



Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

Offices located in the
Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion
Harbor Island Park
P. O. Box 369
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Barry Casterella
General Foreman of Parks

Jason Pinto
Recreation Supervisor

Recreation: (914) 777-7784

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Recreation Commission Meeting - September 2, 2020

Agenda

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/95135430963>

Or via iPhone one-tap: US: +1 646 558 8656, 95135430963# or +1 312 626 6799, 95135430963#

Or via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or

+1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 95135430963

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aejC93l87x>

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Harbor Island Conservancy Presentation
- Dog Law Update

ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED:

- Approve July PRC Minutes

Upcoming Events:

October Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to be held on October 7, 2020 via Zoom.

Dog Park Dossier

The following documents are a collection of emails and other documents the Village of Mamaroneck's Board of Trustees has received regarding:

- The ongoing discussion of a dedicated dog park
- Dogs in parks
- Files about dog parks in other areas

These documents serve to evaluate the feasibility of a dog park in the Village of Mamaroneck. To contribute to this ongoing discussion, please email the Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees at mayorandboard@vomny.org.

Re: Dog walking in Florence Park

Lauren Fetzer <lfetze@aol.com>

Mon 2/10/2020 8:28 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Board,

I understand that tonight's agenda will touch on dog walking in Florence Park.

I have lived on Florence St. for over thirty years. There are more and more dogs in our neighborhood these days. Many people are walking two dogs. Many people are also ignoring the signs and walking their dogs in the park, on and off their leashes. Sometimes I see two or three people walking dogs at the same time totally ignoring signs or letting them run in the field unleashed.

I feel this is too small a park to accommodate the little children on bikes, the seniors using the side walk for slow walks and the runners and fast walkers during most of the day. If the village wants to enact a similar rule as Harbor Island, enforcement could be an issue. These are my concerns.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. Thank you for your attention to this note.

Sincerely,

Lauren Fetzer

344 Florence St.

Sent from my iPad

Re: Dog walking in Florence Park

Lauren Fetzer <lfetze@aol.com>

Fri 3/20/2020 10:16 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Re: Dog walking in Florence Park

I understand that the board is considering allowing dogs in Florence Park during certain hours.

As a 33 year resident and property owner whose home abuts the park, I would like to understand the rationale in considering this idea.

This is not a large park, but a family park that is considerably used during much of the day by children on bikes, seniors doing some walking, runners, tennis and basketball players and children doing practice soccer and baseball.

It has never been allowed to have dogs in the park and the signs outside each entrance state this. I had a dog for fifteen years and that dog was not allowed in the park. I understood the rationale as the park is for people. My dog exercised in our backyard on a leash. There are several people who live on Florence St. who have dogs and over the years, they walked them on the block. Yet lately, there are many people walking dogs in the park from other areas disregarding signs totally. Almost every day, I will also see a dog even off the leash, running all over the middle grass area. Why has this happened? We used to have a park ranger riding through the park and checking on things including giving tickets to people who had dogs in the park. No park ranger is a problem -if you want to limit the hours and rules for dog walking.

Has the health department signed off on this idea? Surely, waste matter placed in receptacles, which are located near benches is a hazard, especially in summer months. Will there be more garbage pickup added?

Given recent developments regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, more and more people are using the park. More and more people are also disregarding signs and walking one or two dogs throughout the day, again disregarding signs, probably because there has been no repercussions for doing so. If the board decides to allow dogs in Florence St. Park at certain times of the day, there needs to be oversight that rules are followed. Bringing back a Park Ranger to check that people are following the rules is important. Limiting the time that dogs can be in the park should be narrowed to allow for the increased use of the park by residents. Many smaller children can no longer use the playground, as it is fenced off, leaving them to play in the field and walkways. Signs have clearly not worked in recent years, so the board will need to decide on what course of action will be followed to monitor dogs in the park and enforce any regulations that are established.

Sincerely,
Lauren Fetzer

Sent from my iPad

Re: dogs in the parks discussion

Alana Stone <alanaleestone@yahoo.com>

Sat 3/21/2020 2:52 PM

To: Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>

Thanks Nora, I appreciate it Alana

On Mar 21, 2020, at 1:42 PM, Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org> wrote:

Thanks Alana,

I have also added Jackie and Ellen,

The Dogs in Park is a hold over - the proposed law posted is the February 4 version that BOT referred back to the Rec Committee which made a recommendation that a trial run would be prudent. The BOT has not discussed this trial recommendation at all and I believe having this on the agenda, even with a note that says (Will be held over) is simply confusing to the public.

We are trying out a virtual town meeting on Zoom, this Monday. It will be a learning curve for all of us, and we need to carefully consider any action absent a robust mechanism with which the public is comfortable for public comment.

Thanks to Alana, Jackie and Ellen for taking time to keep on top of Village issues at such a challenging and hectic time.

Wash those hands!

Best,

Nora

From: Alana Stone <alanaleestone@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 1:13 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Dan Natchez <dan@dannatchez.com>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>

Subject: Fw: dogs in the parks discussion

Dear Mayor and Board, I strongly encourage you not to pass legislation allowing dogs in Florence Park.

As much as I would love to take my 100 pound golden retriever to the park, just three minutes from my door, I have to put community before my own selfish desires. The neighbors on numerous occasions have expressed panic at the thought of this proposal.

On a very personal note, I understand how something innocent can turn into a real nightmare for the neighbors. A few years ago, my next door neighbor began boarding dogs. The foundation of her house sits six feet from my own. It started out innocently enough and then three years later blew into a full-fledged dog boarding business with dogs barking out of the windows all hours of the day and dogs crying in her garage at night. Keep in mind her house is 1100 square feet (not unlike many houses in our neighborhood all tightly packed together).

You can't assume that people will be on their best behavior, you have to instead assume that people will not pick up the poop on a field widely used as the only open playing field by children with some of the fewest resources in our community. That dog walkers with a van filled with dogs will drive up and feel entitled to the space right along with everyone else. That people will come all hours of the day and will let their dogs off lease.

I love the idea of a "dog friendly village", but with all do respect, this feels like the lazy solution. If you really want to do something good for the dogs and dog owners of the community -- don't band-aid this situation, instead do the hard work and build a real dog park. Carve of a piece of harbor island or open the harbor island beach to dogs in the winter, off-lease just as Rye does.

I have lived 3 minutes from Florence park for over 10 years. Take a look at the comprehensive plan and you will see that this neighbor is the most contested area in the whole village. When you have so little personal space, going to a nice peaceful park may be the only refuge for many. It is not unusual to see a 1600 square foot house packed with 8 people sharing the space.

Also, see my neighbor's email below.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alana

From: Jackie Meier <jacqmeier@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Mayor Tom Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>
Cc: ELLEN STYLER <ellenjst@yahoo.com>; Alana Stone <alana@heydornstone.com>
Subject: dogs in the parks discussion

Hi Tom,

I think you are doing an amazing job keeping us informed on the lasted in the situation.

I just saw on facebook 4 ryneck families have tested positive for the virus, their family members were not self quarantining while others were being tested. I have seen multiple groups of kids and teens in the last few days both on the streets and in the park. I think in light of the ever-changing and need to keep people away from parks, introducing the trial (which will not really be a trial) of the dogs in the parks is not something we should even be considering now. Allowing a trial is unrealistic, what are we testing? and do we want more people in the parks, NO! not now! I believe this discussion needs to be shelved until we have a better situation in which to discuss this.

Thank you for all that you do,

Jackie

Jackiemeier.com

Dogs and Florence Park AM

Erkan Buyuk <erbuyuk@yahoo.com>

Wed 3/11/2020 8:05 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Board of Trustees

I heard that the Village is planning to allow dogs in Florence Park during morning hours. I understand that matter will be discussed and voted on, on March 23 at the Board of Trustees meeting at the village hall. Many of us living around the Park are keen to see this happen. Although I won't be able to attend, I would like to show my support for this project through this email. Thank you for bringing the matter up for discussion.

Erkan Buyuk, MD

Florence Park /Permitting Dogs

Natasha Cholerton-Brown <ncholertonbrown2@gmail.com>

Wed 3/11/2020 6:30 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Hi,

I am a resident on Carroll Avenue and would like to register my support of allowing dogs into Florence Park. I would recommend this on a limited basis however.

I am a dog owner but have a huge amount of respect for non dog owning families, who may not be keen on this idea. I would therefore like to suggest a fenced area for dogs to run rather than letting them have complete run of the place. With young kids commuting to school (my own included) through the park and the swing area not being enclosed, it is just not fair to have dogs off leash.

A solution to this would be to enclose the area in the center of the park OR (and this is more fun for dog), enclose the outer perimeter (so fence the outer side of the path so dogs can sniff and run between the path and the garden fences). Just an idea.

Anyway, I hope this is helpful and counts as a vote for the motion of allowing dogs in the park.

Many thanks,
Natasha

Dogs in Florence Park

Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>

Wed 3/11/2020 5:47 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Board of Trustees

It has come to my attention that the Village is planning to allow dogs in Florence Park during the morning hours. We understand that matter will be discussed and voted on, on March 23 at the Board of Trustees meeting at the village hall. Many of us living around the Park are keen to see this happen and will be coming to support. Thank you for bringing the matter up for discussion.

Best

Elizabeth Yong

Sent from my iPhone

Re: no dogs in Florence park

Jackie Meier <jacqmeier@gmail.com>

Mon 2/10/2020 6:43 PM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; ellenjst@yahoo.com <ellenjst@yahoo.com>

<https://nyti.ms/2H0A4QH>

Jackiemeier.com

On Mon, Feb 10, 2020 at 8:23 AM Jackie Meier <jacqmeier@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi

I plan on attending the meeting tonight. I am opposed to letting dogs in Florence Park.

There are many reasons-

1. Enforcement of leash law- who and how it is not enforced now
2. Enforcement of scooping poop- the edge of yard regularly isn't scooped
3. possible multiple dogs per dog owner ie dog walkers
4. The noise of dogs barking- the entire park backs up to residences
5. increased parking issues- already tight when kids practice is moved to the park
6. kids on bikes, playing ball, joggers and elderly all share the path, adding dogs would be difficult if not dangerous
7. People/kids who do not like dogs need a dog-free park

thanks,

Jackie Meier

Re: Dog walking in Florence Park

Lauren Fetzer <lfetze@aol.com>

Mon 2/10/2020 8:28 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Board,

I understand that tonight's agenda will touch on dog walking in Florence Park.

I have lived on Florence St. for over thirty years. There are more and more dogs in our neighborhood these days. Many people are walking two dogs. Many people are also ignoring the signs and walking their dogs in the park, on and off their leashes. Sometimes I see two or three people walking dogs at the same time totally ignoring signs or letting them run in the field unleashed.

I feel this is too small a park to accommodate the little children on bikes, the seniors using the side walk for slow walks and the runners and fast walkers during most of the day. If the village wants to enact a similar rule as Harbor Island, enforcement could be an issue. These are my concerns.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. Thank you for your attention to this note.

Sincerely,

Lauren Fetzer

344 Florence St.

Sent from my iPad

Dogs in Parks- Florence Park

Ellen Styler <ellenjst@yahoo.com>

Sun 2/9/2020 8:29 PM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>; Dan Natchez <dan@dannatchez.com>

TO: Mayor and Board

The proposal to allow dogs in Florence Park was raised by the Parks and Recreation Department, not residents. We urge more careful consideration of neighbors' views before changing the law to allow dogs in Florence. This issue came up several years ago under the past administration, and multiple neighbors came out to speak against allowing dogs into Florence Park, and the decision was made not to allow it.

Today, we still have those same concerns, which are:

1. **Enforcement:** Dogs are frequently in the park now, even though they aren't allowed. Not rarely they are off the leash, running up and down the field. Before allowing dogs, there should be a solid plan for enforcement of the leash law. Otherwise the park's main field may well turn into a dirt dog run.
2. **Overcrowding:** Florence Park is a few blocks from Harrison, where as far as we are aware, dogs are not permitted in playground parks. It's likely that Florence will become the dog walking destination for the entire area, resulting in overcrowding of dogs and possibly overcrowding the parking on our streets as people come to walk their dogs. You may be envisioning a few dogs at a time being walked on the blacktop path, but don't forget there are dog walkers who come out with multiple dogs at a time, and do we have any idea how crowded the path will become?

Currently on the path, there are scooters, bikes, runners, people walking, strollers and senior citizens with canes and walkers. Dogs are popular but please consider the needs of non dog owners as well.

3. When Little League and Rec Soccer hold practices and games in Florence Park, the park is crowded. The proposed rule in Harbor Island restricts dogs to the West area, away from the fields and playgrounds, which is a good idea, and the same standard should be held for Florence Park.

The grass is an area for free play. Inevitably, as happens occasionally now, dog owners will omit cleaning up after their pets. We have all been there. Plus, the lawn, which has been so well cared for, will be dug up, and the effect of animal urine on the grass will become apparent.

Finally, unless the Village is willing to effectively enforce a leash law, some dog owners (and again, this is not uncommon even now) will let their pets run freely.

Please take the neighbors' views into consideration before you put this into law.

Thank you.

David and Ellen Styler

Florence Park - Dogs

Nicole Mensi <nicolemensi97@gmail.com>

Sun 8/9/2020 8:39 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Good Evening,

My name is Nicole Mensi, my family and I have been residents on Frank Avenue since 1999. In our 21 years of living here, Florence Park has always been an important part of ours lives as we have utilized the playground, basketball courts, tennis courts and the track.

Throughout our time here we have seen people walk their dogs everyday in the park and it has never been a problem for us. We have never seen anyone abuse or disrespect the park by not picking up after their dog or controlling their dog. We understand that the No dogs allowed signs were to be removed earlier this year however, due to the situation we are living through the town did not get around to it as it was not a priority understandably.

We have noticed recently that members of the town have been asking people to take their dogs, even though they are on a leash, out of the park. If this is going to be a continuing practice is it possible for the town to designate one area for the dogs provided they remain on the leash and are cleaned up after?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Long time Village of Mamaroneck resident,
Nicole Mensi
311 Frank Avenue

Florence park dogs

lisa russell <elphin19800@gmail.com>

Tue 8/4/2020 5:05 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Board,

Just writing to say I am in favor of dogs being allowed on leash in Florence park. I actually believe dogs should be allowed to be walked through any park in any town. I never knew of any other town that didn't allow dogs to be walked through. It saddened me very much when I moved here from the city to not be able to walk my dog on a leash in the park that was one block from my house.

I'm aware there is a meeting tomorrow. I will tune in. But, I would also like to also take this time to state I am very against a dog park in Florence park.

The area simply can't handle an influx of people driving here to let their dogs play. Areas where there are dog parks need their own parking area. Also, the noise created from a dog park can be very loud. People come early the morning and I don't think it's fair that the residents close to the park would have to listen to dogs barking.

I would love for there to be a dog park somewhere in Mamaroneck. I've voiced my opinion many times before about the need for a dog park. I thought there was talk of one behind Toyota city?

I have belonged to Harrison dog park in the past and now I belong to new Rochelle dog park. I pay for a yearly permit there. I would love to give Mamaroneck my money for one.

Thanks for reading, Lisa Walsh

Sent from my iPhone

Dog Park in Mamaroneck

Janet Sousa <janetdesousa@gmail.com>

Tue 8/4/2020 1:39 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor Murphy,

I hope this note finds you well. I am writing in regards to the petition to allow dogs in Florence Park. I join my neighbors in supporting this petition advocate to have a dedicated dog park enclosure so that dogs have their own, safe place to play.

My family are long time Mamaroneck residents and have always had dogs in the family. While we enjoy walks in the neighborhood, we've never had a space for them to walk/run on grass or off leash. Very often we'll go to Rye Town Park in the early mornings to take advantage of off leash hours or go to the dog beach in Larchmont among other places in Westchester. Unfortunately, all of the options available to us require that we drive elsewhere to allow the dogs ample exercise. And when we're having to work during the week, it's not always convenient to drive to another town to do so.

I imagine that you are well aware of the many benefits of dog parks. Not only is it a great way to exercise dogs and curb troublesome behavior, it serves another important function in the community. Dog parks provide a place of gathering for neighbors who otherwise might not have the opportunity to meet and foster a relationship. In essence, it helps bring the community together. I've been witness to this in both Rye and Larchmont and it would be a wonderful thing to emulate in Mamaroneck.

I hope you and the board will consider this petition and allow our community to share Florence Park with our dogs, who for many of us are just another member of our families.

Thank you,
Janet Sousa

Screenshot 2020-08-03 at 9.35.34 PM

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 8/3/2020 9:36 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

The end of the post. Similar to the dog park. This turns into drama very quickly. We are better and smarter than this in our village.

9:35 ↗



< Search Facebook

gave on a Thursday Night. Our Mayor's response "I know of no triggering events.

Over the months that I have been closely watching this I have found that there is often a lag in reported cases and then cases reported all at once long after folks have tested positive. While that chart gives a snapshot it isn't always spot on. Also one weeks data is not enough to identify a trend.

Questions about contact tracing are better directed to the County Board of Health.

3h Like Reply



Maura Fecher Carlin
Hillary Short the delay in

Florence Park dog park

Rachel de Benedet <racheldebenedet@gmail.com>

Mon 8/3/2020 8:31 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor Murphy and VOM board,

We live at 211 Frank Ave, just off Florence Park and have a dog. We want to add our voices to the request for adding a dog park enclosure to Florence Park.

We purchased our house in 2018, after looking for 2 years. I can tell you that having a dog park nearby would have definitely increased the appeal of the area as part of the reason we left NYC was in order to add a dog to our lives.

Thank you for considering this! It is such a great need.

Best,

Rachel and Tom Fitzsimons

211 Frank Ave, Mamaroneck

917-488-6560

Sent from my iPhone

Florence community

Matthew Tollefsen <mtollefsen@yahoo.com>

Sun 8/2/2020 10:25 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Cc: Berna Koncuk <bkoncuk@yahoo.com>

Dear Mayor and Board,

My name is Matt Tollefsen and I live at 307 Frank Avenue, right on the perimeter of the park. I am writing to urge you to consider a dog park in Florence Park.

Before I enumerate the reasons, I want to say that you have all done an outstanding job of hiring. Jason from Parks and Rec as well as Hernane De Almeida are outstanding professionals. They are very helpful, personable and are able to convey the rules in Mamaroneck in a manner that is easy to understand, even when it is bad news! So please continue whatever hiring policy you have implemented. You all should be commended.

Back to the dog park.

I am sure you have heard many of the reasons why it makes sense at Florence Park - a safe place for dogs in an area of the park that is never in use.

However, I want to focus on the communal aspect. I have a pup. She is about a year old. Since I have had her, we have walked to the park often. As would happen, you meet others with dogs and now we have struck up a bond with a group of us that meet daily. And because of this interaction, the neighborhood has become a warm, welcoming community. All of our kids, despite a wide range in ages, play together and visit each others homes. Movie nights on Friday, club houses, parents movie nights on Thursday, boat trips on the Sound, group tennis lessons, trips to vacations homes, concerts in the garden, etc... Despite the circumstances, we have been able to have an amazing summer with the families that go to the park to walk their dogs.

And it doesn't stop there. As dog owners from other streets have been integrated into this group, this small community is growing.

In short, this dog park is not just about exercising dogs. It is really about creating a sense of community because none of the above would have been possible without our dogs.

Thanks for your consideration.

Stay healthy.

Kindest Regards,
Matthew Tollefsen
202-277-6781

Re: Dogs Permitted in Florence Park

Carlo <recafamily@verizon.net>

Sat 8/1/2020 8:46 PM

To: Emily Cantres Marshall <Emarshall564@Gmail.Com>

Cc: Karrie Sergio <knfcgs@yahoo.com>; Tina Maresca <TinaMaresca@aol.com>; Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Hi

As must know there has been a discussion of a dog park for years in the VOM! In my opinion after years of discussion the best sites would be Taylor's Lane and Harbor Island on Rushmore Ave bc of the land space and location for the entire community. The Taylor's Lane site historical has been tested for toxin by the county and state for many years without any major issues from the testing results. Hopefully we'll be able discuss this matter again at the next Rec board meeting as an agenda item and come up with a recommendation again for the BOT to discuss and finalize for the community. Enjoy the weekend.

Carlo

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2020, at 6:54 PM, Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks, Karrie, for that info.

I heard that acre requirement before (I think from Jason) and I'm wondering how that was arrived at. With the exception of Prospect Park in Brooklyn, I don't think I've ever seen a dog park that big. And that's not even a dog park, per se, it's a lawn where dog owners are allowed to run their dogs all year. I go to the dog park in White Plains, and that is definitely not an acre. I've been to other neighborhoods (don't remember where) that also were not an acre. If a dog park is smaller, dog owners typically don't go into a park if there are too many dogs and wait for some to leave before entering.

Another suggestion, although it would be seasonal, is Harbor Island Beach. Both Rye and Larchmont allow dogs off leash on their beaches in the off season.

And finally, a thought, if one that is way off the current line of thinking: a dog park does not have to be a strict purview of only Parks and Rec: perhaps the VOM and community may want to consider dedicating unused land - not Taylor's Lane - I wouldn't let my dog run there for fear of digging up toxins - no matter what we've been told about it being safe for a dog park. There must be an area in Mamaroneck (maybe the Town would consider a joint venture) that could make a good dog park. I haven't been there in years, but I remember Flint Park had a huge, weird sand pit by where the Noah's Ark play set was that was basically a huge cat litter box. How about repurposing that? Unless something has already been done with it.

Just ideas...there has to be a way for the community to get creative about solving this. Others have managed to do it.

Emily

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, Kar <knfcgs@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi all,

So, I have been keeping up with the dog park issue for some time now, even going back to 2017 when the Rec & Parks Commission went so far as to have a consultant look into possible dog park sites at Stanley and Ward Ave parks. Ward Ave was preferable but was deemed not compatible. That resulted in Taylor's Lane being considered as a possibility but it was not yet cleared by NYS, and that's where the conversations stopped. I believe several of our current members can attest to this and I'm sure know more than I do simply from reading the minutes.

There is lots of public input already on Facebook. When a petition for a dog park circulated on Facebook last spring FB exploded with opinions. There is some opposition to a dog park at Taylor's Ln by the residents there, but we're talking about maybe a dozen homes at most on Shadow Ln and Greenhaven Rd that border two sides of the lot. However, whenever Florence Park was suggested there was even stronger opposition.

Another recent FB post about dogs in Florence Park started the conversation up again but that was based off of the poster stating misinformation. The post has since been taken down but I believe that resulted in the recent emails we received.

I don't live around Florence Park but I agree that it not the place for a dog park or even a smaller fenced in area of any kind. It is far too residential of a neighborhood and I fear a small fenced in area would become overcrowded way too quickly. You really need an acre or more for a fenced in dog park. That being said, allowing dogs off-leash in the early morning hours like they do at Rye Town Park is not a bad suggestion. They are not fenced and dogs are allowed off-leash, with a permit, between the hours of 6:00am - 9:00am.

I feel we definitely need to discuss this more and focus on getting the on-leash dog walking expanded at the Harbor and committing to a dog park, if not at Taylor's Ln then possibly somewhere around the West Basin of the Harbor. Dogs are already allowed on leash on that side, it wouldn't be that big of a stretch to fence in part of it for the dogs.

I also want us to do our best for everyone but you can't please everyone and we will have a NIMBY issue wherever we suggest putting a dog park, however, I believe the pros outweigh the cons.

Looking forward to discussing this further.

Thanks,
Karrie

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, 02:36:05 PM EDT, Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:

I have to apologize: I did not have the attachments with the agenda for our last meeting, and didn't have the dog park laws in front of me when we were having the discussion about off-leash parks, Harbor Island, etc., etc. There is still an option to expand dog walking (on-leash) in Harbor Island Park, correct? I thought that was NOT an option at the time of our discussion. If so, doesn't it make sense to have it one place where enforcement can be localized? Just a thought, unless the thinking is that for residents now able to walk their dogs in their own neighborhood park, they'd want to be vigilant about upkeep and would be good stewards of their park..? Any way, Randi, yes, we should review the trial allowance of all-parks dog walking.

As for off-leash - I have to confess that I am not necessarily keeping up on public opinion on this one. However, it clearly can and probably is a contentious NIMBY issue. While we did have some emails forwarded in support of Florence Park, and I personally would love having a dog park, I have to consider that for every positive email, there might be an equal or greater number of emails opposed if the general public was asked for input.

Unless I missed something (which these days is totally possible) I do think we should re-visit discussion about off leash again since those emails were forwarded to us, and include revisiting Harbor Island Park, as well as why Florence Park, and none of the other parks, is being discussed in the community. Perhaps get public input somehow, as well as speak to representatives from towns and villages who have done dog parks to discuss the criteria and process..?

Again, apologies for the late input, but it seems that there is discussion happening outside of our meetings and I'm trying to be super cautious about what we commit to so that no one community feels put upon or, conversely, special. I just want us to do the best we can.

Thanks,

Emily

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, tinamaresca <tinamaresca@aol.com> wrote:

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Tina

Sent from my iPhone

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Date: Friday, July 31, 2020

Subject: Re: Dogs Permitted in Florence Park

To: carley anderson <carley.anderson320@gmail.com> , Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Cc: Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Thank you for your comments.

you raise some meaningful points. There has been a lot of discussion regarding dogs in our parks including Florence Park. The issue is presently before the Parks and Recreation Commission

I am taking the liberty of forwarding your comments to the Commission and invite you to continue to be part of the conversation and discussions

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Dan Natchez
Mamaroneck Village Trustee
914-806-0365

From: carley anderson <carley.anderson320@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:06 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

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where else to take them in the area! Please consider allowing dogs in Florence park!

Thank you for your consideration.

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Carley Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

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Randi S. Robinowitz

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Real Estate Specialist

[LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

[WilliamPitt](#)

Re: [Mamaroneck NY] lack of social distancing in Florence Park (Sent by joanne cathcart, jecathcart1@gmail.com)

joanne cathcart <jecathcart1@gmail.com>

Sat 8/1/2020 6:37 PM

To: Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

Cc: Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Hello,

Thank you for your quick responses.

Joanne

On Sat, Aug 1, 2020, 5:35 PM Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org> wrote:

On July 29, two new employees were trained to enforce the dog issue and other code violations. Daily they go out specifically to our parks to address code issues.

Additionally, a full time code enforcement officer and I have agreed to shift her hours to work from 1-9 instead of 9-5 several days a week. That will provide additional presence when we typically have been unable to visit such as parks and other sites.

I will send a copy of the email to the employees who can help step up enforcement but we will never be able to be everywhere all the time. That being said, I promise we will increase enforcement in the by taking the actions stated above.

JB

> On Aug 1, 2020, at 3:43 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

>

> Thanks, Joanne, for reaching out.

>

> I'll forward your email to our Village Manager. We have enforcement officers for code violations, and of course the police regularly remind residents about mask wearing and social distancing.

>

> Stay well,

> Kelly

>

>> On Aug 1, 2020, at 3:41 PM, Contact form at Mamaroneck NY <cmsmailer@civicplus.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hello Kwenstrup,

>>

>> joanne cathcart (jecathcart1@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your

>> contact form (<https://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/user/243/contact>) at

>> Mamaroneck NY.

>>

>> If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at

>> <https://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/user/243/edit>.

>>

>> Message:

>>

>> Dear Ms. Wenstrup,

>> Is it not the village government's responsibility to enforce social

>> distancing? Daily in Florence Park there are soccer games, dog owner

>> gatherings, kids and adults all without masks. I can no longer use the park.

>> I am requesting the village government address this blatant disregard for

>> public safety.

>> Joanne Cathcart

>> 220 Jensen Ave

>>

>

Re: Dogs Permitted in Florence Park

Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com>

Sat 8/1/2020 2:36 PM

To: Tina Maresca <TinaMaresca@aol.com>

Cc: Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

I have to apologize: I did not have the attachments with the agenda for our last meeting, and didn't have the dog park laws in front of me when we were having the discussion about off-leash parks, Harbor Island, etc., etc. There is still an option to expand dog walking (on-leash) in Harbor Island Park, correct? I thought that was NOT an option at the time of our discussion. If so, doesn't it make sense to have it one place where enforcement can be localized? Just a thought, unless the thinking is that for residents now able to walk their dogs in their own neighborhood park, they'd want to be vigilant about upkeep and would be good stewards of their park..? Any way, Randi, yes, we should review the trial allowance of all-parks dog walking.

As for off-leash - I have to confess that I am not necessarily keeping up on public opinion on this one. However, it clearly can and probably is a contentious NIMBY issue. While we did have some emails forwarded in support of Florence Park, and I personally would love having a dog park, I have to consider that for every positive email, there might be an equal or greater number of emails opposed if the general public was asked for input.

Unless I missed something (which these days is totally possible) I do think we should re-visit discussion about off leash again since those emails were forwarded to us, and include revisiting Harbor Island Park, as well as why Florence Park, and none of the other parks, is being discussed in the community. Perhaps get public input somehow, as well as speak to representatives from towns and villages who have done dog parks to discuss the criteria and process..?

Again, apologies for the late input, but it seems that there is discussion happening outside of our meetings and I'm trying to be super cautious about what we commit to so that no one community feels put upon or, conversely, special. I just want us to do the best we can.

Thanks,

Emily

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[WilliamPitt](#)

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Re: The meeting where the dog park trial was discussed to begin September for 3 months?

Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com>

Fri 7/31/2020 5:29 PM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Cc: Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nlucas@vomny.org>; **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

I wish you all would be more helpful on how to word this to move it forward for a September trial. I have been interested in this since your meeting in June. But I am not getting the info of what is needed to help residents for the August 10 meeting. Please advice. Just emailing back and forth now after all these weeks is time consuming for everyone. Nora's email response is long and all I care about is being supportive to our residents. After all we are a large tent and I want to help with getting this done. That's all. I have no other motives.

On Jul 31, 2020, at 5:04 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com> wrote:

My posting was taken from the Recs and Trustees meeting. You didn't get mentioned. It was a great meeting with a balanced discussion. Anyway I am off to the beach to meet a friend.

On Jul 31, 2020, at 5:02 PM, Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org> wrote:

Anything that I have said about dogs in the Park is my opinion alone. I speak only for myself.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:57 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

Well, that's not the way legislation works — or is supposed to work. Public hearings shouldn't be held up until all the trustees are on board. If that were the case, why would we even have a public hearing process? It would be a charade. It implies that whoever said such a thing is a mind-reader. It's flat wrong.

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:54 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com> wrote:

Ok. I wrote notes from Nora's report back to the committee, who I must say Randi, Kirsten and Barry are completely great and trying to help the dog living residents in the village. Here are my note taking:

"Board of Trustees are only in favor of Harbor Island at the moment(Kirsten asked where they stand with the trial in all the parks) trustees are not interested in the other parks. We can't have a public hearing until all the trustees are on board"

If you heard the meeting differently please inform me otherwise.

Best

Hillary

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:50 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

Whoever said that was not accurate. I'm troubled to hear that.

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:47 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com> wrote:

That is what I got from listening to the meeting. "The trustees are resisting the other parks being used for on leash exercise". I have posted the committee meeting along with the post. I understand there will possibly be a trial in all 5 parks beginning in September through November from 7am until dusk. But I will delisted to the meeting because it did sound the resistance to move forward with this was coming from the trustees. I will replay it now.

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we learned that the Mayor & trustees are not happy with having dogs in the 5 area parks.

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I won't speak for other trustees, but neither of these views are my own.

There is a process for passing laws; it is a long and arduous one. The Recreation Committee has talked to residents, village staff and each over for over one year. No law has even been scheduled for a public hearing, after which the trustees will vote. While I have views about dogs in parks, and I have expressed those views at various meetings, I want to hear from the public during our process. Your representation of my views is not at all accurate.

