are now available in an Excel spreadsheet format (above) for those interested in delving deeper into the material. The Excel file can be downloaded and saved to your computer.

Additional cross tabulated survey reports are available upon request. Please email request to David Rohr at drohr@a2gov.org.

Appendix 3: Public Meetings

Three public meetings were held to obtain general feedback about locations, criteria, and existing parks.

Notes from public meeting held on September 11, 2013

29 members of the public and 5 Park Advisory Commission members attended. The background and an overview of the input process was presented as well as a summary of the survey. Meeting participants then were asked to provide feedback.

Discussion about criteria:

- Parks are used by many types of people, children, etc.
- Adequate space is important.
- Big spaces – wide and long for dogs to run.
- Pay attention to potential use conflicts; children’s play area at Wurster Park.

- Permeable soils are important.
- Not bordering households.
- Distance from neighbors.
- Avoid established neighborhood uses.
- Drainage – not on slopes, so that feces does not drain into areas where children are playing.
- Adequate parking – Old West Side is already full of cars from people who work downtown. There is traffic congestion. People who would drive to a proposed park would make the situation worse.
- What did we look at – want more specifics – how did these come about.
- Every site needs to be evaluated on its own merits. The neighborhood is going to need to like it.
- Drainage – not only slope away, but how soil perks – permeability.
- Can you please reveal which parks informed your criteria?
- Baltimore, Provincetown, Madison, and New Haven – lessons learned.

Maintenance:

- Why are we considering another dog park when we can't maintain what we have?
- Would help to know mitigation strategies for taking care of what we have.
- We need to know how to fix things – do it right before building more dog parks

Budget:

- What is the budget?
- How much is the partnership with the County?
- What is the budget for capital and operating?
- Why can't we cooperate with the County?

Existing Dog Parks:

- Users had a lot of complaints about existing dog parks.
- Lessons learned – needed to modify parks, volunteers didn't work out.
- Why not reconfigure Swift Run to make it more fun?
- Add to Swift Run – sand, pea gravel, cement – surfaces that can be cleaned.
- Swift Run – water, filling in of low areas, parking lot, partitioning.

Issues:

- Every park is a dog park – everyone lets their dogs run off-leash.

- Do not want a dog park in West Park.
- Focus on one park vs. many parks.
- Illegal gatherings.
- Dog park licenses – online instead of having to come down to City Hall.
- Remedy current dog park issues and learn from it.

Location:

- Is there something that can be a walkable amenity from downtown?
- It will never be walkable for everyone.
- Look at the process in other communities – What is the best distance from houses? What is the minimum size? People are interested in what makes a good location.
- What parameters should we consider for a downtown park?
- Identify dead spaces, other spaces that are not parks.
- What about newly acquiring areas for dog parks?
- Consider spaces that are not currently used as parks. Are there empty lots downtown or parking lots that could be used as part time dog runs?
- Will the city acquire new property for a dog park to avoid existing use conflicts in existing parks?
- Be clear about centrally located dog park.
- The question of dog park locations needing to be no more than 2 miles away makes me ask “away from whom?? The people who would like Wurster Park would not be willing to walk to the North Main City property, but folks closer to that spot would. How will you resolve that?
- Why not remodel or use space not currently a park?
- What properties have you looked at and eliminated – non-City owned.

Other:

- Excited to have a dog park.
- How do we hear what cities like Baltimore are doing?
- Timeline – when do we expect to arrive at a conclusion?
- Park fee with dog licensing fee

Notes from public meeting held on September 24, 2013

9 members of the public and 3 Park Advisory Commission members attended. The same presentation was made as at the first meeting, but then participants were divided into two groups to discuss the criteria and make suggestions as to specific potential locations.

Input on Proposed Criteria:

- Size - people tend to take little dogs to little parks.
- Enforcement is crucial – needs to be staffed.
- Cleaning up after dogs.
- Bar code entry, swipe card.
- Swift Run is really huge – it doesn't need to be that big. People lose track of their dogs.
- Drainage – muddy dog park not good, need to rethink surfacing, provide alternatives, make sure any new areas have proper drainage.
- Parking spaces – need to be adequate for anticipated use.
- Noise – elevation difference between park and surrounding area – in a valley or on a hill can help.
- Keep an eye on historical nature of park; make sure that change in use does not change intention or character.
- Natural feature preservation – no development of sensitive natural features/areas.
- Shade – need to make sure there are adequate trees.
- Operation – can you control number of dogs using a particular dog park at any one time?
- Use conflicts – buffers needed between different types of uses (play areas, etc.).
- Connection to river or a moving body of water is a desirable feature.

Ideas for new dog parks:

- Fuller Park South – has adequate parking, need to stay away from wetlands.
- Kuebler Langford Park – thruway hikers, away from neighbors, noisy highway would cover noise of barking.
- Broadway Park – close to downtown, not much pedestrian traffic, not connected to B2B trail, noise from trains, away from neighbors.
- Veterans Memorial Park – noise offset by traffic, parking adequate, may be too popular, need an acre minimum for this site.
- DTE Property – not owned by City, away from neighbors.

Notes from public meeting held on March 5, 2015

Fifteen members of the public and two Park Advisory Commission members attended the meeting. Research done by the subcommittee was presented, along with proposed revised scoring criteria based on what was learned.

Comments from attendees about why they came to the meeting:

- Would like equal access to city services
- Saline dog park – really like it, interested in parks in general
- Special place where dogs should be, not around churches and things of that nature
- Where could a dog park be placed? Concerned about cleaning up after dogs
- Walks in regular parks, don't think that Ann Arbor is going to make a dog park because we have too many spaces where people keep their dogs off leash
- Dog clean up is an issue and would like to have input on where dog parks could be and where they shouldn't be
- Concerned about proximity of parks and who is going to maintain the park
- Concerned about dog residue, and don't want dogs around little people and elders because they could bite, concerned about location around church. Wants to know about methods for choosing dog parks.

Overview of meeting purpose

- There is a long history of advocacy to establish dog parks, and people have very strongly held views about dog parks
- Worked to come up with a consistent and coherent process for locating dog parks, and want to make sure that the process is as objective as possible
- Want to make sure City is on the right track before considering specific sites

Attendees at meeting scored a location, and provided the following feedback about the scoring sheet:

- There should be extra points for water bodies for swimming
- Change residential buffer to institutional buffer as well, including churches, hospitals, etc.
- Buffer from residents isn't always better as maybe being closer for walkability is desired
- Shade criteria is confusing
- Use conflict avoidance should be about not just what is in the park, but what is around it
- Geography – simplify so that it is about more equitable distribution
- Clarify water quality and drainage criteria

- Water source was confusing – is it about places to drink or swim or both?
- Not sure that separating kids from dog parks is a desirable thing, having the kids at the park and then a place for dogs in the same vicinity can be desirable as well.
- Could the scoring be weighted?
- Is there wiggle room in the selection criteria in the times of use, etc. It's not like there is a formula, it is site by site.

Appendix 4: Research from Other Communities

Staff and Park Advisory Commission subcommittee members performed research to explore best practices from communities around the country, as well as professional organizations that specialize in pets. The research included internet searches to find out what type of criteria were being used to site dog parks, as well as what kind of design criteria were used to establish the areas. In addition to the web searches, staff and Park Advisory Commission members telephoned and emailed individuals from more than 10 cities to discuss the successes and struggles associated with their public process, design, and maintenance of dog parks in their communities. A range of cities were contacted, including several whose population and makeup were similar to Ann Arbor (university towns), several major cities who have numerous dog parks, and regional facilities in Michigan and other states in the Midwest with similar climate.

The questions that were asked included the following. Responses are summarized in the charts:

- Do you have criteria to site a dog park?
- Do you have criteria for design of a dog park?
- Do you have a minimum buffer and/or distance between dog parks and existing resident? If so, how did you arrive at the criteria?
- What kind of oversight do you have to enforce rules, monitor behavior of dogs, restrict entry, etc.? Do you have staff on site?
- Do you engage volunteers? If so, how?
- Do you have any educational programs for the public, such as dog behavior issues they might encounter, complaint procedures, etc.?
- What type of decision making process was involved to establish the dog park?
- Are you satisfied with how your public process panned out? Were there contentious issues? If so, how did they get resolved?
- Do your dog parks include a separate area for small dogs? If so, how large is the area?
- What has, in your opinion, worked well in establishment and maintenance of your dog parks?
- What would you do differently next time around?

In order to compare the responses that were gathered, the following charts outline the responses received in categories to allow for comparison.

Several cities, including Denver, CO; Salt Lake County, UT; and Oakland, CA have master plan documents that were used to provide data. Others were telephoned and emailed, and others had useful information on their websites. These were all utilized to compare criteria. Not all cities had criteria for every category included in the charts, but there was sufficient information to provide comparative information.

Appendix 5: Charts Summarizing Data from Other Cities

Appendix 5: Data Summary											
Location	Size Guidelines	Parking	Buffer from Residential	Conflict Avoidance	Surfacing	Drainage	Fees	Small & Large Dog Areas	Geographic Distribution	Perimeter Fencing	Other Information
Alexandria, VA	≥ 21,780 ft ² (0.5 acre)	Easy access for police/animal control	50 ft			At least 60 ft from stream bed or water source				Double gated entry	
Baltimore, MD	≥ 5,000 ft ²		200 ft; Changes in topography or landscaping can reduce amount	Avoid playgrounds, athletic fields, sensitive habitats, areas directly upstream from community gardens, paths, and historic sites	Natural turf or hard surface to allow for cleaning with a hose	Well drained, max 5% slope, and avoid floodplains				5 ft perimeter fence and double gated entry	
Boulder, CO	No specific design requirements		No set criteria	Locate as far away from adjacent residences as possible	Decomposed granite or crusher fines material that isn't too sharp; All weather surface		Free and open to public during normal park hours	Unspecified size		Vinyl coated chain link fence	Volunteers occasionally work as ambassadors. Important to work closely with community advocacy group to assist with maintenance
Chicago, IL	≥ 3,500 ft ² (not to exceed 3.5% of total park acres)		Ensure noise and activity levels are no more disruptive than typical park uses	Strong buffer between uses	Hard surface	Proximity to sanitary sewer system	Annual: \$5				
Denver, CO	≥ 43,560 ft ² (1 acre) (2-3 acres preferred)	Existing off street parking should be available	200 ft from street	100 ft from playground or other children's facility. No arterial streets within 200 ft unless fully fenced.	Crusher fines at entry. Min 1 acre alt. surface (sand based soil mix, synthetic turf or infield mix)	Must have positive drainage	Annual: \$25 residents, \$40 non-residents	Recommended	One mile service area radius for most populous areas. Two mile service area for lower density areas	4 ft fence and double gated entry	Discounted fee provided in exchange for volunteer maintenance support and participation in educational programs
Kalamazoo, MI		Nearby	No set criteria. Existing park 100-150 ft from street	Full time staff for park maintenance			Fee and key fob required	Separate areas; Same entrance			
Madison, WI	≥ 43,560 ft ² (1 acre)	Nearby	Maximize distance; Include vegetative buffer	Avoid use conflicts	Grass		Daily: \$5; Annual: \$30; Senior/Disabled: \$15	100x300 ft for small dogs		Chain link	Park Ranger visits daily, leads monthly dog park user meetings and cleanup days.
Meridian Township, MI	10 acres		Screening from other park uses required		Decomposed granite	Screening should help mitigate runoff		Small dog area 1/4 size of large dog area		4-6 ft galvanized and double gated entry	
Montgomery County, MD	10,000 ft ²	Adequate parking	Appropriate distance from residents		Various					5 ft min height and double gated entry	
Norfolk, VA	≥ 32,670 ft ² (0.75 acre), approx 175' x 200'	Appropriate parking; Minimize disruption to resident parking	Avoid highly populated or high use areas	Avoid high use areas such as schools, jogging tracks, trails, playgrounds or recreational amenities							Neighborhood acceptance requires majority approval at public meeting. Adjacent property owners must provide written approval.
Oakland, CA	≥ 20,000 ft ²	Nearby (within reasonable walking distance)	Avoid locating adjacent to residences	Avoid wildlife conflicts or conversion of parkland		Relatively flat, well drained, berms, catchments to avoid runoff	Annual: \$25-\$35 recommended	Small dog area: Minimum 1/4 acre	Ideally dog area within two miles of every Oakland resident	4 ft black vinyl fence and 8 ft x 8ft double gated entry with two 4 ft gates; Separate gate for maintenance	Opportunities for community bulletin board/kiosk. Park stewardship days.
Portland, OR	≥ 5,000 ft ²	Nearby	Minimize impact to adjacent residences	Avoid conflicts with fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, playgrounds		Dry and irrigated rather than wet, avoid slopes, relatively level	Free		Focus on multi-family neighborhoods where people don't have backyards		No permanent volunteer group. Some programs. Fines of up to \$150 for violation of off-leash law.
Salt Lake County, UT		Sufficient and convenient	Minimize conflicts with existing/planned land uses		Surfacing type must be carefully considered	No standards, but very important		Sometimes; Unspecified size			
San Francisco, CA	≥ 10,000 ft ² (30,000 ft ² preferred)		Natural or man made buffer to avoid conflicts	Avoid use conflicts and overcrowding	Turf in larger parks, alternative surfaces in smaller parks						
American Kennel Club	≥ 43,560 ft ² (1 acre)	Parking	Visual buffer within fenced park			Adequate drainage					
Association of Pet Dog Trainers	Enough to avoid crowding										

Appendix 6: Existing Dog Park Rules

DOG PARK USERS

PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES

1. A permit is required to use this facility. For registrations call 994-2725 City, 222-6600 County.
2. Dogs must display current registration, license, and vaccination tags.
3. Users of this facility do so at their own risk. Dog behavior can be unpredictable around other dogs and strangers.
4. Dog owners and handlers are strictly liable for any damage or injury caused by their dogs.
5. Dog handlers must be 16 years of age or older.
6. Children under age 15 are not allowed in the park unless accompanied by an adult.
7. All dogs must remain on leash until inside the designated fenced area.
8. Dogs must not be left unattended. Dogs must be in view and under the voice command of their handler at all times.
9. Dog handlers are required to clean up and dispose of their dogs' waste.
10. Dogs in heat and puppies under 4 months of age are not permitted in the park.
11. Dogs that fight or exhibit aggressive behavior must be immediately removed from the park.
12. No more than two dogs per handler are allowed at one time.
13. No smoking, food, or alcohol is allowed within the park.
14. Professional dog trainers shall not use the park to conduct their business.
15. Failure to comply with posted rules is subject to citation, expulsion, or arrest, as well as dog impound.

Park Hours are dawn to dusk
(Subject to closures during required maintenance operations.)

Call 911 for Emergency Assistance

Appendix 7: Scoring Sheet for Placement Criteria

Appendix 7: Scoring Sheet for Placement Criteria		Score 1	Score 3	Score 5	Comments	Score
Criteria Description						
Size Variable and dependent upon proposed park location. Minimum 1/4 acre; 1/2 acre preference	Less than 1/4 acre	1/2 acre to 1 acre	> 2 acres			
Buffer from Residential Ideally limit neighborhood disturbance to be consistent with typical park uses. Desired increased distance, vegetative buffer	50' or less from adjacent residents, and little opportunity for buffer	> 100' from residents and moderate opportunities for buffer	> 200' from residents and good opportunity for buffer			
Nonresidential Adjacent Land Use Depending on the type of business or institution, may be considered either a benefit or an undesirable amenity	Surrounding institution/business does not consider dog parks compatible with its mission/constituency	A dog park would be neutral for the surrounding institution or business	An adjacent dog park would be a positive addition to the surrounding institution or business			
Drinking Fountain Highly desirable within or adjacent to dog park area	No drinking water available on site; would be expensive/difficult to provide water	Drinking fountain and/or water service available on site, but outside of dog park	Drinking fountain available within proposed dog park area			
Parking Sufficient and convenient; Provided without undue burden on neighbors.	Onsite parking not currently existing; Site too small to accommodate parking lot	On-site parking not currently existing; Site can accommodate parking lot	Existing parking lot on site can accommodate dog park			
Land Suitability Relatively flat topography, permeable soils, design to minimize erosion potential, protection for water bodies, good visibility through site	Excessive slopes, impermeable soils, and high erosion potential	Moderately flat, moderate visibility, moderately permeable soils	Primarily flat, good drainage, permeable soils, good visibility			
Shade Highly desirable; Site provides good mix of shade/mature trees and open space/turf grass	No trees on site; full sun	Some trees on site; smaller trees don't provide much shade	Mature trees; good mix of shade and open space			
Use Conflict Avoidance Avoid placing dog park in area that would conflict with or displace desired active and passive activities	Dog park would conflict with existing park uses	Existing park use would not be impacted by proposed dog park	Dog park would complement existing park uses			
Protect Natural Areas Should not be located in close proximity to high quality natural areas to limit disturbance of nesting birds, small mammals, native plants	Site within 50' of high quality natural area	Natural area > 100' from proposed dog park area	No natural areas at site			
Geographic Distribution Located such that there is equitable distribution to dog parks in the City	Within 1/4 mile of an existing dog park; Well served by dog park	Within a 1 mile of an existing dog park; Moderately well served	Equal distance from other dog parks in unserved area of City			
<i>Highest Score Attainable - 45 points; Minimal Score for Consideration - 27 points; Eliminate as Possibility <27 points</i>						Total Score
Summary Comments:						

***DOG OFF LEASH TASKFORCE
REPORT
FOR THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR
JUNE, 1998***



Parks & Recreation
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

PREPARED BY:

***Task Force Appointed by the Park Advisory Commission
Chris Grant, Nelson Meade, Owen Jansson, Linda Safdi Langmore,
Gary Fichter, Pam Stuckman Lawrence, Martha Graham, Cheryl Christopher,
Eric Meves, Bobby Frank, Anne Chapple***

***FOR USE BY THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN***

*Report Prepared by the Off Leash Task Force for the Park Advisory
Commission - June 1998*

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I. Executive Summary

The development of off-leash recreational opportunities is a complicated issue regarding financial, health, liability, safety, enforcement and other considerations. Many citizens enjoy exercising, socializing and actively recreating with their dogs, however, not everyone likes dogs or want to be around them. Not all dog owners have opportunities or facilities to properly exercise their dog or recreate with them in a fenced yard. Numerous condominiums and apartments in Ann Arbor allow dogs. Citizens have varying abilities and some citizens are not able to properly exercise their dog on lead.

We recommend that the Park Advisory Commission review our report and proceed in gathering public input from the citizens of the City of Ann Arbor.

Based on our research we can draw a number of conclusions which will aid in a decision.

- The decision as to whether or not the City of Ann Arbor should provide off leash recreation opportunities must be decided following carefully planned public process involving the input from all citizens within the City.
- After listening to a variety of experts, it is determined no professional consensus exists as to whether dogs receive proper exercise on lead or if they need to run and socialize with other dogs.
- Dog owners wanting to recreate off-leash with a companion dog is a valid recreational activity. Legal provisions to engage in this type of activity in Ann Arbor have not been provided.
- Two types of off leash areas exist in other communities
 1. The “dog park” experience of a large fenced park setting to play and socialize
 2. Unconfined off leash hours in neighborhood parks.
- The majority of the task force and field experts found that isolating off leashed dogs by fencing is imperative due to safety and liability issues. Careful consideration must be given to fencing, acreage, expense, aesthetics and existing uses. There are two members who feel that steps can be taken to make an off leash approach work in unfenced neighborhood parks, using a combination of time limited hours and/or special permits. (See Appendix) Three task force members do not see the feasibility of dog parks effectively located in the City park system at all.
- Many successful dog parks exist throughout the United States that serve as models for a Pilot Project. Records of safety/health/liability exist for the public and their dogs within these dog park areas. Many operate with the involvement of private organizations in coordination with animal control personnel in the local governmental agency.
- Creating an off leash area(s) in the City will alone not solve current problems of leash law violations in neighborhood parks, but may alleviate the number of complaints.

Following are the details involved regarding what it would take to successfully create off leash areas as determined through our research.

II. Introduction

A. Background Information

Communities are constantly attempting to reconcile the conflicting demands of diverse groups, including those of dog owners and nondog owners. The Humane Society of the United States and The National Recreation and Parks Association, have addressed the concept of dog parks, (See Attachments 1 and 2). At the present time, dogs are permitted in area parks on a leash. However, many dog owners believe that their pets cannot get the exercise and social activity that they need unless they are permitted to run off-leash in the company of other dogs. Currently, however, the leash law prohibits free running dogs. Chapter 107 of the current City Ordinance [Animals, 9:45 Definitions] provides the details on the local leash law, which went into effect on March 29, 1976, and indicates that owners must keep their dogs under "reasonable control" at all times, and "reasonable control" is defined as "being on a leash at all times." In essence, the city ordinance follows a state statute [MCL 287.262, Licensing and Control of Dogs] indicating that it is unlawful for owners to let dogs stray unless they are held properly with a leash. Designating confined off-leash exercise area(s) or dog parks for dog owners and their pets might help to resolve the conflicting demands of dog owners and nondog owners in Ann Arbor. Parks staff and Animal Control officers have been severely taxed in their attempts to patrol area parks for off-leash dogs and to keep parks free of dog feces.

B. History of the Process

The petition received requesting creation of an off leash area for dogs within the City park system had 2561 signatures. Signatures from Ann Arbor residents total 1451 of which 72.1% were dog owners, 27.6% were nondog owners and .3% were unknown. The petition was presented to the Park Advisory Commission with a request they look into the possibility of an off leash area. In June 1997 the Department of Parks and Recreation sent a survey out to other communities that feature off leash areas with a request for information. The information was formulated and presented to PAC in September 1997 with a request that a Task Force be formed to gather and review information and report their findings and recommendations. The task force comprised two PAC members, two dog park petitioners, one park planner, one park operations employee, one County Park Advisory Commission member, one Recreation Advisory Commission member, two citizens who don't own dogs, and one animal control officer. The task force held their first meeting in November 1997, meeting every other week for seven months. During that time the task force reviewed the survey, studied and discussed printed materials from more than twenty-nine different governmental agencies and communities which have some type of off leash program or hold an opinion on such. We spoke on the phone to many of these communities around the country (Attachment), read and discussed materials presented on dog behavior and management, met with the City of Ann Arbor Attorney and Risk Manager, interviewed various dog behavioral specialists, and held discussions formulated by the task force members representing City staff in areas of maintenance, management, enforcement and planning. We did not address the issue of public input feeling our time was better focused on receiving all the facts dealing with off leash areas, prior to a concept being offered to citizens within the City of Ann Arbor.

The committee identified and researched these key issues:

- Liability - rules, reduction of liability, risk and hazards
- Affordability - property acquisition, construction, maintenance, monitoring and staffing
- Design - what makes a good dog park - size, location, components, aesthetics, based on existing off leash areas on other communities
- Enforcement, laws and rules
- Health - diseases transmitted by dogs to people or to other dogs, cleanliness
- Safety - of citizens and dogs based on erratic dog and citizen behavior

C. Demographics

We have received varying statistics regarding the quantity of dogs within the city. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey taken in April of 1998 asked three questions regarding dogs in parks that are relevant to this proposal. (See Attachment 3). Conclusions drawn from those results indicate that 40% of the people surveyed think uncontrolled dogs are a small problem. Eleven percent of people surveyed do not think dog droppings in the park is a problem, with 5% feeling it is a severe problem and 84% indicating it is somewhat of a problem.

III. How to Proceed

The citizens of Ann Arbor must be surveyed and every opportunity must be made for them to understand the concept and provide input regarding the creation of a pilot project, before any other procedures take place. We request that PAC review our proposal and work with City Council to establish a plan for public input. Based on the outcome, locations could be suggested and targeted for those citizens who show interest and desire for proceeding. No actual locations have been targeted. Once citizen needs are established, existing City land should be evaluated by alternative analysis based on established criteria, to determine if a site exists for a pilot project. Funding would need to be established and staffing needs met once a site becomes targeted, prior to construction taking place. The task force agrees that if an off leash area were to be created within the City of Ann Arbor that it should incorporate the following criteria.

A. The Ideal Designated Dog Park (City or Privately Operated)

1. Design Criteria

a. Size

Any park designed to accommodate heavy traffic of dog owners and their pets, as might be expected in Ann Arbor, should be large enough to enable dogs to establish comfortable social distances among themselves. In addition, it should provide dogs with enough room to sprint or run at top speed for some distance. Ideally, an off-leash exercise area must be no smaller than two to three acres, and preferably 10 to 15 acres in size, including wooded acreage and an open grass playing area.

Size recommendations are made according to a set of assumptions that reflect experiences at (unofficial) off-leash exercise sites currently being used within the city. The heaviest use time at area parks is between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays with the maximum number of dogs per acre of 25. It is our opinion that one acre of land can tolerably accommodate a maximum of 25 dogs and owners at one time, especially if a large percentage of those dogs have high energy needs

requiring ample room to sprint. More than 25 dogs per acre constitute a congested environment that interferes with the enjoyment of dog owners, and the exercise needs and social instincts of dogs.

b. Fencing

The dog park, or off-leash exercise area, should be entirely enclosed by adequate fencing to prevent dogs from straying, or pose problems for people who would rather not encounter dogs.

A chain link fence is preferable, however, fencing need not be expensive to be effective. Existing dog parks have successfully used 48-inch agricultural fencing with 2x6" wire mesh or sturdy 48-inch plastic-covered wire fencing. However, the type of fence will depend on location, since aesthetically, it may not be as pleasing. Some cost will be required to maintain the fence, including fence mending, replacement of worn fence posts, trash and vegetation removal around the fence, etc.

c. Gates and Entrance

Two gates will provide access to the fenced enclosure. Inside the main gate(s) will be a holding area at least 8'x12' to accommodate more than one dog and its owner at a time. The holding area will allow dogs a chance to acclimate to their new circumstances, and will allow owners to judge the readiness of their dogs, before they are released into the main enclosure. Because park entrances experience heavy foot traffic, the area adjacent to the main gate and the holding area will need special attention and surfacing to prevent rutting or pooling of water during rainy seasons. Slag or peastone might be used to protect these areas. The holding area will be constructed so that the gates are not directly across from each other to minimize the chance that dogs escaping from the enclosure if someone else opens the gate

d. Sanitation Facilities

Since dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs, some means of disposing of dog feces must be available to them at more than one location of the park. We recommend several standard, plastic-lined trash cans with lids to minimize odor and health hazards. Lids prevent rainwater from adding to the weight of the receptacles. Disposal would require waste removal at intervals determined by amount of use, and set as part of the normal park sanitation route. Alternatively, some means of disposing of dog feces chemically (a lime pit, etc.) might be made available on the site.

Poop scoops and "doggie bag" dispensers can be made available on the site at several strategic locations, such as at the park entrance and other logical locations within the confines of the park. A donation of these products might be possible from a dog product company or the Humane Society.