Please, do not spread misinformation.

Kelly

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:01 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com> wrote:

What I have posted on the groups. I hope it helps to move things along.

As promised I listened to the Parks & Recs meeting (7:7/2020) on the ongoing dog laws. I was pleased to hear committee members trying to resolve this for our residents. Since their last meeting in March where they requested for on leash dogs allowed in all of our 5 parks from 7am to dusk and laws for dogs in Harbor Island Park as well, we learned that the Mayor & trustees are not happy with having dogs in the 5 area parks. There will be a BOT trustee meeting on August 10 once again addressing this. To support the Parks & Rec committee please send emails to our Mayor & Trustees that you are a dog owner who would like to utilize your local park to exercise your dog on leash. The trustees will pass the Harbor Island but are resisting a trial for September until November for the other parks. As the committee chair said we all know how slow moving the village government can be. Please [email mayorandboard@Vomny.org](mailto:mayorandboard@Vomny.org). Thank you Kirsten, Barry & Randi for really trying to push this forward.

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Once proposal was on our agenda (February, I think) numerous public

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At the July meeting, the Commission recommended bifurcating the two laws.

FI, in order even to do a trial to allow dogs in the park, the BOT must enact a law. The Rec/Parks commission has recommended this to the BOT and these topics will be on our agenda, I believe at the August 10 meeting. I'm sure discussion will be robust and thorough.

Best,

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From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com>

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Like I said maybe I heard it wrong. I am not one for governmental stuff. Community organizing is more my thing. I think after 8 years the village laws could have been changed or sorted out. But I am not judging because I don't do political stuff. If someone helped me on this to get residents to request it in the parks it would be useful. That's all. I presume you are all going to approve the trial in September for all the parks? From what I understood that is moving forward if people email you all requesting it. Whilst you see how that works and work on permanent law changes.

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Thanks

Hillary Short

Dogs in Florence park

Misa Anderson <jasonandmisa@gmail.com>

Fri 7/31/2020 11:45 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Board Members,

I have lived in Mamaroneck for 25 years on the end of Florence Park. It is a beautiful park and has plenty of space to include a dog park. Rye Neck residents have nowhere to take their dogs to play. We should not have to put them in the car and drive to a dog park. A fenced area in Florence park would be safe for dogs and residents too. There is more than enough room for everyone to enjoy the park. Please consider allowing dogs to play in Florence Park.

Thank you,

Misa Anderson

Re: Screenshot 2020-07-31 at 7.42.25 AM

Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>

Fri 7/31/2020 8:51 AM

To: Hillary Short <Hillary_short@mac.com>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Hi Hilary,

Sorry, I have been out of pocket the past few days dealing with a family emergency.

The Rec and Parks Commission did not meet in March, April, May or June. Here is the link to the Committee's June meeting. : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC1MoBFqV3c>



Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting - Village of Mamaroneck (7/7/2020 @7:00PM)

Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting - Village of
Mamaroneck (7/7/2020 @7:00PM)

www.youtube.com

Given the many varied opinions about permitting dogs in parks other than Harbor Island Park, at this meeting the Committee recommended that the "dogs in park" law be bifurcated with one proposed local law expanding areas in which dogs are allowed in Harbor Island and another for the other parks. These are likely to be discussed at our August 10 work session.

Nothing has been decided. Permitting dogs in the parks requires adoption of a local law. So, the process would be for the BOT to discuss any proposed local law in work session before even considering scheduling a public hearing.

We have had many people express concerns about permitting dogs in parks, specifically Florence and Columbus and are mindful that a robust discussion will and should be undertaken before any changes are made.

I had suggested that if any permutation of these proposed laws go forward, that signs about the laws and date of public hearing be posted in the parks so all park users will be informed and able to express their opinions.

Rec and Parks meets this Wednesday evening at 7:30. I don't know that this topic will be on agenda, but I'm sure the Committee will welcome your views. Maybe I'll "see" you then.

I think a dedicated dog park is something we can all get behind, but we need both a site and funding.

Thanks for your interest. So good to have engaged residents.

Best,

Nora

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Subject: Screenshot 2020-07-31 at 7.42.25 AM

Hi Nora

I have posted this onto the Friends of Florence Park group. I know in the March Parks & Recreation minutes there was a recommendation to send messages out to the residents about a dog park. And as I said the other day, when I play tennis there in the mornings the families with their dogs would be pleased to have a village ordinance for their dogs to be exercised.

I understand from Kelly this depends on the committee you are on, I can't find minutes or meetings posted since March. I did hear you State in June (?) that the dog park trials will be in Columbus Park (of which I have emailed you all that there is resistance) and harbor island (a no brainer as we already have many happy dogs down there).

As you haven't responded to any of my emails regarding the decision for August and I haven't seen any discussions about Florence Park with a discussion I have posted on their page. Right now we haven't done a call to action. I would really appreciate a response from you about this yearlong discussion if the Columbus Park trial is still on the agenda, especially as I see all the happy dogs enjoying Florence Park illegally right now

Best

Hillary Short



Friends of Florence Park

**Hillary Short**

👤 New Member · 4m · 🌐

I noticed that Florence Park has several people walking their dogs early morning, and also playing in a small section beside the Florence Street entrance. In my opinion that would be a great space to add a fenced in dog park with benches, water trough, poop bags and bin. I reached out to the village board. The dog park conversation is reliant upon the parks & recreation committee. In their last minutes they spoke about doing a trial dogs on leash early mornings at Columbus park. Something many of us strongly oppose to for the community in that area. The board says there is no hope for an off leash dog park but the opposition for dogs in Florence Park is larger than the pro voices. I do believe this beautiful park is well equipped for dogs. The board will be approving a trial run dog park for September, at the moment they are only considering

Re: No Dogs in Florence Park

Mark Cordazzo <dazzomar@yahoo.com>

Fri 7/31/2020 9:18 AM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

I have seen you stroll past my house on a few occasions, this working from home has (with my desk overlooking Florence Street) allows me to see the coming and going of my neighborhood.

If i am outside I will be sure to say hello.

Mark

On Friday, July 31, 2020, 09:01:11 AM EDT, Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org> wrote:

Look forward to meeting you when times improve. I often walk around the track at Florence with a red headed woman. Please feel free to say hello if you see me there.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

On Jul 31, 2020, at 8:58 AM, Mark Cordazzo <dazzomar@yahoo.com> wrote:

Tom Murphy,

I appreciate the response, I know a small group can toss a voice around that can sound rather loud. I just wanted the opportunity to voice my opinion along with the rest of the community. In better times I would have stopped by the office and introduce myself formally.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Cordazzo

On Jul 31, 2020, at 8:37 AM, Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org> wrote:

I understand your legitimate concerns. There are NO plans for a dog park in Florence park. I am not in favor of allowing dogs in neighborhood parks. I like dogs but I am keenly aware that we don't have enough park space for residents as it is.

Thank you for your email.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

On Jul 31, 2020, at 8:01 AM, dazzomar <dazzomar@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good Morning,

I have heard some chatter in Florence Park from people who are not obeying the signs and walking their dogs in the park (off the leash). The conversations have been around creating or allowing a dog park in Florence Park. I have immediate concerns about a dog park is when the people cannot abide by the rules in place already, giving in to this would not make me think they would restrict their dogs to the "dog park" portion of the park. This is a lovely quiet park that is enjoyed by the community. When not social distancing, jogging, bike riding, basketball, soccer, baseball, all being played in the park. I have to say I don't feel as much pain writing the tax check when I see the park full. Please keep our park as it is, let us continue to enjoy it.

Thank You
Mark Cordazzo
411 Florence Street

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Re: Randi lives in the Columbus Park area and knows the community well?

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Wed 7/29/2020 2:10 PM

To: Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

She introduced herself to me at church. And I saw her at the debate by Women Voters. I am just questioning why she would suggest Columbus Park for dog trials knowing CRC opposes dogs in that park, as does Cure. And from what I see down at Harbor Island and from Florence Park today there are many residents in those areas exercising their dogs and require a place to go. I haven't seen or heard of the Columbus Park neighborhood needing a park to exercise their dogs. It is also not a large park. So in your opinion why would she make this recommendation? Also where is Taylor lane? I will approach her about this as I haven't seen this discussed to all the residents as proposed by Nora. The last minutes are from March so I don't know how the minutes have moved forward on this topic. And thanks Kelly for responding

On Jul 29, 2020, at 2:04 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

Hillary,

Randi is a good friend of mine. I highly recommend you attend a Rec Committee meeting. You will meet Randi there. She is the chair of the committee.

Kelly

On Jul 29, 2020, at 2:01 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

So I pulled this off the last minutes. I presume Randi didn't do any research prior to nominating Columbus Park for a dog park trial. As I spoke to CRC they are completely against this idea. From my understanding Randi is an older lady who is a realtor, not sure how she has great insight into the dog community. Do you have Parks & Recs members that truly understand the dog culture in our community? And how much research has been done on this in the last 2 years. I don't see it in the minutes. This is what I pulled from the minutes:

"Dog Walking in Village Parks – Update – There was a draft of a local law regarding this, however, the BOT asked to have the PRC go back and review this law again. There was lots of vocal opposition about it from the community. According to Nora, there are dogs in the parks now with no enforcement being done. At Harbor Island Park, there is no enforcement at the present time. We need to work with community groups to come up with a solution. Instead of coming up with a law, reach out to the communities and ask for their input from everybody. Cindy suggested that we come up with a test law and see if it works. Carlo stated

that enforcement will not happen. Perhaps there can be people on duty on the weekends such as dedicated code enforcers. Randi suggested to do a test in Columbus Park to start off with. It was suggested to have a test law set for the March 23, 2020 BOT work session and have it run in effect for three months. There was a comment to include Florence Park as well as Columbus Park in this test law rollout. Harbor Island Park would be a separate issue and require different parameters. The temporary law would be in effect from June 1 – September 1, 2020 as a temporary law. Nora suggested to send letters to the residents in the area to make them aware of this. We are going to run a pilot program and see what happens.

Nora as this is your arena, let's hear from you about how this is moving forward 2 years later. Especially as I will be doing an call to action.

Best

Hillary Short

Re: A dog park in Florence Park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Wed 7/29/2020 12:18 PM

To: Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Hi Kelly

Thank you for responding to me about this. Ever since I have lived in the Village this has been a popular conversation on Facebook pages as why we don't have proper, dog parks. As we all know both the harbor and Florence Park have many dog lovers exercising their dogs off leash. As they should be able to do in this day and age. It is antiquated to not have off leash parks. As we know Rye and Larchmont have beach access for dogs. As most residents told me today they wouldn't be putting their dogs in cars and taking them to Columbus Park to play. A couple of my Rye Neck clients have local dog walkers that pick their dogs up and take them to a dog park in New Rochelle. Many residents don't have the luxury of paying these dog walkers.

I did hear Nora talk about early mornings allowing dogs in Harbor Island and Columbus Park in September (Jerry didn't have time to work on this before then) as a 3 month trial. As you all know Harbor Island has many dogs at all times of day, on and off leash. Which I do agree with. So I am not sure on why this is all taking a long time and continual discussions. And as I have said before I talked to CRC and they don't want Columbus Park to become a dog park.

I am not sure where the Toyota place is but I have seen this dog park there being discussed for nearly 2 years. Let's hope we can move forward on allowing dogs to play off leash in a gated area like all other places provide.

Best

Hillary Short

On Jul 29, 2020, at 12:04 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

Hillary,

The recreation committee has been working on the question of dogs in parks, generally, for some time. We expect a proposed law to be ready for public hearing this fall. Under current law, no dogs are allowed in Florence Park at any time. The proposed law will likely allow dogs on leash during certain times of day, if it passes after public hearing. I refer you to the Recreation Committee for details.

There is no proposal to allow dogs off leash anywhere in the village at any time. However,

there has been talk over the years of using some reclaimed land (after environmental remediation) near Toyota City as a dog park, at least partially. That idea continues to percolate as we await the final OK from the DEC, as I recall.

I hope this helps.

Stay well,
Kelly

On Jul 29, 2020, at 9:50 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

Hi everyone

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. I played tennis early this morning in Florence Park. The first time I have ever been there. To my surprise it is a beautiful park.

After tennis I wandered over and spoke to many of the residents who congregate every morning and all chat whilst their dogs play off-leash in a section of the park that isn't used for anything else but dogs to play on.

Having lived in West Hollywood and Santa Monica, and been a dog owner we were blessed to have incredible fenced in dog park spaces with a bench or 2, water trough, poop bags and lined, garbage bins. It was part of life. Any time of day you went to the park was a social experience. I still have friends I made in the dog parks.

In fact in one park we had a large dog section and a small dog section (To separate pit bulls etc from the popular chihuahuas).

I promised the residents that I would be posting a positive call to action initiative for this and to please post it everywhere and have residents email you all with requests. As the dog park discussion has been ongoing for over a year and dog owners would love their own local space.

I know you all don't respond except Victor to my emails but I hope you will take initiative on this much needed facility. Thank you Victor for responding to me. I do appreciate it.

On another note. As you know many residents have requested support from the village about the maskless groups of teens and 20-30 year olds gathering all over the place, CT is finally cracking down on it as the data is proving to be problematic with Covid transmission in those age groups and they aren't helping supply info to contact tracers. I will email you the article.

Best

Hillary Short

<IMG_9367.jpg>

<IMG_9368.jpg>

Dogs running loose in Columbus park

Gina von Eiff <gvoneiff@gmail.com>

Sun 7/26/2020 2:50 PM

To: Sally Roberts <sroberts@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; **Mayor and Board**
<MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

 4 attachments (18 MB)

20200726_071532.jpg; 20200726_074457.jpg; 20200726_074105.jpg; 20200726_074137.jpg;

Sally can you please forward to the committee on the environment. This morning at 7 the woman in the picture had her dog running off leash on the riverbank. This is not the first off leash dog I've seen. She put it back on leash when I told her it's not allowed and it was scaring the wildlife. There was a cormorant running to hide that came out after the dog left. This river bank was planted by the county for wildlife. There are no signs saying keep dogs on leash. We need some signs before dogs attack wildlife or other dogs. Many people are walking large dogs on a collar and not harness which dogs can easily back out of.

RE: dogs in Florence Park

Chief Christopher Leahy <cleahy@vompd.com>

Fri 7/24/2020 2:18 PM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; David Styler <dstyler@lagcc.cuny.edu>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

Received. We will take care of it.

Christopher Leahy

Chief of Police



From: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:34

To: David Styler <dstyler@lagcc.cuny.edu>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Chief Christopher Leahy <cleahy@vompd.com>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

Subject: Re: dogs in Florence Park

Dear David,

I literally just sent an email about this to the Police Chief five minutes ago. One of your neighbors who lives on Florence made a complaint to me on Facebook about unleashed dogs. Frankly as this point no dogs are allowed in the park much less unleashed ones.

We will have enforcement folks look into this post haste. Thank you for your email.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

On Jul 23, 2020, at 6:26 PM, David Styler <dstyler@lagcc.cuny.edu> wrote:

Re: Dogs in Florence Park

This morning, while I was playing tennis at 7:30 in Florence Park, I saw 6-7 dogs running off leash in the northeast corner of the park across the path from the playground. I raised my voice and twice informed the dog owners that the park is not a dog run. After a few minutes, the dog owners left the park. I do not enjoy lecturing people in my community; I stopped confronting people about walking their dogs about 2 years ago because I was tired of wasting my energy.

Dogs have never legally been allowed in the park in the 26 years I have lived in the Village. Of course, as the police have stopped enforcing this law, dog walking has become more common, despite the no-dog-allowed signs at all entrances to the park. Due to this lack of enforcement, dog owners have graduated to establishing a de facto dog run in the park, ignoring the law altogether. Compared to a large space such as Harbor Island Park, or for that matter Rye Town park (at which dogs are permitted to run off leash for a fee), Florence is a confined neighborhood park, lacking the space for a dog run and its attendant infrastructure.

As long as dog owners don't see a legal problem, many will feel entitled to harm the quality of life in the park and by extension, the neighborhood. I urge the BOT to commit to enforcing the existing law and not let the park go to the dogs-which it will. I do have a suggestion that has been discussed elsewhere, which is to construct a dog run at the top of the 7-acre Taylors Lane site. The dog run would be well off the capped area and not border any neighboring houses. This is unused Village land, and establishing a minimal infrastructure would be neither costly nor controversial.

Sincerely,

David Styler

1215 Park Ave.

Mamaroneck

Disclaimer: I am a member of the Committee for the Environment. However, I am writing as a private citizen.

Dogs in Columbus Park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sat 7/18/2020 1:09 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Hi everyone

Sorry to email on a Saturday, but it is my only day off to think about things. We bumped into Jirandy (CRC) and as I have previously voiced to the board (with no response) it isn't part of the Hispanic culture to domesticate dogs, so we will organize around this if you insist on allowing dogs in Columbus Park. We will do a positive spin about "Keeping your dogs in Florence Park" campaign. I have also spoken to Nicole Alifante (cure) about this issue and she will support our initiative. I will also reach out to Margaret Kaufman from the Stem Alliance to support this.

Looking forward to other ideas you come up with for the residents' dog park. Especially for the many Rye Neck residents with dogs needing a dog park.

Best

Hillary Short



Dog Park Master Plan & Policy Recommendations

Denver Parks and Recreation 2010



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Acknowledgements and Credits

Mayor John Hickenlooper

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Scott Robson *Parks Deputy Manager*

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Contributing Stakeholders:

Alexis Holdman (PRAB Rep.); Amy Cara (Council District 9 Rep.); Arthur Vogt (Council District 4 Rep.); Biddie Labrot (Council District 6 Rep.); CW Carla Madison, District 8; Deborah Hogue (Council District 11 Rep.); Ed Sardella (Council District 7 Rep.); Eve Edmonds (Council District 5 Rep.); Jay Rust (Council District 10 Rep.); Karmen Hanson (INC Rep.); Larry Ambrose (INC Rep.); Lauren Rodriguez (Council District 2/3 Rep.); Malcolm Murray (INC Rep.); Noel Copeland (PRAB Rep.); Peggy Lore; Priscilla Burton (Council District 8 Rep.); Rachel Jacobs (Council District 10 Rep.); Reid Dunkin (Council District 11 Rep.); Sara Nepomuceno (Council District 1 Rep.); Susan Nagl (INC Rep.); Tanner Johnson (Council District 10 Rep.); Traci Schillinger; Wendy Sullivan (Council District 9 Rep.)

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Introduction

The City and County of Denver has over 240 city parks, as well as many miles of river and trail amenities that are enjoyed year round by Denver's citizens and visitors. As guardians and champions of Denver's park legacy, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) encourages community interaction to guide its goals and objectives, all in the interest of providing citizens and visitors with the best possible park system in the nation. Denver Parks and Recreation has a long history of seeking input from citizens and other stakeholders to further its mandate to provide new, more responsive city policies and funding strategies for those park and open space amenities Denver citizens tell us they want most.



A fairly recent development in the synergy between Denver Parks and Recreation, the parks system we steward, and the people who use our parks is the advent of dogs in parks in unprecedented numbers. Denver's population is thriving and growing, and there is evidence that it will continue to grow, placing ever greater demands on its public spaces. Continued growth also means continued demand for more and better park amenities for all park users. Additionally, more and more citizens are experiencing their neighborhood, community and regional park with their dog. Dogs and their owners present Denver Parks with a unique challenge in addressing the impacts of more dogs in the parks. This is of particular concern in Denver's most dense areas of development, where higher density means little or no space for exercising a dog. The expressed desire of Denver's citizenry to address the issue of dogs in parks has led Denver Parks and Recreation to draft this Dog Park Master Plan.



According to a recent article from The Trust for Public Land, "...the hottest new city park issue to hit America (is) the skyrocketing support for creating places to let dogs run free...". Denver is one city among many that is seeing an increase in demand for off-leash dog exercise areas. And Denver joins numerous cities over the past decade in researching and responding to changing and diverse recreation trends and needs, such as dog off-leash areas. Increased dog ownership is a societal phenomenon that has further spurred Denver Parks to work with many constituents, experts and other individuals to satisfy dog owners and non-dog owners in their desires and needs for parks and open space.



The increase in numbers of people and dogs in Denver parks has brought about the need for this master plan and policy recommendation document. The plan and policy recommendations are intended to address the growing demand for additional designated or formalized off-leash areas and to expand the successes experienced from Denver's pilot program developed more than five years ago. Additionally, this plan is intended to address the many illegal and negative impacts of off-leash dogs in many of Denver parks.

Introduction



This master plan, and many plans in Denver Parks, is guided by the Parks and Recreation “Game Plan”, the department’s 50-year master plan drafted in 2003, which created a strategy for the future of the City and County of Denver’s Parks and Recreation Department (DPR). That strategy includes recommendations for developing reasonable solutions for increasing use of parks by dogs and their owners. The Game Plan was adopted as a supplement to the Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 (Council Bill 262, series of 2003, April 21, 2003).



With six existing dog park facilities which were implemented in the pilot program, Denver ranks in the middle of similarly-sized US cities for the number of dog parks per 100,000 residents, according to a Trust for Public Land ranking. With the addition of three new facilities due in 2010-2011, Denver will rise significantly in this nation-wide ranking. This plan document and policy recommendations were created to address how the City of Denver can further improve opportunities to support and accommodate all park and open space users in a healthy, sustainable environment. Through the pilot program, Denver Parks has come to recognize the need for more and better enforcement, increased compliance in dog licensing, additional funding to support new facilities and maintenance, and more responsibility placed on dog owners. We also recognize the need for more space for dogs to exercise in close proximity to dwellings. The City of Denver benefited from guidance by a citizen stakeholder group (the External Stakeholder Committee) and an internal agency advisory group (the Internal Advisory Committee) in developing solutions to address the need for dog park facilities in closer proximity to the places we live, in developing solutions to better control and enforce dogs running loose in our parks, to gain better citizen participation, and to elevate Denver’s existing and future facilities to a higher standard.



Public support for off-leash dog park facilities within Denver parks is essentially split down the middle, and so the plan and policy recommendations found in this document are designed to provide a balanced and reasonable solution to the range of issues explored throughout this planning effort.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives Achieved in the Planning Process:

City Staff, the Internal Advisory Committee and the External Stakeholder Committee developed the plan and policy recommendations based on the following goals and objectives, which were agreed upon by all staff and committee members at the outset of this planning effort.

Goals

Based on observed and related experiences with dog owners and non-dog owners in Denver's parks, staff and committee members agreed that fostering healthy relationships between dog owners, non-dog owners, and all park users was critical to future success. Additionally, the importance of fostering healthier relationships and improving parks and open spaces that support and accommodate all users in a healthy, sustainable environment is understood and agreed upon.

Objectives

Objectives of the plan and policy recommendations include:

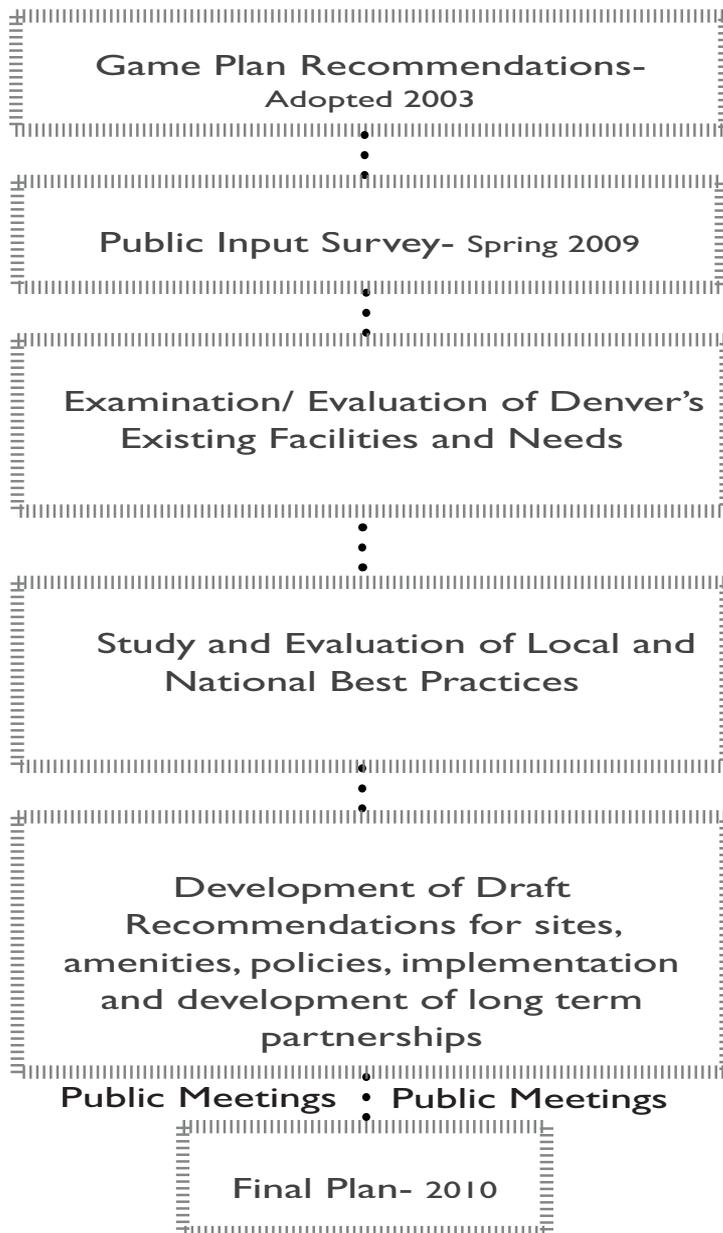
- The evaluation of current dog parks and consideration of possible spaces and solutions for future dog park facilities
- Design options and recommendations that are site specific
- Development of recommendations for more and for better city-wide enforcement of dog off-leash regulations
- Improvement of community and citizen involvement in addition to development of future ongoing partnerships



Planning Process

The Planning Process initially began by building on Denver Parks and Recreation’s Game Plan recommendation for adding additional dog park facilities. The success of the dog parks piloted as a response to this initial recommendation and the demand for additional off-leash facilities supported a new Dog Park Master Plan to study new policies and locations for additional off-leash facilities within the city of Denver. Following is an outline of the planning process, including participants of the process.

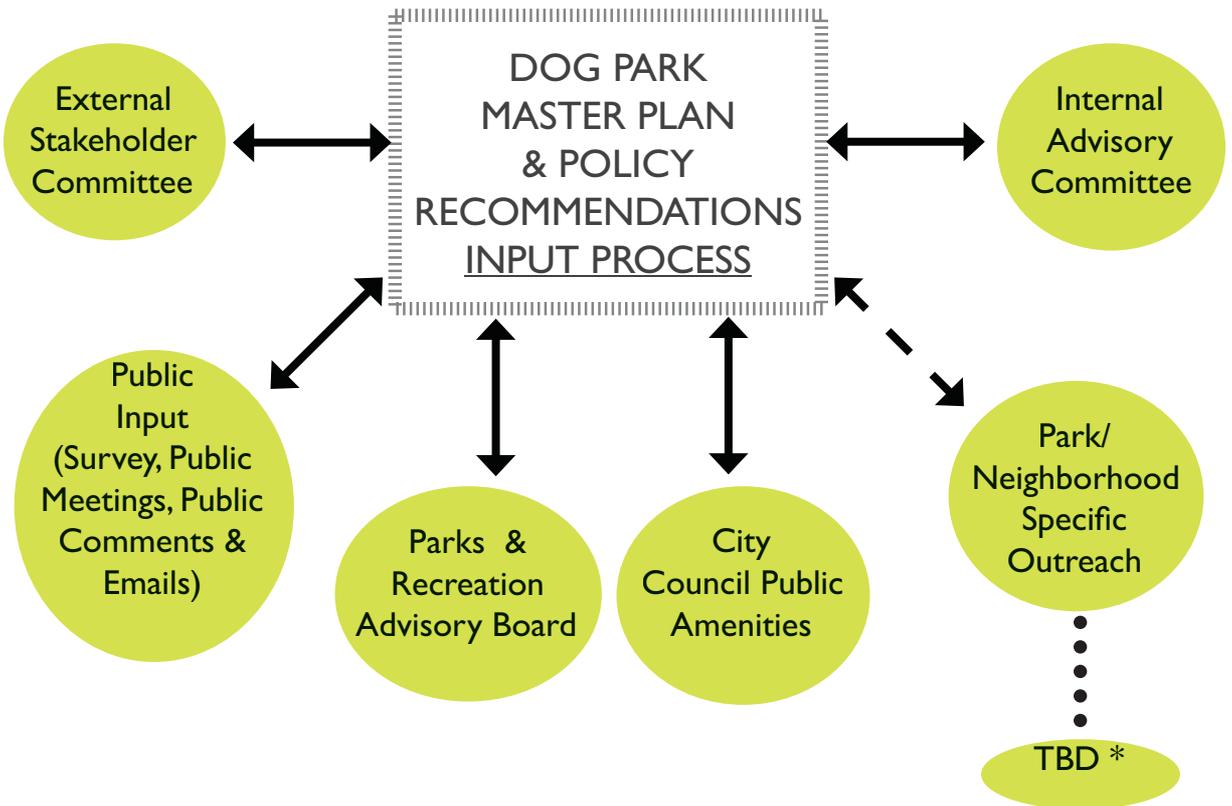
Master Plan Planning Process Overview



Planning Process

Input Process

The plan recommendations and policy recommendations outlined in this document were formed through both internal and external advisory committees (outlined below) as well as through comments received from the general public in traditional public meeting forums and through comments received electronically in response to materials posted to the City’s web site. This flow chart depicts the communication input process and the exchange of input that helped shape the Dog Park Master Plan. It is important to note that recommendations specific to location of future off-leash areas will go through targeted park and neighborhood outreach.



* Outreach will occur for every proposed “new” dog park in the future.

Planning Process



Technical (Internal) Committee: The role of this group was as an advisory committee to develop and provide ideas for the improvement of existing dog parks and the planning of new dog parks as it pertains to location, design criteria, and general policy recommendations and enforcement recommendations.

This group was comprised of individuals from within City departments that include:

- Denver Parks and Recreation and the Natural Areas Division
- Environmental Health
- Community Planning and Development
- Public Works Wastewater Management Division
- Park Rangers
- Animal Control
- Parks Operation and Maintenance Superintendents



Stakeholder (External) Committee: The role of this group was to act as a sounding board to the planning process and to provide feedback on proposed plans, policies, and recommendations developed by the City and the Internal Advisory Committee.

This group was comprised of:

- Two members from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) including Council District I and District 10
- Three members from Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) including Sloan's Lake, Washington Park and City Park neighborhoods
- Fifteen citizens - Dog owners, non-dog owners, trainers and veterinarians, to provide a balanced mix of individuals with differing perspectives and opinions on issues
- One appointee from Council District 8



Both committees attended individual monthly meetings to create, review and respond to draft recommendations. These meetings were held from May 2009 through January 2010. Both committees met for a final meeting to review a presentation, discussion and acceptance of the final recommendations in February 2010. Public meetings and meeting comments are available by request.

Planning Process

Public Meetings/ Public Comment

Three public meetings were held to obtain feedback on the draft recommendations developed through the planning process. These meetings were advertised according to standard Denver Parks policies and procedures. Meetings were held at a variety of times for optimal attendance.

All information shared at the public meetings was available on-line through the Denver Parks and Recreation web site, which allowed for the public to comment at their own convenience.

Two of the three public meetings were open house format:

- Scheitler Recreation Center at Berkeley Park- January 16th, 2010 from 10:00am-12:00pm
- Cook Park Recreation Center at Cook Park- January 31, 2010 from 1:30pm-3:30pm

Presentation boards were displayed at the open house meetings, explaining aspects of the Dog Park Master Plan, and Parks staff was available to answer any questions and discuss recommendations with attendees. Educational boards on display included background, research (best practices in other municipalities - national and international), information on trends in parks, draft recommendations, existing and proposed Denver dog park locations, strategies and placement of proposed fenced and unfenced off-leash areas. Dog Licensing and Vaccination, Dog Adoption and Dog Training seminars were available at both open houses to promote education, awareness and a general understanding of current rules, regulations and laws.



The third public meeting included an open house session, but was largely based on a formal presentation, followed by a short question/answer period, and a brief public comment period. This meeting was hosted and facilitated by the City Park Alliance, and the meeting focused on the concept of a dog off-leash hours pilot program at City Park. This meeting was held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on February 9th, 2010 from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

All three public meetings were very well attended.

Public comments dramatically influenced this process.

- Public comments were collected directly on comment forms filled out at the public meetings, as well as by emailing Denverdog@denvergov.org.
- All the draft recommendations were available for review on the Denver Parks and Recreation web site, and comments were collected from January 15 to March 30, 2010.

All information shared at the public meetings was available on-line through the Denver Parks and Recreation web site for citizens who could not attend the meetings but wanted to learn about the recommendations and provide input on the draft recommendations. Numerous public comments were collected at each of the public meetings and through on-line feedback. The comments were an important component in shaping this master plan. Overall, the public comments received confirmed the divisive nature of the issues studied. Comments ranged from perspectives at the extreme ends in both support and non-support on use, fees, locations, and on several aspects of dog activity in parks. Opinions ranged from preference to have fenced or unfenced dog parks in all parks to no dog exercise areas in any Denver parks. A copy of the comments received is available upon request.

Planning Process



On-Line Survey:

A public survey was launched in April 2009. The survey included questions on demographics, locations, frequency of use, fees, and other questions. Survey questions pertained to needs for more enforcement, better compliance with licensing and regulations, finding ways to develop new facilities, and strengthening dog owner responsibility. The goal was to capture a broad and significant amount of public comment; the survey was not designed to be scientific. The response was extraordinary. Additionally, this survey asked the survey respondents of their interest in serving on committees. Denver Parks and Recreation used this information to assemble the External Stakeholder Committee.

The Dog Park Master Plan survey consisted of 44 questions, including several areas for written comment. The survey was posted on the Parks and Recreation web site from March 15 through April, 30, 2009. Nearly 4,000 surveys were completed. Respondents interested in being notified of future meetings and updates on the Dog Park Master Plan provided 1,456 email addresses.



Questions in the survey were oriented to obtain input on three general topics:

General Information. This portion of the survey included background and demographic information, zip code, dog ownership, and interest in participating in future advocacy groups/stewardship committees/ volunteer opportunities/ fundraising, as well as interest in receiving email updates about the dog park master plan.

Parks Related Information. Questions about Denver dog parks, frequency of visits, experience at the park, and features at other dog parks were included in this portion of the survey. Questions included aspects of general aesthetics in Denver parks, experiences in Denver parks, dog waste, and support of additional off-leash dog areas in Denver. Dog owner-specific questions included frequency of visitation, times of visitation, reasons for visitation. Service, maintenance and enforcement questions were also included.



Policy Related Information. Survey questions in this portion included questions oriented toward fees, response to concepts for potential new ideas as well as input on existing enforcement, ticketing, and fines. Additionally, concepts of enclosed and unenclosed dog park facilities and off-leash hours and areas were tested through a series of questions.

Planning Process

Survey Highlights

- 87% of respondents own a dog.
- 80% of respondents visit Denver parks with a dog.
 - 28% of respondents visit parks daily.
- 86% of respondents support the need for additional designated off-leash areas.
- Over 60% of respondents support a user fee to help pay for dog parks.
 - Of those respondents, the same percentage are willing to pay between \$1-\$50 annually.
- Nearly 40% of respondents admit that they run their dogs off-leash illegally.
- Nearly 1 in 4 respondents have experienced conflict with an off-leash dog.
- Nearly 1 out of 5 people are concerned about a specific location where dogs currently run illegally and off-leash.
- 33% of respondents visit Stapleton Dog Park, while 21% visit Berkeley Dog Park. These parks were the top two dog parks visited.
- 87% of respondents feel that dog waste bag receptacles in parks are reasonably restocked and available.
 - 54% of respondents bring plastic bags to restock the dispensers.
- 45% of respondents believe that dog waste in Denver parks is an important issue.
- 87% of respondents were aware that dog waste in natural areas and parks can spread disease to wildlife and encourage the growth of non-native plants.
- Experiences at a designated Denver Dog Park received a 3.1 out of 5 rating.



Best Practices

Evaluation of Local and National Best Practices

This planning process included evaluating other municipalities' off-leash dog areas. Neighboring cities to Denver and the Colorado Front Range were evaluated as well as national and international cities. Analyzing the pros and cons in other municipalities' strategies and policies helped shape solutions that best fit Denver. The size, fees involved, number of off-leash areas and location of off-leash areas varies widely. In addition, other park policies such as sponsorship are allowed in other municipalities. The involvement and relationship of partnership groups were also researched. Conversations with other municipalities helped DPR further understand the successes and concerns with other municipalities' policies. Ultimately, the final recommendations for Denver were shaped, to some extent, by a combination of these practices along with public input.

Unique Highlights from Best Practice Research

LOCAL / NATIONAL:

Englewood, Colorado has five off-leash areas in parks that are unfenced and available for use in the early morning and early evening hours. Originally, these five parks had off-leash hours all day long and hours were restricted.

Boulder, Colorado Urban Parks has five off-leash areas. (Four fenced and one unfenced.)

Boulder, Colorado Open Space and Mountain Parks has an off-leash policy in place in which a green tag can be purchased for a one time fee.

Greeley, Colorado has one off-leash dog park. One may walk his/her pet on a six-foot lead around the perimeter of all parks and only three park areas allow dogs.

Indianapolis, Indiana has several fenced dog parks which require a dog tag and gate access key to enter. The gate access card is \$10 and separate passes are required for each park.

Minneapolis, Minnesota charges annually for the use of their 11 off-leash dog areas. A permit tag demonstrates payment and this has helped increase vaccination and licensing.

San Francisco, California has 17 off-leash sites and the size of the area dictates the use and type of barriers. The San Francisco Dog Owners Group is a very organized and active group supporting off-leash areas and dog owner education.

Seattle, Washington has 11 off-leash dog parks. Seattle has a very successful dog owners group- COLA- Citizens for Off-Leash Areas. This group was instrumental in turning under-utilized land into dog parks, which has increased public safety.

Portland, Oregon has six fenced dog parks, named Year-round Exercise Sites (YES sites), that are open 24 hours and 27 designated off-leash areas named Seasonal Hours at Reserved Sites (SHARED sites). These SHARED sites are designated areas in parks where dogs can run off-leash during seasonal hours in the early morning and in the early evening (exact times vary depending on daylight available in the summer and winter seasons). Portland has a Dogs for the Environment Program which is an educational campaign with the City of Portland.

New York City, New York has four different designations in portions of Parkland (no dogs allowed, dogs on leash at all times, dog runs (fenced dog parks) and designated off-leash areas (certain areas allow off-leash from park opening until 9am and from 9pm until the park closes). The umbrella partnership group is NYC Dogs, and there are several smaller partnership groups in other boroughs (Central Park Paws, FIDO Prospect Park). People using these spaces have further activated the area and have helped cut down on crime.

INTERNATIONAL:

Calgary, Alberta, Canada has 138 off-leash areas in multi-use parks.

London, England has off-leash areas as well as areas where dogs are not permitted and where dogs must be on a leash, all directed by signage.

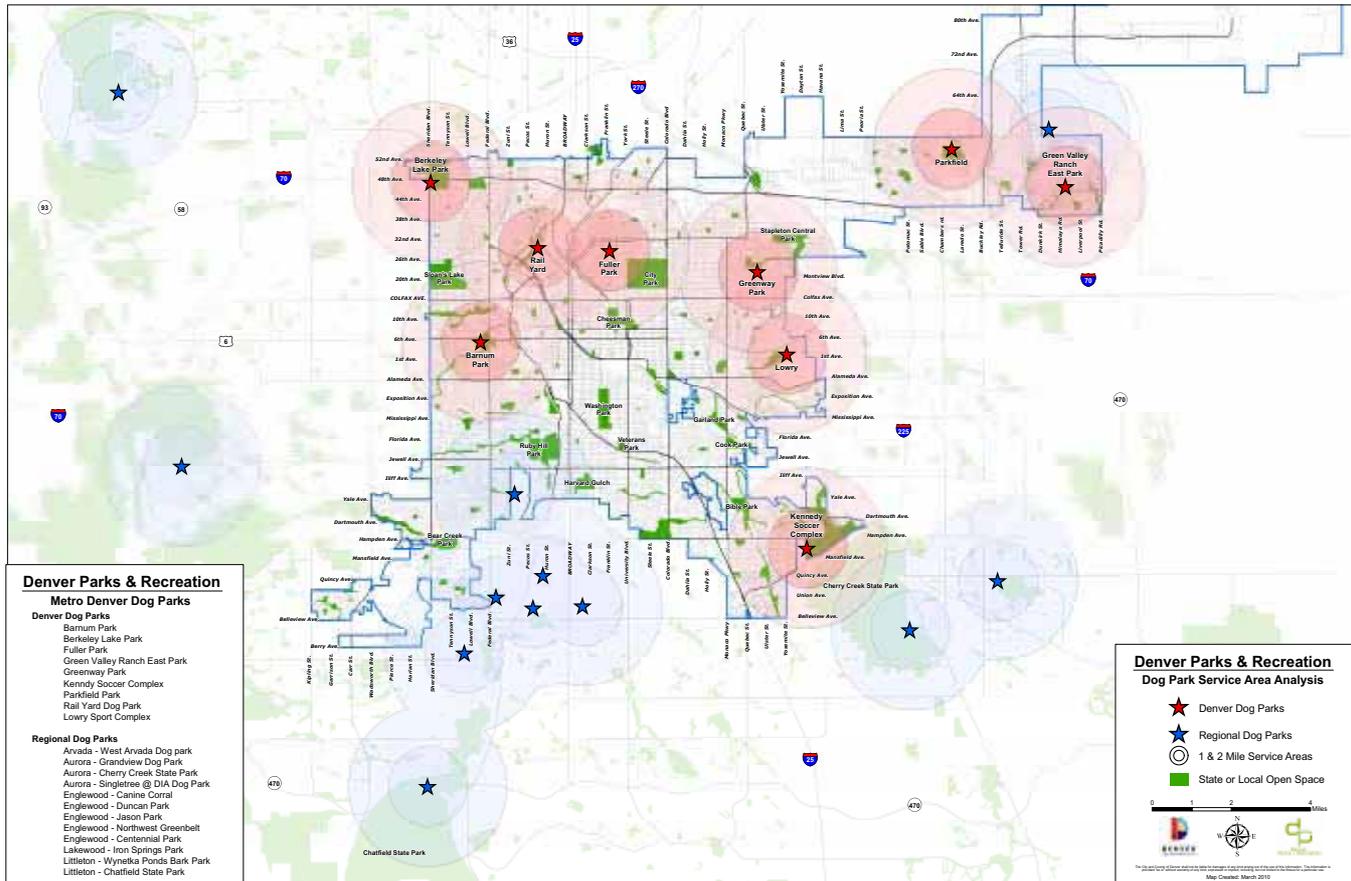
Vancouver, BC, Canada has 31 parks with off-leash locations. Use times and descriptions vary. There is a very strong education and training program on responsible dog ownership. They utilize radio and television advertisements.

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Denver's Existing Dog Park System Overview

Denver Parks and Recreation has seven existing off-leash dog areas, and one new interim-use site. They are located within Fuller Park, Berkeley Park, Barnum Park, Kennedy Park, Green Valley Ranch Park and Stapleton Greenway Park. The newest site is the Railyard Dog park in lower downtown (LoDo). Two additional dog off-leash areas are planned to be added to the system in the next year (Parkfield and Lowry). The Railyard Dog Park is a partnership between DPR and The Railyard Dogs, a 501(c)3 non-profit group whose mission was to privately raise funds for the development of the dog park. The Railyard Dogs gifted the park to the City upon completion, with commitment from DPR to provide long-term maintenance. Grand opening of this facility occurred on September 23, 2010.

The map below shows locations of Denver's existing dog park facilities and facilities due to come on line in 2011-2012 (shown in red) and dog park facilities found in surrounding municipalities (shown in blue).



Existing Dog Park System Overview

Fuller Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Franklin and East 29th
Council District 8, Maintenance District East
Size: 1 Acre

Off-Leash Area Has:

- Metal fencing around perimeter with a double gate entry
- Dirt surface (was originally turf and is worn out)
- Access to drinking fountain in park
- Bulletin board
- Citizens provide water



Location of fenced dog park in Fuller Park



Turf wear at Fuller off-leash area

Identified Needs:

- Interior benches
- Shade structure - gazebo or fabric shade
- Perimeter trees and vegetation massing/ screening around fence, berms
- New surface material
- Water feature for dog play
- Drinking fountain with dog-specific spout inside fence



Existing double gate entry at Fuller off-leash area

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Berkeley Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Sheridan and West 46th
Council District I, Maintenance District Northwest
Size: 2 Acres

Off-Leash Area Has:

- Perimeter fencing with a double gate
- Access to drinking fountain outside fence
- Bulletin board
- Surface material was turf but currently worn out (dirt)



Location of fenced Dog Park



Berkeley Dog Park

Identified Needs:

- Interior and exterior benches
- Shade structure - gazebo or fabric shade
- Perimeter trees and vegetation massing
- Vegetation screening around fence
- Berms and vegetation inside fence
- Resolution of prickly weed issues inside dog park
- Obstacles for dogs to play
- New surface material
- Water feature for dog play
- Drinking fountain with dog-specific spout outside fence
- New surface material
- Formalized entry path (current area gets muddy)
- Additional signage on access route to dog park from parking / recreation center
- Dog-specific drinking fountain



Berkeley Dog Park

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Green Valley Ranch Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Jebel and East 45th
Council District 11, Maintenance District Northeast
Size: 1.6 Acres



Off-Leash Area Has:

- Shade structure
- Seating
- Drinking fountain
- Trees in massings inside and outside off-leash dog area
- Infield mix as surface material for dog area and crusher fines at entrance and seating areas
- Bulletin board
- Perimeter fencing with double gate



Infield mix and tree massing at Green Valley Ranch off-leash area

Identified Needs:

None identified at this time; this off-leash area was recently redesigned and reopened in Fall 2009.



Drinking fountain, seating and shelter at Green Valley Ranch off-leash area

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Greenway (Stapleton) Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Syracuse and Montview Blvd.
Council District 11, Maintenance District Northeast
Size: 3 Acres

Off-Leash Area Has:

- Shade structures
- Seating
- Drinking fountain inside gate with dog-accessible fountain
- Trees
- Bulletin board
- Perimeter fencing with double gate
- Sand as surface material
- Trees and shrubs inside and outside dog park



Stapleton off-leash area

Identified Needs:

- Minor erosion control around trees
- Add 10" concrete wall to contain sand around problem areas
- Fix some minor drainage issues



Shade shelter at Stapleton off-leash area

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Barnum Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Hooker and West 5th
Council District 3, Maintenance District Southwest
Size: 3 acres

Off-Leash Area Currently Has:

- Signage
- Perimeter post and beam fencing to mark boundary
- Intact turf



Barnum off-leash area location



Natural barriers at Barnum off-leash area

Identified Needs:

- Benches/ seating area
- Bulletin board
- Drinking fountain
- Crusher fines access path from parking lot
- Lights



The Barnum off-leash area has natural barriers and good condition turf

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Kennedy Dog Off-Leash Area

Location: Hampden and South Dayton
Council District 4, Maintenance District Southeast
Size: 3 acres

Off-Leash Area Currently Has:

- One bench
- Signage
- Bulletin board
- Native vegetation
- Natural barriers (unfenced area with post and beam fence marking the boundary)



Kennedy off-leash area location



Kennedy off-leash area is bounded by natural barriers

Identified Needs:

- Shade
- Additional parking
- New surface material
- Access path
- Additional benches
- Drinking fountain
- Owner requirement for facility fencing



Kennedy off-leash area has native vegetation

Existing Dog Park System Overview



Existing Facility Rules and Regulations

All dog owners and parks users of Denver’s park system must abide by the City’s general dog park rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are outlined below.

Dog Off-Leash Enclosure Rules

Off-leash dog area will be open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week unless closed for maintenance

Enter at your own risk

Dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving the enclosure.

Handlers assume full responsibility for their dogs

Handlers must dispose of dog feces properly and immediately

Dogs must be supervised and under handlers’ control at all times

Dogs must have current rabies tag and Denver dog license (for Denver residents)

Dogs must be spayed or neutered, or have a current Denver intact permit (for Denver residents)

Dogs must be accompanied by a person 18 years or older

No children under 12 years of age in the enclosures; children 12-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult

No aggressive dogs, no pitbulls, no female dogs in heat, no ill dogs

No human food (dog treats OK)

No toys, chairs, water dishes or trash left behind

Any bite, attack, violations, or problems must be immediately reported to the Denver Division of Animal Control located at 678 South Jason Street, 303-698-0076. In case of emergency, call Denver Police at 911.

All users of the off-leash area must abide by the posted rules, also referenced in Section 8-16(f) of the Revised Municipal Code of the City and County of Denver, Colorado. Violators are subject to fines.



The standard rules and regulations to which dog owners and park users must adhere are enforced by a limited number of City staff. Denver Parks and Recreation has two full-time Park Rangers, dedicated first to park user education. Additionally, Denver’s Environmental Health Animal Control division has two full-time Animal Control Officers dedicated to patrolling the entire city.

Existing Dog Park System Overview

Operations and Maintenance

Routine Maintenance:

All dog parks are monitored by Parks staff and signage indicating status of condition is located at the entry to the dog park. This rating system is determined and monitored by Parks staff, and if the designated off-leash area is not kept to the standard expected in the dog off-leash area, a warning sign will appear. If the area continues to be in poor condition then the off-leash area can be closed by Parks staff. Signs indicate the rating status of the off-leash area.

- Red indicates the off-leash area is in poor condition and is closed until further notice.
- Yellow indicates a warning that the off-leash area is in need of attention. If the area is not cleaned up, the off-leash area will be closed.
- Green indicates that the off-leash area is in good condition.

Current routine maintenance consists of emptying trash and pulling/ treating weeds where necessary. Currently, maintenance crews do not go into the dog off-leash areas to irrigate or till the surface material.

In 2009, the annual cost of providing dog waste bags was found to be too high. Therefore, as part of budget cuts and in an attempt to reduce spending, DPR decided to no longer provide dog waste bags throughout the system.



Green Valley Ranch East Dog Park

Recommendations

The following section documents a series of recommendations with proposed solutions for the issues, outlined earlier, that exist for Denver. The recommendations fall into four general categories to positively and aggressively address the outlined issues and are as follows:



Upgrading Existing Facilities

The City of Denver understands that in order to live up to its reputation as a dog-friendly city and to serve its citizens, improvements must first be made to the city's existing dog park facilities.

Improve Staff Enforcement / Education

Recognizing the need to better control and enforce rules and regulations pertaining to dogs running loose in our parks, Denver Parks and Recreation is carrying forward recommendations to improve Parks field staffing levels, improve educational outreach, and to improve enforcement. The specifics to accomplish these recommendations are described in detail in the following sections. Recommendations include new fees, additional fines, and improving dog owner responsibility.



New Facilities and Design Standards

With six existing dog park facilities, the city of Denver ranks in the middle of similarly-sized US cities for number of dog parks per 100,000 residents, according to a Trust for Public Land study. With the outlined recommendations for adding new facilities and with the addition of three dog park facilities expected in 2010/2011, Denver will rise significantly in the rank for number of dog parks per 100,000 residents. A strategy for considering additional facilities in areas of need in the future is outlined within this section.



Developing Partnerships

Many citizens of Denver and city government representatives need proof that Denver's current dog park facilities work and that dog owners can be responsible and law-abiding citizens. Therefore, the recommendation for development of a strong organization to partner with the City of Denver on issues of educational outreach, clean-up of facilities, and monitoring and compliance of off-leash policies and laws was carried forward and is currently experiencing success with the newly formed Denver D.O.G partnership group.

The City of Denver, with the help of resident dog owners and non-dog owners, has developed recommendations for improvement through significant planning efforts. These planning efforts are designed to successfully move Denver forward in serving its citizens through effective placement of dog park facilities that will ultimately improve Denver's parks and open spaces to support and accommodate all users in a healthy, sustainable environment.

Recommendations

Upgrading Existing Facilities

The City of Denver recognizes the need for basic improvements at the six existing dog park facilities throughout the city. Though maintenance budgets are constrained, basic upgrades to address drainage issues, turf restoration, and the addition of basic amenities such as shade, water, and plantings to Denver's existing dog park facilities are needed prior to advancing the addition of new dog park facilities within the city. Denver Parks has dedicated a total of \$200,000 in budget year 2010 for improvements and \$200,000 in budget year 2011 to implement needed improvements. The following outlines specific upgrades planned and budgeted for in Denver's existing dog park facilities.

Fuller Dog Park

The dog park facility in Fuller Park is just north and west of Denver's City Park. Fuller experiences a high number of users, suffers from worn turf conditions because of the high number of users, and lacks adequate shade, bench seating, and a water source for pets.

Recommended improvements to the Fuller Dog Park address concerns and issues vetted through the planning process with the Internal Advisory Committee and the External Stakeholder Committee and are outlined above. The recommendations include:

1. Improve facility to accommodate high use through application of a new surface material.
 - Similar to improvements made in other Denver dog park facilities, a crushed stone and sand mix or the in-field turf mix used at the Green Valley Ranch Dog Park facility will be evaluated for use within dog park facilities to be upgraded.
2. Incorporate elements of shade into the designed improvements.
 - Shade elements may include incorporation of a shade structure (pavilion or shade sail), and may also include the use of shade trees. Any trees incorporated inside of the fenced facility will require proper protection. (See design details section.) Tree plantings combined with lower-growing shrub plant material may also help to improve the appearance of the Fuller facility while providing needed shade.
3. Incorporate bench seating into the designed improvements.
4. Consider incorporating a drinking fountain for humans that has a water spigot for filling dog bowls, should project budgets allow.



Recommendations

Upgrading Existing Facilities

Berkeley Dog Park

This dog park facility in the far northwest corner of the city of Denver is highly used and highly visible to users and non-users due to its prominent location along Sheridan Boulevard. The location along Sheridan Boulevard contributes to a certain level of discomfort to dogs and dog owners given the close proximity to moving vehicles. Because of the high level of use at this facility, the wear on the original turf surface has become difficult to maintain and manage. Lack of proper irrigation has exacerbated this problem. Additionally, there is a lack of shade for users of this facility that contributes to a level of discomfort. There is also a lack of a water source (drinking fountain) available to users of this facility. Similar to some of Denver's other dog park facilities, dog owners are often remiss in the removal of dog waste, water bowls, and toys brought to the facility, and access to and from the parking area for this facility is a greater distance than desired.



Recommended improvements to the Berkeley Dog Park address concerns and issues vetted through the planning process with the Internal Advisory Committee and the External Stakeholder Committee. These concerns are outlined above. The recommendations include:

1. Improve facility to accommodate high use.
 - To the extent possible, the Berkeley facility should be designed to be larger than two acres in size. The current facility is exactly two acres.
2. Improve visual presence of dog park facility along Sheridan Boulevard.
 - To reduce the negative effects of traffic on users of the facility and to improve the visual presence of the facility along Sheridan Boulevard, two design considerations should be incorporated into a new Berkeley dog park facility:
 - 1) Adjust perimeter fencing boundaries of the facility to limit exposure on Sheridan Boulevard to the extent possible, and
 - 2) Add tree and shrub plantings along a newly located perimeter fence to improve visual appearance of the facility and to block negative effects of traffic on the dog park users.
3. Find an alternative surface treatment that is more sustainable and easier to maintain than the existing turf grass, and improve the surface material within the gated entry zone.
 - As a part of the design process for upgrading the Berkeley Dog Park facility, consideration should be given to alternative dog park surface treatments. Several options exist, some of which have been tested in Denver, such as the in-field turf mix used at the Green Valley Ranch Dog Park facility or the surface treatment used at the interim facility at Joesephine Gardens.
 - To the extent possible, any proposed new surface treatment should eliminate the need to rely on irrigation to maintain the surface for regular, extended periods of time.



Recommendations

Upgrading Existing Facilities

4. Incorporate elements of shade into the designed improvements for the Berkeley Dog Park facility.

- Shade elements may include incorporation of a shade structure (pavilion or shade sail), and may also include the use of shade trees. Any trees incorporated inside of the fenced facility will require proper protection. (See design details section.)

5. If feasible, incorporate a source of water into the new Berkeley Dog Park facility for users.

- This may be a standard drinking fountain with a separate spigot for filling dog bowls, or an equivalent that provides water to both humans and pets.

6. Improve monitoring of the facility to encourage better user compliance with picking up of dog toys, water bowls, and dog waste.

- Denver Parks and Recreation currently has a site monitoring system in place that determines the status of a dog park facility and indicates whether or not the facility is available for users. (Red – closed, Yellow – under consideration for being closed, Green – in good condition.) The recommendation is for strict adherence to this monitoring system.

7. Decrease distance from Berkeley Dog Park facility to nearest parking lot facility and add additional directional signs near the parking lot.

- In the design and layout of the new facility at Berkeley, consideration should be given to relocating portions of the existing facility closer to available parking. In particular, the gated entrance of the facility should be the closest to available parking. By making the entrance more visible, and closer to the parking lot, additional signage may not be necessary.



Other improvements for consideration expressed through the planning process for the Berkeley Dog Park facility include providing obstacles on which dogs may play and providing a water feature for dog play. Though these improvements would make this facility a very enjoyable place to spend time, limited funds for capital improvements force tough decisions about priorities and may make these amenities a challenge to achieve.

Recommendations

Upgrading Existing Facilities

Green Valley Ranch Dog Park

Given the recent redesign and construction in 2009 of the Green Valley Ranch Dog Park facility, there are no recommended upgrades proposed at this time. This facility will continue to be monitored for success of materials and amenities.



Stapleton / Greenway Dog Park

Stapleton's Greenway Dog Park facility in northeast Denver is sized appropriately and accommodates the high use experienced at this facility. This dog park also provides a shade structure, seating, shade trees and other plantings. Despite the positive attributes of this facility, there are issues with drainage and erosion that are contributing to loss of surface material and the decline of plant material around the edge of the facility.

Recommendations for improvements include the following:

1. Improve drainage and decrease erosion by addressing proper grades, or by placing border walls to control runoff and erosion.
2. Improve plant and tree health through drainage improvements. If certain shrubs and trees are in need of replacement, improvement funds should also be directed to new plant material.



Barnum Dog Park

Similar to Stapleton's Greenway Dog Park, Barnum Dog Park facility, located in west Denver, is sized well and accommodates a high number of users with little or no conflict. Relatively minor desired improvements include the addition of bench seating, a bulletin or posting board for announcements (to include dog park monitoring status), and adding a defined access path from the parking area to the entrance areas of the facility.

Recommendations for improvements include the following:

1. Add bench seating where most appropriate.
2. Locate and install a bulletin board, per Denver Parks and Recreation standard specifications.
3. Install a concrete walk that meets Denver Parks and Recreation standard specifications and connects users from the parking lot area to the entrance areas of the dog park facility.

Recommendations

Upgrading Existing Facilities

Kennedy Dog Park

Kennedy Dog Park, located in the far southeast corner of Denver near Hampden Avenue and South Dayton Street, is about three acres in size and is a facility with natural barriers, no fence and a lack of shade trees or shade structures. Its basic amenities include one bench, Denver Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations signs, and a bulletin board for postings. There is a clear need for more bench seating, some shade trees and potentially a shade structure, and a defined paved or crusher fine trail from the parking area to the facility. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, from whom the City leases this land, is now requiring the City to fence this facility.

Recommendations for improvements include the following:

1. Add bench seating where most appropriate and as funding levels allow.
2. Add shade trees.
3. Consider adding a shade structure near some of the bench seating, if funding levels permit.
4. Build a paved (concrete) or crusher fines access trail from the parking area to the entry area of the dog park facility.
5. Build a fence around the perimeter of the dog park facility with standard gated entry.



The suggested improvement projects to individual dog park facilities will go a long way in upgrading Denver's existing dog parks and will allow the City to continue advancing the development of new facilities in areas of need.

Recommendations

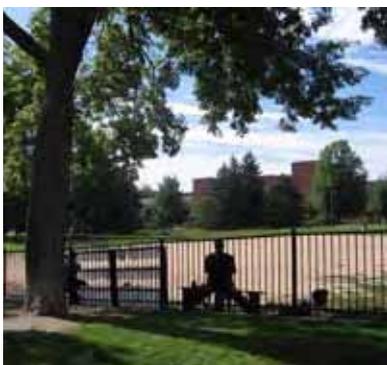
Improving Field Staffing Levels and Education/Enforcement



Recommendations to improve field staffing levels, improve educational outreach, and to improve enforcement of dog rules and regulations are being carried forward. However, better control of dogs running loose in parks and enforcement efforts will require some new sources of revenue. To that end, an annual fee for use of dog park facilities and a revised fine structure are needed.

Improving Field Staffing:

One of the comments heard most frequently throughout this planning process was the need for more field staff. Additional field staff would address ongoing concerns of illegal behavior of dogs running off-leash outside of designated dog park facilities, not having proper documentation of licensure, or not having proof of required vaccinations. Denver currently has two full-time Animal Control Officers for enforcing rules and regulations, and two full-time Park Rangers for educating park users on park rules, regulations, and park uses. Understanding that increasing staff means finding additional sources of revenue, the Internal Advisory Committee and External Stakeholder Committee members conducted extensive analysis and then advanced a fee system for dog park facility users. The conservative estimate of minimum projected costs to more adequately serve and monitor Denver's current system of dog park facilities and existing parks is approximately \$260,000 annually. Projected costs include hiring one additional Animal Control Officer for enforcement purposes and hiring two additional Park Rangers for educational purposes. The proposed fee system for dog park facility users also will provide a dedicated stream of funding for ongoing dog park facility maintenance.



Fees

The following fee proposals are recommended based on projected minimum annual costs and the estimated number of potential users from existing dog license data. Data is provided by Denver Environmental Health.

For Denver residents, a \$25 annual user fee and coinciding color-coded dog tag is recommended for entry into all Denver dog parks. This annual fee is for one dog. Additional dogs under one owner may be eligible for a discounted annual user fee for each additional dog.

For non-Denver residents, a \$40 annual user fee and coinciding color-coded dog tag is recommended for entry into all Denver dog parks.

Volunteer efforts to help maintain dog park facilities and to help with educational outreach will be recognized through a discounted fee program. Fees will cover costs for additional enforcement in Denver parks, will go toward matching funds for building new facilities, and will provide a more sustainable revenue stream for maintenance.