No restrooms need to be installed for dog owners, however, restroom facilities would be appreciated.

e. Water

A source of clean water must be made available within the confines of the off-leash exercise area to serve the needs of dogs and their owners. A hose bib made available at the water source will

enable dog owners to fill water bowls elsewhere in the park with accommodations of a low drinking fountain for those who don't bring their own bowl. Water source area will be grated and drained.

f. Surfacing

The dog park and/or off-leash exercise area should be grass-covered, as other park settings, for the enjoyment of dog owners and their pets, as well as for prevention of erosion. The grass should be a hardy species such as a tall fescue variety "Alta," planted in a well-drained soil. Lawn maintenance will require an irrigation system to eliminate turf burns from urine that will deeply water the area during off hours. Other maintenance considerations include mowing and trimming the grass next to the fence line.

g. Shade

For the comfort of both dogs and dog owners, the off leash exercise area should offer some shade trees. This feature is especially important during the summer months when free-running dogs are at risk of overheating.

h. Seating

A shaded seating area within the off-leash area would provide protection from the rain and sun as a convenience for those who wish to use the park. Seating outside the enclosed area would provide a place for those who wish to watch the activity in the park, without encountering dogs.

i. Emergency Phone

An emergency phone in the immediate area would enhance user safety.

j. Agility Equipment

Agility equipment for dogs might be permanently installed in one area of the park. Agility training is enjoyable for both dogs and their owners and promotes obedience training and owner education.

k. Paths

Walking trails around the perimeter inside the park would encourage owners and their dogs to exercise.

l. Parking

A parking lot must be made available to park users. Experience shows that people tend to turn their dogs loose when they approach a dog park. For this reason, the parking area should be situated very close to the exercise area itself. Dog owners should be reminded not to unleash their dogs until they are in the confines of the park.

It is estimated up to 120 dog owners and dogs will use the dog park at peak weekday hours. Most users stay for one hour or less. Of these users, we anticipate that 90% will arrive by car. Perhaps 10% may arrive on foot or bike. The result is a total of 114 automobile trips in and out of the area during the peak hours and a parking demand for approximately 50 spaces. Based on our experience with (unofficial) off-leash areas, we recommend that parking space for 15 cars must be made available for *each* acre of park land.

m. Park Maintenance

Long term continuous maintenance issues that must be addressed by either the Parks Department or private operators include fence maintenance and repair, vegetation control at fence lines, and turf maintenance, including mowing, repair and restoration, fertilization and irrigation. Feces and trash removal systems must be implemented. Maintenance of poop scoops, bag dispensers, and receptacles is important. There may be a need for snow and ice removal from the parking area. The parking lot itself may need maintenance, and any other hard surfaces associated with the park (such as the entrance area).

n. Supervision and Monitoring

It is recommended that some form of supervision, monitoring and enforcement be made available during the pilot phase of the project during peak hours. Once the pilot project is well established, monitoring and staffing may be adjusted as needed.

o. Signage

Signs displaying park rules and other important information will be posted on a kiosk located near each park entrance. If the park area is large, additional signs might be required within the park. Examples might include clearly posted signs educating dog owners about the risks of unscooped dog feces. (Ex. "Did you know dog feces may contain parasites that can threaten the health of your pet? Pick up after your dog to keep our park clean and safe for all our pets.") Kiosks might also display information on training sessions, and other educational or recreational events to be held at the park.

p. Hours of Operation

The hours of operation of the dog park will be from sunrise to sunset. Therefore, no lighting facilities will be installed in the park.

2. Access

Access to the dog park will be made by permit. Only dogs with up-to-date license tags, having been spayed or neutered, had their shots, have been proven to be disease-free, would be granted access rights to the park(s). Once proper identification and proof of license, vaccinations and neutering are made, dog owners can purchase a one year permit to use the park. Dates of renewed vaccinations will be noted on the permit, with membership lapsing if vaccinations expire. The off-leash exercise area(s) will only be accessible through a gate(s) fitted with an electronic device that accepts key cards similar to those used to electronically open hotel doors. Only dog owners who purchase access rights for a to-be-determined annual fee will retain key cards. This arrangement will eliminate any possibility that people will experience unwanted encounters with off-leash dogs in the designated off-leash areas. The exclusivity of this arrangement could be enforced by requiring dog owners not to lend their electronic card to others. Key cards could be relinquished if authorized dog owners were caught lending them to unauthorized dog owners. Purchase of key cards could become an optional part of the dog licensing process at the City Clerk's office. This arrangement would enable city officials to exercise an appropriate amount of control over access rights to off-leash exercise area(s).

a. Rules for obtaining a permit

The following set of qualifying rules for dog park permits is proposed:

1. Permits issued are restricted to the individual dog to whom the permit is issued.
2. A permit will remain valid only as long as owner can provide proof of up to date vaccinations and preventive medication for rabies, parvo, bordatella and heartworm. Permits will be renewable with proof of up-to-date vaccinations.
3. To qualify for a park permit, each dog must be currently licensed and display a license tag.
4. A dog must have no history of inflicting bite injuries, (bite injury defined as breaking the skin)
5. All dogs must be spade or neutered.

Issues to be considered if we decide to use a permit and/or tag system

- Fee amounts
- Different fees for residents and nonresident
- When will permits expire (12 months?)
- Permit issued to an owner, one per dog, with reduced fee for second dogs
- Permit to include immediate family members residing in the same household - they would be listed as handlers
- Permit to include anyone the owner allows to walk the dog
- A permit should be non-transferable
- Permits will need to be displayed or carried when using the off-leash area
- Issue a permit to the owner and have each dog wear a tag
- A permit should be multicopy
- Permits should be difficult to photocopy
- Rabies shot and dog license are required
- Rabies vaccination should be in effect until the permit expires
- Parvo vaccination in effect until the permit expires
- Some communities also require a parking permit
- Obedience training classes
- The "handbook" would be distributed with permits. It would explain the rules and offer information that will improve the park experience and reduce risks for everyone. The book would answer common questions such as, "Why off-leash play," and "Should I take my dog?" "What do you do in the event of a dog fight?" "How do you determine the difference between aggression and doggy play?" It will help owners to determine whether their dog is a good candidate for an off-leash area. It would also discuss possible drawbacks, including disease, injury, mental trauma, confiscation of dog, and fines. It would encourage owners to be aware of possible consequences and to take responsibility. It could provide a listing of Ann Arbor community dog resources for training, health, grooming, and recreation. It could include ads, sponsorships, messages from the Mayor's dog, etc.
- Reserve right to cancel/reject permits and to restrict or change use if necessary

Yet to answer:

- Where will permits be sold - City Clerks offices, local veterinarians, pet shops?
- Where will the file be maintained?
- Where will the money go?

Signed waiver agreement should be signed by owner and designated dog handlers

-Examples:

- Dog owner/handler is responsible and liable for the actions and behaviors of dogs at all times (State Law)
- Dog owners/handlers will assume responsibility for any damage or injury inflicted or caused by their dogs (State Law)

b. Off-leash Park Use Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received and read the City of Ann Arbor Off-Leash park permit conditions, and I am aware that violation of any of these conditions will lead to revocation of my permit.

I understand that use of this area exposes my person and my property (including my dog) to risk of damage or injury and agree that the City of Ann Arbor, its Parks Department, its employees and others will not be liable for any claims, demands, injuries, or damages, actions or causes of action, whatsoever to myself or property arising out of or connected with the use of the Off-Leash Park area. I further agree to expressly release and discharge City of Ann Arbor (etc.) from all such claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions or causes of action, and from all acts of active or passive negligence on the part of the City of Ann Arbor, its servants, agents or employees.

Sign _____ Date _____

Even though there have not been any precedented cases of liability involving dog attacks, it is essential that parks implement precautionary measures. Most states have "Dog-Bite statues" that automatically make dog owners legally liable for any injury or damage that their dog causes (this is not part of city ordinances, but is part of the State of Michigan). We would need to check with the city attorney to reference this issue.

3. Off Leash Park Rules

The following set of rules is proposed for dog owners; citations and fines may be issued for violations:

1. Dogs must have an official permit and tag appended to the dog's collar.
2. Dog owners will be required to clean up after their dogs. Dog owners must remove dog feces from the enclosure immediately and place it in appropriate receptacles, whether these are chemical "toilets" or sealable plastic bags. Citations and fines may be issued for violations.

3. Dogs must be accompanied by an adult human at all times.
4. Owners must bring a leash for each dog admitted to the dog park and have it with them at all times.
5. Owners who are aware of aggressive tendencies in their pets are discouraged from bringing them to dog parks. Dog owners will be required to leash dogs displaying aggressive behavior. All serious instances of dog aggression (dog fights, bites sustained by dog owners, etc.) will be written up in a report and submitted to the City office that dispenses key cards. Several instances of aggression may result in the suspension of a given dog owner's park privileges. Dogs and owners who create a problem for other users must leave the park when requested.
6. Each person entering the dog park may bring no more than two dogs.
7. No children under the age of 12 are permitted into the dog park.
8. No puppies without a complete course of vaccinations will be permitted in the park.
9. No food except gulp-able bite-sized treats will be permitted in the park (no food in bowls or long-lasting chewies).
10. No glass, littering, or motorized equipment (except disability aids) will be permitted in the park.
11. Human park users must stay off of any agility equipment that is added to the park.
12. Park users are understood to enter the park at their own risk.
13. Choke collars will not be allowed in the park for the safety of the dog.

The following set of rules is proposed for dogs, citations and fines may be issued for violations:

1. Dogs will be permitted to roam off-leash as long as they remain under voice control.
2. Dogs are not permitted to dig holes, chase wildlife, destroy vegetation, enter any closed areas, or bother other visitors.

Rules should be clearly, aesthetically, and predominately posted.

If there are rules, there must be penalties for not following the rules. Some rule violations can be handled by changes in the ordinance. Some can be handled by revoking the permit. If the permit is revoked, a penalty needs to exist for using the park without a permit. Changes in the ordinance will need to reflect rules and violations. Enforcement of the rules will need to be designated. Rules need to be carefully written so that elderly or disabled persons can comply.

4. *Costs and Funding*

We recognize that construction, maintenance, and administrative costs will be generated, but have not been researched by the task force.

If the City operated the park, we propose that the costs for the dog park and additional enforcement officers be partially funded through increased license fees, increased fines for:

- off leash dogs
- dogs at large
- unlicensed dogs
- failure to cleanup up after your dog

We also recommend Park use or facility annual membership fees, and measures to increase licensing.

If privately operated, fees for access cards could potentially generate most of the funding for maintenance, monitoring and staffing. There should be separate fee schedules for city residents and nonresidents. Additional financial needs could be generated through fund raising activities by membership groups (dog washes, T-shirt sales, etc.).

Corporate sponsors might be targeted for funding of this project, such as a dog food company or other dog product sponsors. Similar types of funding have been received for other activities within the park system and might provide an initial sponsorship for establishing the park.

5. Enforcement

Most of the material indicates that enforcement is very important to a successful off-leash program. Communities that did not initially provide for increased enforcement did find it necessary to make changes (more animal control officers and more park rangers with better training regarding dogs, fewer warnings, more tickets, increased fines, etc.)

Enforcement of rules and the ordinance for leash areas and off leash areas is a critical component in the success of a dog off-leash area or dog park. To provide proper enforcement, additional trained staff must be provided. It does not make sense to provide an off-leash area without extra enforcement in the other parks and neighborhoods. If citizens are able to continue allowing their dogs to be off-leash in other parks and neighborhoods with impunity there is no incentive to use the off-leash area. For most people the off-leash area will not be as convenient as their local park.

- We have one animal control officer on duty at a time, with two animal control officers employed by the City. We have one park ranger on duty at a time.
- Enforcement should be concentrated on unleashed dogs in the non off-leash areas. However, it will be necessary to increase patrol/enforcement to ensure that the off-leash area is being used properly.
- Tickets are not only a basic tool of enforcement used to gain compliance but they also serve as an educational tool
- Verbal warnings are not enough of a deterrent - necessary to use stronger enforcement
- Material indicates that neighbors frequently request better enforcement
- Certainly voluntary compliance is the goal of any effective enforcement program
- Animal Control, Police Department, and Parks Department staff will be solely responsible for enforcing city codes, regulations and policies regarding animals at off-leash sites. Citizens and volunteers should not act as agents of the city to enforce animal control regulations. Citizens and volunteers may inform and suggest. The use of peer pressure can be an effective tool to bring about compliance.
- We believe that Ann Arbor would need a minimum of three full-time Animal Control Officers as well as an increase in the number of Park Rangers. This would, of course, result in the need to increase the budget to provide the salaries and necessary equipment (vehicles,

uniforms, etc.)

6. Ordinance

At this time, there are too many variables to list exactly what changes will be necessary. It may make a difference if the park is managed by the city or by a private group. We need to know which rules we are going to use. It will be necessary to change some of the definitions in the ordinance. We will also need to change, amend or add violations. For example, the "Leash Law" will need to be amended. Failure to remove feces under the litter ordinance should be changed to require owners/handlers to carry equipment to remove the feces. The vicious/dangerous definitions and violations may need to be changed. We should also consider an increase in the dog license fee and take a look at different fees for neutered and unneutered dogs. As a result of establishing off-leash parks, many communities have decided to increase fines for violations of the ordinances. (See Rules and Enforcement)

7. Administration of the Off Leash Pilot Project by the City

An agreement between the City and a nonprofit citizen group could divide responsibility for the off-leash area(s). This arrangement would be in effect for the pilot period (one year). The arrangement as well as the off-leash area itself will be evaluated at the end of the pilot period.

a. City Responsibility

- 1) Owns the land
- 2) Holds the insurance (explanation: in talking to other cities with off-leash programs we have found no evidence of need for or precedence for a special insurance policy, or a special outside group holding insurance.)
- 3) Funds the building and acquisition, with help from the private sector (to be determined). Equipment is expected to include fencing, gates, agility equipment, trash receptacles bag dispensers, signage, kiosks, water faucets, irrigation equipment, emergency phones.
- 4) Funds and carries out the following aspects of maintenance: mowing, watering, repair, trash disposal, snow removal, wood chips.
- 5) Sell dog licenses and keeps those records.
- 6) Sell off-leash permits and keeps those records.
- 7) Handle all income and expenses.
- 8) Enforce rules and ordinances
- 9) Enforce all other City ordinances (drinking, loitering, etc.) as in any other park.
- 10) Co-writes a written agreement between the city and the nonprofit citizen group

b. The Nonprofit Citizen Group Responsibility

Stewardship will be provided as follows:

- 1) Raise money to help fund construction (to be determined).
- 2) Provide input into the planning and construction process.
- 3) Provide monitors during peak times, if needed. Monitors' role is to keep people aware of the rules and provide education' as needed, not to enforce. Monitors can be involved in observing rule violations and providing information on such to the city's enforcement entities.
- 4) Keeps bag dispensers filled with recycled bags.

- 5) Tracks usage statistics (peak loads, demographics, length of visit, user satisfaction) and problem incidents
- 6) Regularly reports on usage and other statistics, and provide recommendations to Parks or the PAC on program expansion or changes.
- 7) Monitors park condition (equipment and vegetation) and acts as liaison with the city for maintenance and/or rehabilitation
- 8) Regularly canvasses the site for litter and feces, including an area within 100 feet of the fences, and keeps woodchips tidy.
- 9) Organize work parties and cleanup days.
- 10) Organize fund raisers as necessary for improvements that are authorized by Parks staff. All improvements will be to Parks specifications.
- 11) Maintain the kiosk(s) and provides educational and informational postings.
- 12) Create and update an educational handbook (either independently or together with the city).
- 13) Organizes a schedule of educational events (education for dogs AND owners) and carries out the goal of improving dog owner behavior citywide. Educational, training and information sessions may include
 - a) responsible dog ownership,
 - b) dog obedience and behavior lessons,
 - c) dog agility training classes,
 - d) dog licensing opportunities,
 - e) dog health care.
- 14) Co-writes a written agreement between the city and the nonprofit citizen group.
- 15) Respond in a timely fashion to Animal Control or Parks inquiries related to the off-leash sites.
- 16) Co-writes grant applications.

8. Administration of Off-leash Area(s) by a Nonprofit Citizen Group

An alternative way of running an off-leash area is through a separate legal entity such as a nonprofit organization, with oversight by the city.

In this scenario, the citizen group would have a formal legal structure, including officers and a board of directors. This organization could lease parkland from the city, procure insurance, and manage a budget derived from grants, fees, and fund raisers.

The main advantages of this approach are two:

- More flexibility in terms of rules (i.e., more possibility of excluding high-risk participants).
- Liability transferred from the city to an outside entity.

The main disadvantage is:

- Questionable whether enough citizens will be willing to put in the time to make it work.
- Cost of setting up (a city attorney would be involved)

In this approach, responsibilities are divided as follows:

a. City Responsibility

- 1) Own the land
- 2) Enforce all other city ordinances (drinking, loitering, etc.) as in any other park.
- 3) Co-writes a written agreement between the city and the nonprofit citizen group
- 4) Sell dog licenses and keeps those records.

b. The Nonprofit Citizen Group Responsibility

- 1) Holds the insurance
- 2) Funds the building and acquisition
- 3) Funds and carries out: mowing, watering, repair, trash disposal, snow removal, wood chips, bag replenishment
- 4) Organizes a schedule of educational events (education for dogs AND owners) and carries out the goal of improving dog owner behavior citywide. Educational, training and information sessions may include
 - a) responsible dog ownership,
 - b) dog obedience and behavior lessons,
 - c) dog agility training classes,
 - d) dog licensing opportunities,
 - e) dog health care.
- 5) Sell off-leash permits and keeps those records.
- 6) Handle all income and expenses.
- 7) Enforce rules when needed, with assistance from animal control officers, revoking of permits, and any other possible means, including an appeal process.
- 8) Provide monitors during peak times, if needed. Monitors' role is to keep people aware of the rules and provide 'education' as needed, not to enforce. Monitors can be involved in observing rule violations and providing information on such to the city's enforcement entities.
- 9) Tracks usage statistics (peak loads, demographics, length of visit, user satisfaction) and problem incidents
- 10) Regularly canvasses the site for litter and feces, including an area within 100 feet of the fences, and keeps woodchips tidy.
- 11) Organize work parties and cleanup days.
- 12) Organize fund raisers as necessary for improvements that are authorized by Parks staff. All improvements will be to Parks specifications.
- 13) Maintain the kiosk(s) and provides educational and informational postings.
- 14) Create and update an educational handbook

IV. Appendix

Neighborhood Park Off-leash Options

1. Introduction

This option was addressed during several of our meetings, with reviewing of materials and discussions with experts. While two members of the task force continue to feel that off leash hours in neighborhood parks is feasible, the majority of the task force agrees that this option has too many unanswered questions to be safe or enforceable. The following is a presentation of that option.

While a dog park would satisfy many of the recreational needs of dog owners, some wish to exercise their dogs on a daily basis, in their own neighborhood, before and after work, and for short periods on weekends. These relatively brief outdoor recreation events require a more convenient location than what a single or a few dog parks could offer. Many dog owners also view this as an opportunity for both them and their dogs to socialize with neighbors in their neighborhood park.

A 1997 Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation questionnaire confirms the demand for this type of recreational activity. Burns Park residents were asked to list "things we do most in the park." The activity "walk the dog, playing with the dog" ranked fifth out of 17 in the list, ranking higher than tennis, basketball, soccer/kickball, baseball, and softball (sports for which the park already offers facilities).

The residents were also asked what they would like to see in the park. In the "most requested" list, "add an area for dog walkers to let their dogs run" received 13 responses, ranking second only to "safety for children in equipment and layout" (14 responses).

By the same token, in the above-mentioned questionnaire, the number one problem listed in Burns Park was "People don't properly control their dogs or scoop their poop." Scooping the poop remains an issue whether dogs are leashed or not. Dogs that are not controlled, however, can and do create conflicts with other park users. The question then becomes: How can we minimize the potential for conflict among these different groups of park users in a way which still provides recreational opportunities that meet the needs of both groups?

Outlined below are two possible options that could address off-leash dog exercise recreational needs not satisfied by a dog park. Both options are based on the premise that dogs who are well-trained, socialized, and cared for by responsible owners are very predictable and do not pose a legal liability or a physical threat. Further, while isolating off-leashed dogs by fencing is not feasible in most parks, because it is esthetically unpleasing, costly, and hinders multiple use of a park's resources, there are non-structural control mechanisms which can be used to minimize interaction between off-leash dogs and other park users.

In addition, both of the following options share a number of benefits:

1. They provide safe, very cost-effective, nonintrusive, neighborhood off-leash recreational opportunities, with negligible impact on parks or park users, based on a tightly-controlled program of dog training, owner education, and use of existing facilities at times when such facilities are otherwise largely unused.
2. They would be every bit as enforceable as the existing leash law and could provide additional financing toward that end. Several of the municipalities we studied have similar programs utilizing existing city parks for off-leash exercise, based upon well-defined guidelines and regulations. These include Alexandria, Virginia, and several cities in and around the Toronto metropolitan region, including the City of Toronto, City of Etobicoke (Attachment 4), City of Mississauga, Portland, Oregon, and Mt. Tabor (Attachment 5).

2. *Recommendations (obviously predicated on City Council making necessary modifications to the city code)*

Option A: Neighborhood Park Off-leash Programs with Owner/Dog Certification

This would be designed to implement a tightly-controlled pilot program in a few parks. It would allow certified dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash during limited, specified hours when these parks are un/under-utilized by others.

Objectives:

1. To put the emphasis on the responsibilities of dog ownership and recognize the potential for moderating/affecting dog behavior by training and by owner education.
2. To ensure that the owner is fully-responsible for his/her companion dog, for knowing its temperament, and for ensuring its proper training, socialization, and care.
3. To allow those who demonstrate their willingness to act responsibly to do so.

Program Specifics:

1. Choose two or three parks for one year pilot project.
2. Convene a working group of obedience training professional and dog owners to develop a standardized curriculum with agreed-upon learning objectives/performance standards and testing requirements which would result in reasonably uniform certification of dogs and their owners for the special off-leash certification program. (Bear in mind that we routinely require people to undergo training and/or be tested on performance or on a certain body of knowledge before we grant them licenses or privileges for activities which we believe have a potential for injury that could be minimized through training and licensure.)
3. Owners of companion dogs completing such a certification program would be required to purchase a special permit (a \$100/year, except in case of financial hardship?), and sign a waiver of liability agreement. A permit is issued to an individual dog and its designated handler(s); must be displayed on dog; is non-transferable; and is renewable with proof of current vaccinations.
4. Certified owners of certified companion dogs would be allowed to exercise the latter off-leash during certain specified hours in pilot parks. This time-zoning, used in other recreational applications, could be adjusted seasonally. For example, 6:00 - 7:30 a.m. and

9:00 - 10:30 p.m. April 1st through October 31st; from Nov. 1st through March 31st, the hours could be expanded somewhat.

5. All vaccinations must be in order for this certification.
6. Male dogs must be neutered
7. Maximum of two dogs off-leash per handler.

Voluntary Component:

Neighborhood associations composed of permitted dog owners can assist in the operation of this program by addressing other dog owners as to their responsibilities under the current leash law; by assisting the Parks Department and Animal Control in any promotional/educational campaigns; and by monitoring compliance with the program and assisting with resolution of identified problems.

Financing:

1. Permit noted above.
2. Larger fines for dog owners not certified and for certified folks not adhering to specified hours (and/or permit revocation in the latter case).
3. Significantly increase existing licensing fees (\$25 for City of Ann Arbor dogs?), while instituting low income/senior citizen discounts for spay-neutering their dogs.
4. *REQUIRE* sale of licenses to owners of unlicensed dogs by local veterinary practices and the Humane Society.

Option B: Neighborhood Park Off-leash Programs with Owner/Dog Screening Design Specifics:

1. The program would be based on Neighborhood Park Off-leash Committees, comprising volunteer neighborhood residents. To provide overall leadership, a volunteer citizen Off leash Board, perhaps under the auspices of PAC, could be created. Among other things, the Board would:
 - a. develop procedures for establishing neighborhood off-leash programs and committees,
 - b. develop standards for qualifying dogs and their owners,
 - c. set fees for the permit,
 - d. establish procedures for reviewing complaints and revoking permits,
 - e. create standards that define what constitutes adequate control of off-leashed dogs,
 - f. determine how permittee and their dogs would be identified in the field. (Our task force has assembled information from other cities' programs to which the Board could refer.)
2. The neighborhood committees would develop and administer an off-leash program for their neighborhood park. The plan would outline where and when off-leashing would be allowed. The Department of Parks and Recreation would approve the plans (based on guidelines developed with the Off-leash Board).
3. To become a member of a program, an applicant and their dog would need to meet certain criteria (to be developed by the Park Department with the Off-leash Board) to reasonably

- ensure that the dog is able to be controlled by the owner. Screening could be by a panel of vets, dog trainers, and experienced dog owners. Applicants would sign a statement acknowledging risks and responsibilities of participating in the program.
4. The committee would issue an off-leash permit identification number. A list of all numbers, with the corresponding description of owners and dogs, would be provided to dog law enforcement. (A permit holder could participate in any neighborhood off-leash program, not just that of their own neighborhood park.)
 5. The neighborhood committee chairperson would be the contact for any citizen complaints, or complaints from the Park Department or law enforcement. It would be the responsibility of the committee to solve problems by changing its park's off-leash program or by revoking permits.
 6. The Park Department could terminate any neighborhood park off-leash program it determined was not successful.

Financing:

Similar to the Off-leash Certification Program, perhaps with a less expensive or free permit.

Attachments

1. The Humane Society of the United States - a statement on Dog Parks
2. National Recreation and Parks Association
22377 Belmont Ridge Road. Ashburn, Virginia 20148
"Planning Parks for Pets"
3. Excerpts from the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey, April 1998
4. Etobicoke, Ontario
5. Portland, Oregon - Mt. Tabor Leash Law.

Communities Researched - twenty-five different park systems

Australia - Victoria
California - Huntington Beach, Sunnyvale, Santa Rosa, Santa Clara, Novato, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Berkeley and Petaluma
Illinois - Lake County
Minnesota - Plymouth
Nebraska - Lincoln
New York - New York City
Ontario, Canada - Mississauga, East York, Etobicoke, Toronto
Oregon - Portland, Eugene, Ashland
Virginia - Alexandria
Washington - Genessee, Seattle
Wisconsin - Madison

Experts Lending Assistance

Ron Fisher - Expert witness on dog behavior, specializing in dog bite and abuse cases
Allen Sibinic - Humane Society of the United States
City Attorney - Abigail Elias
City Risk Manager - Dan Cullen

Examples of Dog Park Rules from Other Communities

- Most communities are using some of the following rules or some variation of these rules. I have also included some of the questions and issues that the rules will bring about.
- Dogs must have a permit - a permit must be displayed on the dog
- Develop an agreement to be signed in order for the permit to be issued
- Permit fees
- Permit per dog or per person
- Permits can be revoked
- Dogs must be accompanied by an adult human at all times
- Children (age?) are not allowed unless accompanied by a guardian
- No children under age 12
- No puppies less than 6 months
- No puppies without a complete course of vaccinations

- No sick dogs
- Dogs in heat are not allowed
- Dogs must have a rabies tag and a dog license on their collars at all times
- No human food
- No dog food except bite-sized treats IE. No food in bowls, no rawhide, no long-lasting chewies
- No more than two dogs per person
- Owner/handler must have a leash for each dog. Dogs must be on a leash until inside the area
- Owner/handler must keep dogs under observation
- Dogs must be under control at all times in all areas (define under control)
- Leash dogs immediately if it displays aggressive behavior toward any person or animal or is not responding to commands
- Keep dogs from running up to, and jumping on, other people and their dogs unless permission has been granted by the other owners
- Dogs and owners creating a problem must leave when requested (requested by whom . . . define problems)
- Dogs with a history of inflicting bite injury in public parks must wear a muzzle (define history and bite Vicious and dangerous dogs are prohibited (How would this be determined and enforced)
- No excessive barking (will excessive need to be clarified?)
- Owners/handlers must carry some type of poop scooper
- Poop must be immediately picked up and properly disposed of in designated containers (according to current ordinances, owners of leader dogs for the blind are exempt)
- Dogs are not permitted to dig holes, chase wildlife or destroy vegetation
- No blank pistols or birds used for training
- No glass, littering, or motorized equipment (what about motorized wheelchairs?)
- No roller blades or bikes
- Some communities state that dogs are not allowed in any nondesignated parks
- Off-leash areas are only open during park hours
- Off-leash areas are used at your own risk
- Signs

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Although The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) does not have a formal policy addressing dog parks, we strongly advocate responsible pet ownership, which includes providing pets with plenty of exercise, training and socializing pets, protecting pets' health and safety, supervising outdoor activities and not permitting pets to roam, obeying animal control laws, and not allowing pets to become public nuisances.