Recommendations

Improving Field Staffing Levels and Education/Enforcement

Improving Education and Enforcement:

Enforcement is challenging for Denver, not only from a staffing perspective, but from a logistical perspective. Since 1995, pet owners who reside in the city are required by ordinance to license dogs and cats over 6 months of age. Animal Care & Control offers one-year (\$15) and three-year (\$40) pet licenses, as long as pet-owners can show proof that their animals are current on their vaccinations. Licenses are available online, through the mail, as well as in person at the shelter. In 2009, 18,892 animal licenses were issued in Denver. Currently, dog owners must have their pets vaccinated and licensed within the city of Denver and must have proof of both when out in public spaces with their pets. It is estimated that less than 10 percent of the city's owned dogs and cats are licensed. Even with a dedicated marketing campaign to increase licensing awareness (2007), these numbers have not changed significantly. At the time of this publication, the fine for having pets out of compliance is \$75. It is also inconvenient for many pet owners to have to show their vaccination records to obtain a license. Additionally, successful models where pet owners do not have to provide vaccination records have significantly higher compliance rates. For example, in Calgary, Canada, dog licensing rates average 93 percent. In an effort to simplify licensing and vaccination and to improve compliance with licensing, Denver Parks and Recreation recommends following Denver Environmental Health's lead to no longer require owners to show proof of vaccination in order to obtain a pet license, and to include a separate violation for giving false information when applying for a license.



Once these recommendations are in place, Denver Environmental Health's Animal Care & Control will implement an aggressive outreach plan, and enhance current efforts to make licensing an easier process. These efforts will include:

- Renewal notices mailed out automatically
- Easy payment options
- Online licensing and renewal
- Increasing the number of locations where licenses are available

Additionally, Animal Care & Control staff will assure licensing compliance by following up on all license renewals, officers will check for valid licenses via radio dispatch, park patrols will increase, impounded dogs will not be able to leave a facility without a license, and a 1-year license will be included with any adoption.



Recommendations

Improving Field Staffing Levels and Education/Enforcement



Fines

The following fine and certificates are recommended based on the experience of Environmental Health Animal Control Officers and recommendations proposed through this department,

Dog owners will be required to provide a rabies certificate within 30 days of purchasing a dog license.

It will be a violation to provide false information to an animal control officer or fail to display a dog license. The recommended fine for such violations is \$250 per occurrence.

Improving Owner Responsibility:

Dog owners and dog park users need to provide evidence of a full understanding of the rules and regulations and requirements for use of Denver's dog park facilities. They will be required to review and acknowledge that they have read and will comply with information provided at the time of payment of the annual dog park user fee, or purchase of a dog license.

Any new fees or fines must go through the City of Denver's ordinance process, including presentation to and approval by City Council. New fines are approved only when enacted by ordinance.

Recommendations

New Facilities and Design Standards

New Facilities:

With six existing dog park facilities, the City of Denver ranks in the middle of similarly-sized US cities for number of dog parks per 100,000 residents, according to the Trust for Public Land. With the addition of three new facilities due to open in 2010-2011 in Lowry, Parkfield, and LoDo, Denver will rise significantly in this nation-wide ranking.

A one-mile service area radius for some of Denver's most densely populated areas is being recommended to supplement existing dog parks. This is an aggressive measure to begin providing even more fenced dog park facilities in closer proximity to Denver's dog owners. Denver Parks does not own or manage sufficient space to meet this aggressive approach. Therefore, continued identification and evaluation of surplus or vacant lands and the advancement of public-private partnerships is necessary to supplement what Denver Parks may be able to provide.

One-Mile Service Area Radius

Within Denver's most densely populated neighborhoods, a one-mile service area radius for new dog park facilities is recommended. Existing examples include the new LoDo Railyard Dog Park and Fuller Dog Park, each of which have a one-mile service area radius based on population density data. New facilities should be a mix of publicly and privately developed land, or a partnership of both. LoDo's Railyard Dog Park, which opened on September 23, 2010, is an excellent example of a privately developed dog park facility that will be managed and maintained by Denver Parks and Recreation. Most of the population density in higher density neighborhoods are high-rise buildings with little personal exterior space. Thus, private development and management of dog park facilities as part of high-rise residential development is encouraged.

Two-Mile Service Area Radius

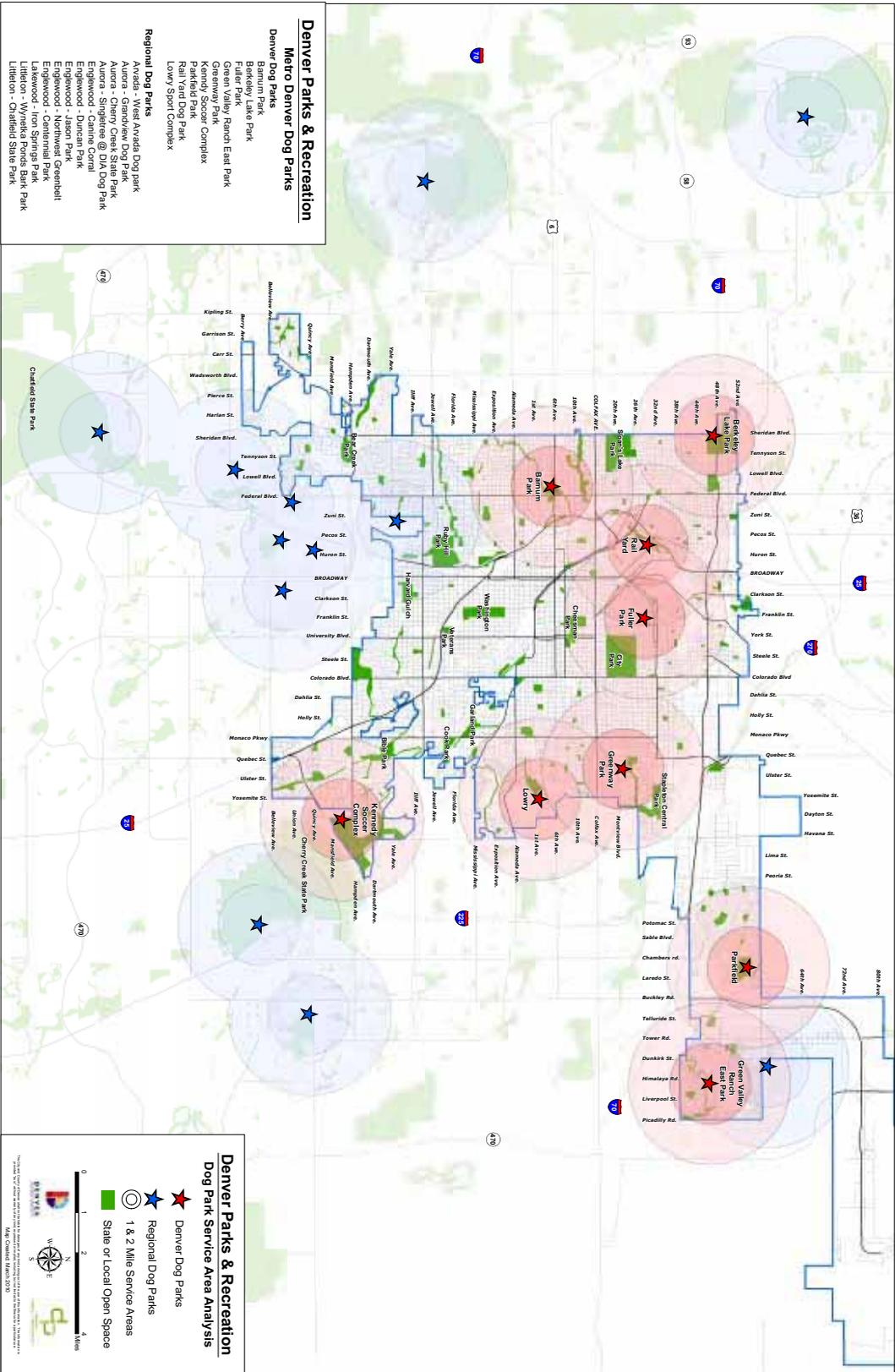
In neighborhoods with lower population density, such as Barnum, a two-mile service area radius for dog park facilities is recommended.

Recognizing that park space alone will not allow the city to achieve full build-out for dog park facilities, it is recommended that Denver and its residents continue to work together in identifying any available land opportunities for a dog park facility. Numerous examples of collaborative efforts to find land exist, similar to the efforts that led to space for Denver's Skate Park. Vacant lands, under-utilized lands, undeveloped lands, and other opportunities will provide the space necessary to fill the voids in dog park service areas throughout Denver.



Recommendations

New Facilities and Design Standards



Recommendations

New Facilities and Design Standards

Design Standards:

Based on research done for Denver Parks and Recreation's Dog Off-leash Pilot Program, a set of site and design criteria was developed for any proposed off-leash area within the Denver Parks system. Criteria and design standards for sites that are not within the control of Denver Parks and Recreation will be developed and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The criteria define the basis for a safe, functional off-leash area and its relationship to the surrounding uses and environment. The criteria accommodate a range of possibilities for off-leash areas from single use (fully fenced, which is the preferred alternative at the time of writing of this master plan) to shared use sites (partially fenced, time of day restrictions). Key elements for new locations are walking distance from neighborhoods as well as equitable distribution city-wide. Having identified community involvement as a key factor in the success of an off-leash area, any new areas will have to be supported by the local community.

Site Criteria

- No designated natural areas or wildlife habitat
- No toxic residue from previous uses
- Positive drainage
- Clear separation from other park uses/amenities such as picnic areas, athletic fields, or regional trails, either via a fence, vegetation, or acceptable distance
- Distance of 100 feet from a playground or other children's facility
- No arterial streets within 200 feet unless the area is fully fenced
- Access to parking
- Good connection to adjacent/surrounding neighborhoods via pedestrian/bicycle trails
- No other site within same service area (2-mile radius or 1-mile radius, depending on population density.)



Design Criteria

- Minimum size of one acre, with preference given to two to three acres
- Non-linear layout to maximize usable space
- When fencing, use a 4-foot tall decorative perimeter fence with minimum 2 double gated entrances plus two 10-foot wide maintenance gates
- ADA accessible paved entrance path
- Crusher fines surfacing around entrance at least 30'x30'
- Minimum of 1 acre of alternative surface (sand-based soil mix, synthetic turf, or infield mix) – balance of area can be native vegetation; no turf
- Minimum of 4 doggie clean up stations (bag dispenser and trash barrels)
- Community bulletin board
- Shade trees or shade structure
- Attractive visual buffer from surrounding residents and/or park areas (vegetation, fence treatment)
- Rules and regulations signage



Optional amenities may also include shade structures, a water source, and bench seating.

Recommendations

Stronger Citizen Participation and Partnerships



Many Denver residents and their elected representatives need proof that Denver's current dog park facilities work and that dog owners can be responsible and law-abiding citizens. A citizen lead partnership group is crucial to the success of proving adherence to licensure rules, leash law rules and regulations, and dog park facility rules and regulations. Additionally, a partnership group will be able to help the City of Denver identify opportunities, fund raise for specific improvements, and most importantly will be able to assist the city of Denver by helping to educate dog owners and non-dog owners about numerous issues, rules, and regulations.

As a part of the master planning process, the City of Denver followed through with the recommendation for the need of a strong citizen-lead partnership group and enlisted more than 25 interested individuals in February of 2010 to lead the group. Notification was sent to individuals who shared their contact information and interest in participating in such a group as a part of the public survey at the outset of the master planning effort. Since then, the newly formed group has formalized, named themselves Denver D.O.G. (Denver Dog Owners Group), and has assisted the City in reaching out to the public on many of the issues recognized as a need for assistance and as outlined above.

Denver D.O.G.'s roles include:

- Sharing information with dog users and the general public on Denver's existing dog park facilities, including the monitored status of a facility, needs that are going unmet within a facility, and educating users on existing rules and regulations pertaining to the use of any Denver dog park facility.
- Developing and distributing newsletters with important information pertaining to human, pet, and environmental health.
- Assisting the City of Denver with education on issues such as pet licensing, current leash laws, and good canine citizenship.
- Providing updates to the Denver community on any new or developing initiatives that affect dog owners and users of Denver's parks and dog park facilities.

The role of the Denver D.O.G. organization is critical to the success of Denver's existing dog park facilities and is critical to the success of developing new opportunities in the future. This organization will also provide a stronger link between the community and the City of Denver.

Appendix



Green Valley Ranch East Dog Park

Appendix

City of Denver Leash Law.....	pg. 37
Off Leash Enclosure Rules.....	pg. 38
Site Design Guidelines for Enclosed Dog Park Locations.....	pg. 39
New and Planned Facilities.....	pgs. 40-43
The Trust for Public Land Ranking of Dog Parks per People...pg.	44
Internal and External Stakeholder Meetings Overview.....	pgs. 45-46

Denver Leash Law

Sec. 8-16. Leash law.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any owner, possessor or person who keeps any dog to permit the same to run at large.
- (b) A dog shall be deemed to be running at large when:
 - (1) Not on the premises of the owner, possessor or keeper thereof and not controlled through use of a leash, cord or chain held by the dog's owner, possessor or keeper or an agent, servant or member of the immediate family thereof; or
 - (2) On the premises of the owner, possessor or keeper, but confined in such a way as to allow the dog to have access to the public right-of-way.
- (c) It shall be the duty of the chief of police and all other police officers to see that a dog found running at large is taken up and impounded in the municipal animal shelter, and such dog may be so taken up without the necessity of filing a complaint and shall be impounded and disposed of in accordance with provisions of article VIII of this chapter.
- (d) Any police officer, including special police, who is employed by the city is hereby authorized to issue a summons and complaint to any person when such officer personally observes a violation of the provisions of this section or when information is received from any person who has personal knowledge that an act or acts which are made unlawful by the provisions of this section have occurred.
- (e) Paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to persons who are at least eighteen (18) years of age who own, possess, or control a dog while that dog is within a designated off-leash enclosure.
- (f) The manager may, with the concurrence and consent of the chief agency executive with control responsibility for the property involved, designate specific areas for dog off-leash enclosures. The manager shall, pursuant to article VI of chapter 2 of this Code, propose to the board of environmental health rules and regulations for the construction and use of dog off-leash enclosures.

(Code 1950, §§ 752.1--752.3; Ord. No. 94-81, § 1,3-9-81; Ord. No. 260-92, § 1,5-4-92; Ord. No. 809-98, § 1, 11-16-98)

Appendix 2.

Dog Off-Leash Enclosure Rules

All Denver Dog Parks have the signs posted with the following rules.

Off-leash dog area will be open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week unless closed for maintenance

Enter at your own risk

Dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving the enclosure

Handlers assume full responsibility for their dogs

Handlers must dispose of dog feces properly and immediately

Dogs must be supervised and under handlers' control at all times

Dogs must have current rabies tag and Denver dog license (for Denver residents)

Dogs must be spayed or neutered, or have a current Denver intact permit (for Denver residents)

Dogs must be accompanied by a person 18 years or older

No children under 12 years of age in the enclosures; children 12-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult

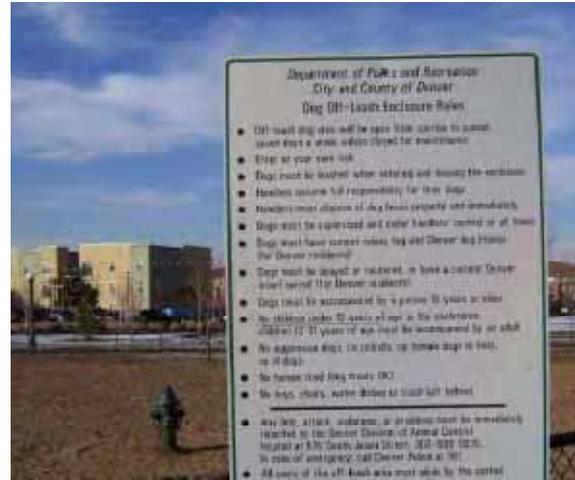
No aggressive dogs, no pitbulls, no female dogs in heat, no ill dogs

No human food (dog treats OK)

No toys, chairs, water dishes or trash left behind

Any bite, attack, violations, or problems must be immediately reported to the Denver Division of Animal Control located at 678 South Jason Street, 303-698-0076. In case of emergency, call Denver Police at 911.

All users of the off-leash area must abide by the posted rules, also referenced in Section 8-16(f) of the Revised Municipal Code of the City and County of Denver, Colorado. Violators are subject to fines.



Site Design Guidelines for Enclosed Dog Off-Leash Areas

- 1.) Provide buffer from surrounding residents such as dense vegetation or opaque fencing
- 2.) Distance requirement of 100 feet from a playground or children's facility
- 3.) Clear separation from athletic fields
- 4.) No dog off-leash areas will be allowed in parks or open space designated as a Natural Area
- 5.) Existing off-street parking should be available
- 6.) Site should be easily and safely accessible from adjacent/surrounding neighborhoods using pedestrian/bicycle trails (see Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000)
- 7.) Site must have positive drainage
- 8.) Site must have an ADA accessible paved entrance path
- 9.) Off-leash area should be at least one to three acres
- 10.) Site should be nonlinear to maximize useable space
- 11.) Site should have either shade trees or a shade structure
- 12.) Site should have access to existing irrigation system or be already irrigated if possible
- 13.) Site should be free from toxic residue
- 14.) Separate Large and Small dog areas

Also, a good dog park should provide:

Shade, water, seating, dog friendly surface material, opportunities for play



Appendix 4

* NEW * Railyard Dog Park



The Railyard Dog Park was a partnership between the Parks Department and The Railyard Dogs, a 501(c)3 non-profit group, whose mission was to privately raise funds for the development of the dog park.

The Railyard Dogs will gift the park to the city upon completion, with the commitment of Denver Parks to provide long-term maintenance.

Completion Expected
Spring 2010



Appendix 4.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- 1 Baseball Field
- Lighted Field
- Spectator Seating
- 2 Parking (170 spaces)
- 3 Picnic Area
- 4 Tennis Courts (2)
- Lighted
- 5 Off-leash Dog Area
- 6 Softball Field
- Lighted Field
- Spectator Seating
- 7 Promenades
- 8 Plumbed Restroom Facility
- 9 Artificial Turf Football Field
- Lighted Field
- Spectator Seating
- 10 Skate/Play Area
- 11 Parking (140 spaces)
- 12 Montebello Recreation Center
- 13 Multi-Use Fields (2)
- Lighted Fields
- 14 Basketball Plaza (4 courts)
- Lighted
- 15 Existing Parking Lot
- 16 Play Area and Sun Deck
- 17 Amphitheater
- 18 Sledding Hill/Bluegrass Meadow

LEGEND

- native
- irrigated turf
- artificial turf
- school
- roads
- phase 1 & 2



parkfield lake park-phase III
MONTBELLO, DENVER, CO

DECEMBER 13, 2008

Appendix 4.



Appendix 4.

**JOSEPHINE
DOG PARK
& COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

* This site is an interim use until a new recreation center facility is built.

PLAN ALTERNATIVE



LEGEND

	DOG PARK	Compacted stabilized infield mix Enclosed WHH vinyl chain link fence	0.99 Acres
	SWALE FOR WATER QUALITY	Shallow (<1' depth swale) to UDFCD standard construction BMP: C5-12 'Temporary Sediment Basin' (18" depth)	0.13 Acres
	PARKING/EXISTING ASPHALT TO REMAIN	70 parking spaces	1.00 Acre
	COMMUNITY GARDEN	Per Denver Urban Garden Standards	0.46 Acres

TOTAL ACREAGE 2.58 Acres

Trust for Public Land

Dog Parks per 100,000 Residents

FY 2007



City	Population	Number of Dog Parks	Dog Parks per 100,000 Residents
Portland, Ore.	537,081	31	5.8
Las Vegas	552,530	23	4.2
San Francisco	744,041	27	3.6
Bakersfield	308,392	7	2.3
Tampa	332,888	7	2.1
Herndon	240,614	5	2.1
St. Petersburg	248,098	5	2.0
Seattle	562,454	11	1.9
Columbus/Springa	372,437	7	1.9
Austin	709,893	13	1.8
Anchorage/Anchorage Bureau	278,700	4	1.4
Albuquerque	304,949	7	1.4
Riverside, Calif.	293,761	4	1.4
Cincinnati, Ohio	246,831	3	1.2
Cincinnati	332,252	4	1.2
San Diego	1,286,931	15	1.2
Longton	270,789	3	1.1
Minneapolis	372,833	4	1.1
Denver	566,974	6	1.1
Tucson	518,656	5	1.0
Pittsburgh	312,819	3	1.0
Sacramento	453,791	4	0.9
Lincoln	241,167	2	0.8
Oakland	397,067	3	0.8
San Jose	929,006	7	0.8
New York	8,250,567	54	0.7
Pleasanton	466,714	3	0.6
Raleigh	356,321	2	0.6
Nashville/Davidson	552,120	3	0.5
Irvine	565,698	3	0.5
Miami	404,048	2	0.5
Omaha	419,545	2	0.5
Charlottesville/Mecklenburg	867,957	4	0.5
Virginia Beach	435,619	2	0.5

Source for City Park Excellence: www.apl.org/epc

Page 1 of 1

City	Population	Number of Dog Parks	Dog Parks per 100,000 Residents
Long Beach	472,494	2	0.4
Fort Wayne	248,637	1	0.4
Pietro	285,009	1	0.4
Chicago	2,832,321	11	0.4
Indianapolis	785,597	3	0.4
St. Paul	272,535	1	0.4
Philadelphia	1,448,394	5	0.3
Stockton	290,141	1	0.3
Aurora, Colo.	303,592	1	0.3
St. Louis	353,837	1	0.3
Houston	2,169,248	6	0.3
Arlington, Tex.	267,197	1	0.3
Phoenix	1,512,986	4	0.3
Los Angeles	3,049,378	10	0.3
Cleveland	444,313	1	0.2
Kansas City, Mo.	447,306	1	0.2
Mesa	447,541	1	0.2
Honolulu/Honolulu County	905,691	2	0.2
Milwaukee/Milwaukee County	931,252	2	0.2
Atlanta	486,411	1	0.2
Oklahoma City	337,734	1	0.2
Washington, D.C.	581,520	1	0.2
El Paso	699,415	1	0.2
Dallas	1,292,940	2	0.2
Baltimore	640,961	1	0.2
San Antonio	1,296,682	2	0.2
Fort Worth	633,320	1	0.2
Memphis	670,902	1	0.1
Louisville	709,264	1	0.1
Columbus	733,203	1	0.1
Corpus Christi	285,287	0	0.0
Jersey City	241,789	0	0.0
Buffalo	276,059	0	0.0
Newark, NJ	281,402	0	0.0
Anaheim	334,425	0	0.0
San Antonio	340,024	0	0.0
Toledo	298,446	0	0.0
Tulsa	362,672	0	0.0
Jacksonville	794,555	0	0.0
Detroit	918,949	0	0.0
Wichita	357,698	0	0.0
Total, All Cities		353	
Average, All Cities			0.7
Median, All Cities			0.4

If a city has more than one agency, dog parks are combined. Data indicates estimate based on prior year information.



DRAFT Dog Park Master Plan & Policy Recommendations



Appendix 6.

Internal, External and Public Meeting Summary 2009-2010

February 26, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting Kickoff

Topics: Project Overview & Timeline, Background Presentation, Review / Discuss Project Goals and Objectives, Review / Discuss Public Survey Questions (To be released early March), Schedule Next Meeting and Share Draft Agenda

March- Mid April, 2009 Public Survey Released

The survey contained 44 questions and comment areas. Basic citizen background information was also collected for those that wanted to be updated and notified throughout the process.

April 20, 2009 Internal Technical Committee

Topics Discussed: Summarize project issues, goals, and objectives. (Evaluation of current leash law and policy, Evaluation of current pilot sites, Best Practices (Local / National), Needs Assessment, Locations – Current Pros/Cons and Proposed Criteria), Site specific design recommendations, Site amenities, (Tiered approach of amenities.), Policy issues and recommendations, Implementation recommendations and priorities, Strategizing / formalizing on-going partnerships, Review and evaluation of existing leash law, Review and evaluation of existing pilot dog park sites, Review of best practices locations and highlights. Comments on draft web site layout

May 4, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting

Topics: Review overall project issues, goals, and objectives

June 4, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting

Topics: Issues/ Recommendations, Staff/ Off leash patrol, Enforcement and Fine Collection, Distance and Accessibility to Dog Parks, Leashes, Revenue/ Higher fines, Dog Waste, Maintenance Involved

June 10, 2009 External Stakeholder Meeting

Topics: Group Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group, Background of Process / Dog Issues, Review of Overall Schedule

June 24, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting

July 15, 2009 External Stakeholder Meeting

Topics: Introduction to Overall Denver Dog Issues, Existing Issues and Needs pertaining to Leash Law/ Enforcement, National/International Best Practices, Existing Dog Off Leash Areas Pros/Cons/Needs.

Appendix 6.

September 22, 2009 External Stakeholder Meeting

Topics: Fenced Dog Site Recommendations Review, Site location criteria, Review of DRAFT policy recommendations for Fenced and Off-Leash Areas

October 12, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting

October 28, 2009 External Stakeholder Meeting

Topics: Review and Refinement of Prioritized Recommendations, Upgrade existing dog park locations. Add 1-2 fenced locations, 12-month Pilot of Off-Leash Areas in select urban parks

November 11, 2009 External Stakeholder Meeting

Topics: Review / Define Remaining Policy Recommendations for Off-Leash Program , Fees / Fine, Hours for Off-Leash Areas, Owner Responsibility / Establishment of Partnerships

November 11, 2009 Internal Technical Meeting

Topics: Review / Define Remaining Policy Recommendations for Off-Leash Program, Fees / Fine, Hours for Off-Leash Areas, Owner Responsibility / Establishment of Partnerships

January 16, 2010 Dog Park Master Plan Public Meeting #1 Held at Berkeley Park Recreation Center

January 30, 2010 Dog Park Master Plan Public Meeting #2 Held at Cook Park Recreation Center

February 8, 2010 Dog Park Master Plan Partnership Formation meeting

February 9, 2010 Dog Park Master Plan Public Meeting #3 Held at City Park (Denver Museum of Nature and Science)

March 15, 2010 Final Dog Park Master Plan Meeting _ COMBINED Internal and External Committees

Topics: Review and Input on Recommendations.

Welcome to Paws Place at Ward Acres!

Dog Park Rules

- ❖ All dogs must be licensed, current with all shots, healthy and wearing a collar and identification at all times; owners must possess valid dog park permit
- ❖ All dogs must be leashed upon entering/exiting the enclosure – leashes must be in owners' possession at all times
- ❖ Leaving dogs unattended is prohibited
- ❖ **OWNERS MUST CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR DOGS AND DISPOSE OF USING WASTE RECEPTACLES PROVIDED**
- ❖ Aggressive dogs are not permitted – Owners must remove their dog upon the first sign of aggression
- ❖ Dogs must be discouraged from digging – Owners must fill any holes their dogs dig
- ❖ Picnicking is prohibited (Exceptions: Training treats used by owners, one-on-one)
- ❖ Dogs who are ill, injured or in heat are prohibited and puppies under 4 months old are also prohibited
- ❖ Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and injuries caused by them
- ❖ Limit of four (4) dogs per person
- ❖ Children age 12 and under must be supervised
- ❖ Be cautious with dog toys, some don't like to share
- ❖ Small dog areas restricted the 30lbs. or less; Owners option to use larger area if desired

HOURS – Facility is open from sunrise to sunset, seven days per week

CLOSINGS – Facility may need to be closed for periodic maintenance

REPORTING – Any incident, problem, violation, emergency, etc. Must be reported immediately to the Police Department (914) 654-2300

RESPONSIBILITY – Any person bringing a dog into this facility assumes the legal responsibility, jointly and separately, with the owner of the dog, for any damage, disease or injury to persons, other dogs or property, caused by the dog. All persons using the facility, by entering it, agree to indemnify the City of New Rochelle and hold the City of New Rochelle harmless for any harm resulting from the use of this facility.

For the benefit of everyone in our community, please remember to leave our dog park nicer than you found it and enjoy your visit.

Thank you!

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1051 Boston Post Road
Rye, New York 10580
Telephone: 914-967-7371

RYE TOWN PARK – OFF-LEASH REGISTRATION FORM

Permit #: _____

Date Permit Issued: _____

Date Permit Expires: _____

Owner Information (Person over 18 who harbors or keeps dog)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M.I. _____

Owner Primary Phone: _____ Owner Secondary Phone: _____

Owner Address: (Number and Street)

Town, Village or City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Dog Information

Dog's Name: _____

Breed: _____ Color: _____

Dog License #: _____ Issued By: _____

Vet Name: _____

I agree to comply AT ALL TIMES with the attached Rules and Regulations

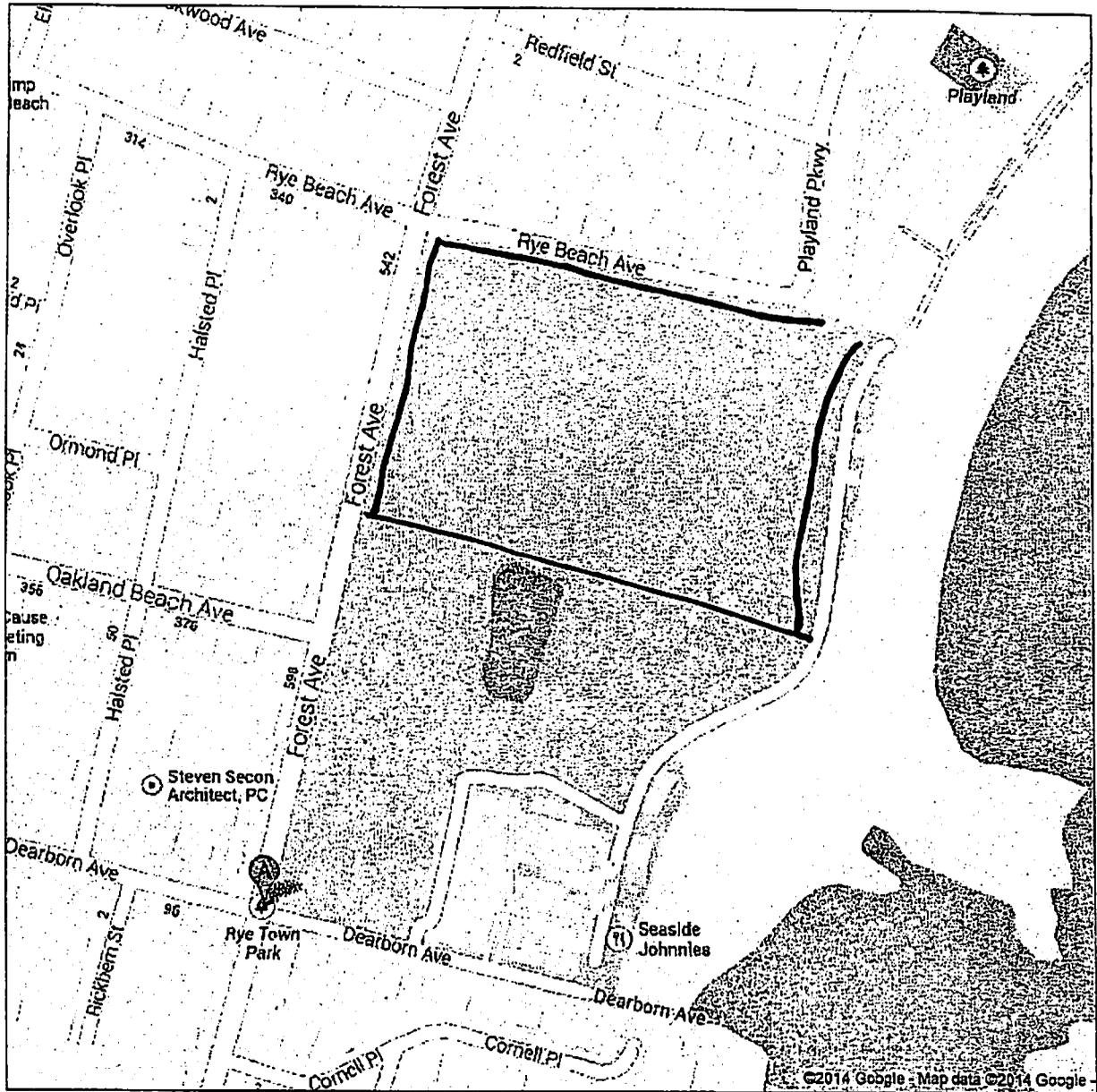
Signature of Owner

RYE TOWN PARK

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OFF-LEASH DOGS

- ❖ Dogs may only be off leash between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 am in the designated area. (See copy of map attached.)
 - ❖ All dogs must be licensed, current with all shots and healthy.
 - ❖ Any one wishing to allow his/her dog to be off leash in Rye Town Park must register with the Rye City Clerk annually.
 - ❖ Any dog off leash must have a registration tag affixed to his/her collar.
 - ❖ The maximum number of dogs that any one person shall have custody and control over is three.
 - ❖ Dog owners must clean up after their dogs.
 - ❖ Owners must not leave dogs unattended and shall have dogs under voice control at all times.
 - ❖ Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.
 - ❖ Dogs must be discouraged from digging – Owners must fill any holes their dogs dig.
 - ❖ Aggressive dogs are not permitted.
-

Google



A. Rye Town Park
95 Dearborn Ave, Rye, NY
(914) 967-0965
3 reviews

Appendix A

Article III. Dog Park and Exercise Area [Adopted 4-9-2007 by Ord. No. 07-01]

§ 152-27. Dogs and other pets prohibited in park; exceptions.