" A dog park, defined as a fenced public park designated specifically for the use of dogs and their owners and managed by the users in cooperation with local government, provides many benefits to the community. The HSUS is aware of successful dog parks across the country, and we support the efforts of local governments and concerned citizens to establish similar programs. . . . "

Obviously, for the community's dogs, a dog park is a wonderful and safe place to engage in vigorous exercise, which is essential for the animals' physical and emotional well-being. For many dogs, the dog park may provide the only opportunity they have to interact with other dogs and people other than their owners. Dogs who are well-socialized are less likely to develop behavioral problems, such as aggression.

For dog owners, the dog park is an opportunity to exercise and socialize, too, strengthening the bonds they share with their pets and fellow citizens. Residents may share information about responsible pet ownership and community events--in short, the dog park fosters a community spirit.

For those who do not own dogs and, perhaps, do not look kindly on them, the dog park has the effect of segregating the animals from those who prefer not to interact with them. These residents will be less likely to encounter dogs, both on and off leash, as they travel through the community.

The successful dog park should provide a buffer zone between the park and the nearest neighbors, to cut down on noise and odors. It should be marked with appropriate signage explaining the concept of the park and stating the rules of use.

Establishing a dog park benefits general public health and safety, too. With more dogs exercising in the dog park, there should be fewer dog-related problems in other parts of the community. Since the dog park is fenced, dogs are prevented from escaping the play area, and small children are prevented from entering it. Because the dogs that use the park are socialized and under owner control, fewer accidents occur. Dog feces are concentrated in one area, where rules have been established (and are more likely to be enforced) stating that owners must clean up after their pets. Also, because there is an established area for dogs to exercise off-leash, animal care and control authorities should find it easier to enforce leash laws.

PLANNING PARKS FOR PETS

1996, 28 pages Code: PARKPETS
Retail: \$17.50 NRPA member: \$12.35

Historically, local ordinances have excluded dogs from public spaces for a variety of reasons. However, this standard practice is giving way to an understanding that pets and their owners can safely and equitably coexist in public park spaces with non-pet users. Especially in urban settings where exercise space for pets is limited, parks become a natural place for activity. This publication provides a resource for pursuing the development of pet park areas by using the experiences of other agencies that have already developed pet parks.

National Recreation & Park Association
Publications Center
22377 Belmont Ridge Road
Ashburn, VA 20148



Park Planning

From the National Recreation and Park Association

PUBLICATIONS

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey - April 1998

Q. 18: How do you feel about uncontrolled dogs in the parks?

	RESPONDENT AGE			GENDER		HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION			
	18-59	60+	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	12 YRS OR UNDER	13-17 YRS	18-59 YRS	60 YRS OR OVER
TOTAL	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539	132
TOTAL ANSWERING	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539	132
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 - Not a Problem At All	124	113	10	54	70	29	11	115	18
	20.6	21.5	14.0	23.1	19.0	18.7	15.8	21.3	13.7
2	120	112	8	45	75	38	12	114	19
	20.0	21.3	10.5	19.2	20.5	24.6	17.2	21.2	14.8
3	87	80	6	31	55	20	12	82	15
	14.4	15.3	8.5	13.4	15.1	12.7	17.2	15.1	11.7
4	48	42	6	18	30	18	9	43	10
	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.6	8.2	11.3	13.4	8.0	7.4
5	57	49	8	24	33	18	5	50	13
	9.5	9.3	11.0	10.1	9.0	11.9	7.7	9.3	10.0
6	29	22	7	13	16	5	7	22	7
	4.9	4.3	9.5	5.6	4.4	3.4	9.6	4.2	5.2
7	33	28	5	9	24	11	3	28	9
	5.5	5.3	7.0	3.8	6.5	6.8	3.8	5.2	6.8
8	22	17	5	13	9	4	3	19	9
	3.7	3.3	7.0	5.7	2.4	2.8	3.8	3.5	6.8
9	6	4	2	1	5	-	-	5	2
	1.0	0.8	3.0	0.6	1.3	-	-	0.9	1.6
10 - A Severe Problem	27	24	3	8	19	4	1	24	12
	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.3	5.3	2.5	1.9	4.5	9.5
Total 8, 9, or 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't Know	33	28	5	13	20	4	4	28	6
	5.5	5.3	7.0	5.6	5.4	2.5	5.7	5.2	4.8
Refused/Not Applicable	15	8	7	5	11	4	3	8	10
	2.5	1.5	10.0	2.0	2.9	2.8	3.8	1.5	7.5
MEAN	3.63	3.52	4.60	3.54	3.70	3.45	3.62	3.54	4.58
STANDARD DEVIATION	2.54	2.49	2.73	2.49	2.57	2.24	2.19	2.51	2.94
STANDARD ERROR	0.12	0.13	0.21	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.32	0.13	0.25

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FGHI
Oneway ANOVA for Means
Homogenous groups are represented by the same letter and are significantly different from other groups at the 95% level.
Demand Research, Inc.

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Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey - April 1998

Q. 19: How do you feel about dog droppings in the parks?

	RESPONDENT AGE				GENDER		HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION				
	18-59		60+		MALE	FEMALE	12 YRS OR UNDER		13-17 YRS 18-59 YRS		60 YRS OR OVER
	TOTAL	18-59	60+	MALE	FEMALE	OR UNDER	13-17 YRS	18-59 YRS	60 YRS OR OVER		
TOTAL	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539	132		
TOTAL ANSWERING	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539	132		
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
1 - Not a Problem At All	70	63	7	34	36	21	11	65	15		
	11.7	12.0	9.5	14.6	9.9	13.6	15.8	12.1	11.2		
2	96	90	6	32	64	28	8	90	13		
	16.0	17.0	8.5	13.5	17.5	17.8	11.5	16.7	9.7		
3	87	79	8	34	52	21	9	81	14		
	14.5	15.0	10.5	14.7	14.3	13.6	13.4	15.0	10.8		
4	42	38	4	20	22	13	7	39	6		
	7.0	7.3	5.0	8.6	5.9	8.5	9.6	7.3	4.7		
5	102	94	8	36	66	27	15	94	18		
	17.0	17.8	11.5	15.6	17.9	17.4	21.0	17.5	13.3		
6	38	34	4	16	22	11	3	35	12		
	6.4	6.5	5.5	6.8	6.1	6.8	3.8	6.6	9.0		
7	43	38	5	19	24	12	4	38	7		
	7.2	7.3	6.5	8.1	6.5	7.6	5.7	7.1	5.6		
8	24	18	5	10	13	9	4	19	5		
	3.9	3.5	7.0	4.5	3.6	5.9	5.7	3.6	3.8		
9	12	7	5	6	6	4	1	8	8		
	2.0	1.3	7.5	2.6	1.6	2.5	1.9	1.4	6.1		
10 - A Severe Problem	30	25	5	9	21	4	4	26	12		
	5.0	4.8	7.0	3.7	5.9	2.8	5.7	4.8	8.9		
Total 8, 9, or 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Don't Know	35	28	8	7	28	4	3	29	12		
	5.9	5.3	10.5	3.2	7.6	2.5	3.8	5.3	8.8		
Refused/Not Applicable	21	13	8	9	12	1	1	14	11		
	3.5	2.5	11.0	4.0	3.2	0.8	1.9	2.6	8.0		
MEAN	4.28	4.18	5.19	4.23	4.32	4.18	4.31	4.19	5.00		
STANDARD DEVIATION	2.53	2.46	2.93	2.51	2.54	2.45	2.60	2.47	2.91		
STANDARD ERROR	0.12	0.13	0.23	0.19	0.16	0.23	0.37	0.13	0.25		

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HE
Onway ANOVA for Means
Homogenous groups are represented by the same letter and are significantly different from other groups at the 95% level.
Demand Research, Inc.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey - April 1998

Q. 29: How important is establishing off-leash activity areas for dogs to you and to others in your h/h?

	RESPONDENT AGE		GENDER		HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION			
	18-59	60+	MALE	FEMALE	12 YRS OR UNDER	13-17 YRS	18-59 YRS	60 YRS OR OVER
TOTAL	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539
TOTAL ANSWERING	600	528	72	233	367	155	69	539
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 - Not at All Important	96	82	14	33	63	31	13	84
	16.0	15.5	20.0	14.3	17.2	19.8	19.1	15.5
2	46	40	7	24	22	12	4	41
	7.7	7.5	9.5	10.5	6.0	7.6	5.7	7.6
3	29	26	3	10	19	9	3	26
	4.9	5.0	4.0	4.4	5.2	5.9	3.8	4.9
4	17	15	3	6	11	7	4	15
	2.8	2.8	3.5	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.7	2.8
5	76	70	6	28	48	18	7	71
	12.7	13.3	8.5	12.2	13.0	11.9	10.1	13.2
6	48	45	3	27	21	10	3	46
	8.0	8.5	4.0	11.4	5.8	6.2	3.8	8.5
7	64	58	6	31	33	15	8	59
	10.7	11.0	8.5	13.4	9.0	9.3	11.5	10.9
8	67	58	9	21	46	18	11	60
	11.2	11.0	12.5	8.9	12.6	11.9	15.3	11.0
9	35	30	5	11	24	11	3	32
	5.8	5.8	6.5	4.7	6.5	6.8	3.8	5.9
10 - Extremely Important	99	88	10	30	68	21	12	90
	16.4	16.8	14.0	13.0	18.6	13.8	17.2	16.7
Total 8, 9, or 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't Know	18	13	4	9	9	3	3	14
	2.9	2.5	6.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	3.8	2.5
Refused/Not Applicable	5	3	2	2	3	1	3	2
	0.8	0.5	3.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.6
MEAN	5.71	5.75	5.38	5.51	5.83	5.40	5.70	5.41
STANDARD DEVIATION	3.15	3.13	3.37	3.02	3.23	3.22	3.27	3.13
STANDARD ERROR	0.14	0.16	0.25	0.22	0.19	0.30	0.46	0.16

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FGHI
One-way ANOVA for Means
Homogenous groups are represented by the same letter and are significantly different from other groups at the 95% level.
Demand Research, Inc.

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City of Etobicoke Fax

A Message from Etobicoke Animal Centre



ETOBICOKE

From Eletta Purdy
Etobicoke Animal Centre
146 The East Mall
Etobicoke, ON M8Z 5V5

Bus: (416) 394-8110
Fax: (416) 394-8682

Date December 10, 1997

Included Page(s) 4 * including Cover Sheet *

Organization City of Anarbour, Michigan

Individual Councillor Owen Jansson

Fax Number 313-936-9288

Subject *Leash Free Park Information*

Comments

I have attached our protocol on determining Leash Free Zones/Times in Parks. The process provides the community with an opportunity to determine if, where and how a leash free park area is established. The various city and community officials provide input regarding what areas/parks are more feasible for this purpose. There are no preset formal rules other than parks must be over .5 hectares before considering leash free privileges. Council also past a motion that the leash free zone and times may be changed or the privilege removed at any time. Reasons for revoking the zone include dog owners breaking the existing by-laws, such as "Stoop and Scoop," contravening the Dog Owners' Liability Act (attachment) or the community determining that they no longer want the area. Under the D.O.L. Act, dog owners must prevent their dog from biting and attacking a person or domestic animal. Final proposals submitted to Council include any specific rules

If copies are not legible, please call immediately.

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and requirements which are developed by the Ad-hoc Committee for that specific park.

I hope this is useful information. We have had limited experience with leash free parks, so I would recommend that you contact two of my colleges as follows: Mr. Jim Badow, City of Toronto Animal Control: 416-392-6767, and Mr. Du Rose, City of Mississauga: 905-896-5858.

Should you require further information please feel free to call me.

Eletta Purdy,
General Manager,
Etobicoke Animal Centre

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ETOBICOKE

**PARKS AND
RECREATION SERVICES**

**PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING "LEASH FREE" ZONES/TIMES
IN PUBLIC PARKS GREATER THAN .5 HECTARES**

1. If a park is greater than .5 hectares in area and does not have a "leash free" zone/times, and dog owners who regularly use a specific park are interested in having a "leash free" zone/times established in that park, then the dog owner shall be encouraged to consult with other park users and to contact their municipal Councillor with such a request.
2. If there is sufficient interest, then the Councillor will hold/chair a neighbourhood meeting, widely publicize such meeting and have representatives from the Parks and Recreation Services, Metropolitan Toronto Police and Animal Centre Division in attendance.
3. At the neighbourhood meeting everyone who wishes to speak will be provided with an opportunity to do so, but firm time limits shall be set for each presentation.
4. A record will be made of the names of all identified individuals, who are interested in sitting on an Ad-hoc Committee, to work out the details of the proposal. The Ward Councillor or her/his representative would chair such committee. All interest groups should be represented.
5. The Ad-hoc Committee shall then draft a proposal and if deemed necessary, hold another public meeting for feedback on the proposal.
6. The Ad-hoc Committee shall then submit the final proposal to Council for approval.
7. The appropriate signs shall be installed and staff advised of zone/times, plus any other necessary steps to institute the proposal.

City of Etobicoke - Animal Centre

146 The East Mall, Etobicoke, ON M8Z 5V5 TEL (416) 394-8110 FAX (416) 394-8682

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CITY OF ETOBICOKE ANIMAL CENTRE

As a dog owner you should know
your responsibility regarding
this important Provincial Law

DOG OWNERS' LIABILITY ACT Revised Statute of Ontario Chapter D.16

Definition

1. In this Act, "owner", when used in relation to a dog, includes a person who possesses or harbours the dog and, where the owner is a minor, the person responsible for the custody of the minor. ("propriétaire") R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 1.

Liability of owner

2.—(1) The owner of a dog is liable for damages resulting from a bite or attack by the dog on another person or domestic animal. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 2 (1); 1989, c. 84, s. 20 (1).

Where more than one owner

(2) Where there is more than one owner of a dog, they are jointly and severally liable under this section.

Extent of liability

(3) The liability of the owner does not depend upon knowledge of the propensity of the dog or fault or negligence on the part of the owner, but the court shall reduce the damages awarded in proportion to the degree, if any, to which the fault or negligence of the plaintiff caused or contributed to the damages.

Contribution by person at fault

(4) An owner who is liable to pay damages under this section is entitled to recover contribution and indemnity from any other person in proportion to the degree to which the other person's fault or negligence caused or contributed to the damages. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 2 (2-4).

Application of Occupiers' Liability Act

3.—(1) Where damage is caused by being bitten or attacked by a dog on the premises of the owner, the liability of the owner is determined under this Act and not under the *Occupiers' Liability Act*.

Protection of persons or property

(2) Where a person is on premises with the intention of committing, or in the commission of, a criminal act on the premises and incurs damage caused by being bitten or attacked by a dog, the owner is not liable under section 2 unless the keeping of the dog on the premises was unreasonable for the purpose of the protection of persons or property. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 3.

Proceeding against owner of dog

4.—(1) Where it is alleged that a dog has bitten or attacked a person or domestic animal, a proceeding may be commenced against the owner of the dog and the proceeding is one to which Part IX of the *Provincial Offences Act* applies. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 4 (1); 1989, c. 84, s. 20 (2).

Order

(2) Where, in a proceeding under subsection (1), the Ontario Court (Provincial Division) finds that the dog has bitten or attacked a person or domestic animal, and the court is satisfied that an order is necessary for the protection of the public, the court may order,

- (a) that the dog be destroyed in such manner as is provided in the order; or
- (b) that the owner of the dog take such steps as are provided in the order for the more effective control of the dog. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 4 (2); 1989, c. 84, s. 20 (3), *revised*.

Considerations

(3) In exercising its powers to make an order under subsection (2), the court may take into consideration the following circumstances:

1. The past and present temperament and behaviour of the dog.
2. The seriousness of the injuries caused by the biting or attack.
3. Unusual contributing circumstances tending to justify the action of the dog.
4. The improbability that a similar attack will be repeated.
5. The dog's physical potential for inflicting harm.
6. Precautions taken by the owner to preclude similar attacks in the future.
7. Any other circumstances that the court considers to be relevant. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 4 (3).

Penalty

(4) An owner who contravenes an order made under subsection (2) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding \$5,000. R.S.O. 1980, c. 124, s. 4 (4); 1989, c. 72, s. 18, *part*.

Owner to prevent dog from attacking

5.—(1) The owner of a dog shall exercise reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from biting or attacking a person or domestic animal.

Offence

(2) An owner who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence. 1989, c. 84, s. 20 (4).

1A77
 PARKS WITH LEASH FREE AREAS IN THE CITY OF TORONTO (D)

PARK	LEASH FREE TIMES	LEASH FREE AREAS THESE AREAS ARE APPROXIMATE. IN ALL CASES PLEASE GO BY THE MAP POSTED IN THE PARK
High Park 1873 Bloor St. W. at Parkside Dr.	24 hrs (excluding 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM during stage productions at the Dream Site)	Open area west of the Dream Site and the allotment Gardens and NorthEast of the Grenadier Restaurant (known as dog hill)
Park Drive Reservation Lands 200 Park Drive at Mount Pleasant Rd.	24 hrs	East of Glen Road, north of the Nature Trail (north of Milkman's Road)
Cedarvale Ravine 1611 Bathurst St. at Lotisdale Rd.	24 hrs	Between Bathurst and Spadina, south of Millbank Ave.
Sherwood Park 1200 Mt. Pleasant Rd. at Sherwood Av.	24 hrs	East end of Park (natural area)
Nordheimer Ravine 326 Spadina Rd. at St. Clair Av.	24 hrs	South of St. Clair, west of Spadina
Bickford Park 400 Grace St. at Harbord St.	* May 1 - Oct. 15 Mon-Sat 9:00PM - 9:00AM Sunday 5:30 PM - 9:00 AM * Oct. 16 - Apr. 30 24 hrs	South of School, north of playing field
Cawthra Square 519 Church St. at Wellesley St. E.	7:00 AM to 9:30 AM, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM	North end of park, north of path
Greenwood Park 150 Greenwood Av. at Dundas St. East.	6:00 AM to 8:00 AM	South end of Park, south of ice rink and field house
Trinity Bellwoods Park 790 Queen St. W. at Shaw St.	10:00 PM to 8:00 AM	Centre of park, between walkways
Cassels Avenue Playground 69 Cassels Av. at Brookside Av.	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM	North end of park, north of field house.
Withrow Park 725 Logan Av. at Danforth Av.	24 hrs	South of the ice rink, north of the baseball diamond between the two hills.

 Please see other side for more parks.

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<p>Oakerest Park 30 Oakcrest Av. at Woodbine Av.</p>	<p>7:00 AM to 8:00 AM 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM 9:30 PM to 10:00 PM</p>	<p>South end of park, south of wading pool.</p>
<p>East Lynn Park 1949 Danforth Av. at East Lynn Av</p>	<p>9:30 PM to midnight</p>	<p>Whole Park</p>
<p>Monarch Park 115 Hanson St. at CNR tracks</p>	<p>June 1 - Sep. 30 - 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM October 1 - May 31 - 24 hrs</p>	<p>East of wading pool and playground, bordered by Parkmount Road and CNR railway lands.</p>
<p>David Crombie Park 131 to 171 The Esplanade at Lower Sherbourne St.</p>	<p>6:00 AM to 8:00 AM 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM</p>	<p>Southwest corner of Lower Sherbourne and The Esplanade</p>
<p>Kew Gardens 2075 Queen St. E at Lee Ave.</p>	<p>24 hrs</p>	<p>Southwest of baseball diamond, from bottom of slope to paved pathways running east\west and north\south.</p>
<p>Eastern Beaches 77 Kew Beach Ave. - Silverbirch Ave. east to R.H. Harris Filtration Plant - Silverbirch Ave. west to Lakeshore & Coxwell Ave.</p>	<p>- 24 hrs, 12 months - 24 hrs, winter months (Oct. to May)</p>	<p>- between fence and concrete retaining wall. - between snow fence and waters edge.</p>
<p>Hillcrest Park 950 Davenport RD. at Christie</p>	<p>24 hrs. 12 months</p>	<p>south of playground and tennis courts to natural slope designated by snow fence</p>
<p>Riverdale Park West 375 Sunach St. at Carlton St. - West of farm - Lower playing fields southeast of Farm.</p>	<p>- May 2 - Nov 14 - leashed at all times - Nov 15 - May 1 - 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM - 24 hrs</p>	<p>- Park area west of Riverdale Farm, the upper park. - East of service road only</p>

Maps of individual parks are available on request.

As of May 1, 1997

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Toronto's Municipality code provides for the following penalties:

- Dog running at large or dog off leash - \$105 to \$5,000.
- failing to Scoop and Scoop - \$55 to \$2,000.
- Dogs in wading pools - up to \$1000.
- not vaccinated for rabies - up to \$5,000
- dog not licensed - \$30 to \$5,000.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER'S CODE

- vaccinate dogs and cats against rabies and other killer diseases.
- identify and licence your pet so it can be returned home safely if it gets lost.
- have your pet spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted kittens and puppies.
- all pets "need" food, shelter, and clean water.
- give your dog plenty of exercise but keep it on a leash. Strays may cause road accidents or damage property and you are legally responsible for your dogs conduct.
- Scoop and scoop after your dog, especially in areas where children play.
- Give your dog plenty of attention, especially if its out all day. It unfair to your dog and your neighbours if its always barking.
- train your dog to come, sit, and stay.

RIVERDALE PARK

Off leash areas

After a series of public meetings, in an effort to meet the interests of the park users, the following areas and times are hereby free on a trial basis:

- the Flat area at bottom of Riverdale Park 24 hours-a-day, 365 days of the year, excluding active playing areas.

- the upper Park area from November to April from 5:00 pm to 9:00 am.

Dogs in the upper Park area must be leashed at all other times.

Dogs are NOT permitted in the wading pools at any time.

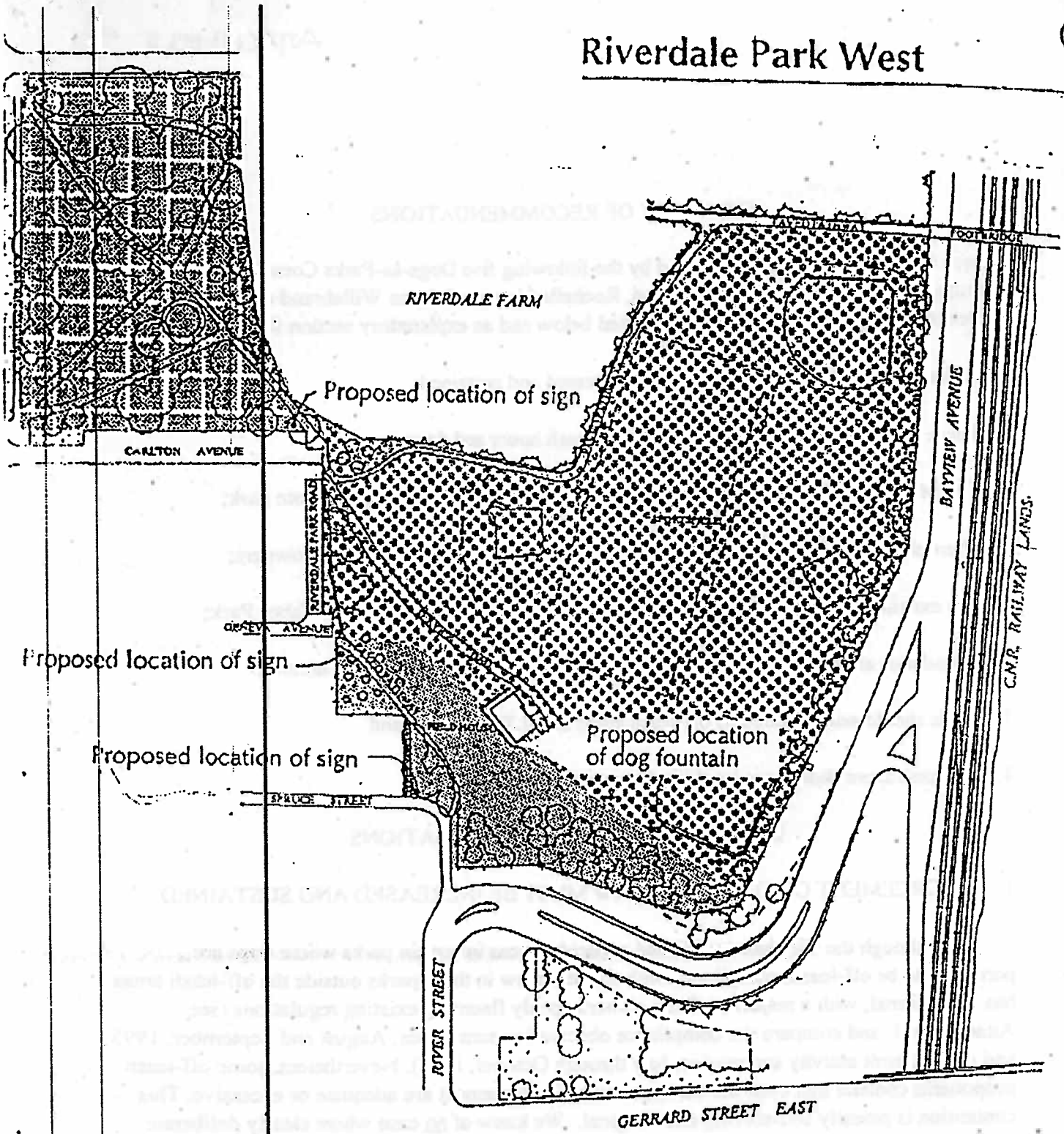
Owners and handlers must scoop and scoop after their dogs, in ALL areas, at all times.



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(B2)

Riverdale Park West



LEGEND

- May 2 - Nov. 14. Dogs must be LEASHED at ALL TIMES.
- Nov. 15 - May 1. Dogs may be UNLEASHED from 5 PM to 9 AM.
- Dogs must be LEASHED until they are east of the service area.
- Dogs permitted OFF LEASH all year, but must remain under control and avoid active playing areas.