Except as expressly allowed in § 152-28 hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream, organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent of Parks or the Animal Control Officers may ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a nuisance.

§ 152-28. Designation of off-leash areas; rules and regulations; penalties for offenses.

A. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas: To be determined based upon recommendations from the Town Council Parks and Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Animal Control Officer.

B. Dog exercise area rules and regulations.

- (1) All dogs must be accompanied by an owner or handler at all times.
- (2) Owners must remain in the dog exercise area at all times and keep their dogs in sight and under their control.
- (3) Owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and shall be held responsible for any injuries or damage caused by their dogs.
- (4) Any dog showing aggression toward people or other dogs must be immediately leashed and removed from the dog exercise area by its owner.
- (5) Dogs with a known history of aggressive or dangerous behavior and/or dogs that have displayed aggressive or dangerous behavior at any municipal facility are prohibited.
- (6) Any dog barking continuously or uncontrollably must be removed from the dog exercise area.
- (7) Owners shall carry a leash at all times, and dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving the dog exercise area.
- (8) Owners are responsible for securely latching any gates as they enter or exit.
- (9) Owners must pick up and properly dispose of their dog's feces.
- (10) Any dog using the exercise area must be currently vaccinated against rabies; legally licensed to residents of the Town of Stratford; and current on all applicable fees or fines. Nonresidents can obtain a permit to use a Town of Stratford facility by paying a user fee of \$25 annually and must provide vaccination and current license information to the Animal Control Officer from their current town or city of residence on an annual basis.
- (11) Dogs shall not be allowed to dig. Any holes created by a dog shall be immediately filled by the dog's owner.
- (12) Children must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult that will be accountable for the behavior and well being of the child. Children should be discouraged from approaching or playing with strange dogs.
- (13) Puppies using the dog exercise area must be four months of age or older.
- (14) No female dog in heat or in season is allowed in the dog exercise area at any time.
- (15) No eating or smoking is allowed inside the dog exercise area. No dog food treats or toys from

home, except tennis balls or Frisbees are allowed in the dog exercise area.

(16) Professional dog trainers may not conduct their business inside the dog exercise area. There shall be no dog grooming inside the dog exercise area.

(17) People who violate these rules are subject to removal from the dog exercise area and may be prohibited from using the facility.

(18) No bare feet are allowed in the dog exercise area.

(19) No spiked dog collars are allowed in the dog exercise area.

C. Failure to comply with any of the rules and regulations will result in a fine of \$100.

§ 152-29. Dog exercise areas as described.

Dog exercise areas are municipally-designated, membership-only, fence-enclosed facilities owned or operated by the Town of Stratford specifically intended for dogs to acquire owner/custodian supervised off-leash exercise.

A. It shall be unlawful to:

(1) Enter or remain on the facility at hours other than the Town-designated hours of usage.

(2) Enter or remain on the facility with more than two dogs per individual.

(3) Fail to immediately remove from the facility any dog showing aggression toward people or other dogs in the facility.

(4) Fail to immediately remove from the facility any dog that barks continuously or uncontrollably.

(5) Enter or remain on the facility with a female dog in estrus.

(6) Enter or remain on the facility with a dog not currently vaccinated against rabies.

(7) Enter or remain on the facility with a dog younger than four months of age.

(8) Fail to immediately leash and restrain a dog in the facility when advised to do so by a Town official.

(9) Fail to abide by the rules and regulations posted at the entrance of the facility.

(10) Fail to immediately depart the facility when ordered to do so by a municipal official.

(11) Enter on or remain upon the facility without a valid Town of Stratford membership tag or a valid Town of Stratford pet license properly displayed on each dog or a current Town of Stratford authorized guest pass.

B. Dog exercise areas require a valid membership to use each facility. Every owner that is a nonresident of the Town of Stratford shall acquire a membership or guest pass for each dog that wishes to enter onto and remain in a dog exercise area. Such membership shall be obtained from a person designated by the Mayor of Stratford to issue such membership. Applications for such membership shall include photo identification for each dog using the facility. Membership fees shall be established by resolution by the Mayor and Town Council. Membership tags shall expire on the last day of the month one year from the month it was issued. A membership tag must be properly displayed on each said dog while it is inside a facility. Town residents must acquire a Town of Stratford pet license that needs to be displayed on the dog while it is in a facility. It shall be unlawful to transfer a membership tag or to deface the tag in any manner. A membership tag shall become invalid with the transfer of the dog to a new owner. The Mayor or his designee may revoke a membership at any time if an owner fails to abide by the rules and regulations of the facility or is in violation of any other provision of this article. Failure to comply with these directives shall constitute grounds for the temporary or permanent banning of an individual and/or dog from the facility.

<http://www.ecode360.com/9062540>

Appendix B



OFFICIAL RULES OF THE STRATFORD DOG PARK

The Town of Stratford is not responsible and shall have no liability for the acts or omissions of the individuals or their animals while utilizing the dog park.

Dog owners are completely liable for any damage or injury caused by their dog.

1. Hours: Sunrise to Sunset. Use of the Dog Park is at your own risk!
2. Dog Park Membership/Registration required for use.
3. Owners must comply with all state and local laws.
4. Owners are 100% responsible for their dogs' behavior.
5. All dogs must be properly licensed and vaccinated and wearing their tags while in the Dog Park. Sick dogs or dogs with contagious diseases are not allowed in the Dog Park.
6. Puppies must be 4 months & have had their last set of vaccinations at least 10 days prior to visiting the park.
7. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the Dog Park.
8. For the safety of your dog and other park visitors slip leads, choke, prong (pinch) and spiked collars are strictly prohibited. Retractable extension leashes are not permitted for use when entering and exiting the dog park.
9. Limit of 2 dogs per owner while in the Dog Park.
10. Children must be supervised at all times. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted in the Dog Park without adult supervision.
11. Aggressive dogs, unneutered dogs, dogs who bark excessively and dogs in heat are not allowed in the Dog Park. Dogs must be removed from the park at the first sign of aggression or if they bark excessively.
12. Dog owners must be in the Dog Park and monitoring their dogs at all times. Dogs must be under their owner's voice control and within sight at all times.
13. Owners must clean up their dogs feces and fill/repair any holes dug. Town 'Stop & Scoop' Fines applicable inside and on the exterior of Dog Park area.
14. No Smoking, alcoholic beverages, food or drink of any kind are allowed in the Dog Park.
15. Shoes must be worn inside the Dog Park.
16. Toys are allowed in the Dog Park but must be used in such a manner as to not distract or interfere with other dogs. Toys must be removed from the park after use. The Town of Stratford is not responsible for items left in the Dog Park.
17. Small Dog area is for dogs 20lbs and under only.

Failure to abide by the Rules of The Stratford Dog Park may result in loss of privileges or a fine.
All State Statues, Town Ordinances and Laws apply.

Appendix C

Liability

Connecticut State Law is very specific with regard to dog bites and states very clearly any and all liability for a dog's actions rests on the owner.



A dog's owner or keeper is liable for any damage caused by his dog to a person's body or property, unless the damage was sustained while the person was committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, abusing, or tormenting the dog. The law presumes that anyone under the age of seven was not committing a trespass or teasing the dog unless the defendant can prove otherwise (CGS § 22-357). If damage has been caused by two or more dogs at the same time, their owners or keepers are jointly and severally liable for the entire damage (CGS § 22-356).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_435.htm#sec_22-357

* It should be explicitly stated on fully viewable signage prior to entering the dog park that people are entering at their own risk.

Appendix F

Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches

Article IV. Great Meadows Park

[Adopted 11-10-2008 by Ord. No. 08-11; amended in its entirety 10-13-2009]

§ 152-30. Statement of purpose; intent.

The Town of Stratford is committed to preserving open space where possible and to provide passive recreation to residents of the Meadowview Avenue residential district. The Town of Stratford is the owner of a parcel of land, as depicted on the map attached to this article,[1] which is bordered by the streets known as "Access Road," "Meadowview Avenue," "Philo Street," "Ketcham Road," and "Woodend Road," and the adjacent property owners along the southwestern transverse of the parcel. The property serves as a natural barrier between commercial development and the residential property owners and will provide an area of refuge for area residents and wildlife.

[1]Editor's Note: Said map is on file in the Town offices.

§ 152-31. Restrictions on development

No structures can be constructed in the park without the approval of the Town Council and administration of the Town of Stratford; notwithstanding, improvements such as landscaping; plantings to include trees, shrubs or flowers; benches or walkways may be added with the approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.

§ 152-32. Restrictions on usage.

All conditions on usage imposed in parks located within the Town of Stratford shall apply to activities within the Great Meadows Park.

§ 152-33. Perpetuity.

Said Great Meadows Park shall remain a park in perpetuity.

<http://www.ecode360.com/12589321>

Appendix G

Expert Opinion on Impact of Dog Parks on Wetlands Areas

— **Martin L. Mador a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, with a master's in Water Studies**

"The environmental threat from dog urine is minimal due to the small quantity of liquid. In addition, the urine is filtered effectively as it moves through the ground. Watershed land adjacent to or overlying a public water supply is kept free from development precisely because it provides such significant filtering capabilities. "

"I am currently president of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association and an officer of both the statewide Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and the Mill River Watershed Association. I am also a commissioner of the Hamden Natural Resources and Open Space Commission, which recently explored and subsequently endorsed a dog park for the town."

— **Eric Leopold, PhD, biochemist in organic chemistry, testified before Calif. municipalities as an expert witness on the environment, to wit;**

"Evaporation, oxidation, photochemical degradation & ultraviolet light have the combined effect of neutralizing and destroying any bacteria present in urine, which is 98% water. The remaining chemicals of amino acids, vitamins, enzymes, antigens & immunoglobulins are unstable in the natural environment of earth/air/light & are rapidly degraded. Dog feces is a non-issue in a self-regulated Dog Park where it is collected by responsible dog owners & deposited in sealed containers. Dog urine is not a threat to humans, nor is it harmful the environment & it has no negative effect on wetlands."

<http://www.lidog.org/environment.htm>

Appendix H

Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches

Article II. Recreational Areas

§ 152-17 Dogs and other pets.

[Amended 2-14-2011 by Ord. No. 11-02]

A. Restricted areas. No person shall bring any animal, including any dog, onto a beach or beach parking area, nor shall any person permit such an animal subject to his ownership or control to be at such an area, except during periods of time when beach recreation is out of season, as established by the Department of Recreation, and where, during such out-of-season periods, such dog or other animal is under the control of a leash in accordance with Subsection B below and § 83-15 of the Stratford Town Code. No person shall bring such an animal to or permit such an animal subject to his ownership or control to be in any other recreational area in which the Town has posted a sign prohibiting animals.

B. Nonrestricted areas. Dogs and other similar pets are permitted in nonrestricted areas of recreational areas only on leashes and under the control of their owners or other persons responsible for their supervision. No leash shall exceed seven feet in length.

C. Drinking water faucets. No person shall use a drinking water faucet for the watering of pets or animals.

D. Persons accompanying dogs or other pets into public recreational areas or other areas where such animals are permitted shall be responsible for the removal and disposal of all litter produced by said pets. The failure to remove such litter shall result in the owner, keeper or person then walking or otherwise in charge of said animal being assessed with a fine in accordance with § 83-15 of the Stratford Town Code. For purposes of this subsection only, any person accompanying the animal shall be considered a keeper of the animal.

E. Exception. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind person.

<http://www.ecode360.com/9062499>



Dog Park Subcommittee

of the Town of Stratford, CT Parks & Recreation Committee

SITE VETTING **FINAL REPORT**

January 25, 2017

Acknowledgement

January 25, 2017

We wish to thank all those who have input in this Stratford Dog Park Location Report. Much time in effort went into the process of fully vetting out the many sites that have been considered since the Ordinance establishing a Dog Park was passed 10 years ago. It took countless hour and work on the part of many of the residents of Stratford.

First and foremost, thank you to the many residents of the Town of Stratford who shared with the Subcommittee your thoughts and opinions through correspondence we received, social media outlets, or in person any of the public forums that were offered at our meetings including the town wide public hearing that was held

Thank you to the many Commissions, Committees, Organizations, and Town Department who took the time to hear us, engage with us, and provide your valuable opinions as we reviewed each site. This includes a special thanks to Councilman Wali Kadeem and the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee who allowed us the time necessary to work through this extensive vetting process and who we hope will accept, endorse, and pass along to the Town Council this report along with any recommendations they may choose to make.

We cannot acknowledge or thank enough the yeoman's work by the members of our Subcommittee. From the time and valued input from Chad Esposito, Supervisor of the Parks Department, Pat Patusky, Supervisor of the Recreation Department, or Danielle Stella, President of the Stratford Animal Rescue Society (STARS). To Rachel Solveria, our town Animal Control Officer, whose background, training, and expertise we relied on so heavily in our vetting process.

We must express a special thank you to Paula Lockshier, President of The Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, who did tireless work on providing us with much of the background information, development and presentation of the Power Point presentations that were given at the many Joint-Committee meeting we held with the various park Commissions, and without her dedication to this project, this entire process and final report would not have been accomplished.

Lastly we thank in advance the Town Council of Stratford, who we have full confidence in, after reviewing this report, will be able to come to a final conclusion and establish a home for the Stratford Dog Park.


John Rich
Co-Chairman Dog Park Subcommittee


Robert Jaekle
Co-Chairman Dog Park Subcommittee

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INTRODUCTION

The ordinance (152-27 to 152-29, see Appendix A) approving the establishment of a dog park in Stratford, CT was passed by unanimous vote of the Town Council in April of the year 2007. In that ordinance the location where the dog park would be built was left as TBD. Since 2007 over 30 different locations for the dog park have been suggested.

As of the date of the publishing of this report, the Town Council has not yet approved a specific location for the establishment of a dog park in Stratford, CT.

The Dog Park Subcommittee was assembled in July of 2016 by the Town of Stratford Parks and Recreation Committee to clearly identify what sites in the Town of Stratford, CT are fully viable for the establishment of a dog park.

Members of the Dog Park Subcommittee:

- John Rich, Co-Chair & Member of Town of Stratford Parks & Recreation Committee
- Robert Jaekle, Co-Chair & Member of Town of Stratford Parks & Recreation Committee
- Rachel Solveira, Town of Stratford Animal Control Officer (ACO)
- Pat Patusky, Town of Stratford Recreation Superintendent
- Chad Esposito, Town of Stratford Parks Superintendent
- Paula Lockshier, President, Stratford Dog Park Action Committee (SDPAC)
- Danielle Stella, President, Stratford Animal Rescue Society (STARS)

The Dog Park Subcommittee would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in this process, past and present, for his or her time and efforts.

HISTORY

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

During the first meeting of the Dog Park Subcommittee the following information was shared concerning the history of the Dog Park project in Stratford, CT.

- 4/9/2007 – Dog Park Ordinance accepted with location TBD.
- 9/24/2008 – Mayor had Informational Session; Suggested combining Dog Park & Dog Pound.
- 5/27/2009 – Parks & Rec Committee will have an informational meeting in June to discuss Spyder Park as possible location.
- 6/24/2009 – Parks & Rec Committee discussed the area adjacent to Sterling House and cemetery (behind Erin's Gym) as a possible location.
- 2/24/2010 – Parks & Rec Committee received a suggestion for a parcel on Honeyspot Road Extension as a possible location.
- 10/26/2011 – The minutes of the Parks & Rec Committee reflected that the Town Council will re-visit the dog park matter on 11/14/2011.
- 8/22/2012 – Parks & Rec Committee minutes note that the Roosevelt Forest Commission discussed the possibility of a dog park there.
- 9/26/2012 – The Parks & Rec Committee discussed an area at Ryder's Landing (owned by the State) as a possible location.
- 3/26/2014 – Resident Paula Lockshier, of the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, advised the town that they are again looking for dog park space because the U.S. Department of Transportation denied the land conveyance of the area at Ryder's Landing.
- 4/23/2014 – Land next to the Animal Control Facility was allocated for Dog Park by the Town Council on 4/14/14. Ms. Lockshier forwarded all requested information to Town Attorney Tim Bishop. The Parks & Rec Committee discussed established dog parks in surrounding towns, noting it was a subdivision of the Parks & Rec Committee in those locations. The Petco Foundation Grant funding received by the Stratford Dog Park action Committee was extended for four additional months. Councilman Budnick noted there should be a subcommittee that reports to the Parks & Rec Committee.
- 5/28/2014 – As noted in the minutes for the Parks & Rec Committee, Paul Hoydick distributed rules put together by the Town Attorney. The committee agreed to change #13 to disallow smoking, alcohol, food or drink. The committee discussed the need for water and shade at the park. Ms. Lockshier reported there should be a 5-foot fence and 3 gates. The amended rules were sent to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation (see Appendix B).
- 6/25/2014 – Members of the Stratford Animal Rescue Society (STARS) distributed information regarding reasons why Stratford should not have a dog park located near the Animal Control Facility. Per Councilman Poisson, the Town Council tabled the matter.
- 4/22/2015 – The Dog Park was stricken from the agenda due to an impasse.

- 2/24/2016 – Mr. Rich contacted the Stratford dog Park Action Committee, who would bring forth a proposal in April 2016, and asked for the dog park item to be put on the agenda of the Parks & Rec Committee.
- 4/27/2016 – Ms. Lockshier distributed and reviewed her group's proposal for a Dog Park. She noted that dog owners would be responsible for their pets' actions (see Appendix C), and added that volunteers would be responsible for keeping the location clean. Committee members were in agreement that the best possible site presented is the Beacon Point Road/Hunter Haven/Greenway Entry. Ms. Patusky distributed and reviewed the proposed dog site plan. The Committee passed a motion to request input from the Mayor, STARS and other Town agencies. They also passed a motion to request Parks Superintendent Chad Esposito develop a budget to vet out site.
- 5/25/2016 – Mr. Rich presented a proposal for the Short Beach Mini Golf area as a possible site for the dog park. A representative from STARS stated why the dog park should not be located at the Beacon Point Road/Hunter Haven/Greenway Entry. It was noted that in other towns dog parks are side by side with animal control facilities. The Parks & Rec Committee passed a motion to send to the Roosevelt Forest Commission with a favorable recommendation that the dog park be installed in the area of the old caretaker's house at Roosevelt Forest.
- 6/22/2016 – The Parks & Rec Committee passed a motion to send to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation the dog park be located in the area adjacent to the Animal Control facility. They also passed a motion to send to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation \$25K (or whatever funds are necessary) be set aside from the 2017 CIP for the dog park.
- 7/11/2016 – the Town Council denied (7-1) a motion to create a dog park located near the Animal Control Facility.
- 7/27/2016 – The Parks & Rec Committed passed a motion to form a Dog Park Subcommittee to conduct a proper, thorough and consistent vetting process for all suggested locations for the dog park. This subcommittee would consist of two Parks & Rec Committee members, a member of the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, a representative of the STARS organization, Animal Control Officer Solveira, Recreation Dept. Director Ms. Patusky and Parks Superintendent Mr. Esposito, and report back to the Park & Rec Committee in October. Mr. O'Brien suggested looking at the area behind Erin's Gym as a possible location.

THE STRATFORD DOG PARK ACTION COMMITTEE

This community 501(c)3 non-profit organization was established in 2011 to try to help find a location for the dog park since there was no official subcommittee, or other town body, actively working on the matter at that time. The SDPACs' goal was also to raise funds for and community awareness of the project. The group would eventually monitor the dog park, as the "Friends of the Stratford Dog Park", once it is established. The group originally received conflicting information regarding whom to work on the project with in Town, so they worked with the Mayor's office and reviewed several locations, as well as met with the Roosevelt Forest Commission and the Planning Commission before being directed back to the Parks & Recreation Committee. The group worked to receive a Petco Foundation Grant to be used for the dog parks construction. In 2014, after the loss of the Ryders Landing site and due to the impending loss of the grant funding, the SDPAC rallied the Town Council to move forward with the dog park, since many residents in Town want one developed. After issues were identified with the location adjacent to the Animal Control Facility, and the subsequent tabling of its final approval by the Town Council the SDPAC worked with the Towns' Planning Administrator to identify other possible location options. The SDPAC returned to the Parks & Rec Committee in April of 2016 and has since been responsible for the research of and presentations to the respective committees/commissions for each of the locations in the four major town parks that remain under consideration for the dog park as of the date of the publishing of this report.

SITE VETTING PROCESS

The Dog Park Subcommittee developed a series of steps to fully vet out all suggested locations with the goal of clearly identifying the sites that are best suited to host a dog park.

The first of these steps was to create a set of baseline questions covering the various factors related to building a dog park in Stratford, CT.

These questions were then ranked in terms of their priority relevant to the impact each factor would have to the construction of a dog park at each suggested site. Low priority questions identified factors that might be an added benefit for a particular location, but not necessarily required, while high priority questions identified factors that would exclude a site from further consideration.

The "Background Vetting" questions used, listed from low to high (or severe) priority are:

- Is a DEEP permit required?
- Is the site located in a flood zone?
- Is the site located in the 100-year floodplain?
- Is an Inland Wetlands permit required?
- What is the impact to existing wildlife at site?
- What is the economic development potential of the site?
- What is the park development potential at the site?
- Are there restrooms near the site?
- Is the site accessible in winter?
- Are utilities (water, electricity) available near the site?
- Are there trees for shade at the site?
- Is parking available at/near the site?
- What is the residential proximity to the site?
- What additional input is needed and from whom?
- What is each respective site/parks' commission's opinion?
- What is the public opinion of the site?
- What other major costs are associated with establishing a dog park at this site?
- Is Town funding required for establishing a dog park at this site?
- What is the estimated cost for fencing at the site?
- What is the public works impact to locating the dog park at the site?
- Is Planning/Zoning Commission approval / 8-24 review required for the site?
- What clearing/grading of the land is required at the site?
- Is the site handicap accessible?
- Is there a soil contamination / digging issue at the site?
- Is the site suitable for use as a park?
- What is the size of area available for a dog park at the site?
- Does the Animal Control Officer recommend that the site can host a dog park?
- Does the property have deed restrictions?
- Who is the property owner?

The results of these questions were plotted in a spreadsheet format against each proposed location (see Appendix D1-D3). Those that were excluded from further consideration were identified with the primary factor that led to their elimination indicated in the final column.

The sites that remained under consideration were visited by members of the Dog Park Subcommittee, including the Animal Control Officer, to review each location's physical attributes such as landscaping, parking, water drainage, proximity to other park activities, as well as residential proximity.

The Dog Park Subcommittees' next step in vetting out those sites that cleared the "Background Vetting" process was to reach out to each location's oversight Commission or Town Department and request a joint committee meeting.

These meetings were conducted from October 2016 through January of 2017 and allowed for a face-to-face exchange of information and ideas between the Dog Park Subcommittee members and each specific Parks' Commission. A summary report for each of these discussions were taken from the published minutes of each meeting and are included in the following detailed narrative of each site that remains under consideration for the dog park as of the date of the publishing of this report.

* It should be noted that independent of the decisions reached by the various Park Commissions, the Dog Park Subcommittee concluded that none of the issues identified precluded any of those parks from being on the list of recommended sites for the dog park.

Throughout the process, input was provided by the non-voting members of the subcommittee, representing the Parks and Recreation departments. Comment was also solicited from the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, the Animal Control Department, the Planning Department and the Conservation Officer. Their input on each of the recommended sites can be found in this report within the narrative description of each site.

Lastly, the Dog Park Subcommittee sought out public opinion on the Dog Parks location. This was achieved by soliciting public comment via the following methods:

- Providing for a public forum prior to each Dog Park Subcommittee meeting
- Creating a webpage (www.facebook.com/DogParkSubcommitteeTownofStratfordCT) where comments could be sent to the Dog Park Subcommittee
- Providing contact information that included a telephone number, E-mail address (stratforddogparkfeedback@gmail.com), and a postal mail address (C/O Stratford Animal Control Facility, 225 Beacon Point Road Stratford, CT 06615).
 - This contact information was listed in the minutes of the Dog Park Subcommittee's first meeting and thus posted on the town's website, as well as listed on the Dog Park Subcommittees' webpage.
- Holding a town wide Public Forum on January 12, 2017

PUBLIC FORUM

On January 12, 2017 the Dog Park Subcommittee held a Public Forum to solicit comment from the residents of Stratford on the potential site locations for the Dog Park. Effort to reach the public and make them aware of this meeting in addition to posting on the Town's website included sending press releases and 'Letters to the Editor' to the various local media outlets (CT Post, Stratford Star, News 12) along with announcements on social media (Facebook, Twitter) as well as placing 'sandwich board' signs on Paradise Green and at the corner of Main Street and West Broad Street.

Over 100 residents were in attendance, and a straw poll was conducted at the beginning of the meeting with the following results by a "show of hands". Only 3 of those present indicated they were AGAINST a dog park ANYWHERE in Town. 4 members of the audience indicated they IN FAVOR of a dog ANYWHERE in Town. This indicated that a vast majority of those present were in favor of a dog park, but had preferences both for and against the sites under consideration.

Some thirty (30) residents chose to address the Subcommittee to express their reasons both for and against the identified sites. While some speakers chose to speak and provide their opinion with reasons for one location and reasons against another location, some chose to speak and only voice their support or objection for a single site.

The Subcommittee has chosen to summarize the public comments by site and provide a response as to why each of these seven (7) sites still remain on the recommended list.

Boothe Park: Eleven (11) of the speakers spoke regarding Boothe Park, all of them AGAINST Boothe Park as a site for the Dog Park. Reasons cited by the speakers included: A dog park would violate the Will of The Boothe Brothers as well as the rules of the National & Connecticut Historic Commission and that Boothe Park was designed by to be a pastoral setting for activities like picnics and weddings as well as a museum location and that a dog park would detract from these activities. Some of the speakers voiced their concern that the dog park would affect bird watching. The speakers also voiced their concerns over parking issues along Putney Chapel Way. Concern was also raised that a chain link fence would detract from the look of the park.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: The Subcommittee recognizes that Boothe Park may have some restrictions on what type of activities occur there and that a review of the necessary documents on record by the Town Attorney would be necessary. The subcommittee notes that many dog owners currently utilize Boothe Park without any impact to bird watching. The Subcommittee also recognizes the issue of off street parking and would suggest that "No Parking" signs be placed on Putney Chapel Way and that those that come to use the dog park would be directed to park in the main parking lot. As with all the potential site locations, the dog park can be closed via the electronic gate lock system suggested in the design plan when there are large functions like the annual car show taking place. The subcommittee notes that there are many styles of fencing, like a wooden split-rail fence with a wire mesh inlay, which could be utilized to make the fence more aesthetically pleasing.

Great Meadows Park: Four (4) of the speakers spoke regarding Great Meadows Park, all of them AGAINST Great Meadows Park as a site for the Dog Park. Reasons cited by the speakers included: The ordinance creating the park (see Appendix F) states it is to remain open space, that there is limited other green space in this area of the town, and that this park is adjacent to a high traffic road with only street parking available at this time.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: The Subcommittee's notes that although the ordinance states no structure can be built in this park a fence is not typically deemed a structure, and while the ordinance states that Great Meadows Park is to remain a park in perpetuity, creating a dog park at this site would not likely violate that provision. The Subcommittee recognizes that a review of the Ordinance by the Town Attorney is needed to clarify this information. The Subcommittee's suggested design plan for this location is to create off street parking by adding a parking lot at the southwest corner of the property's area with an easement at the corner of Ketcham Road and Philo St. The Subcommittee does also recognize that because this location is adjacent to a high traffic road (Access Road) and because if located at this site, the dog park would take up the entire park, this location is a suboptimal choice.

Longbrook Park: Fourteen (14) of the speakers spoke regarding Longbrook Park with ten (10) FOR the dog park to be located there and four (4) speakers AGAINST this location. Those in favor of Longbrook stated they preferred for the dog park to be centrally located within town. That Longbrook Park with all its activities, from sporting events at Pender's Field, to the Splash Park and Vicky Soto Playground, is a destination park that provides for social gathering. Speakers stated a dog park would fit with that type and level of activity, as the dog park is a gathering place for both dogs and dog owners. Some of the speakers talked of their experience at dog parks in the surrounding communities and that is very common for a dog park to be located next to playgrounds, ball fields and residential areas. Speakers noted that to provide a controlled (fenced in) location would help to encourage those dog owners who violate the leash law to comply when outside of the dog park area. Those against the dog park being in Longbrook spoke of how crowded the area can become when the athletic fields are being used for sporting events and the associated parking issues. One speaker noted a problem with the number of dogs that are allowed off leash in the park currently by their owners and that last year one Pop Warner football player was bit by an unrestrained dog. Concerns were raised that the nearby activity of the Pop Warner football league would be too stimulating for dogs in the dog park. Concern was raised that the dog park would take away the footpath through the wooded area to Allyndale Drive that is used by children walking to and from Wilcoxson School. Some speakers expressed concern over the proximity to residential areas.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: The subcommittee recognizes that some activities, like high school football games, attract larger crowds and notes that the dog park can be closed via the electronic gate lock system suggested in the design plan when there are large events taking place. The Subcommittee agrees with the those who spoke in favor Longbrook Park

and stated that having a controlled, fenced in dog park would provide a proper location to allow dog to be off-leash and could help to discourage those dog owner who currently violate the leash law from doing so. The Subcommittee also notes that dog parks are often located in parks where other activities take place and that no trees would be removed as the existing trees would provide both shade for the dog park as well as a buffer to the residential areas. The Subcommittee also notes that the suggested design plan for the fencing for Site "A" would not take over or block in any way the "Woody Walk" that currently exists between the park and Allyndale Drive.

Roosevelt Forest: Fourteen (14) speakers spoke regarding the Roosevelt Forest site with twelve (12) speakers FOR this site and two (2) AGAINST it. Those for the site stated there is plenty of room for a dog park to be located within the 400+ acres of the forest and that dog owners could not only utilize the off leash area but trails throughout the Forest as well. Speakers noted that during the creation of the area for the dog park clearing of the underbrush would allow the natural ground cover to grow back in and that the impact on wildlife would be minimal because the fence would not only keep the dogs in the dog park but also keep any wildlife out. Those against the Roosevelt Forest site were concerned primary with the fact that, it being a densely wooded area, there is potential for exposure to fleas and ticks.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: The subcommittee notes that while the removal of the former Ranger Station would provide for additional parking, it is not required for the establishment of a dog park in Roosevelt Forest as the specific site is located behind the Ranger Station structure. The Subcommittee strongly encourages all dog owners to use flea and tick protection for their dogs no matter where a dog park is located because there is potential for exposure to fleas and ticks everywhere.

Short Beach: Two (2) speakers spoke FOR the Short Beach location without being more specific and none (0) spoke against it.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: Currently the site at Short Beach is on the Subcommittees list of Recommended Sites.

***ADDITIONAL SITES MENTIONED BY THE PUBLIC**

Quail Street Lot: Two (2) speakers spoke FOR the lot on Quail Street without being more specific.

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: Due to the fact that this location is considered park of the Wooster Middle School property it was placed on the Subcommittee's list of sites NOT recommended.

WPCA/ACF: Seven (7) of the speakers spoke regarding the site adjacent to the WPCA and the Animal Control Facility (ACF) with two (2) speakers FOR this site and five (5) speakers AGAINST it. Those for it stated that the dog park should be located near the Animal Control Facility (ACF) to make it easier for both the ACO and users of the dog park to interact. They stated that this location is away from where people are because "dogs should not be where people are," and that dog parks will "decrease the quality of life if located anywhere near people." Those against stated this site is not recommended by the ACO as it's close proximity to the ACF will interfere with the activities at the ACF to retrain the animals at the ACF (many of which are traumatized by abuse), and prepare them for adoption. It was also noted that this site was previously rejected by the Town Council by a vote of seven (7) to one (1).

Response from the Dog Park Subcommittee: This location is on the Subcommittees list of sites NOT recommended for all of the reasons stated above by the speakers who were against this site. It is noted in this report that the location is part of the EPA superfund site(s) in Stratford and presents a high risk of exposure to toxins that have both cancerous and non-cancerous health risks. The Subcommittee also notes that dogs and people interact all the time within the town whether on or off leash and disagrees with the statements that a dog park will reduce the quality of life as this is directly contradicted by the fact that EVERY community that surrounds Stratford (and many, many more) has a successful dog park.

CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY

The Dog Park Subcommittee received 14 pieces of submitted correspondence from residents who did not attend the public forum but wished to have their input on record. Their correspondence is summarized as follows:

Twenty Two (22) AGAINST the sites in Boothe Park
Five (5) FOR the sites in Boothe Park

Zero (0) AGAINST the site in Great Meadows Park
Two (2) FOR the site in Great Meadows Park

Thirty Five (35) AGAINST the sites in Longbrook Park
Five (5) FOR the sites in Longbrook Park

Three (3) AGAINST the site in Roosevelt Forest
Thirty One (31) FOR the site in Roosevelt Forest

Ten (10) FOR the site in Short Beach Park
Zero (0) AGAINST the site in Short Beach Park

STRATFORD DOG PARK ACTION COMMITTEE ONLINE SURVEY

The Stratford Dog Park Action Committee conducted an informal online survey from December 19, 2016 through January 20, 2017 to collect additional public input on the potentially viable sites identified by the Dog Park Subcommittee. Three hundred and forty-four (344) responses were submitted. Eighty percent (80%) of respondents were dog owners and twenty (20%) were non-dog owners.



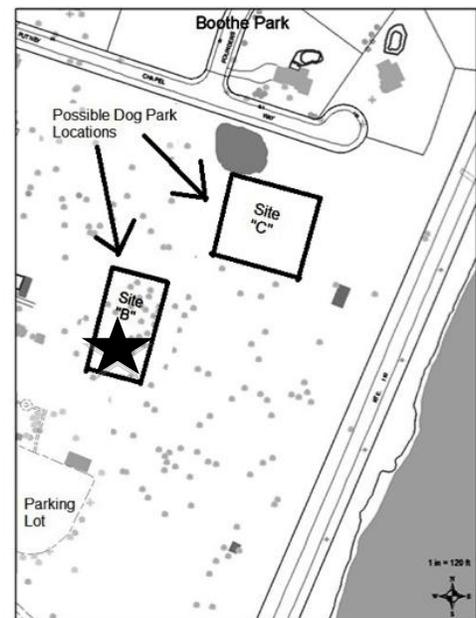
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITES (A-Z Order)

The site maps included below are not drawn to scale and are for location reference only (for full page maps see Appendix E1-E5). The exact shape and layout, as well as other construction details, such as style of fencing, though discussed by the Dog Park Subcommittee in this process, are not detailed in this report as at this time the Dog Park Subcommittee has determined those factors to be unnecessary for the determination of a viable site for the Stratford Dog Park.

• Boothe Park

Site B

- The site is approx 1 acre of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- The site has ample parking available
- Water and electrical hook-ups are available nearby the site at the Boothe Park Hall building
- Nearest residence is greater than 600ft away, as well as located uphill from this site
- Site has trees for shade and requires no clearing work
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged
- Special events like the Town's Annual Pumpkin Festival are held at Boothe Park
 - o When compared to the overall annual number of days/times the dog park would be available for use by the public, the number of days/times of closure was deemed acceptable by the Dog Park Subcommittee, as well as the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, and therefore not a reason to exclude the site from consideration for the dog park.
 - Use of suggested electronic key tag gate lock system would allow the Town to completely lock the dog park gate, preventing all access to the site during days/times of events.



Comment from the ACO: This site is already located within an established park that is used on a regular basis by dog owners. The site is ideal for a dog park. Established natural shade and easy access to water/electrical is a plus. While not centrally located to all town residents it provides easy access off a main road. Questions of any deed restrictions must be resolved. This would be Animal Controls second choice.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: Boothe Park, per the Boothe Brothers Will, was left to the Town to remain as a pastoral park. The Park is a National Historic Preservation site. Because of these conditions, any addition or improvement must be approved by the State Historic Preservation Commission. Locating the Dog Park may also bring litigation regarding the Will.

During the summer Boothe Park is rented both by picnickers (up to 300 people per day), visitors to the Train Museum (10-15), wedding picture reservations (2 or 3 cars), groups in the Dining Hall (150 if using both floors) and just visitors. They all share the same parking area and many times must use the overflow parking in the upper field. This will limit the parking for the Dog Park. The parking that exists in the paved lot should be reserved for those renting the facility.

Currently the only chain link fencing in the Park is at the dumpster adjacent to the Dining Hall. Adding a fenced in acre detracts from the pastoral nature of the park and limits the space for walker, picnickers etc.

Recommendation: Site #5

Comment from the SDPAC: Many residents currently visit Boothe Memorial Park on a daily basis to exercise their dogs. The 32-acre park is located off of an accessible and frequently traveled road (Main St. Putney). Site B is in an area that is below the elevation of the main active Museum areas, the Gardens and of Putney Chapel. A wooden children's playground structure, donated by the Stratford Rotary in memoriam of long time member, was located in this area until it degraded beyond a point of repair and was removed from the site sometime in 2015. The site is a significant distance from any residences and has ample trees to both provide necessary shade for a dog park as well as serve as a natural buffer between a dog park and other areas of the park. Fencing for a dog park could be constructed using a wooden split rail style with a wire mesh inlay to fit with the parks existing character. Additional landscaping could be added around the perimeter of the fence to act as an additional sight and sound buffer. Site B is not located near any of the picnic rental areas, the children's playground, the commonly used winter sledding areas, or active recreation and large event areas. The site is in walking distance of the existing main parking lot and is handicap accessible. The current site conditions and minimal needs to establish it as an off-leash dog park area make Site B a cost effective option and that combined with its distance from residences makes it one of our top 3 recommended sites.

Comment from Planning Department Administrator:

Boothe Park (Site B) – No Recommendation/Rank Provided

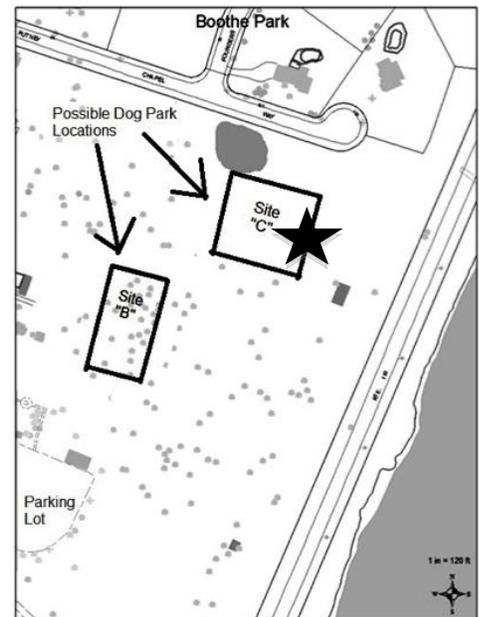
- Strengths
 - o Close proximity to existing parking lot
 - o Isolated from nearby residences
 - o Plenty of tree cover to protect from elements
 - o Centrally located
- Weaknesses
 - o sloped topography
 - o Would likely require the removal of trees
 - o Location is on outskirts of highest density neighborhoods
- Opportunities

- o Create valuable community asset
- Threats
 - o Environmental impacts to nearby pond and other inland wetlands – nonpoint source pollution into Housatonic
 - o Removal of trees would increase erosion – every effort should be made to keep as many trees as possible

Site C

A proposal for Site C was not formally presented to the Boothe Memorial Park Commission. It was suggested by one of the BMPC members after the conclusion of the joint committee meeting held on October 19, 2016. The Dog Park Subcommittee deemed the site passed the 'Background Vetting' checklist and added it to the list of potentially viable sites.

- The site is approx 1 acre of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- Nearest residence is approximately 250 ft away
- Site has trees for shade and requires no clearing work
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged
- Water and electrical hook-ups are not currently available nearby
 - o Connections could potentially be brought from the adjacent street or down from the Putney Chapel building.
- Site is farther from the main Boothe Park parking area which may lead to residents parking on side street (Putney/Chapel Way) to enter from that area
 - o The Dog Park Subcommittee observed this happening now, without the dog park being located there. It may be possible to create a small gravel parking area in this location with entry/exit on the cul-de-sac or alternatively 'No Parking' signs can be added along this street.
- Site is in close proximity of rental Pavilion 3
 - o The Dog Park Subcommittee determined that there is no available means to definitively say if locating the dog park at this site would positively, negatively or neutrally impact the number of rentals of this pavilion so this was therefore not deemed a reason to exclude the site from consideration for the dog park.



Comment from the ACO: This site is already located within an established park that is used on a regular basis by dog owners. The site is ideal for a dog park. Established natural shade and easy access to water/electrical is a plus. Questions of any deed restrictions must be resolved. While not centrally located it provides easy access off a main road. This would be Animal Controls third choice.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: Boothe Park, per the Boothe Brothers Will, was left to the Town to remain as a pastoral park. The Park is a National Historic Preservation site. Because of these conditions, any addition or improvement must be approved by the State Historic Preservation Commission. Locating the Dog Park may also bring litigation regarding the will.

Currently the only chain link fencing in the Park is at the dumpster adjacent to the Dining Hall. Adding a fenced in acre reduces from the pastoral nature of the park in addition to limiting the space for walker, picnickers etc.

When Boothe Picnic Area #3 is reserved, many picnickers will park on the side street. This will cause a conflict with those parking on the street to use the Dog Park.

Recommendation: Site #4

Comment from the SDPAC: Many residents currently visit Boothe Memorial Park on a daily basis to exercise their dogs. The 32-acre park is located off of an accessible and frequently traveled road (Main St. Putney). Site C is in an area that is below the elevation of the main active Museum areas, the Gardens and of Putney Chapel. This site is in moderate proximity to residences (on Putney Chapel Way) but does have significant existing trees to serve as natural buffers. Site C is located near picnic rental area three (3) which could impact its rental frequency either positively or negatively. This site is a significant distance from the main parking lot and not easily handicap accessible as is. A parking area would likely need to be created off of the cul-de-sac at the end of Putney Chapel Way to make this site accessible and deter side street parking on this narrow road. Again, appropriately styled fencing and landscaping could be used to designate this area as an off-leash dog park. Due to Site C's need for the creation of a parking area this site is a less cost effective option than Site B and therefore would be fourth (4th) in our rank of recommended sites.

Comment from Planning Department Administrator:

Boothe Park (Site C) – No Recommendation/Rank Provided

- Strengths
 - o Parking on site although walking through park would be required
 - o No trees would need to be cut
 - o Enough distance between proposed area and closest residence
 - o Centrally located
- Weaknesses
 - o Sloped topography
 - o Would require some tree plantings to provide protection from elements
 - o Location is on outskirts of highest density neighborhoods
- Opportunities

- o Create valuable community asset

Threats

- o People parking on Putney Chapel Way to avoid more lengthy walk from parking lot
- o Environmental impacts to nearby pond and other inland wetlands – nonpoint source pollution into Housatonic/pond

FROM THE BOOTHE PARK COMMISSION 10-19-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Request to consider proposed site for the Stratford Dog Park within Boothe Park

Present on behalf of the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee are John Rich, Bob Jaekle, Paula Lockshier, Danielle Stella, Rachel Solveira, Pat Patusky.

John Rich reported that 4 prospective locations have been identified (Short Beach, Roosevelt Forest, Longbrook Park and Boothe Park). He introduced Paula Lockshier (President of Stratford Dog Park Action Committee) who is working with the town assisting them in choosing a location. She made a detailed presentation showing the specific location they are interested in for the Dog Park and what would be involved in creating it.

At the completion of the presentation Chairperson Stephanie Philips asked for comments, concerns or questions from the BMPC Commissioners and other Members present. It was noted that the Friends of Boothe need to address the proposal and issues associated with same. The Boothe Park deed and family Will are to be reviewed by the Town Attorney's Office for any conditions or restrictions, as well as the State/Federal Historical Society for their input. Chairperson Stephanie Philips asked the BMPC Commissioners and other Members how many would consider the proposal positively: 5 yes, 2 no.

FROM THE BOOTHE PARK COMMISSION 1-18-2017 MEETING MINUTES:

3. Pending/Continuing Business:

a. Request to consider proposed site for the Stratford Dog Park within Boothe Park (Present on behalf of the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee were Bob Jaekle and Pat Patusky.

Chairman Philips entertained comments from Commissioners and others present regarding the approval or disapproval of plans for a prospective Dog Park on Boothe Park property, as follows:

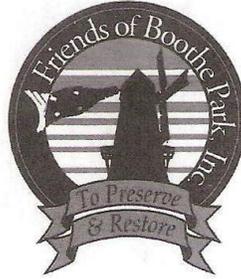
- Council Member J. Vincent Chase – in favor of a Dog Park in Stratford, but it should be more centrally located in town;

- Council Member Tina Manus – she will support any of the proposed locations for a Dog Park in Stratford, but does not favor any one over another. She does not think that Boothe Park is preferable since it is not centrally located in town;
- Commissioner Paul DeVitto – is in favor of a Dog Park in Stratford (his family has dogs and they have impromptu gatherings every weekend at Longbrook Park), but is not in favor of one at Boothe Park;
- Commissioner Donna Caserta – she strongly supports a Dog Park in Stratford, but not a Boothe Park due to it’s historical value;
- Commissioner Bob Betts – noted that Boothe Park is already open to the public with dogs, and he was very impressed with the letter sent to BMPC from Putney Chapel;
- Commissioner Frank Kecko – he enjoys the dogs that visit Boothe Park, but is not in favor of a Dog Park. There is too much involved, concerned with clean-up, and it infringes on the historical value of Boothe Park;
- Commissioner Roseanne Neri – is in favor of a Dog Park in town, but not at Boothe Park since it is a special place and would detract from the character of the Park;
- Prospective new Commissioner Ann Minton – she is not in favor of a Dog Park at Boothe Park, has concerns with restrictions in the Boothe family wills (nothing is to be added to the Park that will change it’s character or historical value);
- Virginia Harris, Friends of Boothe – Boothe Park has been a unique piece of Stratford history since 1663; it qualified as a National Treasure out of respect for the Boothe brothers leaving it to the residents of Stratford. The Friends of Boothe are seeking to bring more activities to the Park since it is a unique resource that is the responsibility of all Stratford residents to preserve it’s history. The Friends of Boothe, Town of Stratford and State of Connecticut are in the process of renovating the Barn in the East Meadow, also working on the exhibits and attractions for the Visitors Center by late spring/early summer. She issued an invitation to the Boothe Park Commissioners to visit/tour the Park with Friends of Boothe members (date to be determined).
- Paul Reslink – is in favor of a Dog Park, but thinks it is more attuned to one of the other prospective sites. Boothe Park has had Civil War Reenactments, Shakespeare play productions and a Philharmonic Concerts keeping in mind it’s character and historical value;
- Commissioner Besse Burton, Friends of Boothe – Commissioner Donna Caserta submitted written “Remarks from Besse Burton” and reported on her behalf that she is in favor of a Dog Park in town, but opposed to it at Boothe Park.;
- Bob Jaekle, Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee – clarified that the main objective of the SDPA Subcommittee was to choose potential and viable sites for the Dog

Park (40 locations over the last 7 years) and generate a final list (the proposed 4 locations). The SDPA Committee's final report is due to the Parks & Recreation Department (for their own recommendation) and the Town Council by 2/13/2017.

There being no further comments from those present, Chairman Stephanie Philips thanked the SDPA Subcommittee for their professional presentation. She also noted that the Boothe Park Commission cares and works to the best of the Park.

On behalf of the Boothe Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Donna Caserta presented a negative vote for the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee's plan for a Dog Park on the Boothe Park property; seconded by Commissioner Roseanne Neri and passed unanimously.



December 12, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Philips, Chairperson
Boothe Park Commission
Stratford Town Hall
Stratford, CT 06615

Dear Stephanie,

At the November 28, 2016, meeting of the Friends of Boothe Park Board of Trustees, Bessie Burton read a letter that she had received from Paula Lochshier. Paula represents the Stratford Dog Park group that is seeking a proper location for a proposed one-acre dog park in Town.

Although the Friends are in favor of a dog park in Stratford, we cannot support its location at Boothe Memorial Park and Museum. The proposal was defeated by unanimous vote of our Board, for many reasons. This park and museum complex is one of the few sites in Connecticut that are on the National Register of Historic Places, and that needs to be honored. The Will of the Boothe brothers states that the Park should remain bucolic, with the views intact around the Park grounds, allowing visitors to experience the quietude of a pastoral setting. Dogs on a leash are welcome at the Park, but not a special fenced-off area.

We wish the Stratford Dog Park group all the best in finding the proper location in Town, perhaps optimally placed in other than a park setting.

We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Commission, to provide our input on this proposal. We fervently hope that the Commission will respect our decision, as we feel that it is correct for this very special site.

We are directing our response to you as Chairperson of the Boothe Park Commission, for further action. When a decision is reached, I would appreciate it if you please notify Paula Lochshier of the outcome.

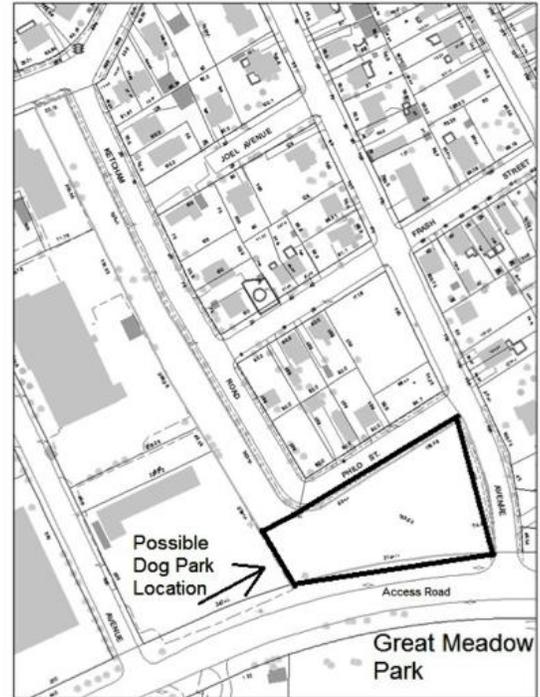
Kind regards,

Virginia Harris, President
Friends of Boothe Park, Inc.

FRIENDS OF BOOTHE PARK INC. • P.O. BOX 902, STRATFORD, CT 06615 • (203) 381-2046

• Great Meadows Park

- The site is approx. 1 acre of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- Nearest residences are approximately 50ft away
- Site requires no clearing work
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged
- Site lacks trees for shade
 - o The design plan for this site suggests installation of shade structures and planting of trees
- There is currently only street parking available at the site
 - o It may be possible to create a small gravel parking area in this location with entry/exit at the intersection of Ketcham Rd and Philo St.
- Water and electrical hook-ups are not currently available nearby
 - o Connections could potentially be brought from the adjacent street.
- Site was designated 'Great Meadows Park' in 2008 by Ordinance 152-30 to 152-33 (see Appendix F), which states 'The Town of Stratford is committed to preserving open space where possible and to provide passive recreation to residents of the Meadowview Avenue residential district.'



Comment from the ACO: This park is not centrally located to all town residents but is off a main road. However, it is adjacent to a very busy main road with fast moving cars. There is no mature shading or easily accessed water and electricity. Ordinance 152-30-152-33 may prohibit the building as a dog park as it commits the Town of Stratford to preserve the open space. Great Meadows Park is Animal Controls last and seventh choice.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: The entire site is 1 acre and the Dog Park would consume the entire park. This would leave no open space to “provide passive recreation to residents of the Meadowview Avenue residential district”. The purpose of the Great Meadows Park is to be a park in perpetuity for the neighbors.

Recommendation: Site #7

Comment from the SDPAC: The one-acre (1) Great Meadows Park site is located on a parcel of land that separates an industrial area from a residential neighborhood. Access Road is a very busy thoroughfare that is travelled at high speeds by commercial drivers on a daily basis. There is currently no designated parking area at the site and one would need to be created to deter side street parking and ensure safe access to the site for dog park users. The site has minimal trees and would need to have either shade structures installed or more trees planted to protect people and dogs from the elements. The site is in high proximity to residences and there are currently no sight or sound buffers that would separate the off leash dog park area from the nearby residences. Due to the need for the Great Meadows Park site to have a parking area added, location alongside a very busy roadway and it's high proximity to residences it would be seventh (7th) or last in our rank of the recommended sites.

Comment from Planning Department Administrator:

Great Meadows Park – No Recommendation/Rank Provided

- Strengths
 - o Site could serve as buffer between industry to south/west and residential neighborhoods to the north
 - o Potential to utilized on street parking so as not to sacrifice valuable open space for parking (along Philo St)
 - o Establishing a permanent dog park in this location could prevent “industrial creep” into residential neighborhoods
 - o Walking distance to high density neighborhoods
- Weaknesses
 - o No parking available and valuable green space would need to be sacrificed to provide it minimal parking would be needed (5-6 spaces max)
 - o potential nuisance to neighbors to the north
 - o Establishing a permanent dog park could limit potential for economic development for surrounding businesses wishing to expand
 - o Busy road
- Opportunities
 - o To create a valuable community asset
 - o Establishing a permanent dog park in this location could prevent “industrial creep” into residential neighborhoods
 - o Planting of native trees on a site that has no current trees
- Threats
 - o Neighborhood opposition from both residents and businesses
 - o Site is exposed to elements – no tree cover to provide shade
 - o Environmental impacts to nearby pond and other inland wetlands – nonpoint source pollution

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 3 3RD QUARTER MEETING HELD BY COUNCILMAN WALI KADEEM 12-09-2016

During a meeting with residents of the 3rd District led by Councilman Wali Kadeem, discussion ensued regarding locating the dog park within Great Meadows Park. Also present was John Rich Co-Chairman of the Dog Park Subcommittee. Mr. Kadeem stated he did not feel that Great Meadows Park was the appropriate location for the dog park and the he disagreed with the Animal

Control Officer's opinion that the dog park should not be located near the Animal Control Facility. He further stated he believed that a dog park should be "away from where people are", and still believed that a location near the WPCA is best.

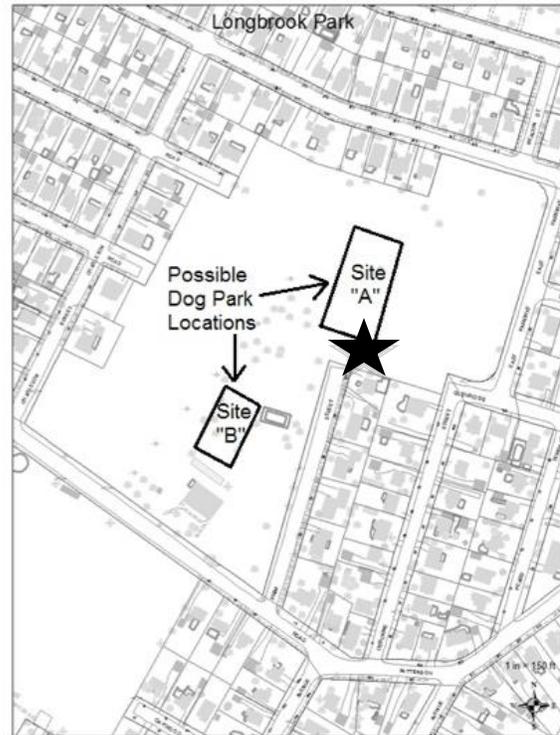
Mr. Rich gave an overview of the project stating the Subcommittee was reviewing and fully vetting out all possible locations. He stated that Great Meadows Park did meet the minimum requirements for consideration based on the background vetting questions, but since Great Meadows Park does not have a Park Commission made-up of residents from that neighborhood, like that of Longbrook or Boothe Parks, to complete the vetting of Great Meadows Park Mr. Rich was present to hear from and answer questions of the residents of this neighborhood. Mr. Rich also informed the residents that a public meeting for residents to address the Subcommittee will be conducted on January 12th and he encouraged people to come out and speak to share their opinion about the dog park location options.

General discussion among the residents present at the meeting with the group as a whole stating that they did not think that a dog park would be a "good fit" in Great Meadow Park.

• Longbrook Park

Site A

- The site is approx. 1 acre of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- The site has parking available
- Water and electrical hook-ups are available nearby the site
- Nearest residences are approximately 100 ft away
- Site has trees for shade and requires no clearing work
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged



Comment from the ACO: This site is centrally located within town providing an easy commute for residents and responding Animal Control Officers for any issues that may arise. The site is slightly away from other activities such as the tennis court and the already provided mature shading makes it an ideal setting for a dog park. Although there is no parking directly alongside the proposed area it is only a very short walk away. This area is already highly used by dog owners every weekend and this would provided a fenced in area to comply with leash laws. Water and electrical hook-ups available nearby the site are a plus. This would be Animal Controls first choice for location.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: Parking at Longbrook Park is limited especially in this area. When the leagues and camps are in session from April-November, the team members and families don't have sufficient parking. It is a centrally located park which is a plus but it is also a very busy park. In addition, for some children, this is their cut through to Wilcoxson School. The Park & Recreation 5 year Master Plan recommends studying the Longbrook Park Area as a site for 2-3 soccer/lacrosse fields.

Recommendation: Site #2 (if parking was added)

From the Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2017-2021:

Goals/Action Plan

1. Goal: Add soccer and lacrosse fields

Action: Redesign Longbrook Park practice fields into lacrosse/soccer/football fields. Add additional parking.

Determine whether Glendale Rd could be closed.

Reconstruct field at Short Beach Park for lacrosse/soccer

Reconstruct field at Pirhalla Farm to soccer/lacrosse

Comment from the SDPAC: Longbrook Park is frequently used by local dog owners to walk and play with their dogs. The 34-acre park is centrally located in Stratford, however it is only easily accessible, in terms of walkability, to those who live in the immediate and surrounding area (Districts 2 and 7). Residents from all other areas who wish to use the dog park would still have to travel to the site by car or other means. This is the same as would be the case for any other location and residents from the specific surrounding neighborhood versus the rest of the town.

Site A is located in a corner of the park that is not currently designated for use for any other recreational activities. It is a significant distance from the children's playground and splash pad area as well as Pender's Field. This site is in high proximity to residences but does have existing trees to serve as a sight and sound buffer. The large trees would also provide necessary shade for a dog park. Additional landscaping could be installed around the perimeter of the dog park fence to serve as an added buffer between the dog park and other areas of activity. There is an existing parking area at the site and it is handicap accessible. During football season parking may become an issue as the area receives significant traffic on both practice and game nights. The current site conditions and minimal needs to establish as an off-leash dog park area make Site A a cost effective option, however its proximity to residences and designated areas for other recreational activities has continually been raised as a point of concern by some members of the community so for these reasons it would be sixth (6th) in our rank of recommended sites.

Comment from Planning Department Administrator:

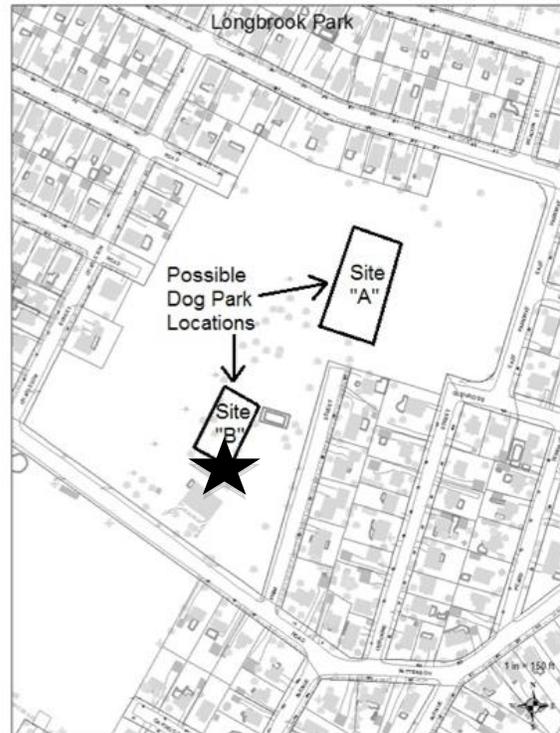
Longbrook Park A - SITE LOCATION – 2ND OPTION

- Some Available parking
- No trees to be cut down
- Potential impacts on residents on Prim St & Allyndale Dr – negligible
- Already a designated recreation area
- Centrally located
- Excellent accessibility

Comment from the Parks Department: Expansion of the gravel parking lot off of Prim Street could potentially occur.

Site B

- The site is approx. 1 acre of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- The site has parking available
- Water and electrical hook-ups are available nearby the site
- Nearest residences are approximately 150ft away, with tennis/paddle ball courts and a natural hill in between
- Site has trees for shade and requires no clearing work
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged



Comment from the ACO: This site is centrally located within town providing an easy commute for residents and responding Animal Control Officers for any issues that may arise. The already provided mature shading makes it an ideal setting for a dog park. Although there is no parking directly alongside the proposed area it is only a very short walk away. This area is already highly used by dog owners every weekend and this would provided a fenced in area to comply with leash laws. Negatively, the site is directly next to other activities such as the tennis court. Water and electrical hook-ups available nearby the site are a plus. This would be Animal Controls fourth choice for location.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: Parking at Longbrook Park is limited in this area. When the leagues and camps are in session from April-November, the team members and families don't have sufficient parking. It is a centrally located park which is a plus but it is also a very busy park.