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are submitted by the following five Dogs-in-Parks Committee Members: Keith Collier, Amy Hammond, Rochelle Lessner, Johnna Willebrand and Rick Willebrand. The recommendations are listed below and an explanatory section follows:

1. Enforcement of the leash law must be increased and sustained;
2. There should not be special park-wide off-leash hours and days;
3. The Mt. Tabor off-leash area should be relocated to another more appropriate park;
4. There should be no special amenities in Mt. Tabor Park for dogs and their owners;
5. The existing Mt. Tabor off-leash area should not be relocated within Mt. Tabor Park;
6. Boundaries are necessary for off-leash areas and should be definite and natural;
7. Trails should not be added as off-leash areas in Mt. Tabor Park; and
8. Off-leash areas should not be shifted by season.

EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEASH LAW MUST BE INCREASED AND SUSTAINED

Although the City has established particular areas in certain parks where dogs are permitted to be off-leash, compliance with the leash law in these parks outside the off-leash areas has been dismal, with a majority of dog owners openly flaunting existing regulations (see Attachment 1, and compare the compliance observation summaries, August and September, 1995 and enforcement activity summaries, July through October, 1995). Nevertheless, some off-leash proponents contend that even the current levels of enforcement are adequate or excessive. This contention is patently self-serving and illogical. We know of no case where clearly deliberate non-compliance with public health and safety laws supports the conclusion that existing enforcement levels are adequate.

We advocate the right of everyone to enjoy the parks so long as their use does not endanger others or diminish their rights to enjoy the parks. Let there be no mistake--no member of this committee has ever suggested that dogs be banned from parks. We ask only that they be on leashes outside the off-leash areas. The law requiring that dogs be leashed in public places is not a legislative accident; it addresses the reality that off-leash dogs pose health and safety problems.

Those who disfavor enforcement chant "Education! More Space! Hours and Days!"

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Amenities!" as solutions to the current lack of compliance with the leash law. To suggest that the off-leash concept and program is now so complicated that failure to comply several months after the program has been in place results from a lack of understanding insults the intelligence of dog owners and ignores objective observations in the parks. To suggest that luring more dogs to the parks with increased amenities and more space would increase compliance is ludicrous. Lack of dog watering troughs, benches or more space has nothing to do with the reasons that people choose not to leash their dogs. Given that the majority of dog owners choose not to comply with the law, attracting more dogs to the parks will simply attract more violators.

This is not a complicated program. Though clearer boundaries and public information efforts might marginally improve compliance with the leash law, and adding amenities for dogs might increase their enjoyment of the parks, the vast majority of off-leash proponents will continue to thumb their noses at the rules. Why? Because they can get away with it and they do not suffer the impact on their use of the park. Everyone else does.

With the establishment of the experimental off-leash program, dog owners received a privilege: for the first time, they were lawfully permitted to exercise their dogs off-leash in a public place. This was part of a bargain intended to balance the interests of all park users. As a group, the dog owners have not so far voluntarily lived up to their end of the bargain to leash their dogs when they are outside of the off-leash areas. If increased enforcement cannot convince them to do so, the program should be terminated.

2. THERE SHOULD NOT BE SPECIAL PARK-WIDE OFF-LEASH HOURS AND DAYS

As it stands, the experimental off-leash program is as simple and straightforward as it can be—dogs may be off-leash in the off-leash areas, and must be on-leash everywhere else at all times. Many off-leash proponents claim that lack of compliance results from confusion about the rules. Nevertheless, they contend that there should be specific times and even full days that entire multiple-use parks should be converted to all-off-leash areas. This suggests that we can surrender an entire multiple use park to off-leash dog owners during certain times and days, and expect them to return it at all other times.

Even if there were some reason to believe that this improbable bargain would stick, it flies in the face of the basic tenet that public parks are for everyone. It also ignores all the reasons that dogs are required to be leashed in public places and the fact that significant restrictions are placed on other park uses. In effect, this proposal would deny the right of other parks users to enjoy the park during the special times and days. Further, one major reason for requiring dogs to be on leash is to protect nesting birds and other wildlife. Unlike human park users, birds and other wildlife cannot schedule their use of the park to protect themselves from off-leash dogs.

A specific example shows the folly of designating the entire park as off-leash during certain times or days. The City formally recognizes Mt. Tabor as a "major recreational cycling destination" (see Attachment 2, the City of Portland Draft Bicycle Master Plan, August 30, 1995, page 16). Off-leash dogs are a serious hazard to bicyclists (as well as potential liability for the

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City). How can the City in good conscience invite scores of off-leash dogs onto the same roadways to which it invites bicyclists? Giving unrestricted use at any particular time or day to off-leash dogs denies other users the opportunity to safely enjoy the park from the other at those times. It pits user groups against each other and creates an unwinnable competition for unrestricted use at particular times. The park should be equally accessible and safe for everyone regardless of the hour, day or season.

If dog owners' demands are elevated above those of all other users during certain times or days, the City will be hard-pressed to deny the same special privilege to other groups of users--walkers, cyclists, runners, bird watchers, picnickers, elderly, children, skateboarders, and golf frisbee teams. These and other legitimate park users might also prefer to have their times and days when park rules are modified to conform to their special activities. The problem is obvious and the slope is a slippery one. No one will enjoy using a park for which every hour or day is reserved for a particular user group. The City will not enjoy administering it.

3. THE MT. TABOR OFF-LEASH AREA SHOULD BE RELOCATED TO ANOTHER MORE APPROPRIATE PARK

We strongly recommend that the off-leash area in Mt. Tabor Park be relocated to a different, more appropriate park in Portland. First, Mt. Tabor is a heavily used, multiple-use area that is considered a regional park by the City. It is enjoyed by joggers, bird watchers, cyclists, picnickers, and walkers, both elderly and young. The children's playground within the park lies on the direct route between the primary parking lot in the park and the off-leash area.

The off-leash experiment was designed to set aside a section of the park within Mt. Tabor. Given that dog-owners will not restrict their off-leash dogs to this section, nor do they generally leash their dogs on the way to the off-leash area, the whole park has effectively become an off-leash area. Further, the use of the park by dog owners has greatly intensified since the off-leash experiment has been in place, turning the park into a destination park for off-leash dogs. We see no way for the off-leash program to succeed in Mt. Tabor Park.

The off-leash area in Mt. Tabor has not so far been enforceable. Dog owners are unwilling to comply with the rules voluntarily, and Animal Control has not been able or willing to restrict off-leash dogs to the off-leash area. Some people are now effectively excluded from enjoying the park, since the off-leash area now encompasses essentially the entire park. The lack of adequate parking for all the new users now attracted to the park is a nightmare for the surrounding residents and the people who use the roads within the park.

Second, Mt. Tabor park is a recognized, designated birding sanctuary within the City of Portland. (See Attachment 3, article from *The Oregonian* identifying Mt. Tabor Park as "one of Portland's finest spots for viewing songbirds"). Dogs off-leash disrupt nesting and chase all the wildlife normally found in the park. Park users have noted the detrimental impact on the birds since the off-leash experiment was put into place.

Third, Mt. Tabor Park is also recognized and designated as a "major recreational cycling

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Amenities!" as solutions to the current lack of compliance with the leash law. To suggest that the off-leash concept and program is now so complicated that failure to comply several months after the program has been in place results from a lack of understanding insults the intelligence of dog owners and ignores objective observations in the parks. To suggest that luring more dogs to the parks with increased amenities and more space would increase compliance is ludicrous. Lack of dog watering troughs, benches or more space has nothing to do with the reasons that people choose not to leash their dogs. Given that the majority of dog owners choose not to comply with the law, attracting more dogs to the parks will simply attract more violators.

This is not a complicated program. Though clearer boundaries and public information efforts might marginally improve compliance with the leash law, and adding amenities for dogs might increase their enjoyment of the parks, the vast majority of off-leash proponents will continue to thumb their noses at the rules. Why? Because they can get away with it and they do not suffer the impact on their use of the park. Everyone else does.

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destination" by the City of Portland. (See Attachment 2, City of Portland Draft Bicycle Master Plan, August 30, 1995, page 16.) In fact, the City's plan is to specially mark the route to that park for bicyclists. The safety and liability problems caused by off-leash dogs on the roadways within Mt. Tabor park should be a major concern of the City.

There should be a park designated as an park-wide off-leash area. Mt. Tabor has in effect become such a park. It should not be.

4. TRAILS SHOULD NOT BE ADDED AS OFF-LEASH AREAS IN MT. TABOR PARK

Expansionist off-leash proponents advocate adding trails to the off-leash area in Mt. Tabor Park. Some have proposed using the trails to connect off-leash areas. At the outset, we note that, as there is only one off-leash area within the park, there are no off-leash areas to connect. Further, Mt. Tabor Park is one of the few natural, wooded urban parks with an extensive trail system. This is a precious public resource that should be protected. Adding trails to the off-leash area would exacerbate existing conflicts and enforcement problems, and would create new, difficult problems:

—Perhaps most importantly, encouraging off-leash dogs on Mt. Tabor trails is inconsistent with the City's stewardship of one of our most important urban wildlife resources. Off-leash dogs inevitably disrupt birds and other wildlife. This robs us all. No one has suggested that dogs cannot use the trails. Requiring that they be on leashes when they do so is a small price to pay to preserve the environment of Mt. Tabor Park.

—Most dog owners have been unwilling to comply with off-leash boundaries even where the area is large, open, and visually well-defined. If dogs owners are unwilling to comply now, we can hardly expect them to control their dogs on trails that lack visual or physical boundaries, surrounded by numerous attractions and distractions.

—Even if dog owners do comply and keep their dogs on the trails, this proposal will concentrate dogs and dog feces along with other park users into an even smaller area, increasing health and safety problems and conflict, and leaving no escape for those many users who want to enjoy the trails without the disturbance of off-leash dogs.

5. THERE SHOULD BE NO SPECIAL AMENITIES IN MT. TABOR PARK FOR DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS

We are aware that dog owners want special amenities to be provided in Mt. Tabor Park. We object to this proposal for the following reasons:

—Mt. Tabor Park is appreciated by the surrounding neighbors and Portland area residents for its natural character and unencumbered landscape. Structures would detract from the park's character. The Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association has voted throughout its history to keep the park in its wild, natural state and not encourage a carnival atmosphere.

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--Adding amenities to Mt. Tabor Park would concentrate usage in the already overcrowded park. People now come from Hillsboro to use the Mt. Tabor off-leash area. Adding more amenities would create a greater draw.

--The off-leash area was designed as a place for people to exercise their dogs, not as a community meeting place.

--Taxpayers should not be asked to fund expensive structures and facilities in Mt. Tabor Park such as special drinking fountains for dogs, dog agility courses, lighting, and parking lots just for one special interest group. Establishing more permanent structures for a special interest group sets a bad precedent for the City and will make it difficult to resist similar demands from other special interests.

Parks and green spaces are an important, natural respite from the frenetic pace and concrete structures of urban life. Mt. Tabor Park should be left in its natural state as much as possible.

6. THE EXISTING MT. TABOR OFF-LEASH AREA SHOULD NOT BE RELOCATED WITHIN MT. TABOR PARK

The off-leash area in Mt. Tabor Park was initially misplaced. The current location creates too much conflict with other park uses. Dog owners are reluctant to keep their dogs on-leash while walking to and from the off-leash area, and the boundaries are not clearly defined. Nevertheless, at this point, relocating the off-leash area within the park is a destructive option.

Dog owners are already accustomed to the existing off-leash area. The area has been advertised as an off-leash area and enforcement would become even more difficult if the area were relocated. Realistically, relocating the off-leash area in Mt. Tabor Park would create two off-leash areas. It would also create a sizable logistical mess for Animal Control.

7. BOUNDARIES ARE NECESSARY FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS AND SHOULD BE DEFINITE AND NATURAL

There is a consensus on the Dogs-in-Parks Committee that any off-leash area in any park needs clearly defined boundaries. This makes both voluntary compliance and enforcement easier, and alerts other users that they are entering an off-leash area. Since most parks are multiple-use and have a neighborhood character, these boundaries should be as natural as possible, such as shrubs. If fences are necessary, they should be in keeping with the character and flavor of the park. Solid wood fences are a magnet for graffiti and detract from the park's appearance. Chain link fence is inappropriate in all parks.

In order for off-leash areas to work within parks, boundaries for those areas must be:

- Definite-not just to the human eye, but in accordance with a dog's sense of a boundary;
- Natural-so that it is in keeping with the character of the park; and
- Easy to understand-so that those with off-leash dogs can claim no confusion as to the

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actual boundaries.

8. OFF-LEASH AREAS SHOULD NOT BE SHIFTED BY SEASON

There has been a suggestion to switch the area designated for off-leash use in Gabriel Park from a summer to a winter area.

The practice of shifting off-leash areas according to season or for any other reason makes the program more complicated and less enforceable. As noted above, confusion is cited as a reason for non-compliance. If off-leash areas in fixed locations are too complicated, shifting them periodically can only render them more so.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission (PAC)
FROM: Adrienne Burlingame
DATE: June 15, 1998
SUBJECT: Dog Use Task Force report

(footnotes appear on page three)

For Ann Arbor, acting on a "dog park" proposal would not only be irresponsible, it would be redundant.

Our city's parks already function as de facto "dog parks", so general is violation of the animal control ordinance (1). Indeed, violators are not just common, they are- according to Kim Rose, Animal Control officer and member of PAC's Dog Use Task Force- downright militant. Owners whom she asks to leash their dogs regularly respond with defiance and outrage so extreme, Rose says, that she's come close to being physically assaulted.

Ann Arbor isn't alone. Studies which Kim Rose supplied to the task force reveal that dog owners "unleashing" their animals on the public is currently a problem nationwide (2). And one with grave consequences. The authors- from organizations such as the Humane Society and Centers for Disease Control- report that dog attacks on people (particularly children) have reached epidemic proportions, and call for stepped-up enforcement of stricter leash laws.

Does this sound like any time, in the words of Ann Arbor Dog Park Project member and task force alternate Anne S. Chapple, "to establish one or more areas exempt from the city's leash law" (3)?

Not, one would think, in light of the fact that Director Harrison Morton is now seeking to ban dogs from the Arboretum altogether, because he's seen too many children bitten by unleashed dogs, and too many off-the-lead dogs themselves killed in dogfights.

Nor, for that matter, when our own Washtenaw County has already decided that bite-related liability risks preclude any consideration of "dog park" proposals.

While the task force's report claims that "records of safety/health/liability exist for the public and their dogs" within other municipalities' "dog parks", this is simply not true. Indeed, our City Attorney and Risk Manager have told the task force that it is the very absence of reliable statistics which obliges them to advise (as they do) against the "dog park" proposal.

Besides which, why should we start rewarding people for breaking Ann Arbor's laws (4)? And make no mistake about it, that's what creation of a "dog park" would mean. Look no further than task force member and Ann Arbor Dog Park Project (source of the "dog park" proposal at issue) founder Donna Daly, named in an Ann Arbor News article as a habitual leash law violator (5).

Moreover, contrary to the report's suggestion that "creating an off leash area(s) in the City will not alone solve current problems of leash law violations in neighborhood parks, but may eliviate (sic) the number of complaints", we have Berkeley, California's actual experience as proof that it

would only offer added incentive for such violations.

Despite having operated a "dog park" at Ohlone since the 1970s, Berkeley still- decades later!- finds itself besieged with "numerous complaints from both dog owners and non-dog owners about dogs using public parks and playgrounds" (6). Berkeley's Parks & Waterfront Department Supervisor, Edward Murphy, confirms that these complaints specifically target the dogs which are using them in defiance of the leash law.

It stands to reason. After all, in Berkeley- where provoking such widespread complaint netted offenders their first "dog park", and has now forced official consideration of establishing yet another- crime pays.

And since her arrival in our town nine years ago, ex-Berkeleyite Donna Daly (7) has been working to make it pay here as well.

This is also the effect that adoption of the report's suggestions would have, both literally and figuratively.

First, devoting extra city resources to public surveys, etc., on a "dog park" pilot project would show violators that we think they're right. The danger (already deemed unacceptable by existing law) which off-leash dogs pose to our public needn't be considered. After all, the report doesn't consider it ("dog parks" would be a dead issue otherwise), and this survey recommendation is the direct result.

It's also the direct result of what the report mistakenly chose to take as a given in place of the real, "dog bite" given. "Dog parkers'" key assertion that their idea has been enacted elsewhere, and so must be acknowledged as fundamentally sound, went unexamined. Therefore, the only question is whether it will be found to suit Ann Arbor's particular needs. That's where the surveys come in.

Thus, sponsorship of the special measures advocated by this report would not only serve to tell violators that their whim outweighs a safety-based ordinance. It would also endorse how they've behaved in Berkeley, among other places. (And when we, as kids, would say, "But mom! Everybody else is doing it! Why can't I?", what was mom's inevitable response?)

Second, increasing the number of leash law enforcement staff, when (as proposed) combined with a "dog park", would prove a positive boon to violators. Having learned that crime pays, they'd violate more often and more militantly. Added staff hired to ticket them would lead to greater likelihood of hostile confrontation. This threat might well make staff reluctant to approach those breaking the leash law. It could also cause them to support appeasing offenders with more "dog parks" in a misguided (if understandable) attempt at self-preservation.

Now, don't get me wrong: we absolutely do need more leash law enforcement personnel out there. But we sure don't need to make their job any harder than it already is.

Finally, the report proposes that we literally make crime pay by funding "dog parks" through increased leash law fines. The message to offenders: be

a scofflaw- it's for a good cause!

Neither is the specified amount of increase sufficient to provide disincentive for lawbreakers. It only rises above the current \$50 penalty for second (\$100) and third (\$200) offenses. In an affluent community like ours, especially one full of militant off-leashers, this is still small-time stuff.

What's needed here is big-time stuff, befitting our national epidemic of dog bites/bellicose leash law refuseniks: a flat \$1000 fine (no more substituting warnings for tickets!) across the board (8).

By making sure people can't afford to get caught even once, we'll stop trouble before it starts. This means fewer potentially- or actually- dangerous confrontations between violators and enforcers. It also means cost-effectiveness: you don't need that many Animal Control officers, or incessant park patrols, to police people who have such a compelling reason to police themselves- periodic sweeps alone might do the trick.

And, last but far from least, it would show that, in Ann Arbor, we place a high value on our public's health & safety... even if those who let their dogs run loose in public do not.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Letter by Matthew Fields, Ann Arbor Observer, June 1998.
- (2) "Fatal Dog Attacks, 1989-1994" by Jeffrey J. Sacks, Randall Lockwood, Janet Hornreich, and Richard W. Sattin, & "Which Dogs Bite? A Case-Control Study of Risk Factors" by Kenneth A. Gershman, Jeffrey J. Sacks, and John C. Wright, Pediatrics (both).
- (3) "Bone of Contention" by Anne S. Chapple, Ann Arbor Observer, May 1998.
- (4) "Pet Park", Editorial, The Ann Arbor News, November 19, 1997.
- (5) "Pooch Play" by Michele Morin, The Ann Arbor News, June 10, 1997.
- (6) "Environmental Initial Study of Proposed Land Use Changes at Cesar Chavez Park", City of Berkeley Parks & Waterfront Department, March 1998.
- (7) "Bone of Contention" by Anne S. Chapple, Ann Arbor Observer, May 1998.
- (8) Letter by Matthew Fields, Ann Arbor Observer, June 1998.

A photograph of two dogs running on a gravel path. In the foreground, a black and white dog is running towards the right. In the background, a golden retriever is running towards the right. The background is a grassy area.

Establishing a
Dog Park
in Your Community



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What Is a Dog Park and How Does It Benefit the Community?

With cities becoming more and more crowded and leash laws becoming more restrictive, many concerned dog owners are looking to the creation of dog parks as a solution to their need for a place to spend quality time with their pets. But just what is a “dog park,” and what benefits can one bring to your city or town?

A dog park is a public park, typically fenced, where people and their dogs can play together. Similarly, a dog run is a smaller fenced area, created for the same use, that is often located within an existing park. As the names imply, these places offer dogs off-leash play areas where their owners can enjoy a park-like setting and the chance to socialize with other canines and their owners. Dog parks, which are sometimes managed by park users in conjunction with city or town officials, are being established all over the country and offer a wealth of benefits to dogs, dog owners and the community as a whole.



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More than just “room to roam,” the creation of a dog park . . .

Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely. Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others (for example, by running into the path of an oncoming vehicle). In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well toward strangers.

Promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a city to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners with



Enclosed play areas for exercise make dogs better-adjusted neighbors.

park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside of the park.

Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize. Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community. Park users also benefit from the opportunity to ask questions of other owners and find solutions to problems they might be having with their pet.

Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, and destroy property. Their presence in the park, along with their owners, also may help deter crime.



How to **Build** a Dog Park in Your Community

By now you've recognized the need for a dog park in your area, and you're eager to see one established. But how do you get started? The following are some strategies for a successful campaign:

The First Steps . . .

Start with a core group of committed dog park activists. Talk with a half dozen other individuals who are concerned about the lack of off-leash spaces. These may be people you already know, or you may want to put a notice in the local paper. This group may form a park association and will be responsible for meeting with public officials, making presentations, maintaining the park and defusing any problems that arise.

Hold a public meeting. Once the core group is in place, a larger community meeting will help you get the word out to supporters and solicit input and suggestions. Contact other dog owners, dog-related clubs, veterinarians, and humane society and animal control officials to gather interest and support. Do so by posting, mailing, or distributing notices in areas such as neighborhood bulletin boards, pet supply stores, animals hospitals, and shelters. Encourage people to write letters of support to public officials and the media, and to make presentations to community groups whose backing would be valuable.

Educate your fellow dog owners on the need to be responsible. The owner who neglects to pick up after his dog or who allows an aggressive or unsocialized dog to run loose can do a lot of damage to your cause and undermine your chances of success.

Write a clear mission statement that details the need and purpose of the park, stressing the benefits to dog owners, their canine companions, and the greater community. The Redwood City [California] Responsible Dog Owners' statement says it all: "To establish a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. To



Dog owners who neglect to pick up after their dogs can damage your cause.



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develop a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions. To view this park as a community project, in partnership with the City of Redwood City, designed to satisfy the needs of dog-owners and non-dog owners alike.”

Choose a site. The ideal area will be a safe, accessible location that takes into account the needs of park users as well as the effect the park will have on neighbors and the environment. Please refer to “Dog Park Design” on page 15 for additional recommendations.

Create a budget. Determine how much it will cost to construct and maintain the park – costs for grass, fences, garbage removal, lawn maintenance, drinking water, field drainage, lighting, benches, and a pooper-scooper station. Some cities are willing and able to finance a dog park; others would rather share the cost with a group committed to maintaining the park and ensuring that park rules are followed. Keep in mind that, if it is within your budget to do so,

SUCCESS STORY #1

Monmouth County, New Jersey

In the summer of 1999, a newly organized group of Monmouth County dog owners petitioned the county park system and several local municipalities to establish an off-leash dog park. The Bay Shore Companion Dog Club and New Jersey D. O. G. (Dog Owners Group) helped recruit members and collect signatures from owners of the nearly 40,000 licensed dogs living in the county.

After collecting 12,000 signatures, the group presented its proposal to the county park system's Board of Recreation Commissioners and municipal park system officials. Officials agreed that a dog park would offer many benefits to residents. They talked to other counties with successful parks about liability issues, rules, and regulations, before voting to approve funding for the estab-

lishment of an off-leash area in Monmouth County. The Thompson Park Dog Run opened on October 30, 1999, to enormous popularity.

Now that the park has opened, area dog owners will concentrate on forming a core group to help keep up the site and prevent potential problems. Just because dogs are allowed to run free does not mean that owners will not be responsible for their animals' actions. There are rules to be followed, guidelines to be maintained. “Public education for dog owners will be critical to the park's success,” notes one of the organizers. The park itself provides a terrific venue for teaching people to be responsible dog owners. Members of the local dog community have already held a “Park Do's and Don'ts” seminar and plan to host future programs there.



sharing expenses with the city can be a great public relations tool. It shows officials that you are committed to the project, will help foster good community relations and may increase your chance for the park's approval.

Depending on your situation, you will have to determine how you will generate revenue for your budget. One possibility to consider is user fees – requiring all park users to pay an annual or daily fee. Permits could be obtained from the city or town or through the park association. Fund-raisers such as a dog wash or concession sale at a local dog show can also help to generate money to cover expenses and maintenance costs. Finally, consider soliciting town and city sources. By convincing elected officials that there is wide support for a dog park among taxpayers and voters, you may help encourage funding for the park.

Solicit the input and seek the approval of significant organizations in your community. Meet with the proposed park's neighbors before talking to city hall. As soon as someone brings up a concern, address it and try to come up with a solution. With a little good will and cooperation, neighborhood differences can usually be resolved.



OK, you've gathered your resources. Where do you go from here?

Create a proposal. Your well-prepared presentation will include your mission statement and goals, and should address issues such as location, funding, maintenance and enforcement. Committee members will be expected to establish and enforce reasonable health and safety rules for the park, and these should be included in the proposal as well. Suggestions for these guidelines can be found in the “Rules and Regulations” section of this brochure. A good proposal will also do the following:

Demonstrate need. Do this by gathering statistics on the dogs and the people in your community.

- How many dogs would use a dog park?
- What are the demographics of the people in your city?
- Who currently uses city parks – and who doesn't? Downplay the “dog factor” and emphasize people issues. Dogs don't pay taxes or vote.





Demonstrate support. In many communities, organizers found that a simply worded request, circulated on a petition, helped convince city officials that there was indeed both a need and widespread public support for a responsibly run dog park.

- Place petition gatherers at supermarkets, pet-supply stores and other high-traffic areas.

SUCCESS STORY #2

Sarasota County, Florida

Sarasota County is the proud home to two successful “paw parks,” thanks in part to some active AKC®-affiliated dog club members.

One long-time club member chaired the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee that approved the opening of the 17th Street Paw Park last year. The chairman and his rescued Greyhound participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that attracted the attention of enthusiastic dog owners, media and city officials alike. The overwhelming success of the 17th Street Paw Park led to the creation of a second

off-leash area at Woodmere Park in Venice, Florida. In support of the move, the Greater Venice Florida Dog Club donated a decorative sign to mark the new paw park’s location.

In the last year, county officials from across the nation have contacted the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department regarding their success in developing and maintaining paw parks. Based on the positive response community residents have had to the parks, both off-leash areas will continue to serve as models for dog groups in the future.



- Enlist the support of local veterinarians, groomers, dog walkers, and others who have a real interest in seeing a community filled with healthy, well-socialized dogs. Involve them in gathering petitions, writing letters to the editor of local papers and generally spreading the word.
- Organize local residents to contact their community representatives, parks department officials, and media in the form of letters, e-mails, and phone calls, asking for their support.
- Consider sending press releases to local media, explaining how the community will benefit from a dog park and providing information about the success of existing parks in other areas.
- You'll need to get the neighbors' approval, too. Explain your proposal to them, as well as the ways that a dog park will benefit them, and ask them to sign a separate petition stating that they are willing to have the park in their neighborhood.

Get to know local officials – your city council members and the director of your department of parks and recreation. Attend meetings, join them at fund-raisers. Find out what they need from you to move the dog park forward. To help you get started, the AKC's Government Relations Department can provide you with brochures offering tips on working with government officials.