In addition, this area is adjacent to the tennis courts. The nature of tennis is to have a quieter surrounding without interruption from dogs barking even occasionally.

Recommendation: Site #3

Comment from the SDPAC: Longbrook Park is frequently used by local dog owners to walk and play with their dogs. The 34-acre park is centrally located in Stratford, however it is only easily accessible, in terms of walkability, to those who live in the immediate and surrounding area (Districts 2 and 7). Residents from all other areas who wish to use the dog park would still have to

travel to the site by car or other means. This is the same as would be the case for any other location and residents from the specific surrounding neighborhood versus the rest of the town.

Site B is located essentially opposite Site A on the other side of the existing parking area. This site is also in high proximity to residences and is buffered by the existing hill, large trees and the presence of the platform paddleball court and clay tennis courts. Site B also has significant existing trees in place to provide necessary protection from the elements. There is existing fencing surrounding the tennis and paddleball courts as well as the batting cage area in close proximity to this site so the visual impact of adding an off leash dog park area at this site would be minimal. Site B is also handicap accessible and parking concerns are the same as noted for Site A. The current site conditions and minimal needs to establish as an off-leash dog park area make Site B a cost effective option, however its proximity to both residences and designated areas for other recreational activities has continually been raised as a point of concern by some members of the community so for these reasons it would be fifth (5th) in our rank of recommended sites.

Comment from the Parks Department: Expansion of the gravel parking lot off of Prim Street could potentially occur.

Comment from Planning Department Administrator:

Longbrook Park B – PREFERRED SITE LOCATION – 1ST OPTION

- Off-street parking available
- Trees present and should not be cut down – nice mix of shade and open space to protect from elements
- Potential impacts on residents on Prim St – negligible
- Already a designated recreation area
- Centrally located
- Excellent accessibility

FROM THE LONGBROOK PARK COMMISSION 11-7-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Dog Park Subcommittee presentation — Mr. Rich has been presenting the concept and plan to other committees that oversee other potential locations. The final site will ultimately be decided by the Town Council. His overview mentioned gate control key-card system for Stratford residents that have licensed and registered their dogs. After the park has been established for some time, it may be possible to charge non-residents a fee for a key-card providing they have registered dogs as well. Discussed/questions/concerns: locations identified in Longbrook Park, size of the proposed dog park, parking, other simultaneous activities taking place at the park, safety and security, neighboring residents opposing a dog park. Liability - Mr. Rich said that liability is the dog owner's' responsibility. Pathways/walkways, maintenance, town's liability if damage to park and/or equipment, maintenance, assembly price/cost, fund raising, procuring grants, deed restrictions, a park within a park, garbage pickup, concrete surface vs. grass or natural surface. Mr. Rich will email the PowerPoint presentation to Chairman Farrington-Posner.

FROM THE LONGBROOK PARK COMMISSION 1-4-2017 MEETING MINUTES:

Dog Park Subcommittee presentation — Ms. Lockshier conducted the presentation via PowerPoint.

Waiver of Rules — A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Mr. Merriam to waive the rules to allow all members of the public that are present at this meeting to pose questions/comments to Ms. Lockshier. The motion passed unanimously.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Salls: In favor of site "A".

Mr. Merriam: re: social media comments, resident feedback focusing on concern for noise

Ms. Manus: re: In favor of site "A", ample parking, "woody way"

Mr. Rich: re: points from Animal Control Officer concerning key card system that will electronically close the dog park when there is a conflict with other events. The current dog activity that exists in Longbrook Park is not controlled.

Mr. Farrington-Posner: Currently, dogs are off leash in the park.

Ms. Miron: Favors site "A".

Dick Capozza: likes both sites, Dog Park is needed for Longbrook

Jen Benai: Supports locations

Mr. Jaekle: Dogs off leash

Ms. Hernandez: favors site "A".

Recommendation to Town Council by Longbrook Park Commission regarding Dog Park

A motion was made by Mr. Salls, seconded by Mr. Merriam to refer to Town Council with favorable recommendation the location of site "A" (Prim Street area) for the dog park in Longbrook Park. The motion passed with 2 in favor, Mr. McGuire opposed and Mr. Farrington-Posner and Ms. Manus abstaining from voting.

Discussion continued re: site "B" is not rejected.

*From: Scott FarringtonPosner
To: John Rich
Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2017 23:34
Forwarded message From: "Alexander Florek"
Date: Jan 25, 2017 6:38 PM
Subject: DRAFT Validity of Longbrook Park Commission Vote
To: "Scott FarringtonPosner"
Cc: Councilman FarringtonPosner,*

This is in response to your call regarding the validity of a recent Longbrook Park Commission decision. You stated that four of the seven members of the Commission were present at the meeting in question, but only three of those members voted on the matter before the Commission because two of those four members abstained. Out of those three members who voted on the matter in question, two members voted in favor and one member was opposed. You requested we determine whether that vote was valid.

First, we must determine whether the number of members at the meeting was five or four, as a member of the Town Council attempted to sit as an alternate for a member of the Commission who was not present, pursuant to Article XIII. E. of the Town Council Rules of Procedure. I am of the opinion that the attendance of this alternate member of the Town Council was not valid because Section 539 specifically provides for which members of the Town Council will serve on the Longbrook Park Commission, and the member who attempted to sit as an alternate was not one of these. Accordingly, we should contain our analysis of this issue as though there were four members of the Commission present. I have reviewed the Town Charter, Town Code, and Town Council Rules of Procedure. The Town Charter does not appear to speak to this specific question. The Town Code does reference the Longbrook Park Commission (see, Sections 539 through 541 of the Town Code) but these provisions do not appear to resolve this specific issue. The Town Council Rules of Procedure do address Town Council Committees (Article XIII), the Duties of Committees (Article XIV), and Committee Reports (Article XV), but these rules do not appear to resolve your specific question.

For this reason, I think it is best to fall back on Robert's Rules of Order. A quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present at a meeting in order for business to be validly transacted. See Section 3 of Roberts Rules of Order, 11th Edition. The default quorum of a board or committee is a majority of that board or committee, unless otherwise provided. See, Section 40 of Robert's Rules of Order. As noted above, it does not appear that any provision of the Charter, Code or Council Rules speak to the quorum of the Longbrook Park Commission. For this reason, a quorum would be a majority of the seven members, in this case, four members.

Robert's Rules also states that the report of a committee can only contain what has been agreed to by a majority vote of a committee at a meeting where a quorum was present. See, Section 51 of Robert's Rules. Since the majority of the four members present at the meeting would have been three, and the motion in question was supported by only two members, the motion in question failed.

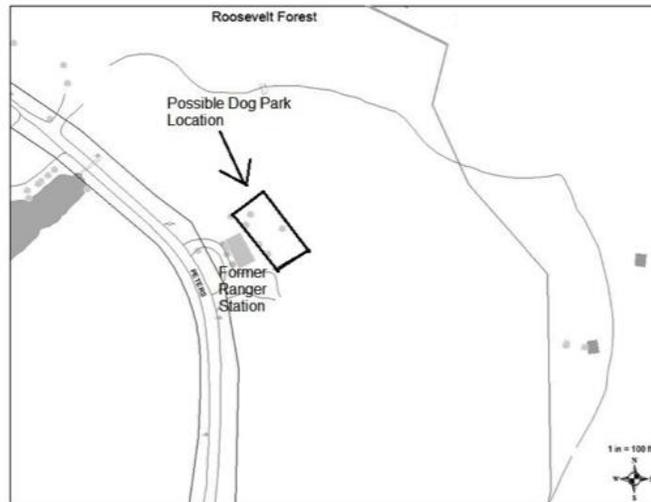
I hope this addresses your question. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

*Best,
Alexander Florek
Attorney*

• Roosevelt Forest

Former Ranger Station Site

- The site is approx 1.5 acres of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has no EPA related concerns that would prevent fence installation
- The site has ample parking available
 - o The design plan for this site suggests using the existing parking area at the Ranger Station, which can accommodate 6-8 cars, as the primary parking area and the larger main Roosevelt Forest parking lot near the pavilion as the secondary option for busy times
 - If the Ranger Station structure was to be removed (now or in the future) the site could accommodate 15-20 cars in the primary lot
- Water and electrical hook-ups are available immediately nearby the site at the Ranger Station structure
- Nearest residence is greater than >1200ft away, through the forest
- Site has trees for shade and requires very minimal clearing work
 - o No mature trees would need to be removed, only under growth and any trees identified as diseased or dying would need to be cleared
- Site topography/grading and all natural elements (i.e. large rocks) would remain in place and unchanged
- The Ranger Station has not been in use for many years and the Roosevelt Forest Commission approved a motion for its demolition in 2013. The site suggested for the dog park is located behind the Ranger Station structure and it's demolition and removal is NOT required for use of the site as a dog park.
- Roosevelt Forest, as a whole, is closed to the public from 9:00am-3:00pm on dates (M-F only) the Stratford Police Department schedules use of the outdoor shooting range. The hours of Roosevelt Forest, as well as those suggested for the dog park, are dawn until dusk and the Stratford Police Department is responsible for locking and unlocking the main Roosevelt Forest entry gate on a daily basis. The dog park would be closed to the public during the scheduled days/times when the shooting range is in use.
 - o When compared to the overall annual number of days/times the dog park would be available for use by the public, the number of days/times of closure was deemed acceptable by the dog park subcommittee, as well as the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee, and therefore not a reason to exclude the site from consideration for the dog park.



→ Use of suggested electronic key tag gate lock system would allow the Town to completely lock the dog park gate, preventing all access to the site during days/times the shooting range is in use to ensure complete public safety.

- An Inland Wetlands permit may need to be sought for use of this site.
 - o Available research indicates that there would be no adverse impact from the placement of a dog park near a wetland area, so this was therefore not deemed a reason to exclude the site from consideration for the dog park. As a recent local example the placement of the Hamden, CT dog park in a wetland area was approved by that municipalities land use boards (see Appendix G)

Comment from the ACO: This site is not centrally located and would not provide easy access for all town residents or immediate response time for Animal Control officers responding to calls. The Forest is closed for other uses on a regular basis and would limit the hours and days the dog park could be used. Water & Electric hookups nearby are a plus. Shading from mature trees and distance from residences make this ideal for a dog park. Roosevelt Forest is Animal Controls sixth choice for location.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: This site is not overly permitted for use by the general public. With over 300 acres, the site has sufficient space, sufficient parking and is not in a neighborhood. It does have the potential of being larger than 1 acre and at 1.5 acres affords the largest Dog Park of any site. Closings due to the Police Shooting Range might be mitigated by moving the front gate to beyond the Ranger Station (previous site of guard gate). Although this site is at the north end of town, unless you live in the neighborhood of the Dog Park, all users at any site will be bringing the dogs in a car.

Recommendation: Site #1

Comment from the SDPAC: Many residents regularly visit Stratford's 400+ acre Roosevelt Forest and utilize the trails with their dogs. The Former Ranger Station Site in Roosevelt Forest has not been in use for any designated purpose for a number of years. This site would allow for a slightly larger off-leash dog park area at one and a half (1.5) acres compared to five (5) of the other seven (7) sites being one (1) acre at their maximum allowable size. The increased available size would nicely accommodate separate areas for large dogs and small dogs, as the most commonly recommended dog park design layouts call for. The site has ample trees for shade and has a varying natural topography that would give it some added interest for dogs (and people) when compared to an open field. The residential proximity to this site is extremely low. The physical location of Roosevelt Forest within the Town would make the dog park a destination for residents as well as potential visitors from surrounding towns who wish to purchase a membership to access the Stratford Dog Park (as the existing 2007 dog park ordinance calls for). The site has parking available and is handicap accessible. There is potential for a larger parking area if the former Ranger Station structure is removed, either now or anytime in the future, however the existing available space directly at the site as well as in the nearby main parking lot would

accommodate the expected daily dog park traffic without issue. The site size, general characteristics and moderate needs to establish it as an off-leash dog park area make the Former Ranger Station Site in Roosevelt Forest a cost effective option and that combined with its essentially non residential location makes it one of our top 3 recommended sites.

Comment from the Parks Department: SITE RECOMMENDED

Comments from Planning Department Administrator:

Roosevelt Forest Former Ranger Station – SITE NOT RECOMMENDED

- Concerns of nonpoint source pollution/contamination and impacts on adjacent watercourse
- Concerns about cutting of existing trees
- No immediate parking – would have to walk down road from nearest parking lot
- Site is isolated and not centrally located
- Poor with accessibility

FROM THE ROOSEVELT FOREST COMMISSION 11-10-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

DOG PARK – SUB COMMITTEE – Members of the Dog Park sub-committee presented a presentation to the Roosevelt Forest Commission on the potential Dog Park. They stated that they feel that all four (4) town parks have the potential to contain a dog park. They are going to present this to all four (4) park commissions; get their feedback and then present all to the Town Council and let them decide where the best fit would be for the location of the dog park. Some members of the Roosevelt Forest Commission had some concerns. Such as: Due to urine and feces from the dogs, and the brook being so close by that it would change the Eco system of the Forest. There was also a concern regarding dogs being there with their immunizations. This could be a problem for other dogs. They stated that they are looking into a key card system. The resident would have to apply for a key card for entrance to the dog park. They would have to proof that their dog is up to date on their immunizations.

The Dog Park committee stated many times that this is just the beginning stages of the planning. They are more than willing to work with the commission regarding the details of the park. This is merely to choose the location of the dog park. A roll-call was taken from the Roosevelt Forest Commission on if each member is for or against having the dog park in Roosevelt Forest.

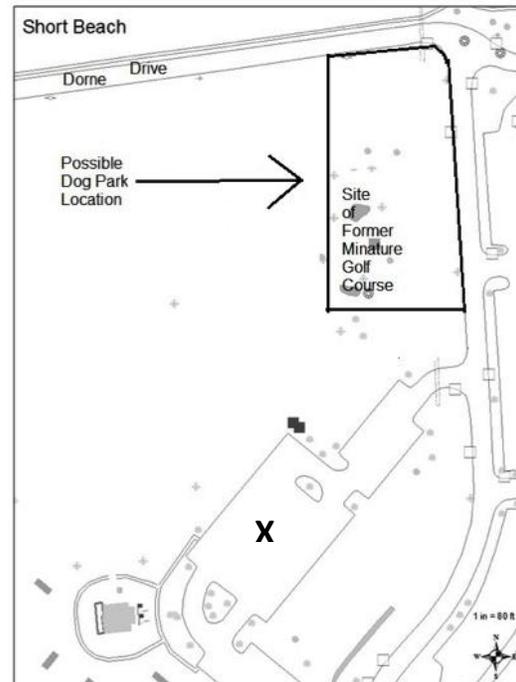
- Jim Brown – Yes
- Ellen Scerba-Carey – Yes
- Elaine Watson – No
- Ed Bitsco – Yes
- Bob David – Yes
- Bob Ford – Yes
- Frank Bevacqua – Yes
- Tina Manus – Yes
- Alan Llewelyn – No

A Motion was made by Elaine Watson and seconded by Jim Brown to recommend Roosevelt Forest to be considered that the Roosevelt Forest to be a viable location for a dog park. The Motion was passed unanimously.

• Short Beach

Former Mini Golf Course Site

- The site is approx 1.5 acres of Town owned property
- The site is appropriately zoned
- The site has ample parking available
 - o The design plan for this site suggests using signage to direct dog park visitors to use one specific parking area, located away from the waterfront (designated by **X** on map at right)
- Electrical hook-up is available at site
- Water hook-up would need to be brought to the site
- Nearest residence is greater than >1200ft away, through the athletic fields and restaurant building
- Site requires no clearing work
 - o The suggested use of the former miniature golf course site for the dog park does NOT require demolition of the existing small structure or any of the existing pathways that were part of the course, the design plan suggests these simply be cleaned up and repurposed into part of the dog park layout.
- Site lacks trees for shade
 - o The design plan for this site suggests installation of shade structures and the possible use of existing water feature holes from the mini-golf course as 'doggie ponds' in the warm months
- Site topography/grading would remain unchanged
- Site has existing lighting system that could potentially be used in seasonal months of early darkness
- Fence installation would require coordination/permitting with CT DEEP due to historical filling operations at the site
 - o Per the Stratford Health Department Raymark waste was not previously identified in this specific area.
- Short Beach property is not currently fully plowed in winter snow events
 - o As this is a modifiable factor this was not deemed a reason to exclude this site from consideration. If this site were selected for the dog park it could and would be made very clear that this is the last plowing priority for the Department of Public works and the limited availability of the dog park during the winter snow events would be well communicated to the public.
- Current Town of Stratford Ordinance 152-17 (see Appendix H) states Dogs are not allowed on the beach during 'in season' months (April-Nov)



- o As this is a modifiable factor this was not deemed a reason to exclude this site from consideration. The suggested ordinance modification needed would be:
 - Define parking area (designated by X on above map) as a Non-restricted area per subsection B.
 - Add the following to subsection E. 'Exceptions'; Per Ordinance 152-28 Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas: The Stratford Dog Park at Short Beach Park.
 - As additional measures to ensure public compliance with Ordinance 152-17 it would be suggested that the number of existing 'No Dogs on Beach' signs be increased and that dog park users be asked to sign an acknowledgement of the ordinance when receiving their access key card, which would indicate that failure to abide by the ordinance would result in revocation of their privilege to use the dog park.

Comment from the ACO: Although this site is not centrally located it is off a main road and the seasonal guard offers an extra measure of security to allow only holders of a dog park pass to enter. Water and electrical hook-ups available nearby the site are a plus. Negatively, there is a lack of mature trees and town ordinance would have to be amended. This would be Animal Controls fifth choice for location.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: Short Beach Park does not allow dogs or any animal in the park from April-November. Allowing dogs into the park will open the door to dogs on the beach, fields and in the parking lots. It will create enforcement issues for our beach attendants (who is going to the Dog Park and who is using that as an excuse to roam the park). In addition, to get to the Dog Park area, dog owners will have to traverse a very busy driveway from cars entering for the beach. We found when the Miniature Golf Course was there, this walk was dangerous.

Recommendation: Site #6

Comment from the SDPAC: The Former Miniature Golf Site in Short Beach Park has not been in use for any designated purpose for a number of years. This site would allow for a slightly larger off-leash dog park area at one and a half (1.5) acres compared to five (5) of the other seven (7) sites being one (1) acre at their maximum allowable size. The increased available size would nicely accommodate separate areas for large dogs and small dogs, as the most commonly recommended dog park design layouts call for. The site lacks trees and would need to have either shade structures installed and/or appropriately selected trees planted to protect people and dogs from the elements. The site has existing water feature holes from the mini golf course that could be cost effectively converted for use as mini pond/splash pad type areas for dogs which could offset the lack of shade in the warm season as well as serve as a positive and legal alternative for people who currently bring their dogs into the beach waters during the 'in season months' in violation of the related ordinance. The site is a significant distance from the soccer/lacrosse fields as well as the children's playground. A double fence and additional landscaping could be installed

around the entire perimeter of the area to serve as an added buffer between the various areas of activity. The site has ample parking available and is handicap accessible. The residential proximity to this site is extremely low. The site size, current conditions and minimal needs to establish it as an off-leash dog park area make the Former Mini-Golf Site in Short Beach Park a cost effective option and that combined with its essentially non-residential location makes it one of our top 3 recommended sites.

Comments from Planning Department Administrator:

Short Beach Mini Golf – SITE LOCATION – 3RD OPTION

- Ample parking
- Is mini course open? Are there plans to reopen?
- Costs associated with demolition?
- Already a designated recreation area – no concerns with disturbing surrounding homes
- Good accessibility
- No shade or relief from elements – trees would have to be planted

FROM THE SHORT BEACH COMMISSION 10-3-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Dog Park – Mr. Jaekle, who is on the dog park sub-committee, introduced Ms. Lockshier and Mr. Rich. Mr. Rich addressed the Commission noting they are looking at all potential sites to vet and would like input on the Short Beach area. Ms. Lockshier distributed photo of site and introduced a PowerPoint presentation. Commissioners discussed EPA, upkeep of park, ice rink vs. dog park liability, Ordinance, fencing and key card system. Mr. Pancak voiced his opposition to the dog park at this site. Mr. Esposito is concerned with the maintenance of site, snow plowing at beach, foot traffic in area and control of the key card system. Mr. Rich noted for the record reasons given by the Short Beach Commission not to have dog park at Short Beach as follows:

- a. Increased activity at Short Beach
- b. Ordinance would have to be changed
- c. Foot traffic in area
- d. People may push the boundaries of the park
- e. Off-season issues
- f. Cost of renovating site

Ms. Daden would like wild-life in area be added to reasons not to have dog park at the Short Beach. Mr. Jaekle noted they would have to go to the Ordinance Committee to have the no dogs in park ordinance changed. Councilwoman Manus questioned if there would be a spread sheet and report to the Town Council on all possible locations.

Mr. Pancak made a motion to not approve Short Beach as a potential site for the dog park. The motion was seconded by Ms. Daden. The motion was not voted on.

Mr. Pancak made a motion to table the dog park until the Chairman of the Short Beach Commission was present. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.

FROM THE SHORT BEACH COMMISSION 11-7-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Dog Park – Mr. Jaekle, who is on the dog park sub-committee, discussed vetting process for different areas suggested for the dog park. Chairman Llewelyn discussed the lack of bathroom facilities in the winter months, waste line, close proximity of athletic fields, parking and Ordinance which states “No Dogs at Beach”.

Ms. Daden made a motion to send to the Town Council with an unfavorable recommendation location of dog park at Short Beach. The motion was seconded by Ms. Clark-Sperling. The motion carried 3-0 with Mr. Jaekle abstaining from the vote.

FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL 11-14-2016 MEETING MINUTES:

5.2.4 SHORT BEACH COMMISSION — The Short Beach Commission met on November 7 at which time the following was referred to Council with unfavorable recommendation: Dog Park — Location at Short Beach denied for lack of bathroom facilities in the winter months, waste line, close proximity of athletic fields, parking and Ordinance which states “No Dogs at Beach”.

RESOLVED: that the Short Beach Commissions unfavorable recommendation of Short Beach as the location for a Dog Park be and is hereby accepted. — ACTION NOT TAKEN (Tabled)

FOR ALL SITES:

Comment from the Conservation Officer: The subcommittee should consider means for enforcement of waste pickup. It would be nice to have a few of these (see photo) in the designated dog park and other parks around town. It may be possible fund the purchase of a few of these dog sanitary stations with clean water grants or NFWF grants. As an added bonus, such dog sanitary stations can help the town meet requirements of the state issued storm water management permit, which requires public education on sources of storm water pollution and implementation of best management practices to reduce pollution of runoff.

Comment from the Recreation Superintendent: The comments and recommendations are made based on the users and permits issued at each site not on site conditions or maintenance.



CONCLUSION

Since 2007 when The Town Council of Stratford unanimously passed the Ordinance allowing for the establishment of a Dog Park in Stratford, the location of the park has been the focal point that has delayed the project. Since that time some thirty-three (33) locations have been suggested or considered, but none successfully selected and approved as a final site.

To resolve this issue a Dog Park Subcommittee was created by the Town of Stratford Parks & Recreation Committee in August 2016 to fully vet out all possible and suggested sites.

From its first meeting, the general opinion of the Subcommittee was that there might be more than one location or site that would serve the Town well to host the Dog Park.

The Subcommittee also recognized that there was no single site that was the "Perfect" location for the dog park due to issues and concerns of the various Park Commissions, Town Departments, and the Residents. The Subcommittee worked diligently to identify and address these issues.

Some of the issues were, in the opinion of the Subcommittee, insurmountable, examples include, but are not limited to, a site that was less than the minimum recommended size of one (1) acre or a site that was restricted from use by other government agencies such as the Connecticut DOT or Department of Homeland Security. It was from this "Background Vetting" process that the list of possible sites was weaned down from thirty three (33) to seven (7) possible sites that would need deeper vetting as documented in this reports narrative of each of the seven (7) sites that are still on the Subcommittees recommended list.

Other issues cited as reasons to disqualify any particular location from the list of recommended sites, in the opinion of the Subcommittee, were not significant enough to exclude any of those seven (7) sites as a potential host for the Dog Park. It should be noted that these issues were felt to be non-critical based upon the expertise (from our Animal Control Officer), research (from the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee), and experience (from the Stratford Animal Rescue Society) of members of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee recognizes that its opinion on some issues may differ from groups mentioned above. This leads to the fact that despite a lack of endorsement by those Commissions, Departments, and residents that represent a particular site, that site remains on the list of sites recommended by the Subcommittee. In reviewing this report and those sites recommended by the Subcommittee these differences in opinion must be weighed by the Town Council.

Being that any one of the seven (7) recommended sites, in the opinion of the Subcommittee, could serve the Town well as a location for the Dog Park, it was decided that no further weaning of the list would be done.

It was also because of these differences in opinion between the Subcommittee and the various Committees, Commissions, Town Departments, and even Non-profit Organizations that the Subcommittee has assigned no preferential order to the seven (7) recommended sites.

In Section 152-28 A of the Town Charter states:

Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas: To be determined based upon recommendations from the Town Council Parks and Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Animal Control Officer.

But ultimately the decision as to where within The Town of Stratford the Dog Park will be located is the Town Council's to make and the Council's alone. No one of Committee, Commission, Department, Non-Profit Organization or resident has the authority to "Veto" any site, they can only RECOMMEND for or against. It is for the Town Council to decide which "recommendations for" a site outweigh the "recommendations against" that site.

The Subcommittee recognizes that ALL the thirty three (33) sites, both those recommended and those not recommended by the Subcommittee, with all the relative information provided regarding each site, must be considered. The Subcommittee also recognizes that the Town Council may, after reviewing this report, choose not to follow any of the recommendations, including even any recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee or the ACO (who are specifically identified in the Ordinance), and choose a site from the "Sites Not Recommended" list, or they may choose no site at all.

The Dog Park Subcommittee therefore, respectfully submits this report in hopes that The Town Council, after weighing all of the various "pluses and minuses" of each site, can come to a conclusion as to which site is best for the Stratford Dog Park and for "The Greater Good" of the entire Town of Stratford.

FROM THE DOG PARK SUBCOMMITTEE 01 - 25 - 2017 MEETING MINUTES:

Be it **RESOLVED**, The Dog Park Subcommittee recommends that the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the Dog Park Subcommittee's Final Report with revisions made as per the minutes the Subcommittee's meeting of January 25, 2017 and deliver it in its entirety along with, based upon review of this report, any recommendation(s) they may make to the Town Council of the Town of Stratford.

Appendix A

Article III. Dog Park and Exercise Area [Adopted 4-9-2007 by Ord. No. 07-01]

§ 152-27. Dogs and other pets prohibited in park; exceptions.

Except as expressly allowed in § 152-28 hereof, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog or other pet to run at large in any park, or to permit any dog or other pet with or without a leash, except Seeing Eye or Hearing Ear dogs or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies and under control of a law enforcement officer, to enter any public beach, swimming or wading area, pond, fountain, stream, organized athletics area or designated children's play area. The Superintendent of Parks or the Animal Control Officers may ban dogs and other pets, or a specific dog or other pet, from areas of any park where he or she determines the same may be a nuisance.

§ 152-28. Designation of off-leash areas; rules and regulations; penalties for offenses.

A. Dogs may be allowed to run at large only in the following areas hereby designated as off-leash areas: To be determined based upon recommendations from the Town Council Parks and Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Animal Control Officer.

B. Dog exercise area rules and regulations.

- (1) All dogs must be accompanied by an owner or handler at all times.
- (2) Owners must remain in the dog exercise area at all times and keep their dogs in sight and under their control.
- (3) Owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and shall be held responsible for any injuries or damage caused by their dogs.
- (4) Any dog showing aggression toward people or other dogs must be immediately leashed and removed from the dog exercise area by its owner.
- (5) Dogs with a known history of aggressive or dangerous behavior and/or dogs that have displayed aggressive or dangerous behavior at any municipal facility are prohibited.
- (6) Any dog barking continuously or uncontrollably must be removed from the dog exercise area.
- (7) Owners shall carry a leash at all times, and dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving the dog exercise area.
- (8) Owners are responsible for securely latching any gates as they enter or exit.
- (9) Owners must pick up and properly dispose of their dog's feces.
- (10) Any dog using the exercise area must be currently vaccinated against rabies; legally licensed to residents of the Town of Stratford; and current on all applicable fees or fines. Nonresidents can obtain a permit to use a Town of Stratford facility by paying a user fee of \$25 annually and must provide vaccination and current license information to the Animal Control Officer from their current town or city of residence on an annual basis.
- (11) Dogs shall not be allowed to dig. Any holes created by a dog shall be immediately filled by the dog's owner.
- (12) Children must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult that will be accountable for the behavior and well being of the child. Children should be discouraged from approaching or playing with strange dogs.
- (13) Puppies using the dog exercise area must be four months of age or older.
- (14) No female dog in heat or in season is allowed in the dog exercise area at any time.
- (15) No eating or smoking is allowed inside the dog exercise area. No dog food treats or toys from

home, except tennis balls or Frisbees are allowed in the dog exercise area.

(16) Professional dog trainers may not conduct their business inside the dog exercise area. There shall be no dog grooming inside the dog exercise area.

(17) People who violate these rules are subject to removal from the dog exercise area and may be prohibited from using the facility.

(18) No bare feet are allowed in the dog exercise area.

(19) No spiked dog collars are allowed in the dog exercise area.

C. Failure to comply with any of the rules and regulations will result in a fine of \$100.

§ 152-29. Dog exercise areas as described.

Dog exercise areas are municipally-designated, membership-only, fence-enclosed facilities owned or operated by the Town of Stratford specifically intended for dogs to acquire owner/custodian supervised off-leash exercise.

A. It shall be unlawful to:

(1) Enter or remain on the facility at hours other than the Town-designated hours of usage.

(2) Enter or remain on the facility with more than two dogs per individual.

(3) Fail to immediately remove from the facility any dog showing aggression toward people or other dogs in the facility.

(4) Fail to immediately remove from the facility any dog that barks continuously or uncontrollably.

(5) Enter or remain on the facility with a female dog in estrus.

(6) Enter or remain on the facility with a dog not currently vaccinated against rabies.

(7) Enter or remain on the facility with a dog younger than four months of age.

(8) Fail to immediately leash and restrain a dog in the facility when advised to do so by a Town official.

(9) Fail to abide by the rules and regulations posted at the entrance of the facility.

(10) Fail to immediately depart the facility when ordered to do so by a municipal official.

(11) Enter on or remain upon the facility without a valid Town of Stratford membership tag or a valid Town of Stratford pet license properly displayed on each dog or a current Town of Stratford authorized guest pass.

B. Dog exercise areas require a valid membership to use each facility. Every owner that is a nonresident of the Town of Stratford shall acquire a membership or guest pass for each dog that wishes to enter onto and remain in a dog exercise area. Such membership shall be obtained from a person designated by the Mayor of Stratford to issue such membership. Applications for such membership shall include photo identification for each dog using the facility. Membership fees shall be established by resolution by the Mayor and Town Council. Membership tags shall expire on the last day of the month one year from the month it was issued. A membership tag must be properly displayed on each said dog while it is inside a facility. Town residents must acquire a Town of Stratford pet license that needs to be displayed on the dog while it is in a facility. It shall be unlawful to transfer a membership tag or to deface the tag in any manner. A membership tag shall become invalid with the transfer of the dog to a new owner. The Mayor or his designee may revoke a membership at any time if an owner fails to abide by the rules and regulations of the facility or is in violation of any other provision of this article. Failure to comply with these directives shall constitute grounds for the temporary or permanent banning of an individual and/or dog from the facility.