When you're ready, request a hearing with city government to discuss your proposal. Have two or three carefully selected, knowledgeable and articulate members of your group present your plan, clearly expressing its many benefits to the community and calmly addressing any concerns. Be prepared to deal with a range of concerns, including the risk of dog fights, dog bites, noise level, parking and traffic needs, liability issues, and maintenance. Explain why some of these are nonissues – the park's dogs, for example, will be well-socialized and therefore less likely to fight, bite, and cause accidents in the community. Have a plan to address legitimate issues, like traffic and noise.

Be patient and flexible. Dealing with city government is rarely a quick process, but don't give up! Follow through with continued letters and e-mails, and be willing to work toward compromise.

SUCCESS STORY #3

Sausalito, California

In early 1991, the City of Sausalito passed a law requiring dogs to be leashed at all times within the city limits. After receiving a citation and fine for walking her dog Remington without a leash, one owner led a citizen group that worked with the city council, the parks and recreation department and the Marin Humane Society to establish a dedicated enclosed area where the dogs of Sausalito could be off leash.

During that summer volunteers raised funds to fence a 1.3 acre area in the Martin Luther King School area, located on the north side of Sausalito, to be used as a dedicated dog park. In November 1991, the "Remington Dog Park" was officially opened with a gala ribbon cutting attended by city council members, local citizens, and their dog companions.

Although the city provides utilities, including water, electricity, and garbage removal, the park has been maintained by its users since the opening. Regularly scheduled work parties cut the grass as

well as maintain and improve the grounds.

Improvements to the park in excess of \$36,000 to date have been made through donations solely from park users. In addition to original fencing the park now has lighting, a storage shed, a riding lawnmower, picnic tables, benches, a dog drinking-water area, and a "scooper" cleaning station.

The park is the home of champion show dogs as well as mixed breeds. Dog owners have adopted over 30 "rescue" dogs. Many owners now have two dogs as a result of this program.

Having received the highest rating of "4 Paws" in The California Dog Lover's Companion, the Sausalito Dog Park is now used by over 300 dogs per day. From sunup to sundown, dogs of all ages, sizes, and types can be seen romping in the park, chasing a never ending supply of tennis balls, simply lying at their masters' feet under a picnic table or on top of the picnic table demanding face-to-face attention.

(See also www.dogpark-sausalito.com.)





SUCCESS STORY #4

Tallahassee, Florida

Members of the Ochlockonee River Kennel Club are always looking for ways to give back to their community, so when the opportunity came to help with the establishment of a dog park in Tallahassee, they jumped at the chance.

The group had long realized how important it was for dog owners to have a place where they could socialize with others and let their dogs run or play Frisbee. At the same time, their community was facing problems at a nearby city park where owners were permitting their dogs to illegally roam off-leash. The solution seemed simple -build a dog park! A public committee was formed, and an ORKC board member volunteered to serve on behalf of the dog community.

While the city of Tallahassee was

receptive to the idea, it was clear that little could be done without funds for fencing, pooper-scoopers, and the like. ORKC, which donates to various organizations every year, soon agreed to give the city the \$4,000 that would be needed to fence the two-acre park. Other clubs and fanciers followed suit, donating money for watering holes, cleanup facilities, shade trees, and benches. The city even donated old fire hydrants to add to the fun.

The park has been extremely popular since its opening in the summer of 1999, and city officials, who originally agreed to open the park on a trial basis only, are now enthusiastic about developing more. Members of the ORKC are pleased to have had a helping hand in the park's establishment and see it as a great opportunity to increase awareness of responsible dog ownership.

Congratulations – they approved it! Now what?

Your efforts have been successful, and development of the dog park is moving forward. Now is the time to thank everyone who helped bring the park to fruition, including volunteers, government officials, and community residents. As a result of everyone’s hard work, many dog owners will soon have a new opportunity to enjoy their canine companions! Be sure to share this good news with the AKC’s Government Relations Department so we can pass it on to others.

The key to future and continued success of the dog park will lie in responsible park-association members and park users who strictly enforce the rules. For the most part, this will mean getting people to clean up after their dogs, quiet excessive barking and curtail any aggressive behavior. Occasionally larger issues may arise, and it will be up to you to help settle disputes in a responsive, flexible manner.

Maintenance will be another important consideration. In some areas, park associations work in conjunction with local kennel clubs and parks department officials to organize volunteer “park cleanup” days. Kennel clubs and other dog organizations may also be willing to donate funds for future supplies of scoopers, trash bags, and cans.

The development of a successful dog park requires a great deal of planning and effort. But your involvement and dedication will hopefully lead to the ultimate reward – the joy of creating and maintaining a special place where dogs and their families can run, romp and socialize.



REMINGTON DOG PARK

HOURS

6:30AM–8PM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 6:30AM–9PM

BARK–FREE ZONE

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE. NOISE FROM THE PARK IS A NUISANCE TO OUR NEIGHBORS. DOGS THAT BARK PERSISTENTLY MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES.

UNATTENDED DOGS WILL BE IMPOUNDED

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE DOG PARK WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

CALL THE
MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY
883–4621

TO REPORT A DOG PROBLEM
OR LOST PET.

Dog Park Design:

The Ideal Dog Park Should Include . . .

- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high chain-link fence. Preferably, the fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooper-scooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- If space allows, it is preferable to provide separate areas for small and large dogs. This will enable large dog owners to allow their pets to run more freely, while protecting smaller dogs who may not be suited to the enthusiastic play of larger breeds.
- Signs that specify park hours and rules.
- Parking close to the site.



A double-gated entry prevents dogs from escaping.



Rules and Regulations

Members of a dog park committee should establish and enforce reasonable health and safety rules for the park, such as the following:

- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.
- Puppies and dogs must be properly licensed, inoculated, and healthy.
- Animals should wear a collar and ID tags at all times.
- Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- Dogs showing aggression toward people or other animals will be removed from the park. Animals who exhibit a history of aggressive behavior will not be permitted to enter.
- Puppies using the park must be at least four months old.
- Owners should not leave their dogs unattended or allowed out of sight. If young children are permitted in the dog park, they too should be under constant supervision.
- Dogs in heat will not be allowed inside the park.
- Owners must carry a leash at all times. Dogs should be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park.
- Violators will be subject to removal from the park and suspension of park privileges.

REMINGTON DOG PARK RULES

1. Dogs must NEVER be left unattended.
2. All dogs must wear a current license.
3. Owners are required to clean up after their dogs.
4. Unruly dogs are not allowed.
5. Female dogs "in heat" are not allowed in the Dog Park area.

Marin Humane Society 883-4621



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

AKC® Web Site: www.akc.org

For more information, contact
the Government Relations Department

Phone: 919-816-3720

Fax: 919-816-4275

E-Mail: doglaw@akc.org

Photos of Remington Dog Park, Sausalito, CA, by Vicky Cook



City of Farmington Hills William Grace Dog Park Application Expires January 31, 2022



Please complete and return this form to: The Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. A current copy of all vaccinations and dog license must be included with this application and you must attend a one-time dog park orientation class. Vaccinations must be issued by a Licensed Veterinarian.

OWNERS INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

E-mail _____ *(e-mail will be used to send out park updates)*

Other authorized users (must be 18 yrs old) _____

Fob # _____ (OFFICE USE)

DOG INFORMATION: DOG 1

TAG # _____ (OFFICE USE)

Dogs Name _____ Dog License # _____

Specific Breed or Mix _____

Color _____ Birth Year _____ Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____ Fixed

Vaccination Expiration Dates:

Rabies _____ DHLPP _____ Bordatella _____

DOG INFORMATION: DOG 2

TAG # _____ (OFFICE USE)

Dogs Name _____ Dog License # _____

Specific Breed or Mix _____

Color _____ Birth Year _____ Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____ Fixed

Vaccination Expiration Dates:

Rabies _____ DHLPP _____ Bordatella _____

DOG INFORMATION: DOG 3

TAG # _____ (OFFICE USE)

Dogs Name _____ Dog License # _____

Specific Breed or Mix _____

Color _____ Birth Year _____ Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____ Fixed

Vaccination Expiration Dates:

Rabies _____ DHLPP _____ Bordatella _____

OVER...

ORIENTATION INFORMATION (NEW MEMBERS ONLY):

I _____ have watched the William Grace Dog Park Orientation Video _____ (date).

Signature: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Annual membership fees are as follows:

_____ \$35 Resident

_____ \$10 replacement key fob

_____ \$10 for each additional dog up to 3 dogs

_____ \$5 replacement tag

TOTAL FEES DUE: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: City of Farmington Hills (please do not mail cash)

If paying by credit card:

VI ___ MC ___ Discover ___ AmerEx ___

_____ Amount approved \$ _____

Expiration date ____/____/____ Signature X _____

Authorization code: _____ (3 digit code on back of card)

To register by mail please send a copy of valid shot records for Rabies, DHLPP, & Bordetella, a copy of your Oakland County dog license and a copy of the dog owner's drivers license.



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS - WAIVER AND RELEASE FOR USE OF DOG PARK

PLEASE READ THIS FORM CAREFULLY. IN CONSIDERATION FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE CITY'S DOG PARK, YOU ARE EXPRESSLY ASSUMING ALL RISKS OF AND LEGAL LIABILITY FOR YOUR USE OF THE DOG PARK. YOU ALSO WAIVE AND RELEASE ALL CLAIMS FOR INJURIES, DAMAGES, OR LOSS THAT YOU AND/OR YOUR DOG(S) MAY SUSTAIN AS A RESULT OF USING THESE FACILITIES OR PARTICIPATING IN ANY AND ALL ACTIVITIES AT OR ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF THE DOG PARK.

I acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate and use with my dog(s) the Dog Park owned and operated by the City of Farmington Hills. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being in the Dog Park presents a risk of injury to me, any persons that accompany me, other people using the Dog Park, my dog(s) and other dogs. I understand that these risks are entirely my responsibility and I knowingly and voluntarily assume that responsibility. When this Waiver and Release refers to "my dog," it includes any dog that I bring to the Dog Park, regardless of whether I am the legal owner of the dog. I am responsible for any dog I bring to the Dog Park.

I understand that the licensing and registration system for use of the Dog Park does not insure or guarantee that all dogs in the Dog Park are safe or healthy. I further acknowledge and assume the risk that all dogs in the Dog Park might not have been vaccinated for bordetella, distemper, parvovirus and/or rabies, all of which present a risk of injury or disease to me, any individuals (including children) who accompany me to the Dog Park, and my dog(s). I also acknowledge that there are certain inherent risks of injury or damage, including propensity of a dog to behave in a dangerous manner; inexperience or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movement, objects, persons or other animals; dog fights, dog bites, and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog disappearance, theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences; plants in the area that may be poisonous to dogs or people; mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas, or other insects that may be present; and wild animals, including without limitation skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs that could be present in the Dog Park, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s); trip or slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure, failure in instruction/supervision, and other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities. I understand that the Dog Park is an unsupervised facility and I expressly assume responsibility for all risks associated with the Dog Park and any buildings, fixtures and equipment contained in it. I knowingly and voluntarily accept these risks in exchange for the privilege of using the Dog Park.

In consideration for the privilege of using the Dog Park and other valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I fully and forever release, discharge and hold harmless the City of Farmington Hills, its elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers for and from any claim for loss, damage or injury, known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, without limitation, to myself and to my dog(s), arising out of or in any way incident or related to use of the Dog Park by my dog(s), me and anyone accompanying my dog(s) or me, regardless of the cause. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Farmington Hills, its elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers for and from all loss and expense, including legal costs, attorney's fees and expert witness fees, and from any and all liability for injury or death to any person or damage to property, arising out of or in any way incident or related to use of the Dog Park by my dog(s), myself and anyone accompanying my dog(s) or me.

BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE AND UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE DOG PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THEM. I WILL COMPLY WITH THESE RULES AND WILL EXPLAIN THEM TO OTHERS I MAY BRING TO THE DOG PARK TO ENSURE THEIR COMPLIANCE WHILE USING THE DOG PARK. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY INCIDENT IN WHICH MY DOG(S) HAS/HAVE SHOWN AGGRESSIVE, FIGHTING OR BITING BEHAVIOR TOWARD PEOPLE OR OTHER ANIMALS.

Dog Owner (Signature)

Date

Dog Owner (Print Name)

Dog Owner (Signature)

Date

Dog Owner (Print Name)



2022 William Grace Dog Park Pass

Valid until January 31, 2022

New User - Dog Park Registration Checklist

Activity Code: 555555-21

- Watch Orientation (about 30 minutes we have DVD there is a link on the fhgov.com website and it is on the computers in Conway)
- Drivers License with Farmington/Farmington Hills address (must be resident)
- Registration Form
- Proof of Vaccinations: Rabies, Bordatella, & DHLPP or DAPPL
- Dog License (paper copy)
- Signed Waiver
- E-mail address (optional) this is how we will send out announcements about the Dog Park to let participants know about maintenance, events, or other issues that come up
- \$35 for the first dog and \$10 for each additional dog up to 3 dogs

Renewal - Dog Park Registration Checklist

Activity Code: 555555-R21

- Registration Form
- Proof of Vaccinations: Rabies, Bordatella, & DHLPP or DAPPL
- Dog License (paper copy)
- Signed Waiver
- E-mail address (optional)
- \$35 for the first dog and \$10 for each additional dog up to 3 dogs (If they have lost their previous fob it is an additional \$10. We give them a free fob the first time they register.)



City of Farmington Hills Dog Park Rules and Regulations

For the health and safety of our dogs and everyone who enters the dog park gated area, we have developed the following rules and regulations.

Dog Park Registration Requirements

1. Register up to three dogs per household. No more than two dogs per owner/handler are allowed at one time.
2. Registrations are to be renewed annually and are valid through January 31st.
3. Registration is for Farmington Hills and Farmington residents only.
4. Registration fees are not prorated regardless of purchase date.
5. All dogs must be licensed in accordance with City of Farmington Hills/Farmington and Oakland County. Owners/handlers must attend the mandatory orientation session.
6. At time of registration, proof of current vaccinations for Rabies, DHLPP or DAPPL (Distemper), and bordetella are required. Fecal exam is encouraged.
7. One key fob entry pass will be issued per household. The key fob is not transferable. Replacement fee for lost fob is \$10.
8. Dog Park Tags will be issued at time of registration and must be worn by the dog at all times within the dog park. The Dog Park Tag is not transferable. Replacement fee for lost tag is \$5.

General Rules

1. Dogs must be on a leash when entering and exiting the Dog Park fenced area. Owners must carry a leash with them at all times in the park.
2. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior or barking excessively must be immediately removed from the park.
3. Minimum age for users is 18 years of age. Children between 6-17 years of age may enter with a parent or guardian. Children younger than 6 years of age are not permitted in the Dog Park fenced area.
4. Dogs must be supervised at all times. Never leave your dogs in the park unattended.
5. Users must clean up their dog(s) waste and deposit it in the receptacles provided.
6. No people food, dog food or treats are allowed in the park.
7. The following are not permitted in the Dog Park: dogs in heat, dogs under the age of four months, dogs with contagious diseases or internal or external parasites, aggressive dogs, dogs on a leash, dogs with harnesses or pinch, prong, spike or chain collars, dog toys, smoking, alcoholic beverages, glass containers, professional dog trainers, bicycles, strollers, and animals other than dogs.

Additional Information

1. Use of the Dog Park area is at the user's own risk.
2. Users are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries and/or damages caused by their dog(s).
3. The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to prohibit the use of the site to any user who is in violation of these rules.
4. From time to time, parts or the entire park may be closed for maintenance purposes.
5. For the safety of all registered dogs, please do not allow anyone without a key fob pass into the Dog Park.
6. Small dog area is for dogs less than 22 pounds.

**William Grace Dog Park
29040 Shiawassee Road**

Hours:

March & April	May - August	September & October	November - February
Mon-Fri: 8 am - 8 pm	Mon-Fri: 8 am - 9 pm	Mon-Fri: 8 am - 8 pm	Mon-Fri: 8 am - 6 pm
Sat & Sun: 10 am - 8 pm	Sat & Sun: 10 am - 9 pm	Sat & Sun: 10 am - 8 pm	Sat & Sun: 10 am - 6 pm

Complaint and/or Rule Violation Process

In the event that any of the rules are violated by a fob holder, a complaint is made against a fob holder, or a violation is witnessed by an employee of Farmington Hills Special Services Department (the “Department”) the following steps will be taken:*

First Incident

- After review by an authorized employee of the Department, which may include talking to any witness to the incident, the fob holder may receive a documented verbal warning from the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.
- The verbal warning will be reviewed with the fob holder by an authorized employee of Farmington Hills Special Services and a notation will be made in the file of the fob holder.

Second Incident

- After review by an authorized employee of the Department, which may include talking to any witness to the incident, the fob holder may receive a written warning which may include suspension from the Dog Park for 30 days from the date of infraction.
- The written warning and all prior complaints will be reviewed with the fob holder by an authorized employee of Farmington Hills Special Services.
- A copy of the written warning will be placed in the fob holder’s file.

Third Incident

- After notification of the third incident, the fob holder’s Dog Park privileges will be immediately suspended pending an investigation.
- All prior complaints will be reviewed with the fob holder.
- If the third complaint is found to be justified after an investigation by an authorized employee of the Department, the fob holder is subject to further suspension of Dog Park privileges, up to and including permanent revocation of Dog Park privileges including deactivation of the fob.
- A determination of revocation may be appealed by the fob holder to the Director of the Department.

*Depending on the severity of the incident, Farmington Hills Special Services reserves the right to prohibit the use of the site to any user who is in violation of the Dog Park rules. Furthermore, this process is in addition to any tickets or complaints that may be issued and prosecuted in the event of incidents involving violations of City ordinances or Michigan statutes, and enforcement of the above steps shall not be deemed to waive or release an offender from prosecution for same.

Michigan Penal Code 750.66: Persons 18 and older must provide name and address when the dog under their control has bitten another person. Dog handler must provide vaccination information and remain at the scene of the bite until all of the above information is provided.



William Grace Dog Park Incident Report Form

In an emergency call 911.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Dog FOB Number: _____
(Last 5 digits beginning with the number 5)

Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____ Weight: _____ Color: _____

Other Individual/Dogs Involved:

If you are unsure of an individuals name, please provide a full description of the individual, the dog, or any other helpful information (car's make, model, license plate, etc.) in the general description box below

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Dog FOB Number: _____
(Last 5 digits beginning with the number 5)

Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____ Weight: _____ Color: _____

General Description:

Date of incident: ____ / ____ / ____ Time: ____ : ____ __AM __PM
Month Day Year

Description of Incident:

Description of Injuries:

Witness: _____ Phone: _____

Witness: _____ Phone: _____

Actions Taken: (Select all that apply)

None Police Ambulance Veterinary

Other (please explain): _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

When finished please email this form to CostickCenter@fhgov.com or submit to the Costick Activities Center (28600 West Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills MI 48336).

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Staff: _____ Initials: _____



Canton Dog Park Rules and Regulations

Hours of Operation

Dawn to Dusk – Seven Days per Week

(Unless closed due to poor weather conditions, special event or maintenance)



Dog Park Registration Requirements

1. Registration tag(s) for up to three dogs per household can be purchased, with the exception of a valid Dog Fancier Permit, from Canton Township Clerk's Office, located at 1150 S. Canton Center, for an annual fee of \$25 for Canton residents and \$50 for non-residents.
2. Registration tag(s) are to be renewed annually and are valid through December 31 of current year.
3. Registration tag(s) fees are not prorated regardless of purchase date.
4. To receive registration tag(s), all dogs must be licensed in accordance with Township Ordinance Sec. 14-141 – License and Tag Requirements.
5. At time of registration proof of current vaccinations for rabies and DHLPP (Distemper) is required. Bordetella vaccine is encouraged.
6. At the time of registration, dog owner must sign the Canton Dog Park Use Waiver and Release form.
7. A refundable key fob security deposit of \$20 is collected at time of registration and returned to you if you discontinue your membership and key fob is returned. Only one key fob per household will be issued.
8. Registration tag must be worn on dog collar while dog is in the Dog Park fenced area.
9. Replacement fee for lost Dog Park tag is \$5. Replacement cost of key fob is \$20.
10. Key fobs will be deactivated on March 1 of each year for any member that has not renewed their membership from previous year.

General Rules

1. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the Dog Park fenced area.
2. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior or excessive barking must be immediately removed from the site.
3. Minimum age for users is 18 years of age. Children between 6 – 17 years of age may enter with a parent or guardian. Children younger than 6 years of age are not permitted in the Dog Park fenced area.
4. No more than two dogs per handler are allowed at one time.
5. Dogs must be in view and under the voice command of their owner at all times and never left unattended.
6. Users must clean up their dog(s) waste and deposit it in the receptacles provided.
7. Users must stop dog(s) from digging and must immediately fill all holes caused by the dog.
8. The following are **NOT PERMITTED** in the Dog Park fenced area:
 - Dogs on leash.
 - Dogs in heat.
 - Dogs under the age of four months.
 - Dogs with contagious diseases or internal or external parasites.
 - Dogs with pinch, prong, spike or chain collars.
 - Dog toys, balls, discs, etc.
 - Pet food or treats.
 - Professional dog trainers using the park to conduct their business.
 - Animals other than dogs.
 - Food, alcoholic beverages, smoking, and glass containers.
 - Bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, skateboards, strollers, etc.
 - Use of electronic access control key fob by non-members.

Additional Information

1. Use of the dog park area is at the user's own risk.
2. User is legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injuries and/or damages caused by their dog(s).
3. The Township of Canton and its Department of Public Safety reserve the right to prohibit the use of the site to any user who is in violation of the Township Ordinance Sec. 50-47 - Domestic Animal.
4. For additional information on how to enter and exit park, see reverse side.

Contact Information

In case of emergency, call 911

Canton Park Office 734-394-5310 Weekdays

Canton Park Ranger 734-777-3665 Weekends (March thru October)

Email: leisure@canton-mi.org

Put Your Bark in Our Park



Have a dog-gone good time

Operating a successful dog park is achieved through the joint efforts of staff and dog park guests, both human and canine. Through proper maintenance and attendance to user needs, staff can provide a comfortable facility. Guests can enhance everyone's dog park experience by alerting staff to needs and by helping new users understand and follow rules and proper dog park protocol. For dog park information – dial 888-OCPARKS or visit OaklandCountyParks.com.

THREE PLACES TO PLAY



52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom MI 48393

Features 13 acres with a small dog area, canine drink-filling stations, benches, shelter, picnic tables and field training area.



Lyon Oaks Dog Park



Orion Oaks Dog Park



1200 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion MI 48360

Dog Park entrance is on Joslyn Road between Clarkston and Scripps roads

Dogs and owners enjoy 24 acres with a separate small dog area, canine drink-filling stations, modern restrooms, field training area, two trails and access to 80-foot dock and Lake Sixteen for dogs only to swim. If you would like to reserve a dog park area for a special occasion, call 248-625-0877. Visit OaklandCountyParks.com for details and pricing.



31353 Dequindre, Madison Heights
Enter on Dequindre just north of 13 Mile Road

Adjacent to Red Oaks Waterpark, this 5.2-acre parcel includes a shelter, small dog area, canine drink-filling station during warmer months, paved parking lot and limited street light illumination for extended hours in fall and winter.

Be a Dog Park Ambassador!

Personable, polite and enjoying the company of dogs, volunteer Dog Park Ambassadors monitor dog park activities and events. They serve as on-site resources, marketing and enhancing the dog park experience. Call 248-975-9717 for details.

Did Someone Say Events?

Yes – dogs (and their owners) just wanna have fun! From Vaccination Clinics to the popular Dog Swims, we keep those tails wagging. For details, visit OaklandCountyParks.com or contact Kelley Marcaccio at 248-858-7759 or Dogs@oakgov.com.



Red Oaks Dog Park

DOG PARK ENTRY

Oakland County Parks and Recreation
Daily or Annual Vehicle Permit required.

Pay stations for Daily Permits are available at all three dog parks.

Annual Permits may be purchased on site when contact station is staffed, online at OaklandCountyParks.com, or at the following locations:

Bass Pro Outdoor World
Auburn Hills 248-209-4200

Catalpa Oaks County Park
248-424-7081

Independence Oaks County Park
248-625-0877

**Independence Township
Treasurer's Office**
248-625-5115

Lyon Oaks Golf Course
248-437-1488

**Oakland County Parks
Recreation Programs
and Services Building**
248-858-0916

**Orion Twp. Treasurer's
or Parks & Recreation Offices**
248-391-0304

Red Oaks Golf Course
(in season)
248-541-5030

Red Oaks Nature Center
248-585-0100
Building open for walk-ins
Mon.: Closed
Tues. - Fri.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.;
(Open until 8 p.m.
Memorial Day-Labor Day)
Sun.: Noon-5 p.m.

**Madison Heights
Recreation Department**
248-589-2294
Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

**City of Wixom
Community Center**
248-624-2850

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OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

PLAYGROUNDS FOR DOGS



Lyon Oaks Dog Park, Wixom
Orion Oaks Dog Park, Lake Orion
Red Oaks Dog Park, Madison Heights

OaklandCountyParks.com

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DOG PARK EXPERIENCE

Dog owners love their pets – that’s one reason they visit the park. Love of their companion is second nature, and it is sometimes difficult to understand why other people might not love their dog too.

Some park users may have had a bad experience with a dog, resulting in a fear they cannot overcome. It is important to keep your dog on a leash at all times when outside the fence of the dog park. One cannot assume that all park patrons are dog lovers.



You’re the boss

It’s up to you to keep your furry friend under control. Owners bear full responsibility and liability for their dog’s actions and behavior.

Super-scoopers welcome

Dog owners must monitor their dogs at all times, picking up waste as needed. If an owner is distracted, it is proper protocol to alert the owner.

Great excavators

Some dogs love to dig. However, holes in the dog park may cause a human or another dog to sprain an ankle or injure a leg. Holes also create mud where grass will not grow, and make it difficult for staff to mow the grass. If your dog digs, fill in the hole immediately.



Safety First

Shock collars and metal choke chains are not allowed inside the dog park. Using a shock collar while inside the enclosure could cause a dog to make wrong associations between the shock and the nearest animal or person. Additionally, metal choke collars or any collar with metal links can cause damage to dogs’ teeth when playing, or become entangled or caught on objects. A soft material collar is recommended. Should your dog need restraining, the soft collar will allow a handle hold.

While “sharing” is considered a kindly act for humans, community drinking bowls and dog pools are not allowed in the dog park, as the water becomes contaminated easily and could cause illness or parasites in your canine friend.

Dogs are like children...

In that respect, it is difficult to monitor the behavior of canine friends and small children at the same time. Additionally, younger children are more susceptible to illness from waste fragments on the ground. An exuberant child may spook a dog or become a bite target. For this reason, children 12 and younger must be under close supervision at all times.



Not a sparring spot

Dogs may fight to protect themselves or something/someone else. If dogs begin to spar, do NOT reach between them with your hands! Try to get your dog’s attention with voice commands, loud noises or better yet – a shower of water. Pulling a dog by the tail is better than reaching towards erratically moving heads and teeth! Once separated, dogs should be taken to a neutral area to calm down. If this happens more than once, the dog may be too aggressive for the dog park and should leave the enclosure. Incidents should be reported to park staff or the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center at 248-858-1090.

Pursuant to Section 25, subsections 6 and 7 of the indicated Rules & Regulations:

Dog Parks have been designated by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission for the purpose of exercising dogs off leash. While in the dog park areas, all dogs and their owners or caretakers must obey all Park rules, including:

- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the dog park. Owners must carry leash with them at all times while in the dog park.
- Maximum of two dogs per patron.
- Dogs must have current license, up-to-date vaccinations, and respond to voice commands.
- Shock collars, metal pinch/choke collars or collars with metal links are not allowed in the dog park.
- No dogs under four months of age allowed in the dog park.
- Small dog area is for dogs 25 pounds or less.
- Owners or caretakers assume full responsibility for all dogs brought onto Commission property.
- Dogs must be accompanied and supervised by an adult (age 18 or older) at all times. Dogs must never be left unattended in the dog park.
- Children, ages 12 and under, must be accompanied and closely supervised by a parent or adult present inside the dog park, at all times.
- No food, human or animal, is allowed in the dog park.
- Dogs in heat may not enter the dog park.
- Owners or caretakers must clean up dog droppings; bags are provided on site.
- Lake Sixteen Dog Dock access at Orion Oaks is for dogs only. Lake Sixteen Boat Launch is not part of the Dog Park.
- Dogs are not allowed to dig in the dog park. Owner must fill in any holes.
- Community bowls or pools may not be brought to or left at the dog park.
- Unruly dogs are prohibited on Commission property. Unruly dogs are defined as dogs that are not controllable by their owners or caretakers, dogs which physically attack or bite another dog or human (when not provoked), or dogs which physically pin other dogs to the ground (when not provoked).
- All dog bites must be reported immediately to the Park Supervisor or an Oakland County Sheriff’s Office deputy, who will contact Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center. The dog must then be confined until the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office or park personnel arrive at the scene.
- Failure to obey these rules is a violation of Public Act 261 and may result in a misdemeanor citation issued by Oakland County Sheriff Office deputies.

DOG PARK RULES



Michigan State Law (MCL 287.268) requires all dogs older than four months to have a current Michigan dog license, which can be purchased at either the city or county in which the dog resides. To be licensed, proof of current vaccinations must be shown for the dog.

Michigan Law requires the dog owner to display a current license on the dog and is required for use of the dog park. This helps keep all dogs safe and reduces the chance of spreading disease among dogs.



Maximum of two dogs per park guest can be in the park at any one time.



No dogs younger than the age of four months.

Use of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Dog Parks is governed by the parks system’s Rules and Regulations enacted by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Feb. 8, 1966. Current rules can be viewed on OaklandCountyParks.com, or a printed copy can be requested by calling 248-858-0906.



Lansing State Journal

JUDY PUTNAM | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Slow justice for Murphy, the 18-pound dog mauled at the DeWitt Township dog park

Judy Putnam Lansing State Journal

Published 7:00 a.m. ET Apr. 12, 2019 | Updated 3:40 p.m. ET Apr. 13, 2019

Story updated to correct name of dog attacked in December

Nine months after the horrific mauling of an 18-pound dog at a Dewitt Township dog park, the wheels of justice are turning, slowly, for the family of Murphy, the beloved Havanese who died after the attack.

Kristina MacRae of Okemos, the owner of Luke, the Great Dane/bulldog mix that attacked Murphy, has been charged with five misdemeanors in Clinton and Ingham counties.

MacRae said Luke was euthanized in January but not until after court records show he was involved in another attack.

Murphy died July 8 after Luke charged across the enclosed area in DeWitt Township's Padgett Park and clamped down on Murphy's torso. Both dogs were off the leashes inside the dog park.

Murphy's owner, Steve Curtis, was at the park with his wife, Colleen, and two other larger dogs. Steve Curtis frantically tried to free Murphy from the attacking dog's mouth.

As his wife screamed, Curtis remembered trying to pry the big dog's mouth open without success. Then he pulled his nose, which made him let Murphy go.

"This wasn't a fight. This was a kill," Colleen said at the time.

The small dog had broken ribs and a punctured lung. Steve Curtis made the difficult decision to euthanize him that night. He was 6 years old.

History of complaints

At first, Steve Curtis said, he was hesitant to press for Luke to be euthanized. MacRae had said it was the first time Luke showed aggression. But after Curtis discovered a history of complaints in neighboring Ingham County, suggesting that wasn't true, he changed his mind and asked the township police to press for euthanasia.

DeWitt Township filed two misdemeanors against MacRae in October. They are still pending, though a plea agreement is set to be heard April 26. She's charged with having a vicious dog and a dog that destroys property (the property in question being Murphy). Both carry penalties of up to \$500 fines and 90 days in jail.

The charges against MacRae were still making their way through Clinton County district court when Luke pulled out of a harness on a walk and attacked a neighbor's dog, Malachi, in December.

Malachi's owner, Shari Wolke, was injured. She declined to be interviewed.

Ingham County filed three misdemeanors against MacRae in March, which are pending. They are for owning a dog that bites a person, owning a dog with vicious tendencies and for owning a dog that causes malicious destruction of property. All three carry penalties of up to \$500 in fines and 90 days in jail.

Malachi's owner also filed a complaint about Luke more than a year before Murphy was attacked. In that case Luke jumped a fence and attacked two dogs, leaving minor injuries. In that 2017 complaint, the neighbor said it was the second time that happened.

'I can't kill him more than once'

Ingham County Animal Control gave MacRae a verbal warning, according to a report from the 2017 complaint. MacRae said she doesn't recall the incident.

MacRae said she's trying to make amends. She paid the Curtis family \$387 to cover the vet bill and \$500 to her neighbor for injuries in the December attack. There's not a lot more to do, she said.

"He's euthanized. I can't kill him any more than once," she said.

Though MacRae called Luke a puppy, Ingham County dog license records reported he was older than 3 years at the time of the attack on Murphy.

MacCrae said Luke was a rescue dog who was gentle with people, especially children, so it was hard for her to understand his aggression.

“I found out the hard way that I cannot handle a large dog, an 80-pound dog,” she said.

She said she has two dogs now but they are smaller than Luke.

“I’m doing everything that I can to be a perfect dog owner. I love dogs, and I will make sure this doesn’t happen again,” she said.

Steve Curtis said the family still misses Murphy. He said the fact that the attack occurred in one county and MacRae lived in another made it more difficult to pursue the case.

“They did, I guess, what they could do. It took a little longer,” he said.

Colleen Curtis said she’s still studying dog parks to make recommendations on how to change DeWitt Township’s dog park. One idea is to prohibit younger children in the dog park for their own safety.

Andrew Dymczyk, DeWitt Township manager, said the township is open to ideas for the dog park, including a segregated space for small dogs, more trees and a fob system allowing access to the park.

He had only been on the job three weeks when the attack occurred. He said it was upsetting.

“We felt for the family and what they were going through,” he said. “It’s just very traumatic.”

Two small dog parks

In the meantime, Meridian Township and East Lansing are making plans to open dog parks specifically for small dogs, the first ones in the area.

Meridian Township will launch its park for dogs under 30 pounds at Nancy Moore Park next month. There will be controlled access with a fob system -- \$35 a year for nonresidents and \$20 a year for residents, said LuAnn Maisner, director of Parks and Recreation. A park for larger dogs is planned to open later this year.

And, in East Lansing, the existing Northern Trail Dog Park will have a portion fenced off with access for small dogs only. That should happen in the next few weeks, said Wendy Longpre, assistant director of parks and recreation.

The movement toward small dog parks is too late for Murphy, but it just might protect other pint-sized pups.

Related: Murphy, an 18-pound dog, was mauled at DeWitt dog park

Small dog parks could be answer after 18-pound Murphy mauled and euthanized

Judy Putnam is a columnist with the Lansing State Journal. Contact her at (517) 267-1304 or at jputnam@lsj.com. Follow her on Twitter @judyputnam.

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Dog dies after attack at dog park



(WILX)

By Marcus Dash

Published: Jul. 10, 2018 at 5:53 PM EDT



A vicious attack at a local dog park. On Sunday, a DeWitt couple was walking their small dog at Padgett park when he was attacked by two other dogs.

News 10's Marcus Dash talked with his owner.

Every owner knows their dog's barks, yelps, and snarls and when Steve Curtis heard a high pitched shriek he knew his dog Murphy was in a lot of trouble and was calling for help.

"All I heard was my dog yelling and I turned around and there the other dog was on top of him. Just had his mouth around him," said Steve Curtis.

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From the other end of Padgett park, another dog walker took notice of the sounds thinking it was just dogs playing.

"We heard the dogs screaming, we heard the owners screaming, and then the owner yelled her dog was dead," said Zane Nachazel.

Witnesses say he had been attacked by two pit bull mixed breed dogs. Curtis was doing everything he could to keep Murphy alive.

"He had a hole in his side and we had to keep the pressure on it, so the blood wouldn't come out," said Curtis.

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According to witnesses, the blood was everywhere and some are scared because of what they saw.

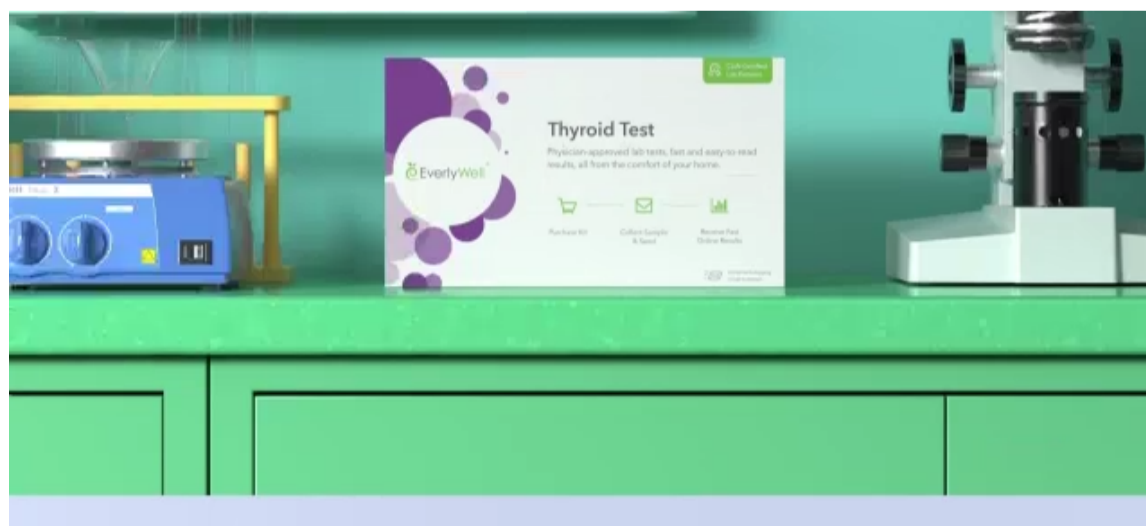
"It was god awful, I honestly didn't sleep last night after I found out that dog passed away, this whole situation has been bothering me," said Nachazel.

Seven-year-old Murphy was put down due to several major injuries he suffered in the attack.

Curtis says he hopes DeWitt Township will take this tragedy and start regulating dog parks, like Soldan dog park in Lansing, which requires dog owners to have an electronic key fob. Regardless, he might've seen his last dog park

"I don't think I'll be going back to the dog park even with our two dogs, it's not worth it," said Curtis.

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Kalamazoo

Tiny dog romping in dog park attacked, killed by 'massive' Newfoundlands

Updated Jan 19, 2019; Posted Jun 07, 2016

[Shi Tzu attacked and killed at River Oaks dog park](#)

Gallery: Shi Tzu attacked and killed at River Oaks dog park

By [Rosemary Parker | rparker3@mlive.com](mailto:rparker3@mlive.com)

COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP, MI -- A Shih Tzu romping with other small dogs off leash at the River Oaks dog park last week was killed by two Newfoundlands as dog owners struggled to break up the attack, the small dog's owner said.

"You never expect to take your two dogs to the park on a nice day after work, and have to go home with one of your family members lost," said Jordan Ely, whose dog Bella was killed.

Advertisement

Shih Tzu is a toy breed, with adult dogs weighing 10-12 pounds. Newfoundlands are among the largest, normally weighing 100-150 pounds.

"I want other people to know about what happened," Ely said, "that dog parks are not as safe as people think."

River Oaks Dog Park opened in the summer of 2014 and features nearly five acres of fenced park area for dogs to exercise and socialize off-leash, according to the county parks website.

There is a special area reserved for dogs under 25 pounds, Kalamazoo County Parks Director David Rachowicz said, but small dog owners may use the unrestricted area as

well if they wish.

Ely said he and his wife and their dogs, Bella and Winnie, arrived at the dog park's general admission area at about 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2. Six or seven other small dogs and their owners were already there. While the dogs ran and played off leash, their owners chatted.

Ely said his back was turned to the park entrance as they talked. "We were standing there talking when a huge, massive Newfoundland came running up right next to me. It gave us no warning, just lunged twice, and went down face first for Bella."

Winnie ran, and another Newfoundland joined the attack on Bella, he said.

"There was no time to respond, no warning they were going to attack," Ely said. "They just attacked."

The Newfoundlands' owner was not with the animals, he said, but other dog owners helped free Bella and drive the larger dogs away. Ely said that although Bella did not at first appear to be seriously slashed or injured, when he picked her up "she let out a horrific noise."

He and his wife took the dog to an emergency veterinary hospital but Bella's condition declined on the ride there and she died shortly after arrival, in spite of the veterinarian's efforts to revive her.

Before the Elys left for the animal hospital the owner of the Newfoundlands came to him to apologize, he said, and the animal hospital notified Kalamazoo County animal control of the incident.

Stephen Lawrence, director of Kalamazoo County Animal Services and Enforcement, said that although this is the first incident he knows of at that park in which a dog was seriously injured or killed, off-leash dog parks are often dangerous places for dogs.

Lawrence said small dogs are the most at risk from attack.

"A dog park is a neat thing, a cool thing for dogs that get along, but there are risks any time people bring dogs to run and play when they don't know each other," Lawrence said.

The rules of the dog park are set up by each park, and there are no state or county laws that govern them, he said.

"People have to be vigilant," said Lawrence, who advised keeping animals on leashes until it is clear whether they will be aggressive toward another dog.

Ely said he was surprised that the large dogs were allowed in the same area as his tiny Shi Tzus. "You wouldn't expect such massive dogs to be let into a dog park with smaller dogs with no controls," he said. He said he was sure the other owner thought his dogs would be friendly.

"The parks are not as safe as the people who promote them say they are," Ely said. "We're in shock."

Although owners of small dogs are encouraged to use the area designated for them, Rachowicz said he understands why they may not.

"Sometime there are no other dogs or people in the small dog park, and they want that socialization. That's a big part of dog park experience."

Rachowicz said authorities are still investigating the incident and he would not speculate how long it might take or what the outcome might be.

"When we receive complaints we investigate them," he said, "and if they are found to be factual (offenders) are not allowed back in the park."

That only happens a few times a year.

The county's two dog parks average 5,000-8,000 visits per month.

"We built dog parks because the public came to us. The parks are well used," he said.

Dog parks are not good places to train a dog, and are intended for dogs that are well socialized and get along with other dogs, he said.

"This is the last thing we want to happen, an incident to this degree," Rachowicz said. "But for a large percentage of those uses there are no incidents."

Ely said he is shaken to be one of those.

"We went to park on a nice day," Ely said, "and tragedy happened in a matter of moments."

Rosemary Parker is a reporter for MLive. Contact her at rparker3@mlive.com.

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ANIMAL

Family warns of dangers after dog attacked, killed at park

A veterinarian said dog-on-dog attacks are "very common" during the summer.

Owners upset after dog killed in dog park

Author: Katherine Cook (KGW)
Updated: 11:19 PM PDT August 10, 2017



ROCK CREEK, Ore. -- A Washington County couple is grieving the death of their dog after he was attacked at a local dog park.

"He was a great dog and everybody loved him," said the dog's owner, Jim Stewart.

On Aug. 3 Stewart said he took his Cocker Spaniel, Nicky, to the dog park next to Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus. Stewart said he had just walked Nicky through the gate on a leash, when a group of dogs came up to sniff him.

“My dog was just standing there, almost frozen and then just growls and dust.”

Stewart said a German Shepherd attacked Nicky, critically injuring him. They took Nicky to Bethany Family Pet Clinic, where veterinarian Dr. Mark Norman began treatment. Norman said it was a scenario he's all too familiar with.

“We typically see a couple dog park dog-on-dog attacks every week in the summertime,” said Norman. “It's very common.”

Most dog parks, including those in Washington County, are unregulated. Owners bring their pets at their own risk, with a reasonable expectation of injury, according to Deborah Wood, manager at Washington County Animal Services.

“We just never thought something like that would happen,” said Jan Stewart.

Dr. Norman said a lot of pet owners don't realize the risk. He said [learning to recognize a dog's body language](#) is critical, especially at dog parks.

“A dog's actions may be interpreted as play, when really it's really...showing aggression and a lot of times they're misinterpreted by the owners,” said Norman.

Knowledge the Stewarts hope will do for other pets, what it can't do for there own, now. After five days of intensive care at Dove Lewis Animal Hospital, Nicky died from his injuries.

“He suffered and he really tried so hard to get better,” said Jan Stewart. “During one of our last visits, he kind of looked at me and it was almost like him saying ‘Mamma, this is really hard,’ like he was asking for permission, to go.”



In the past year, the need for food has almost doubled.

School is the only place many kids can count on for a meal. Help kids this summer by giving a \$5 or \$10 bag of critical food items at a local Safeway.

Ad by Safeway

“Just be really careful with dog parks,” said Jim Stewart. “Really, really be careful.”

Wood said normally, Washington County Animal Services does not get involved when there's an injury fight at a dog park. However, he said because Nicky died from his injuries, Washington County Animal Services “should and will investigate the situation.”

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Owners MIA after three attacks at Greenville dog park this week



(WITN)

Published: Feb. 16, 2017 at 2:46 PM EST



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A dog continues to recover from deep puncture wounds to his neck and leg, four days after being attacked at Greenville's dog park.

Elizabeth Hankins says her son, Kevin, his girlfriend, and her dog Chase were inside the dog park on Ash Street on Sunday. She said that's when another dog started to attack Chase.

Hankins says her son and several others separated the dogs, but the owner didn't come forward. Her son then attempted to remove Chase from the park and that's when the dog attacked again.

The son got Chase free and to his vehicle and then went back to find the dog's owner. Witnesses said a couple got the dog, a pit bull mix, and quickly left.

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Hankins says she has hundreds of dollars of vet bills and concerned that this could happen to other pets.

Greenville police say it has happened again. There have been three reported attacks this week alone at the park.

Greenville Animal Protective Services Supervisor Tim Langley says another attack took place on Sunday by a similarly-described dog. Langley says then on Tuesday a dog described as a boxer-mix attacked another dog.

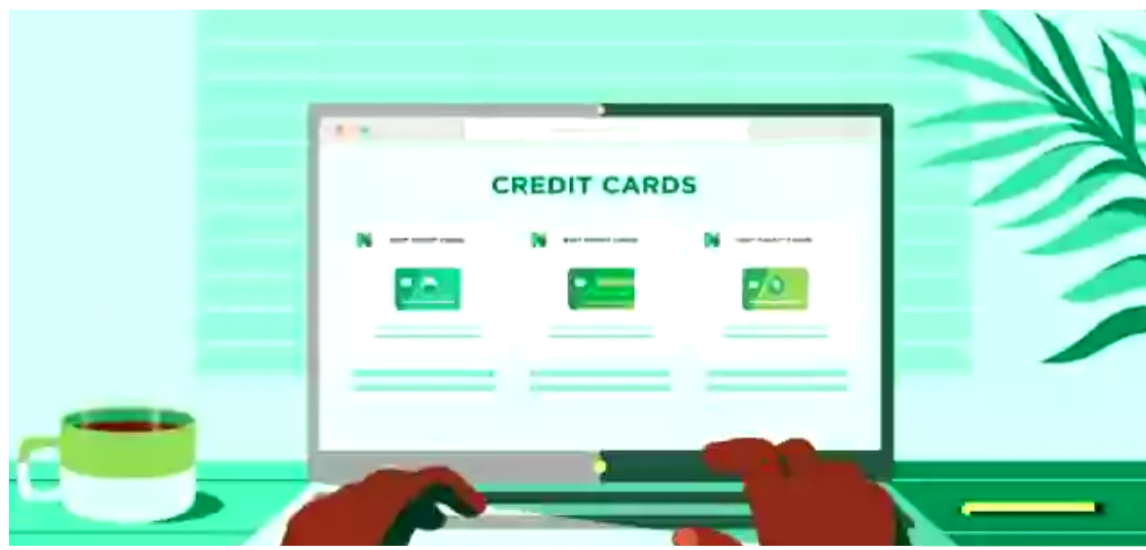
In all three cases the owner of the dogs didn't come forward so animal control has launched an investigation.

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Langley reminds pet owners that they are at their own risk by coming to the off-leash dog park, but it's still a pet owner's responsibility to exchange information if their pet attacks another.

A surveillance camera at the dog park was not working at the time of the three attacks.

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https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/owner-surrenders-great-dane-involved-in-death-of-golden-retriever-at-dog-park-near-wentzville/article_9e226dff-a461-5ef8-82b0-a609ef7f20bc.html

Owner surrenders Great Dane involved in death of golden retriever at dog park near Wentzville

Valerie Schremp Hahn

Apr 1, 2014



Family photo of Buddy, a golden retriever who was killed in a dog park near Wentzville.

Valerie Schremp Hahn

U*PDATED at 11:50 a.m. Tuesday*

ST. CHARLES COUNTY • The owner of a Great Dane involved in a fatal attack on another animal at a dog park near Wentzville has turned the dog over to authorities.

The man came forward Monday night after the story was covered by local media and shared on Facebook. His Great Dane is now being held by St. Charles County animal control officers at a facility in St. Peters.

On Sunday afternoon, the Great Dane attacked and killed a 10-year-old golden retriever named Buddy at Quail Ridge Park in the off-leash dog area. About 75 people were in the area at the time. The presumed owner of the Great Dane left with the dog immediately after the attack, and St. Charles County park rangers were looking for that person Sunday and Monday.

St. Charles County animal control officers are investigating. An employee of the animal control office confirmed early Tuesday that the dog was there, but he referred additional questions to Colene McEntee, a county spokeswoman.

McEntee declined to discuss the case, because it is an ongoing investigation. But according to a written statement from St. Charles County Division of Humane Services Director Theresa Williams, a witness has indicated there might be another dog involved. The county parks department and animal control are working to decide what the next step will be for the Great Dane.

"St. Charles County Humane Services staff and I want to extend our condolences to the family who lost their dog, a family member in every sense, in this tragic event," Williams said. "Animal Control will continue to work diligently to bring a fast resolution to this case."

Buddy's owner, Nick Andres of Wentzville, said Tuesday morning that he was happy the owner came forward and he was thankful to those who focused on the story. He said he felt the public pressure helped convince the man to turn the dog in.

"He would have stayed in hiding if it weren't for that pressure from people," Andres said. "You can't hide a dog like that."

County officials say they were horrified by the attack.

"Our thoughts are with the family which lost its beloved pet as well as those who witnessed the incident," parks department director Bettie Yahn-Kramer said in a statement. "Our pets are members of our families and the entire staff of the St. Charles County Parks Department and myself are horrified this incident occurred."

County officials remind park visitors that aggressive dogs are not allowed in the off-leash dog areas, and that owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries their animal may cause. The dog park is in unincorporated St. Charles County near Wentzville.

The parks department is asking that anyone who has video, pictures or information about the attack to contact St. Charles County Animal Control at 636-949-7387.

Andres, 32, said Sunday was the first time he went to that dog park. He described Buddy as a gentle dog who was licking the grass in the park when he was suddenly attacked by the other dog.

"You couldn't have asked for a more loving, gentle dog," Andres said. "That's why my family is so torn up and angry. He just didn't deserve it, and I feel so bad he was helpless. He wasn't bred like that. The dog has never been in a fight in his life. He had no idea."

The Great Dane latched on Buddy's neck and the lower part of his ear, Andres said. Andres' father ran to Buddy and tried to pry the larger dog off of him. Andres' father breathed into Buddy's nose, and Andres pushed on Buddy's chest to try to revive him. "But he was already gone," Andres said.

Andres said he will never go back to a dog park. "I wouldn't recommend it," he said. "You don't know every pet owner there, you don't know if their dog was abused. You don't what kind of temperament."

Andres said the scene was so chaotic that he didn't have time to see a license plate for the Great Dane's owner who fled. He said he carried Buddy to his Jeep and wrapped him in a blanket. Then, he took the dog's body to a local funeral home that offers services to cremate animals.

Kim Bell and Valerie Schremp Hahn of the Post-Dispatch staff contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *An earlier version of this story gave an incorrect location of the dog park.*

Valerie Schremp Hahn

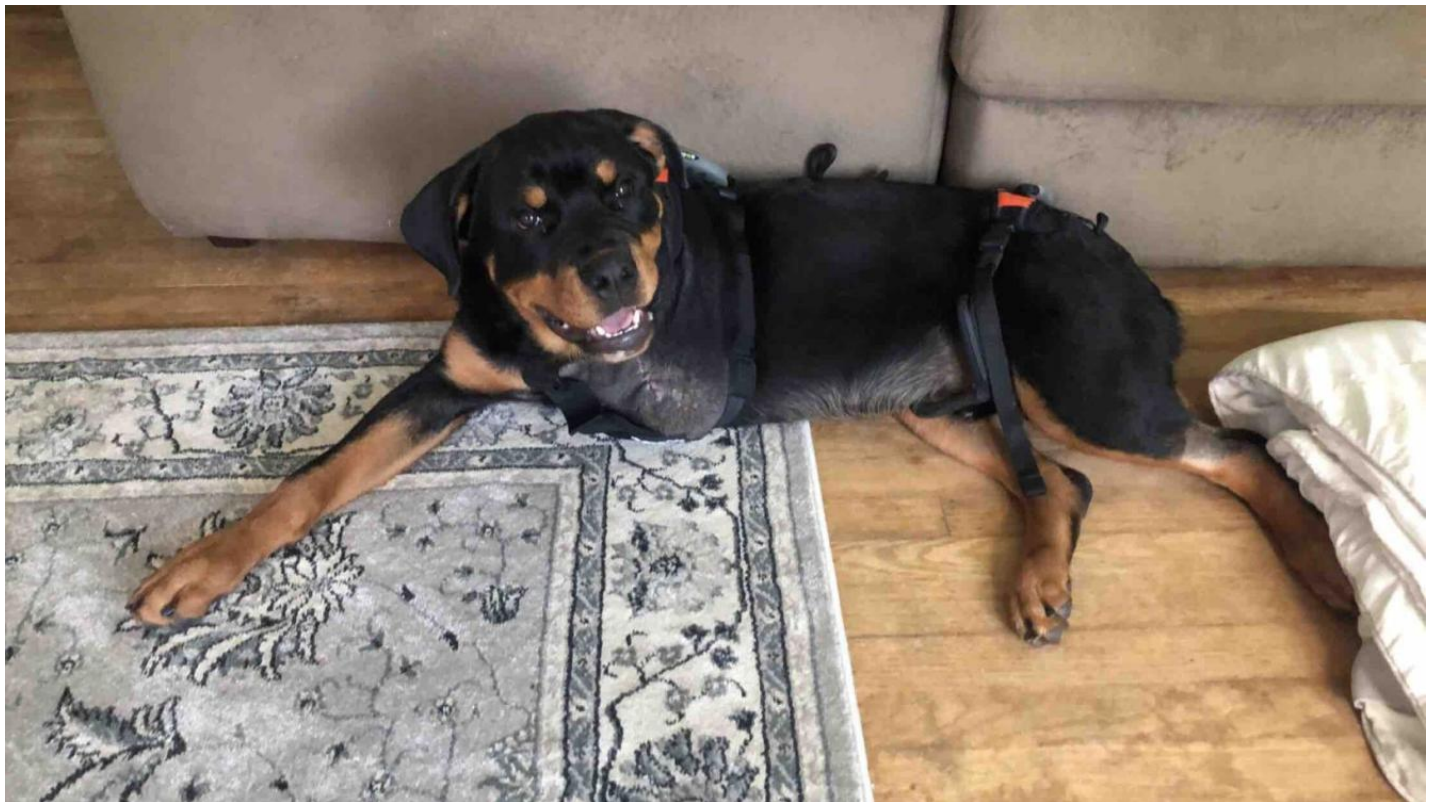
Valerie Schremp Hahn is a features writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

https://www.wdel.com/news/justice-for-milo-dog-wanted-in-banning-park-attack-where-puppy-lost-leg-seized-by/article_cbd101c4-9e86-11e9-b92e-f3af2f0982ee.html

'Justice for Milo' | Dog wanted in Banning Park attack, where puppy lost leg, seized by animal control

Amy Cherry

Jul 4, 2019 - 2:08 pm

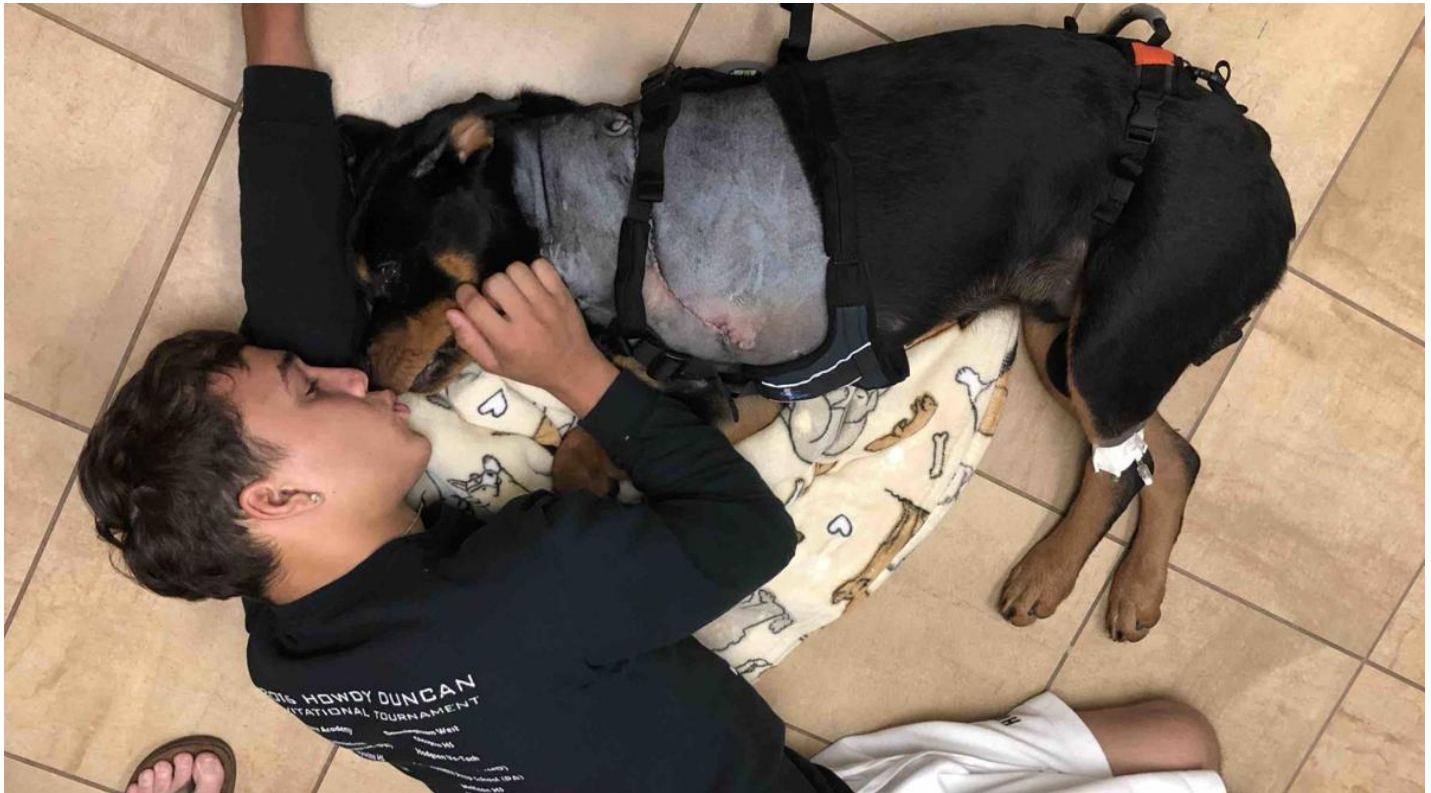


GoFundMe

A Mastiff or Bullmastiff has been seized by Delaware animal control officers Wednesday, nearly a week-and-a-half after the dog nearly killed another dog in Banning Park outside Newport.

"We're going to get some kind of justice for Milo, and this dog will not be able to injure another animal or human being, so they don't have to go through what we've been going through with them," said Kathy Ramunno of Newport, whose daughter owns the injured pup.

Milo, a 6-month-old Rottweiler puppy, had to have his leg amputated following an attack that occurred in the large, gated dog park within Banning Park on June 23, 2019.



GoFundMe

At the time of the attack, the Mastiff's owner, gave the name of "Dawn" and vowed to pay Milo's medical bills. But shortly after the attack, her telephone number had been disconnected, and her social media accounts had vanished.

Ramunno said it wasn't until State Sen. Stephanie Hansen got involved on Wednesday, July 3, 2019, that animal control took action and tracked the Mastiff to an address near Newport--not far from Ramunno's home.

"Within an hour-and-a-half, animal control knocked on my door to give me a copy of the report, telling me that they had the dog in the back of their truck, and the dog would be quarantined for 30 days until a court date could be set."

The Mastiff will face a dangerous dog hearing.

"The animal control officer has pictures of the wounds on Milo--they're all over social media. He has copies of all of the vet reports and the bills, so I think she's going to have a really hard time proving that her dog was not a threat," said Ramunno.

Ramunno said the same animal control officer had previously dealt with the Mastiff, several weeks ago after it had allegedly gotten loose.

"My concern is if this dog can do the damage that he did to Milo on a leash, imagine if this dog is out loose, running around, unleashed, the damage that he could do to another animal or a person," expressed Ramunno.

She said social media also played a role in helping nab the dog's owner, with Ramunno receiving dozens of tips daily.

"Saying, 'look we've seen this woman in Richardson Park, this is her dog, this is where she lives'...with social media and the internet, it's very hard to hide anymore," she said.

Ramunno initially thought the dog's owner was going to do the right thing.

"We thought she was on the up and up, she took full responsibility. She had texted my daughter that day: 'I'm going to take full responsibility; this was my fault.' She said that over speaker with the vet there."

But within 10 minutes of finding out that Milo's initial emergency vet bill was upwards of \$800, Ramunno said she ghosted her.

"I had talked to her two or three times before she disconnected her phone, but whether or not [Dawn] was her true name, I don't know," she said. "She, at one point, did have a Facebook page, and on that Facebook page her profile picture had a picture of her dog behind her. Now, within a day, that Facebook page was totally gone, it was wiped out, her Instagram was gone, but luckily, somebody screen-shotted that Facebook page, and sent it to me, and said, 'Is this her? Is this the dog?'"

"When animal control went to her house, I asked them, 'Well, how was she?' She said she did confirm the incident, she didn't deny it, she didn't try to hide it. So that's a good thing, that she did admit to it."

The community has rallied to help Ramunno pay Milo's medical bills, raising nearly \$6,000 so far, [through a GoFundMe](#).

"She will be held accountable, she is going to have to go before a judge; there are going to be fines that she has to pay," said Ramunno. "I'm happy, [but] it's not going to change the event that happened. It did not have to happen--it was a senseless act that didn't have to happen. She knew her dog was aggressive, but yet she chose to bring her dog right up to my dog, knowing how her dog's behavior was. If she would've just stayed in her half of the park, and stayed away, Milo would be running around playing with his toys, just being a normal, happy little puppy."

Milo had a bad night, suffering from anxiety and panic attacks all night, as he relives the vicious attack. He's got a long road to recovery.

"We've averaging one-to-two [attacks] per hour," said Ramunno. "It's like a human suffering from PTSD, it's going to take time. All we can do is show him love and support, let him know we're here, we're going to protect him, we love him, we're going to care for him."

--

Delaware Animal Control asked pet owners to take the following precautions when visiting a dog park in their area:

- Make sure your dog is fully vaccinated for rabies, distemper and bordetella.
- Ensure your dog is fully socialized and friendly and will not put other dogs or people at risk. If you are unsure, it is recommended you do not take your dog to a dog park.
- Do not assume every dog in the park is friendly.
- Make sure your pet is neutered, which can help curb aggressive behavior.
- Pay attention to a dog's body language, including: ears pinned back; stiff stance; raised hackles; hyper-focused; bared teeth; or growling. If your dog is being aggressive or there is an aggressive dog in the park, remove your dog immediately.
- Toys and treats can be triggers and cause fighting among dogs.
- Avoid bringing children to the dog park. If you do bring an older child, enforce a few rules: Don't approach a dog you don't know until you ask the owner; don't run - this can provoke the prey drive in

some dogs; don't try to take a toy or food away from any dog.

- Keep your dogs closer to other dogs their own size.
- For more information about preventing dog bites, visit: <https://www.avma.org/public/Pages/Dog-Bite-Prevention.aspx>.

If an incident occurs, pet owners should call Delaware Animal Services immediately at 302.255.4646

“Dog owners should not assume their dog - even if typically friendly - will never attack another dog or human,” said Delaware Animal Services Chief Mark Tobin.

“Unfortunately, dog bites do happen, so pet owners should always remain vigilant when dogs are interacting with one another.”

According to state law, dog owners are liable in damages for any injury or loss to another person or property, including pets, caused by an attacking dog. When an animal owner wishes to seek reimbursement for costs incurred from an incident, it is considered a civil matter.



Community rallies behind Newport family whose dog lost leg in vicious attack

Dog Dies from Dog Attack in Hardberger Park

Posted By Lyanne A. Guarecuco on Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:51 pm



Flickr Creative Commons / NowCastSA

A dog named Maggie died Saturday at Phil Hardberger Park after another dog unexpectedly bit her head and shook her, breaking her neck and killing her instantly, according to Maggie's owner.

Shelby Mauldin told KENS5 that she and her husband had brought Maggie, a 6-year-old labradoodle, and their golden retriever, to play in the dog park on September 23.



A man and his two dogs approached Mauldin's dogs, and before she knew it, one of the man's dogs went straight to Maggie, Mauldin told KENS5. After the attack, the unidentified dog owner leashed up both of his dogs and left the park, without time for Mauldin to get his information.

The park's website says pet owners are expected to stay with their dogs while they're in the dog parks, and to "take control of their pets, should excitement levels get out of hand." A sign at the park says "Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by dogs will be the responsibility of the owner," and that "Dogs showing aggression towards people or other animals will be removed from the park."

It's unclear how these rules are being enforced.

Judging by online reviews, these kind of attacks are incredibly rare in Hardberger Park. Of the 137 Yelp reviews of the park, only one reviewer claimed her dog had been attacked by another dog back in 2013 — everyone else seemed to have mostly good experiences at the dog parks.

This news comes less than a month after a 27-year-old woman was raped while jogging through Hardberger Park. The woman was pulled behind a bush and sexually assaulted by a male, who authorities have not yet identified.

Tags: dog park, Hardberger, Phil Hardberger Park, San Antonio, Image

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Tiny Dog Killed By Larger Animal At Dog Park

Dog Owner Wants Charges Increased



Updated: 7:53 AM CDT Mar 18, 2008

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OMAHA, Neb. — A 4-month-old Pomeranian puppy was killed on Saturday afternoon by a larger dog as both played at the Hefflinger Park's dog park.

Lorena Suarez-Delgado said she brought her puppy, which weighed less than 4 pounds, out to the park.



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"We decided to bring him out here to play with the other little dogs, and just have a nice Saturday afternoon," Suarez-Delgado said.

The dog park is divided into an area for small dogs and one for all dogs. Suarez-Delgado and her boyfriend, Mike Kelly, said they were playing with Rocky in the side for all dogs.

"Out of nowhere, this big dog comes behind, grabbed our dog, shook him, attacked him," Suarez-Delgado said.

Both Suarez-Delgado and Kelly said they got bit as they tried to remove the golden retriever-shepherd mix from their puppy.

"He was hurt pretty bad. We ran and took him to the hospital but he died on the way," Suarez-Delgado said.

The owner of the large dog, Marcia Hulsebus, is charged with something called pet damaging property -- a misdemeanor. Suarez-Delgado said she thinks she should be charged with harboring a dangerous animal. The Nebraska Humane Society's Mark Langan said he'll look into raising the charge.

"We'll run it by the city prosecutor in regard to dangerous, but we have to take into account -- dog owners assume the risk when they take their dogs to the dog park," Langan said.

Langan encouraged small dog owners to use the small dog end of the park.

"What we find happens is the bigger dogs see the smaller dogs as a toy and they pick the small dog up in the mouth, throw it back and forth like a chew toy, and severe injury happens to the dog during this rough play," Langan said.

The dog that attacked is now in quarantine as a precaution for rabies.

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'Please be kind': Sister of Ryan Larsen says mom is

'barely getting by,' says criticism hurtful

Chihuahua dies after attack at Eugene dog park

by KVAL

Tuesday, October 30th 2018

A



Tank, a 5-year-old chihuahua, was attacked by a dog described as a husky mix, the dog's owner says.

EUGENE, Ore. - A teenager took her chihuahua to the dog area at Candlelight Park last weekend and, little did she know, it would be the last time.

Tank, a 5-year-old chihuahua, was attacked by a dog described as a husky mix.

Tori Carlson and her boyfriend brought their dogs to Candlelight Dog Park when they saw a man enter the park with three dogs, including the husky mix who showed interest in Tank.

"It looked like the dog was trying to play with Tank," she said, "and then it just took Tank and started chewing on him and took him away from us."

Carlson could tell Tank was not okay, and her fear was confirmed by a local veterinarian.

"When we got (to the vet), they told us he had seven broken ribs and punctured lung."

She ultimately had to put Tank down, leaving her with \$1,200 in vet bills.

There are rules and laws in place to prevent this from happening at a park or anywhere else.

"It's Oregon state law that a dog be licensed with the jurisdiction that the owner resides," an official told us.

This helps ensure dogs are vaccinated, but also helps the City keep track of dogs that show aggressive behavior and may be classified as dangerous and face restrictions.

"Potentially dangerous dogs that are classified through our program are not allowed in those parks."

Within City and Lane County limits, there are strict leash laws in place, but they don't apply to dog parks.

"So, there is a general level of risk that someone takes by taking their dog in there."

There are rules: "You need to be paying attention to your dog and the dogs around you, and have verbal command over your dog at all times. If they're barking a lot, acting aggressive, biting - the owner must immediately leave the dog park."

Carlson says if she gets another chihuahua in the future, she will take it to one of the parks with a designated small dog area so they don't face the same fate as Tank.

"He was just a happy dog...loved everyone."

'Why is this happening?': Woman recalls terrifying attack at dog park

October 23, 2019 at 10:21 am EDTBy WSOCTV.com

A woman is recounting a terrifying and vicious dog attack at a park in Pineville, North Carolina, Monday and when police tried to seize that dog, the owner took off, leading police on a slow-speed chase for miles.



Abryana Heggins said she remembers all the thoughts that were rushing through her mind as a huge dog attacked her at a Pineville dog park.

"I just kept thinking 'What's happening? Why is this happening? How am I gonna get this dog off of me,'" Heggins said.

She said it all started when a very large dog owned by Terilyn Jackson started attacking a husky in the park.

"At first, he grabbed the husky by the back of its neck and then, grabbed its tail and started shaking its head aggressively," Heggins said. "The woman got a whistle and blowing at him."

She and her friend Jaylen rushed to get their dogs out of the park, but suddenly, she said she felt pressure on her arm.

"I just ended up being dragged across the ground by the dog, and he started shaking and locked onto my arm and there's people yelling, and she's yelling and Jaylen is trying to rip the dog off my arm," Heggins [said](#).

Her friend jumped on top of the dog and fought it until Pineville police arrived.

Officers told Jackson they needed to take her dog into custody, but they said she took her dog and drove off.

Officers turned on their lights and sirens and followed her. They said she drove the speed limit the entire time, but refused to stop.

At one point, they said she tried to hit their patrol car. Six miles later, she arrived at an animal hospital on Archdale Drive in Charlotte.

Eventually, police arrested Jackson.

"I could have been an 8-year-old or a child and that would be worse than what I got or Jaylen," Heggins [said](#).

Her friend Jaylen suffered several bites and broke a finger during all of this.

The dog is under what is called a "rabies quarantine." Animal control officials are monitoring it while police look into its background and decide if it should be put down.

Dog Attacks Child at Wilkes-Barre Dog Park, Police Search for Owner

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — A mother in Luzerne County is keeping a close eye on her 2-year-old son as he recovers from his injuries. The boy was attacked at Holl...



Volume 90%

Author: Carolyn Blackburne

Published: 5:46 PM EDT May 9, 2018

Updated: 5:45 PM EDT May 9, 2018

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- A mother in Luzerne County is keeping a close eye on her 2-year-old son as he recovers from his injuries. The boy was attacked at Hollenback Dog Park in Wilkes-Barre.

Katelyn Davis says her son needed to be taken to the hospital after he was attacked. He's still healing and very shaken up.

Davis calls this one of the scariest moments of her life.

Wilkes-Barre Police say Hayden was bitten by a dog Tuesday night at Hollenback Dog Park. Davis says the dog would not let go of her son.

"I would never think that a dog next to a children's playground would attack another child," she said.

Davis says she'll never bring her son back to that dog park again but she showed us where the attack took place.

"My son's arm was inside the gate. I'm standing here yelling, saying, 'Let him go! Let him go!'"

Davis says she turned her back for just a moment and she couldn't believe what she saw because there are signs all over the park saying aggressive dogs are not allowed.

"So right there you should not have brought your dog in here, knowing that they're going to do harm to other dogs and the children," Davis said.

There is an area in the park meant for bigger dogs, but Davis says it wasn't in there. It was in a smaller dog park and it took four minutes for the attack to end.

"I didn't get there in time," said the victim's aunt Sarah Campbell. "By the time I got there, it was over and we just jumped in the car and rushed to the emergency room."

Davis shared a picture from the internet with Newswatch 16 to show us what the dog looked like. They say the owner left in a gray sedan. Police are still looking for him.

"It would give us peace of mind to see this dog euthanized. It's for the best, so it never happens to anybody, so nobody has to go through this. I don't want anybody to feel the pain that our family is going through right now," said Campbell.

If you have any information that might help police, you're asked to call 911.

Police investigating after child is attacked by dog at Hoover dog park

NEWS

by: [Cameron Edgeworth](#)

Posted: May 22, 2018 / 05:18 PM CDT / Updated: May 23, 2018 / 12:18 AM CDT

Hoover police are investigating after a young boy was reportedly attacked by a dog at Loch Ridge Dog Park on Sunday.

The family of the 5-year-old Lucas says the dog was off the leash in a area of the park where a leash is required. The family says the attack was unprovoked and the dog bit the child, grabbed him, took him down and began shaking him. The family says the dog's owner refused to help, and would not give her name or information about her dog's health.

Lucas's mother Abigail Thomas gave us permission to show this picture of his wounds.

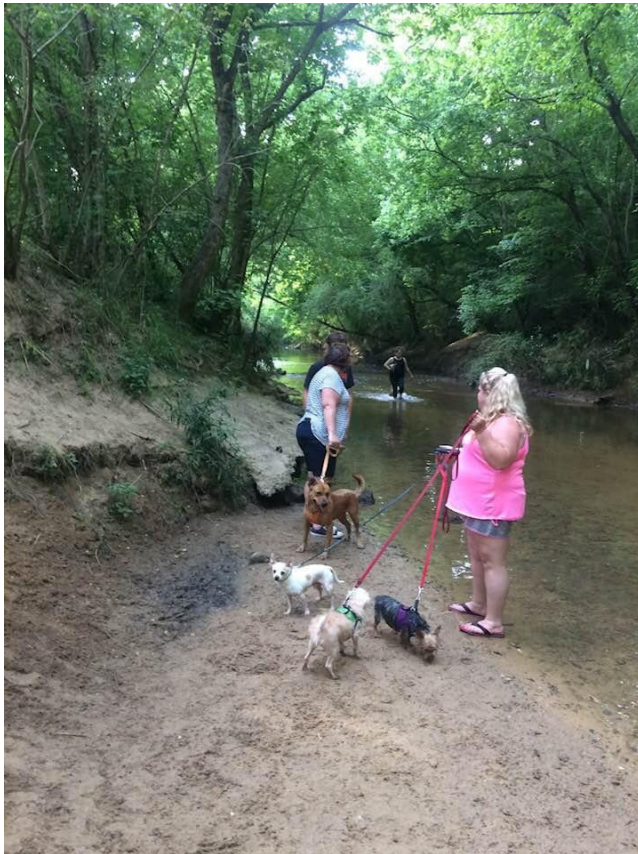


The family took the young boy to the Emergency Room because they had no information on the dog. The victim is now undergoing a series a rabies shots.

“I don’t want my son to have to go through that. It was awful watching him in that pain. He was just scared. He was really scared.” said Thomas.

Thomas says Lucas is now afraid of dogs outside the family.

Police are looking for the woman seen in the gray shirt with the brown dog. The family says the brown dog attacked the 5-year-old boy.



Hoover PD says the owner of the dog who attacked the boy could face charges in municipal court for violating the municipal vicious animal ordinance. The ordinance states it shall be unlawful for the owner or other person in charge thereof to harbor or keep in the city or the police jurisdiction thereof a vicious animal, unless the same is confined, muzzled and bound in such a manner as to prevent such animal from biting or attacking a person or other animal. It shall be prima facie evidence that an animal is a vicious animal if it shall bite or fiercely attack any person or any other animal, such person or other animal at the time of said biting or attack not being on the owner’s premises.

If you were at the dog park Sunday and witnessed the attack, you’re asked to call Hoover Animal Control at (205) 444-7760.

New details emerge in deadly pit bull attack at Okeeheelee Dog Park

by Niala Charles

Monday, January 29th 2018

AA



Animal Care & Control is holding a pit bull that killed a woman's dog in Okeeheelee Park over the weekend. (WPEC)

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CBS12) — New details have emerged in [Saturday's vicious pit bull attack](#).

The attack left a Yorkie dead, another dog injured, and a little girl shaken.

The owner of the pit bull was caught in a lie and now faces [several citations](#) for his dog's attack.

When officers came to the parking lot where the attack happened, the man who was with the pit bull claimed that he brought the dog here in an attempt to find its owner. But that man was the real owner all along.

"Mr. Gonzalez had said that he had just found the dog and that isn't accurate . He also said he went to Peggy Adams to surrender the dog as a stray," said Diane Sauve, director of Palm Beach County Animal Rescue.

It turns out Fernando Gonzalez did go to Peggy Addams Animal Rescue with the dog, but just to get free food for it.

When he returned to the park, the pit bull broke free of its leash, ran for a Yorkie and killed it almost instantly.

"Clearly no animal should've died or been injured first off," Sauve said. "When you have a large dog, you've got to be able to control that dog at all times."

Now the pit bull is caged and quarantined at Palm Beach Animal Rescue.

Gonzalez never neutered or vaccinated the dog since getting him in May 2017.

Everyone who came in contact with it is at risk, including a [Good Samaritan who was able to hold down the dog](#) until authorities arrived and saved the little girl.

Witnesses told CBS12 News that another puppy was severely injured. Investigators are looking into that too.

“Anytime there is a dog that kills or severely injured a dog a dangerous dog investigation is started. So that has been opened today,” Sauve said.

Palm Beach County Animal Rescue hasn’t decided if the pit bull will be put down yet.

If the owner surrenders the pit bull, the investigation will be closed and the dog will be put down.

If the investigation finds the dog to be aggressive or dangerous, euthanization is only a possibility.

DOG KILLED AT ASHLAND DOG PARK

[Local News](#) [Video](#) September 16, 2015 [Kristin Hosfelt](#) [Ashland, death, dog killed, dog park, oregon](#)
ASHLAND, ORE. — A Rogue Valley family is heartbroken tonight after their dog was killed at an Ashland dog park over the weekend. Jackson County Animal Services is now investigating the incident, and officials with the park say there's no plan to implement new restrictions.

"We're talking about a dog that had no other history of attacking or not getting along with other dogs," Barbara Talbert says, "so therefore we'll take our time, and make sure we make the right decision for the dog and for our community."

Jackson County Animal Services officials are calling it an unfortunate event. A Chihuahua was killed by a German Shepherd while inside an Ashland dog park Sunday.

The incident has sparked spirited conversation among park visitors. Some believe a small gated area is reserved for smaller dogs, but park officials say that's not the case.

"It's never been signed as a small dog area," Michael Black, Director of Ashland Parks & Rec says, "So there's nothing stopping a larger dog from going in there."

Park rules require that potentially dangerous dogs be leashed, and Black says it's the owners responsibility to monitor and remove any aggressive animals. Visitors to the park say in the wake of the incident they're now on high alert.

The German Shepherd involved has been surrendered by it's owner, and Jackson County Animal Services will now determine whether or not the animal will be sent to a shelter or euthanized.

https://theindependent.com/news/local/dog-killed-in-hastings-dog-park/article_16566b79-48cd-55d6-bb2b-291e704d56bc.html

Dog killed in Hastings Dog Park

By Sarah Schulz

Jun 21, 2009

HASTINGS — The Hastings Dog Park is meant to be a place where a dog can run free.

Last weekend, Stephanie Mueller was allowing her three dogs, including a shih tzu/terrier mix named Casey, to venture out unrestrained.

Mueller, 21, of Hastings said she didn't realize anyone was ahead of them when she let the dogs go. A few moments later, she saw a man at a distance running to his vehicle and two of her dogs coming back.

But there was no sign of Casey.

She hadn't heard any barks or yelps, so it wasn't until she saw the dog's body on the ground that she realized something had happened.

"And the next thing I knew, she was dead," Mueller said. "I was pretty shook up, and I didn't really know what to do. A guy I had seen there before came by, and he called the police for me."

A Hastings police officer came to the park to talk to her, she said.

The man Mueller saw, Adam Harrold, 38, went to the police department after leaving the dog park. According to police Sgt. Bill Mann, Harrold reported he had been at the park when the shih tzu/terrier mix began biting his lab mix.

Harrold, who also lives in Hastings, told officers he hit the smaller dog with a wooden walking stick several times before running from the park, Mann said.

Harrold didn't return a message left by The Independent at his home.

Mueller said she had an encounter with Harrold in the park prior to Casey's death. Her dog barked at Harrold, and that apparently upset him, she said. Harrold told her that, if he saw her dog in the park again without a leash, he would call the police. After that, she started carrying a leash to the park with her.

She said Casey likely barked at Harrold because the dog had been abused by the man who previously owned it. Mueller had owned Casey, who was about 1 1/2 years old, for about four months.

"She was a nice little dog who never did anything more than bark," Mueller said.

The dog park, which is on 55 fenced-in acres, opened in December 2007. It is on the southeast edge of Hastings on an old landfill site, Mann said.

Hastings has an ordinance requiring dogs in public areas to be on a leash, but dogs can go without a leash at the dog park. However, the animals are supposed to be under their owner's control, he said.

The matter is still under investigation, and Mann said all reports will be forwarded to the Adams County attorney's office to determine if any charges can or should be filed.

According to Nebraska state statutes, a person can be charged with animal cruelty for intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing injury or death to an animal. However, there is also a statute that gives people the right to kill any dog that is found doing damage to a domestic animal.

The park is under the supervision of the city's Parks and Recreation Division, but Mann said, as far as he knows, there have been no previous major problems reported.

Hastings Parks and Recreation Director Eric Christensen said that, to his knowledge, this dog death is the first at the well-used park.

He said it is common for dogs to run ahead of their owners in the park, but people are supposed to self-supervise while there. Licensed dogs are allowed to be off their leashes if they are accompanied at all times by their owners. Their owners have to keep them under control and are liable for the dog's actions. Animals with a history of dangerous behavior are prohibited, and aggressive dogs must be kept on a leash, he said.

Christensen said the definition of an aggressive dog is "kind of a gray area."

Mueller said an autopsy was done at TLC Vet in Hastings, and it indicated Casey had been struck in the ribs and in the head. The vet clinic, the police department and the community have been very supportive, she said she's thankful for that.

In the last week, she has been in contact with Hastings Police Chief Larry Thoren, who told her the matter is still being investigated.

"The case is still active," she said. "I feel like it's not being ignored. It's getting attention, which is a relief."

Though she hasn't been back to the park to walk her dogs, and isn't likely to return anytime soon, Mueller said she enjoyed the area before Casey's death.

"The park is a nice, awesome place," she said. "Before this happened, I felt safe there, and I felt like my dogs were safe."

Day at dog park turns violent



Day at dog park turns violent

By [JOLIE BREEDEN](#) |


August 14, 2009 at 10:16 a.m.

BROOMFIELD — A man stabbed a pit bull to death at the Broomfield County Commons dog park, and the District Attorney's Office is now sorting out whether it was a case of defense or animal cruelty.

The man, whose name was not released, is accused of stabbing the pit bull several times with a pocket knife after it allegedly attacked his Doberman pinscher twice while the dogs were exercising at the dog park July 30, police said Monday.

The animals were separated once, but the pit bull held the Doberman by the throat in the second attack and could not be pulled off, witnesses told police.

“The first dog apparently latched onto the neck of the other dog,” said Police Chief Tom Deland. “In order to stop the attack, the owner of the dog got a knife and stabbed the other dog.”

AdChoices 

Ten people, along with the dog owners, witnessed the incident, which happened around 7:30 p.m., police said. Both animals were taken for treatment from the park

— near 136th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard — to a veterinary clinic. The pit bull later died of its wounds.

The Doberman was still being treated Monday, said Sgt. Scott Swenson.

No arrests were made at the time of the stabbing.

The 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office on Monday was reviewing the case.

If charges are filed, they could range from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony. There was no date set for making a decision to file charges, Assistant District Attorney Michael Goodbee said.

Police can't release any other details about the incident while it is under investigation, Swenson said.

Police have responded to four aggressive dog calls in the park vicinity this year, he said.

Spring Hill family heartbroken after dog dies from attack at Johnson County dog park

NEWS

by: [Sherae Honeycutt](#)

Posted: Sep 6, 2019 / 06:44 PM CDT / Updated: Sep 6, 2019 / 07:02 PM CDT

This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated.

Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.

JOHNSON COUNTY, Kan. — A Spring Hill family is mourning the loss of their dog after police said it was attacked at a Johnson County dog park.

The Wiles family miss their 6-year-old cavamalt named Ranger, who took up a big space in their hearts. Every day, he went to the Heritage Dog Park Off-Leash Area in Olathe with the family's goldendoodle.

They never imagined his trip to the dog park Thursday, Sept. 5 would be his last.

“Had a great smile,” Ranger’s owner, Mitch Wiles, sad. “Like all dogs, they become part of your family.”

On Thursday evening, Wiles said Ranger was playing at the dog park when disaster struck.

“One of them went after my dog and attacked it,” he said.

Wiles said a person with two dogs, which he and a witness believe were pit bulls, came into the park. One of the dogs was off leash. He said it went for Ranger and wouldn't let go.

“Get him off,” Wiles said. “You just do whatever you can to try and get 'em off.”

In the process, Wiles said he got nipped himself, but his injuries were the last thing he was worried about. He raced Ranger to the vet.

Ultimately, Ranger had to be put down.

Wiles said the owner of the other dog tried to give him some information at the time, but Wiles was too concerned about Ranger to focus on it.

Capt. Rob Weber with the Johnson County Park Police said dogs who are taken to parks like this should be well socialized.

“When people bring their dogs to the dog off-leash park, what we look for and hope for is that we have responsible ownership, that you’re not bringing in an aggressive dog out there,” Weber said. “But you never really know what your dog is going to do until they’re put in that situation.”

Wiles said one solution may be to separate dogs by size at the park.

“I would just hope that owners, pet owners, if you’re going to take your dog to a public off the leash dog park, that you have some security knowing that your dog is not going to attack another dog,” Wiles said.

The Johnson County Park Police say they would like the owner of the dog that attacked to contact them. They want to make sure the dog has its proper shots and said they wouldn’t be facing any criminal charges.

Dog recovers after vicious attack at Santa Fe dog park

NEW MEXICO NEWS

by: [Stephanie Chavez](#)

Posted: Jul 12, 2019 / 07:48 PM MDT / Updated: Jul 13, 2019 / 09:23 AM MDT

SANTA FE, N.M. (KRQE) – A Santa Fe couple is devastated after their small dog was attacked by a pit bull at a dog park. The pit bull’s owner took off immediately after the attack and now they can’t find her.

The couple says they don’t want anything to happen to the pit bull, and they have no hard feelings towards the dog at all. They just want the owner to come forward so they can have the shot records.

It started as a normal day at the dog park for Ben Snelgrove and his Chiweenie, Oscar, but in an instant, the day took a terrible turn.

“I don’t know what happened, but the next thing I knew the pit bull had gotten a hold of his neck,” said Snelgrove.

Ben says it all happened so fast. He says he wrestled with the dogs, trying everything he could to get the pit bull to let go. It was over in just a few quick moments, but Oscar was left with some serious injuries. His neck, torn open, and Ben got bitten too.

He says he isn’t mad at the pit bull. He explains it’s not his fault. However, he and his wife Heather are upset because the owner disappeared immediately after the incident without offering any help.

They say they won’t be pressing charges and they don’t want the dog to be punished. They just want the owner to come forward for help with Oscar’s vet bills and to be assured that her dog is up to date on their vaccines.

Oscar had emergency surgery on his neck Thursday afternoon. He has at least twelve stitches and two drains. Ben and Heather say they’ve already spent at least \$1,200 and Oscar still has a long road of recovery ahead.

They're looking for any information on the owner of the pit bull. They say she drives a blue Prius and has shoulder length, curly, dark hair.

Death in the Dog Park: The Dangers of Collars in Off-Leash Dog Play

JUNE 14, 2013 by E. FOLEY



June 12, 2013

This past week in Pennsylvania, a dog was killed at a dog park in a freak accident caused when he suffocated because another dog got his jaw stuck under the collar and they couldn't get apart. But is this really a freak accident? The Dog Gurus, Robin Bennett and Susan Briggs will tell you this type of incident is a known danger when dogs play off-leash together and one they always discuss when teaching pet care facility owners how to operate safe off-leash play environments.

"Understanding collar safety is one of the most important issues pet owners should consider before taking their dog to play off-leash with other dogs", stated Bennett. Every day pet owners enter the dog park and take the leash off their dogs but leave on whatever collar the dog happens to be wearing. For rambunctious dogs that like to wrestle and grab the neck area of other dogs (a common play style seen in dog parks), there is the potential to get the collar stuck under the jaw. If this happens, the dog who has the collar in his mouth will often begin to panic and, in the chaos that follows, the collar tightens and begins to suffocate the other dog.

So how do you balance the concept of safe play, with the need to manage your dog and move him when you need to? Every owner supervising off-leash play needs to give careful consideration to whether or not their dog should wear a collar in the dog park.

In their guidelines for pet care centers, The Four Es of Excellence in Off-Leash Play. Briggs and Bennett outline their baseline standard on the topic of collar safety which they would also recommend for pet owners: The safest way to let dogs play is to remove all collars and harnesses so that the dogs “play naked.” Since dogs play with their mouths there is a high risk for teeth and jaws to become caught in another dog’s collar. Dogs have died as a result which is reason that “play naked” is recommended for safety. However, in some situations, for safety or legal purposes it may be necessary to have a collar on a dog. Velcro safety collars or break-away collars are a good option since they can be easily removed. Another option is paper collars hand marked with dog names. Owners should have slip leads readily available if they need to quickly leash their dog for safety (a slip lead can be made from a standard leash simply by feeding the hook through the hand grip.)

Bennett and Briggs have both experienced the dangers of dogs getting their jaws caught in a collar. “It is a chaotic, stressful situation that looks like a fight, but becomes a life or death struggle between the dogs,” states Bennett. Briggs added, “When this type of situation happens, the collar tightens so much that it is virtually impossible to get it off the dog, particularly since the dogs are in a panic. The only hope is if you have something sharp to cut the collar off, but even that is risky because you can cut the dogs.”

If you go to the dog park, make sure you are taking measures to minimize the risk of injury due to a collar mishap. These types of accidents are completely avoidable! If you absolutely must use collars, make sure they are Velcro or break-away collars. But for the safest off-leash play environment, our recommendation is to let the dogs play naked.

No criminal charges in North Charleston dog park attack

LOCAL NEWS

by: [Natalie Price](#)

Posted: Feb 21, 2019 / 02:28 PM EST / Updated: Feb 21, 2019 / 02:50 PM EST

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCBD) – A girl is recovering after being attacked at a local dog park. While the case can be taken to civil court, no criminal charges are being filed.

According to an incident report from the North Charleston Police Department, Saturday a girl was bitten in the face by a dog running loose at the Wescott Dog Park.

This dog park has specific rules and recommendations for those using the dog park and one of them states that not only are children under sixteen not allowed in alone, but it's recommended that small children do not enter the dog park at all.

While in many cases you do see criminal charges filed in dog bite cases, this isn't one of them for several reasons. Most importantly, there was no violation of any law.

“Generally when you see a dog bite, authorities are going to look for two different laws in my opinion. One is the leash law, whether the dog's running at large. In this particular scenario, they were in a dog park where the dogs are allowed to be off of leashes or other restraints. The other one they'd look at is whether or not the dog is a dangerous animal. What that means is whether or not the owner had some sort of knowledge or should have known that the dog had a propensity or a tendency to attack humans or other domestic animals,” said Attorney Thomas Nelson, of Futeral and Nelson, LLC.

Search underway for owner of 2 dogs who attacked man and his dog in Frederick

By Anjali Hemphill | Published September 20, 2019 | Crime and Public Safety | FOX 5 DC

Search for owner of 2 dogs who attacked man and his dog in Frederick

Frederick county health officials are searching for the owners of two dogs who attacked a smaller dog and its owner at a dog park. The incident happened on Tuesday at the Ballenger Creek dog park in Frederick.

FREDERICK, Md. (FOX 5 DC) - Frederick County health officials are searching for the owners of two dogs who attacked a smaller dog and its owner at a dog park. The incident happened on Tuesday at the Ballenger Creek dog park in Frederick.

Signs put up at the park say the health department is looking for a man in his 70's who was with a black lab/pitbull mix and a couple, a man in his 80's and a woman in her 60's who were with a reddish-brown Australian Shepherd mix. They aren't facing charges but could have life-saving information.

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Mike Pagliaro tells FOX 5 he never expected his little 4-year-old Bichon Frise Daisy to be brutally attacked and almost killed after a fun day at the dog park.

"Everyone was having a great time, it was a beautiful day, the tails were wagging and the dogs were chasing each other around and around," he says.

This was Tuesday afternoon when he, Daisy and the Goldendoodle named Gump were about to leave the dog park after an hour of romping, when all of a sudden two large dogs went in for the attack on Daisy, causing a commotion.

"One had the front of her and one had the back of her. So I just dropped everything, got to my knees and started pulling the dogs off. They had very powerful heads, I tried to get them loose, the fur was flying and it's as quite a thing. I think if I had hesitated at all, even five seconds, the dog would be dead now," says Mike.

Pictures after the attack show a bloody scene with more than 20 puncture wounds on Daisy's body, including her neck and head.

Even worse, when Mike tried to break things up, he was bitten three times in his arm, which puts him at risk of contracting rabies if either of the dogs have been exposed.

According to Barry Glotfelty of the Frederick County Department of Health, "We are concerned because of rabies. If you contract rabies and begin to show symptoms of rabies, you are likely not going to survive the disease. We are not in any way trying to confiscate the dogs or take testing, we are just trying to make sure the dogs are healthy after 10 days so someone could avoid post-exposure rabies treatment."

Even if no one comes forward, Mike will have to undergo that treatment anyway, out of an abundance of caution and that involves at least four vaccines given over a two-week period where he will be closely monitored for any symptoms.

"Everyone who gets rabies dies if they don't get the vaccine so I'm fine getting the vaccines because it's such a high price to pay but I would prefer not to. If whoever owns these dogs would just let us know what the immunization records are, they could spare me that inconvenience," says Mike.

As of now, Daisy is expected to survive her injuries and she has already had the rabies vaccine, but if no one comes forward by Thursday, her owner will have to begin that inconvenient, pricey and sometimes painful treatment.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Frederick County Health Department.

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https://www.postandcourier.com/news/pit-bull-attacks-kills-puppy-at-dog-park/article_d2d45f95-73ba-593f-baf6-a21e3257b1d1.html

Pit bull attacks, kills puppy at dog park

ANDY PARAS

MAR 9, 2009



Steven Zorens

Julie Teffeteller said she cried out for her Maltese puppy Bibble as soon as she saw a large pit bull-mix pushing the 5-pound puppy with its nose Sunday at the Wannamaker Dog Park in North Charleston.

Bibble sprinted toward her, Teffeteller said, but so did the larger dog.

The 23-year-old Air Force officer said she nearly caught Bibble as she leapt toward her, but the pit bull-mix grasped the puppy first.

“She slipped right through my fingers,” Teffeteller said through tears Monday. “I almost had her. He was just too fast. There was no way she was going to beat him.”

Teffeteller watched the muscular dog grab the puppy with its jaws and shake it. One bite was all it took, she said. She and her husband, Brannndon, watched the 9-month-old puppy bleed to death in front of them.

“He tore into her like he would have torn into a squirrel,” Julie Teffeteller said.

Both the pit bull’s owner and Charleston County Park and Recreation officials said Monday that they were devastated by the fatal attack. Executive Director Tom O’Rourke said dog owners know they assume all responsibility when they use the dog parks, but he plans to push for new fencing that will separate smaller dogs from larger dogs to help prevent it from happening again.

Judi Telford, the mother of the 17-year-old girl who took their dog, Rocket, to the park, shed her own tears Monday when she found out that Bibble died.

Telford said she and her daughter are dog lovers who volunteer at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where they adopted the 5-year-old female. The dog has never hurt anyone or anything before, she said.

“We’re just so, so sorry for her loss,” Telford said of Teffeteller. “We feel terrible about the whole thing.”

Telford said her daughter took the family’s two dogs to the park Sunday to get some sun and exercise. She was there for about an hour when the dogs ran off. “All of a sudden, she was trying to pull Rocket away,” Telford said. “A lot of people were yelling at her. She felt awful.”

The teen gave her name and phone number to Teffeteller and left with the dogs. The teen’s mom said she called her from the car, shaken up. There was some confusion initially because the phone number she gave to Teffeteller was off by a digit. North Charleston Police identified the Telfords through the license plate number taken by a park official, but Public Information Officer Spencer Pryor said no charges will be filed because it is a civil matter.

O'Rourke said the fatal attack was the first to happen at any of the county's three dog parks. He said several witnesses to Sunday's attack have recommended they provide a special area for smaller dogs, something he expects to be implemented at the Wannamaker and James Island dog parks "sooner rather than later." The dog park at Palmetto Islands already has a makeshift pen for small dogs made out of extra fencing left over from a dog event, he said.

Park officials said posted signs warning owners that their dogs' behavior is their responsibility, along with a dog-loving community that polices itself, have kept the dog parks a safe place for all dogs for more than two years.

Still, they're fortunate something like this hasn't happened sooner, O'Rourke said. He said he knows from conversations with dog park representatives from across the country that something like this was bound to happen eventually, especially when considering that the three parks get more than 100,000 dogs a year. That averages out to more than 300 dogs a day.

"It was just a matter of time, statistically speaking," he said.

The park is not going to consider banning any particular breed of dog, he said. He said he doesn't know of any dog parks that do that.

"We have not and will not be getting into the business of banning whole breeds of dogs," he said.

That's good news to the Teffetellers. The couple has their own pit bull-mix and a doberman that they've trained to be social since they were puppies.

They don't want to see pit bulls banned from the parks, but they would like to see people take responsibility for their dogs, as the signs say.

Teffeteller and Telford spoke over the phone Monday. Telford apologized and promised to get Rocket socialized and trained.

After the conversation, Teffeteller said she has no ill will toward the family or their dog. She hopes people will read about the experience and get their own dogs trained.

“We don’t believe in bad dogs,” she said. “We just believe in bad owners.”

Shreveport Times

NEWS

City responds to report of pet killed after incident at dog park

Sarah Crawford Shreveport Times

Published 4:42 p.m. CT Jul. 20, 2017 | Updated 8:19 p.m. CT Jul. 20, 2017

The City of Shreveport has issued a statement following a report that alleges one dog died after being injured by other dogs at the Shreveport Dog Park, which just opened last Friday.

According to a report by KSLA, resident Katherine May took her 3-year-old Chihuahua and Yorkie mix named Sandy to the city park Wednesday night, where May said the pet was attacked by other large dogs.

The dog reportedly had to be euthanized due to its injuries, that report states.

A Facebook user with the name of Katherine May also recounted an alleged incident in a post on the Shreveport Dog Park Alliance page Wednesday night.

“Because this park is not separating big dogs and little dogs, my little dog just got bit and shaken like a toy,” May wrote in the post. “We are now at the emergency vet because it was 7 p.m. at the time. Sandy suffered a puncture wound to her abdomen, breaking her ribs and damaging her intestines. She did not survive this incident.”

The Times also reached out to this user seeking further comment.

When asked for comment on this reported incident, City of Shreveport Director of Communications Africa Price offered the following statement:

“The City of Shreveport has undertaken every effort to make its newly opened dog park an inviting and family-friendly environment. The unfortunate incident this week has highlighted the importance of our community being aware of all the rules and regulations of the dog park.

“The park currently maintains separately marked areas for dogs of different temperaments. Dog owners are ultimately responsible for the actions of their pet(s), and each member of the public is expected to adhere to the posted rules of the park. The rules that govern the use of the park are found in the City’s Code of Ordinances, are also displayed near the park entrance, and are derived from best practices around the country. Per the ordinances, a person 18 years or older who brings a dog to the dog park is expected to be inside the enclosed dog park and have visual and voice control of the their dog(s) at all times. Minors are not allowed to accompany dogs unattended.

“The City of Shreveport remains committed to the success of the park.”

Cpl. Angie Willhite with the Shreveport Police Department said no police report has been filed in relation to the alleged incident.

PETS & ANIMALS

Family devastated after Yorkie mauled to death at New Jersey dog park

By Lauren Glassberg

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

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Lauren Glassberg has the story of a Yorkie killed at a Hoboken dog park.

Bamf, a Yorkshire terrier, was mauled to death by a pit bull in Hoboken earlier this month.

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Water main break gushes water into Boerum Hill streets

The dog's owner, Patricia Enrico, misses her Yorkshire terrier and now says the pit bull's owners should be held responsible.

"Sweet is an understatement," Enrico said. "He followed me wherever I went."

The Church Square Park dog run was one of their frequent stops. But June 3 would be their last visit there.

"I took two steps in, turned to close the gate, and that's when it happened, in seconds," Enrico said. "His eye ball was hanging out, gushing blood."

Sadly, surgery couldn't save the 8-pound dog.

Walkers and owners in the area are now looking out for that aggressive pit bull, which was with a dog walker that day.

"You can only image the agony of what that dog went through," a local dog walker said.

"Yeah, we're definitely on the lookout."

"If you can't control your dog, you have no right and no business being in a dog run," a local dog owner said.

According to the police report, the pit bull's walker said the little dog shouldn't have been in the same area as the big dogs. But there actually are no rules or signs about what sized dog should be where, and an internal gate even connects the two sides.

Enrico maintains the dog walker should have at least warned her about the pit bull's aggressive behavior.

"I am beyond angry," Enrico said. "He didn't attempt to stop me and say, wait a minute, I'm not sure of my dogs."

She is considering a lawsuit against the pit bull's walker and owner.

The city of Hoboken is also considering designating the bigger area of the park for big dogs and allowing smaller dogs in at their owners' risk.

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Local woman asking for help, raising awareness after dog killed playing in dog park

Local woman is asking for help and raising awareness after her dog was killed while playing in a dog park.



Updated: 6:00 PM EDT Apr 6, 2018

Infinite Scroll Enabled



Marcie Cipriani   

Reporter

Joanna Waldsmith was in Bernard Run Dog Park in Lawrenceville Saturday, with her Pomeranian named Monkey, when she said he was attacked by another dog.

"All I remember is this dog shooting over, and the gentleman who was on the bench screamed, it has your dog," said Waldsmith.

Advertisement

Waldsmith said her boyfriend pried the pit bull-lab mix's mouth open and a stranger picked up Monkey.

"I just grabbed him and gave him CPR," said Kimmy Addison.

Addison, Waldsmith and Waldsmith's boyfriend raced to the emergency veterinarian.

"He didn't make it," said Waldsmith. "He was already dead"

Waldsmith said when they got back to the park, the dog who had killed Monkey and its owner were gone.

Waldsmith is looking to find the dog's owner. She said the black and white dog, named Ace, bit her boyfriend and they want to be sure the dog was vaccinated for rabies.

"It's not the dog, it's the owner that needs to take responsibility," said Waldsmith.

Waldsmith has started a GoFundMe page to raise awareness and money, to have signs made to place at local dog parks. She said the signs will remind owners to know their pets, watch them closely at dog parks and muzzle them if necessary.

Waldsmith said she is creating the signs in memory of Monkey.

"He smiles a lot and he did the cutest little dance moves with his back feet," said Waldsmith.

"He wouldn't harm a flea. He was just full of love and kisses and cuddling, he was just an amazing dog."

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GATEWAY

Dog park members concerned after three pit bulls attack, owner flees

Published: April 26, 2019 5:20 PM EDT

Updated: April 27, 2019 11:40 AM EDT

A trip to a dog park near Gateway Elementary School turned vicious as Ed Debs was leaving with his dog.

Witnesses say three pit bulls came running up to Debs and their owner couldn't control them.

Video of the incident shows Debs jumping on top of his dog to protect him while the three pit bulls viciously try to get past him.

You can see the owner of the three other dogs trying to pull them back.

Witnesses say the owner finally got control of his dogs, put them back in an RV, and drove off without even staying to make sure anybody was OK.

One woman, Dolly Haymes, says they called the Lee County Sheriff's Office and animal control and LCSO said it was animal control's responsibility. Animal control allegedly told them it was LCSO's responsibility.



In the end, neither showed up. Only a paramedic to help Debs with his injuries.

We reached out to Lee County to see why animal control didn't come out, but we're still waiting to hear back from the county.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office said in an email: "We work very closely with Lee County Domestic Animal Services ... we will be conferring with Animal Services as to the best course of action for this investigation."

Debs' son says it's not just his dad who is shaken up, but the dog too.

At the entrance of the park there's a large sign that says "Members Only."

All of the witnesses say they don't recognize the owner of the three pit bulls.

The witnesses did get the license plate number, so they're hoping something can be done before the dogs attack again.

Now the family is worried he will need a rabies vaccination.

Reporter: Morgan Rynor

Do you see a typo or an error? Let us know.



https://www.swnewsmedia.com/eden_prairie_news/news/public_safety/dog-owner-seeks-change-at-flying-cloud-dog-park/article_3d2c2a02-7d45-5298-b1fe-d795758cf992.html

Dog owner seeks change at Flying Cloud Dog Park

Aug 20, 2013



The side of an Eden Prairie Police patrol car.

Photo by Patty Dexter

Tessie Bradbury's Yorkshire terrier Winston was attacked by another dog on Aug. 12 at Flying Cloud Dog Park. Winston died following the attack.

On Tuesday Bradbury spoke at the Eden Prairie City Council meeting, thanking the community for its support and saying that a designated area for small dogs is needed at the park.

"I felt and heard my dogs' final breath before he died," Bradbury said. "We are here to take action for our dog Winston."

Bradbury said that she had already been working with Parks and Recreation Director Jay Lotthammer about coming up with a plan.

"We are very pleased with their willingness to help us advocate for change," she said.

Bradbury said that putting another dog down would not bring Winston back. She said that building a fence could prevent another family from going through what they went through.

“We will do whatever it takes,” she said, mentioning petitions or fundraising.

Lotthammer said that the city is looking into the change, including an entrance that would separate the dogs. The city will post information at the dog park and is also requesting community input regarding the suggestions.

Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens told Bradbury, “The way you’re dealing with this is really admirable.”

According to Joyce Lorenz, communications manager for the city of Eden Prairie, the incident occurred at approximately 7 p.m. Aug. 12. Police received a call reporting an incident at Flying Cloud Dog Park, 7171 Flying Cloud Drive.

The incident was reported by a witness at 7:10 p.m. Shortly after, the owner of the dog that was the aggressor called police to report the incident as well. The owner of the aggressor dog is a Hopkins resident.

Police are investigating to determine whether any city ordinances or state statutes were violated, Lorenz said.

— *Karla Wennerstrom*

and Patty Dexter