<http://www.ecode360.com/9062540>

Appendix B



OFFICIAL RULES OF THE STRATFORD DOG PARK

The Town of Stratford is not responsible and shall have no liability for the acts or omissions of the individuals or their animals while utilizing the dog park.

Dog owners are completely liable for any damage or injury caused by their dog.

1. Hours: Sunrise to Sunset. Use of the Dog Park is at your own risk!
2. Dog Park Membership/Registration required for use.
3. Owners must comply with all state and local laws.
4. Owners are 100% responsible for their dogs' behavior.
5. All dogs must be properly licensed and vaccinated and wearing their tags while in the Dog Park. Sick dogs or dogs with contagious diseases are not allowed in the Dog Park.
6. Puppies must be 4 months & have had their last set of vaccinations at least 10 days prior to visiting the park.
7. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the Dog Park.
8. For the safety of your dog and other park visitors slip leads, choke, prong (pinch) and spiked collars are strictly prohibited. Retractable extension leashes are not permitted for use when entering and exiting the dog park.
9. Limit of 2 dogs per owner while in the Dog Park.
10. Children must be supervised at all times. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted in the Dog Park without adult supervision.
11. Aggressive dogs, unneutered dogs, dogs who bark excessively and dogs in heat are not allowed in the Dog Park. Dogs must be removed from the park at the first sign of aggression or if they bark excessively.
12. Dog owners must be in the Dog Park and monitoring their dogs at all times. Dogs must be under their owner's voice control and within sight at all times.
13. Owners must clean up their dogs feces and fill/repair any holes dug. Town 'Stop & Scoop' Fines applicable inside and on the exterior of Dog Park area.
14. No Smoking, alcoholic beverages, food or drink of any kind are allowed in the Dog Park.
15. Shoes must be worn inside the Dog Park.
16. Toys are allowed in the Dog Park but must be used in such a manner as to not distract or interfere with other dogs. Toys must be removed from the park after use. The Town of Stratford is not responsible for items left in the Dog Park.
17. Small Dog area is for dogs 20lbs and under only.

Failure to abide by the Rules of The Stratford Dog Park may result in loss of privileges or a fine.
All State Statues, Town Ordinances and Laws apply.

Appendix C

Liability

Connecticut State Law is very specific with regard to dog bites and states very clearly any and all liability for a dog's actions rests on the owner.



A dog's owner or keeper is liable for any damage caused by his dog to a person's body or property, unless the damage was sustained while the person was committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, abusing, or tormenting the dog. The law presumes that anyone under the age of seven was not committing a trespass or teasing the dog unless the defendant can prove otherwise (CGS § 22-357). If damage has been caused by two or more dogs at the same time, their owners or keepers are jointly and severally liable for the entire damage (CGS § 22-356).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_435.htm#sec_22-357

* It should be explicitly stated on fully viewable signage prior to entering the dog park that people are entering at their own risk.

**STRATFORD DOG PARK BACKGROUND VETTING SHEET
RECOMMENDED SITES**

Dog Park Site Locations (A-Z Order)	Background Vetting Questions In Order (left to right) of Lowest to Highest Priority															Background Vetting Questions of Severe Priority							
	DEP Permit Required	Located in a Flood Zone	Site Located in 100-Year Flood Plain	Inland Wetlands Permit Required	Restrooms Nearby	Accessible in Winter	Water Line Available	Electricity Available	Trees for Shade	Parking Available	Residential Proximity	Other Input Needed	Park Commission Opinion	Public Opinion Survey	Other Costs	Town Funding Requested	Estimated Cost for Fence	Public Works Impact	Planning Comm. Review Required	Cleaning/Grading Required	Handicap Accessible	Soil Contam. Issue	Suitable for Use
Boothie Park "B"	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	600ft approx	Friends of BP & HS	5-2 Yes			No	\$15K	Low	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1 acre approx
Boothie Park "C"	No	No	No	Yes			Yes			250ft approx	Friends of BP & HS	Not Yet Voted On			No	\$15K	Low	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1 acre approx
Great Meadows Park			No	No	Yes					50ft approx				Parking Area	No	\$15K	Low		No	Yes	No	Yes	1.5 acres approx
Longbrook Park "A"	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	100ft approx		Not Yet Voted On			No	\$15K	Low	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1 acre approx
Longbrook Park "B"	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	150ft approx		Not Yet Voted On			No	\$15K	Low	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1 acre approx
Roosevelt Forest Ranger Station	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None		6-2 Yes	Brush Clearing	No*	\$18K	Low	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1.5 acres approx
Short Beach	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			Yes	No	Yes	None	Zoning CAM Review	No		No	\$15K	Low	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	1 acre approx

* Current cost estimate does not include funds necessary to demolish and remove Ranger Station structure

STRATFORD DOG PARK BACKGROUND VETTING SHEET
SITES NOT RECOMMENDED

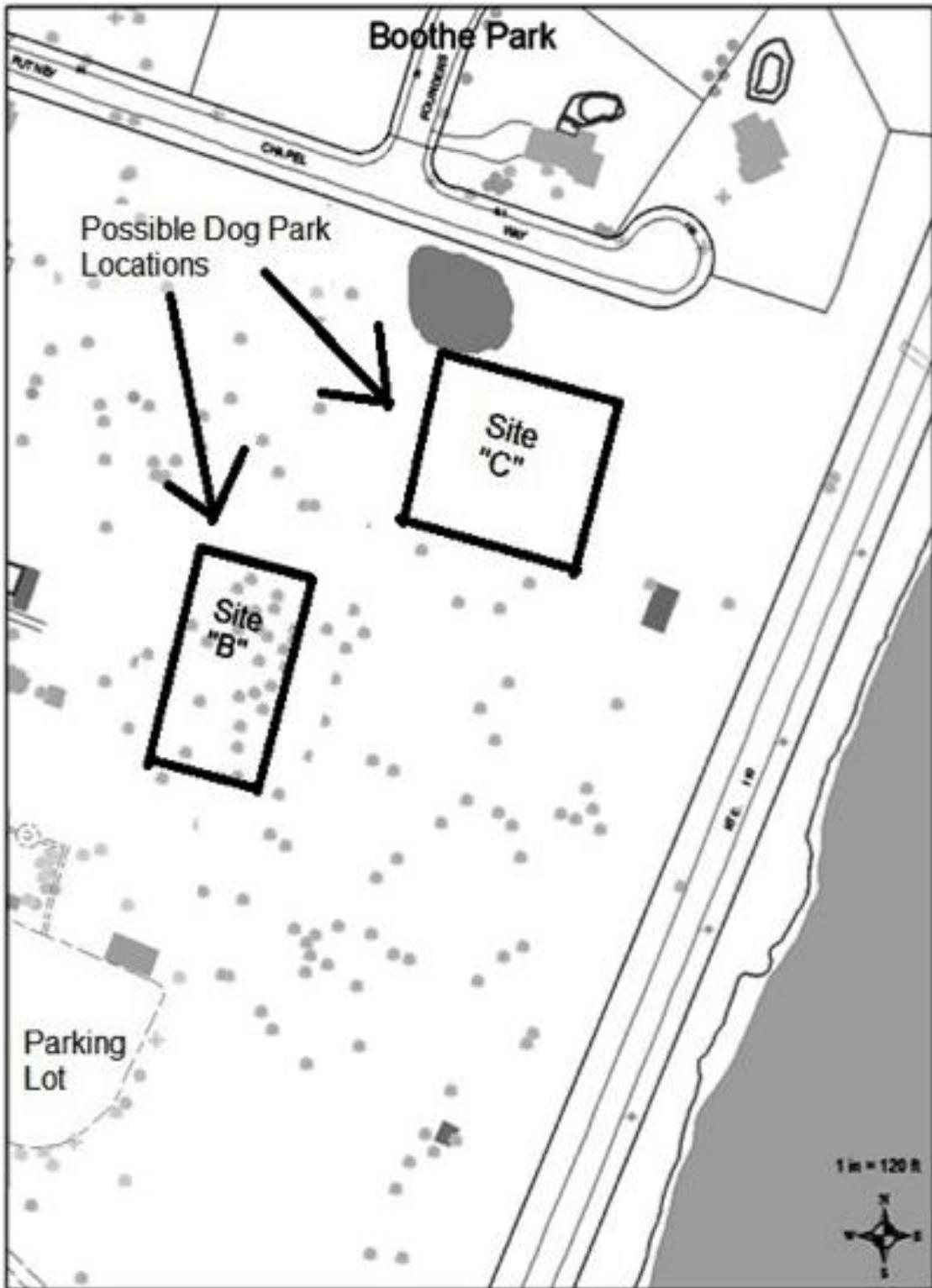
Page 1

Dog Park Site Locations NOT Recommended	Background Vetting Questions In Order (left to right) of Lowest to Highest Priority															Background Vetting Excluding Criteria	
	DEEP Permit Required	Located in a Flood Zone	Located in 100-Year Flood Plain	Island Wetlands Permit Required	Restrooms Nearby	Accessible in Winter	Water Line Available	Electricity Available	Trees for Shade	Parking Available	Residential Proximity	Other Input Needed	Park Commission Opinion	Public Opinion Survey	Other Costs	Town Funding Required	Estimated Cost for Fence
Academy Hill	No	No	No	No	No				Yes	100ft approx						\$15K	School Use
Birdseye Lot	Yes	Yes															Soil Contamination & Possible Future Economic Development
Boothe Park "A"	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Friends of BP & HS	Not Voted On					Other Park Use: Rental Area
Boothe Park "D"	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Friends of BP & HS	Not Voted On		No	\$15K		Other Park Use: Rental Area
Clover Field	No	No	No														Size < 1 Acre
Elliott St.	No	No	No	No	Yes			Yes	Street	75ft approx				No	\$18K		No Off Street Parking
Exchange Park	No	No	No						No								Size < 1 Acre
Greenway Center Field	Yes	Yes	No	Yes				No		None	Zoning CAM Review						ACO Does Not Recommend
High Park	No	No	No														Size < 1 Acre
Honeyspot Rd Ext										None		N/A					Private Property
Meadow St												N/A					CT DOT Right of Way

STRATFORD DOG PARK BACKGROUND VETTING SHEET
SITES NOT RECOMMENDED
 Page 2

Dog Park Site Locations NOT Recommended	Background Vetting Questions In Order (left to right) of Lowest to Highest Priority																	Background Vetting Excluding Criteria	
	DEP Permit Required	Located in Flood Zone	Located in 100-Year Flood Plain	Inland Wetlands Permit Required	Restrooms Nearby	Accessible in Winter	Water Line Available	Electricity Available	Trees for Shade	Parking Available	Residential Proximity	Other Input Needed	Parks' Commission Opinion	Public Opinion Survey	Other Costs	Town Funding Required	Estimate Cost for Fences	Primary Reason Site is NOT Recommended	
Pecks Mill Pond	No	No	No	No	No			Yes	Yes	Yes								Size < 1 Acre	
Pinnacle Farm	No	No	No	No					No									Lack of Parking & Size < 1 Acre	
Remington Woods	No	No	?	No			Yes	Yes		None		N/A		Clearing Grading				Private Property	
Roosevelt Forest Pavilion	No	No		No			Yes	Yes	Yes	None					No	\$15K		Nature Preserve	
Rydens Landing	No	No	No	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Merritt Pkwy Comm	N/A			No	\$10K		CT DOT Right of Way	
Shakespeare Theater																		Possible Economic Development	
Spyder Park	No	No	No	No			Yes					N/A						Size < 1 Acre	
Stedling House Park "A"	No	No	No	Shedding House	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None		N/A			No	\$8K		Size < 1 Acre	
Stedling House Park "B"	No	No	No	Shedding House	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	None		N/A						Size < 1 Acre	
Stratford Landfill	Yes	Yes	No															Soil Contamination	
Wooster Park Corner	No	No	No	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Street/ W/HS	150ft approx		N/A		Parking Area	No	\$15K		School Zone	
Wooster Park Freeman Ave										75ft approx		N/A						School Zone	
Wooster Park Quail St.	No		No	No	Yes		Yes	Yes		150ft approx				Parking Area	No	\$15K		School Zone	
WPCA "A"	Yes	YES		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		300ft Approx	Homeland Security			Parking Area	No	\$15K		Homeland Security	
WPCA/ACF	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	450ft approx	Zoning CAM Review			Clearing Grading	Yes	\$15K		ACO Does Not Recommend & Soil Contamination	

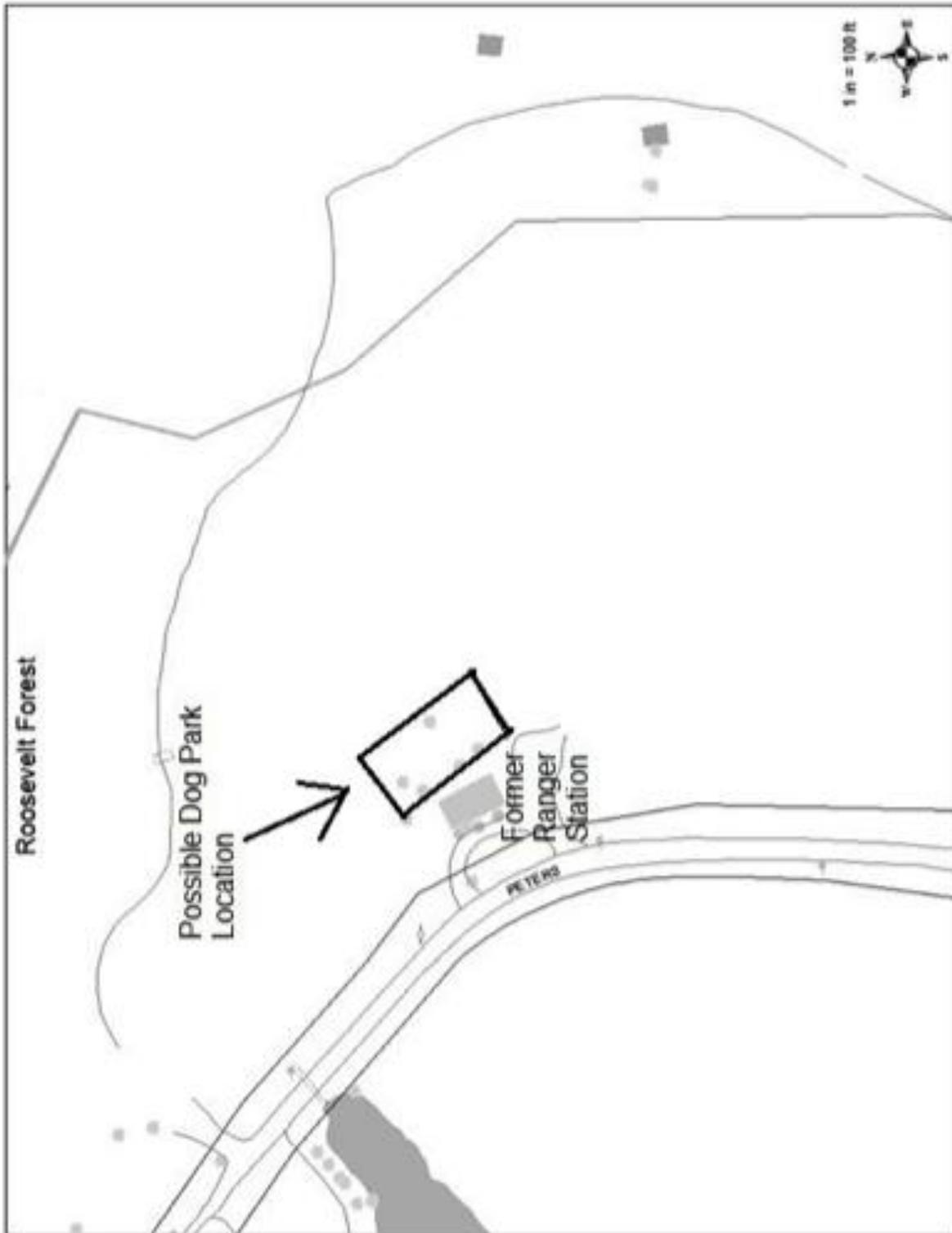
Appendix E1



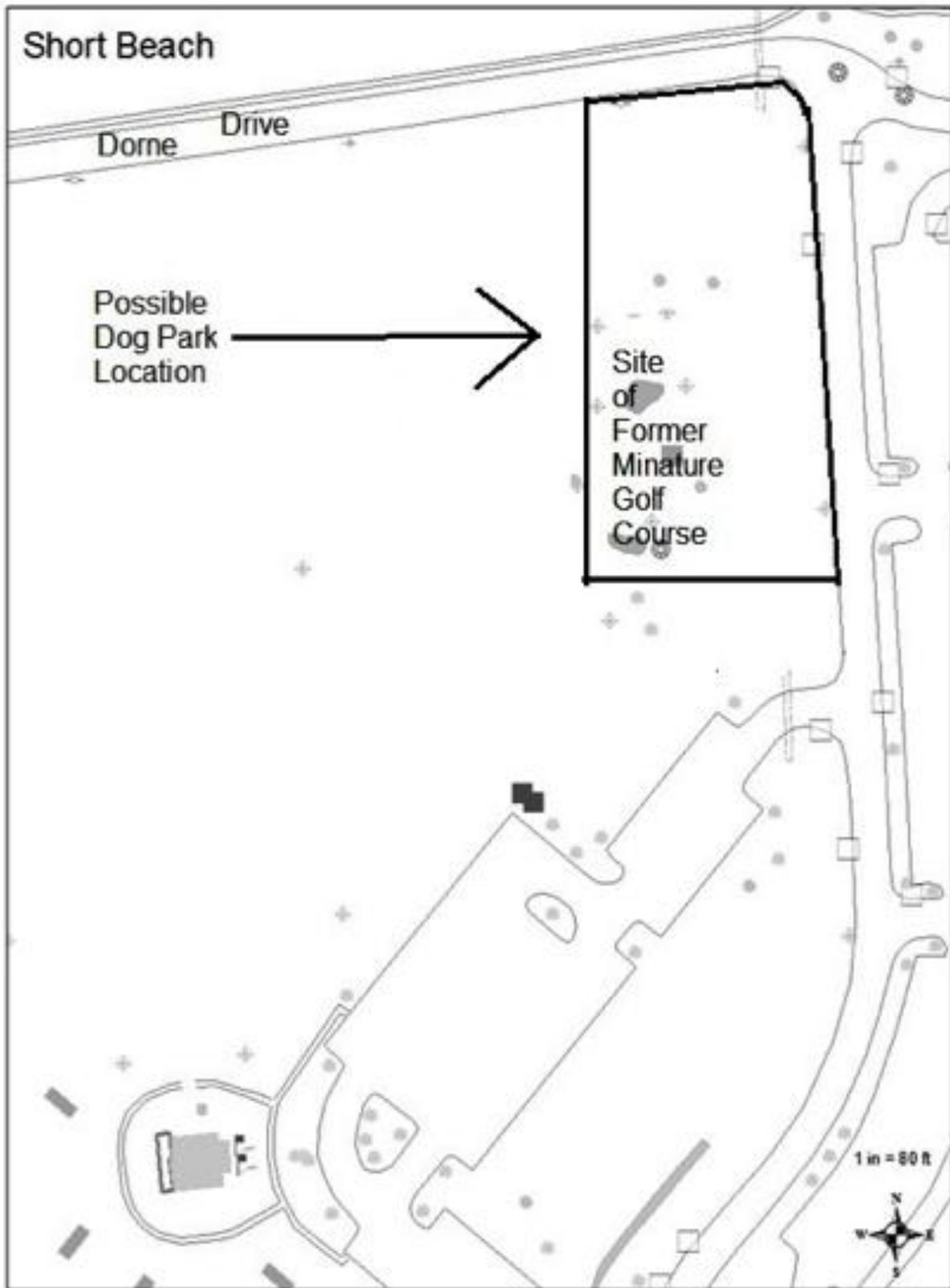
Appendix E2



Appendix E4



Appendix E5



Appendix F

Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches

Article IV. Great Meadows Park

[Adopted 11-10-2008 by Ord. No. 08-11; amended in its entirety 10-13-2009]

§ 152-30. Statement of purpose; intent.

The Town of Stratford is committed to preserving open space where possible and to provide passive recreation to residents of the Meadowview Avenue residential district. The Town of Stratford is the owner of a parcel of land, as depicted on the map attached to this article,[1] which is bordered by the streets known as "Access Road," "Meadowview Avenue," "Philo Street," "Ketcham Road," and "Woodend Road," and the adjacent property owners along the southwestern transverse of the parcel. The property serves as a natural barrier between commercial development and the residential property owners and will provide an area of refuge for area residents and wildlife.

[1]Editor's Note: Said map is on file in the Town offices.

§ 152-31. Restrictions on development

No structures can be constructed in the park without the approval of the Town Council and administration of the Town of Stratford; notwithstanding, improvements such as landscaping; plantings to include trees, shrubs or flowers; benches or walkways may be added with the approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Town Council.

§ 152-32. Restrictions on usage.

All conditions on usage imposed in parks located within the Town of Stratford shall apply to activities within the Great Meadows Park.

§ 152-33. Perpetuity.

Said Great Meadows Park shall remain a park in perpetuity.

<http://www.ecode360.com/12589321>

Appendix G

Expert Opinion on Impact of Dog Parks on Wetlands Areas

— **Martin L. Mador a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, with a master's in Water Studies**

"The environmental threat from dog urine is minimal due to the small quantity of liquid. In addition, the urine is filtered effectively as it moves through the ground. Watershed land adjacent to or overlying a public water supply is kept free from development precisely because it provides such significant filtering capabilities. "

"I am currently president of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association and an officer of both the statewide Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and the Mill River Watershed Association. I am also a commissioner of the Hamden Natural Resources and Open Space Commission, which recently explored and subsequently endorsed a dog park for the town."

— **Eric Leopold, PhD, biochemist in organic chemistry, testified before Calif. municipalities as an expert witness on the environment, to wit;**

"Evaporation, oxidation, photochemical degradation & ultraviolet light have the combined effect of neutralizing and destroying any bacteria present in urine, which is 98% water. The remaining chemicals of amino acids, vitamins, enzymes, antigens & immunoglobulins are unstable in the natural environment of earth/air/light & are rapidly degraded. Dog feces is a non-issue in a self-regulated Dog Park where it is collected by responsible dog owners & deposited in sealed containers. Dog urine is not a threat to humans, nor is it harmful the environment & it has no negative effect on wetlands."

<http://www.lidog.org/environment.htm>

Appendix H

Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches

Article II. Recreational Areas

§ 152-17 Dogs and other pets.

[Amended 2-14-2011 by Ord. No. 11-02]

A. Restricted areas. No person shall bring any animal, including any dog, onto a beach or beach parking area, nor shall any person permit such an animal subject to his ownership or control to be at such an area, except during periods of time when beach recreation is out of season, as established by the Department of Recreation, and where, during such out-of-season periods, such dog or other animal is under the control of a leash in accordance with Subsection B below and § 83-15 of the Stratford Town Code. No person shall bring such an animal to or permit such an animal subject to his ownership or control to be in any other recreational area in which the Town has posted a sign prohibiting animals.

B. Nonrestricted areas. Dogs and other similar pets are permitted in nonrestricted areas of recreational areas only on leashes and under the control of their owners or other persons responsible for their supervision. No leash shall exceed seven feet in length.

C. Drinking water faucets. No person shall use a drinking water faucet for the watering of pets or animals.

D. Persons accompanying dogs or other pets into public recreational areas or other areas where such animals are permitted shall be responsible for the removal and disposal of all litter produced by said pets. The failure to remove such litter shall result in the owner, keeper or person then walking or otherwise in charge of said animal being assessed with a fine in accordance with § 83-15 of the Stratford Town Code. For purposes of this subsection only, any person accompanying the animal shall be considered a keeper of the animal.

E. Exception. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind person.

<http://www.ecode360.com/9062499>



TIPS FOR BUILDING SUCCESSFUL DOG PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Park managers today are more frequently being asked to consider dedicating a portion of their parks to be used as off-leash areas for people and their pets. While not always without controversy, these areas often become one of the most popular areas within a park system. Good planning will help you eliminate or reduce many of the problems associated with creating dog parks.

Here are the 20 most common considerations to address as your community moves towards opening a very successful dog park:



Big Benefits to the Community – Dog parks are truly a multigenerational park activity for all ages. Despite what opponents say, dog parks are more for people than for dogs, because they attract the adult users who vote to support parks and who are more vocal in the community. Relatively low construction costs and low maintenance costs also yield the greatest amount of recreation opportunities for the investment, and there is a low (if any) user cost. Dog parks also provide outdoor exercise for the majority of park users who do not otherwise participate in organized sports.

Community Support – Informal groups, petitions, and 501C-3 non-profit groups promoting dog parks in your community can generate interest and successfully work within the system to create and support local dog parks. However, overzealous or disorganized groups can quickly sink a well engineered plan. Groups must learn to work *with* local agencies, instead of always trying to fight them, in order to be successful. Donations of labor and materials or funding from local businesses generate goodwill and can help get the rest of the community on board with the idea.

Volunteer Groups – Volunteers can be a tremendous asset to the dog park to help stretch already strained maintenance budgets. Volunteers can coordinate projects such as raking leaves, spreading surfacing material, installing or repairing fencing, installing agility and exercise equipment, brush clearing and more. Advance sign-ups are critical so that volunteers commit to specific times and show up when expected. Volunteer groups are also often responsible for monitoring the area for trash and dog waste, and replacing pickup bags in the dispensers.

Know the Users – Selling the concept to a reluctant community can be challenging; however, your dog park will serve a wide variety of residents. There are nearly 73 million dogs in the US, and 59% of the households have at least one dog. Most park facilities are currently geared towards a narrow range of users such as ages 2 to 12 for playgrounds, or ages 12 to 35 for most ball fields. Dog parks are one of the few multi-generational park activities that offer recreation for almost every age and ability level.

Choosing a Location – As in real estate, a good location is a key to success. While neighbors' concerns are sometimes over-exaggerated, they still need to be considered. They may be concerned about barking, loose dogs, smells and inadequate parking, but all of these issues can be resolved. Once established, a dog park becomes a huge recreational asset to the local families as well as the entire community, sometimes even increasing property values. Be sure to avoid locating dog parks adjacent to schools or playgrounds to reduce potential conflicts with children.

Allow Adequate Space – The popularity of most dog parks may require a minimum area of half an acre or more, although many smaller urban dog parks are also very successful. Overgrown, neglected and unmanaged areas can become great dog parks; consider re-purposing existing ball fields, lawn bowling or tennis courts, or equestrian arenas, even if doing so is just temporary or seasonal. Inadequate parking can be a big problem especially on weekends, so overflow parking spaces should be considered even if they are unpaved.

Overcoming Legalities – Some communities today still have archaic ordinances forbidding pets to be off-leash in *any* public areas. This means the city government may first need to amend local laws to allow your dog park to exist. Instead of attempting to amend your community's entire dog ordinance, consider requesting a special use exemption. A temporary "special use" authorization may help to at least get your park established, and often those temporary locations end up becoming a permanent fixture in the community.

Professional Design Assistance – Consider using the talents of an experienced Dog Park Consultant (like us!) or Landscape Architecture firm. They know how to best utilize a space and will factor in weather, access, utilities, drainage, vegetation, visibility and parking. They are also very experienced at presenting plans to the community and public officials, and can act as an important third-party advocate for the park.

Fencing – Good fences make good dog parks. Fences should be five feet or higher and be absolutely escape-proof; bury several inches of the fence beneath the surface to help prevent dogs from digging their way out. Self-closing double gates with a 10' transition space are a must to reduce the possibility of dogs escaping unexpectedly. Help prevent aggression and fighting by using closely spaced fence slats between adjacent dog park sections to reduce visibility, and also try to avoid using 90-degree corners which can help prevent more aggressive dogs from trapping unwilling victim dogs. Don't forget to include a maintenance entrance for large equipment like mowers, and consider planning multiple entries into the park to help reduce worn areas. Typical installed costs are about \$25-\$30/linear foot for heavy duty chain link fencing, 6' high, with gates and accessories.

Water – Drinking fountains are absolutely essential in any dog park for the health of both dogs and people after exercising. Without drinking fountains, users may be forced to bring buckets of standing water which can be unsanitary; they can spread disease to other dogs or can create mosquito havens. Consider water-spray features or dog wash stations, but ensure you have provided proper drainage as mud quickly becomes a huge problem in dog parks. Irrigation systems can help maintain turf grass in any climate, and reduce smells from urine especially in arid climates. Consider installing two adjacent drains to prevent flooding if one drain happens to become clogged.

Exercise Equipment – Without exercise equipment for dogs, your off-leash area is much like a park without a children’s playground. Exercise components are for *people* to use in a non-competitive environment with their dogs! Choose components that offer a variety of activities like ramps, tunnels, jumps and weave poles to accommodate the many different skill levels of both the dogs and their owners. Equipment can be in its own area, or be an integral part of the main play area. Arrange components 15-25' apart from each other and arrange them in an evenly spaced, but random fashion which allows users to create a different course each time they visit the park. These activities make your dog park more of a destination and will increase the time users stay at the park and how often they visit.

Because dog urine is highly corrosive, components need to be manufactured with rustproof materials like aluminum, HDPE plastic and stainless steel. All hardware should be stainless steel, and avoid any products made from brittle PVC pipe, steel (which rusts) or lumber. Public parks are also vandalism prone, so choose heavy duty materials that have been created specifically for public dog parks. Unsupervised children sometimes play on dog park equipment, even though it’s not intended for their use, so it needs to be extremely durable and safe. For the safety of dogs and park users, immediately remove any unauthorized equipment; injuries caused by unauthorized (but condoned) equipment can quickly lead to expensive lawsuits.

Park Furniture – Dog parks help build strong community and social ties. To encourage conversation with other dog owners, consider arranging your benches in an L or U shape. Locate benches away from congested entrance areas to better distribute use throughout the park. Tables with a single center post will help prevent the corrosive effects of dog urine, and make sure your furnishings have rust-proof aluminum frames. Recycled plastic furniture is also a popular choice for dog parks as it highly durable and won’t rust or rot over time.

Accessibility for All – Off-leash areas should have wide gates and accessible surfacing materials to allow wheelchair and stroller access. Besides paved surfaces, other materials such as rubber matting, turf and certified engineered wood fiber are considered to be ADA accessible and will help to make your dog park a place everyone can enjoy regardless of ability.

User Control – Since many communities restrict use to only their residents or to those with passes, some form of an easy-to-monitor control system should be used. Dog tags, parking passes, card swipes, electronic pay stations and radio frequency ID (RFID) tags have all been successful to help monitor park users. In some cases when residents are required to purchase a dog-park pass, the fees should only be used for dog-park maintenance and improvements, instead of going into the city’s general funds.

Sanitation – Pickup stations and receptacles are absolutely critical for a clean facility. Make sure the bags you offer are oxo-biodegradable and are designed to break down in landfills. Receptacles can be located on the outside of the fences to make trash pickup easier for maintenance staff, and using several small receptacles will make unloading easier than large ones. Consider using signage and/or color coding your receptacles for specific uses like “Trash Only” or “Dog Waste Only.”

Lighting – Timed lighting helps to extend the hours of use, but consider using the services of a sports lighting design specialist to avoid spill lighting into the neighborhood. Solar lighting has become very popular in dog parks and is an efficient and affordable solution.

Restroom Facilities – While dogs are not too particular about where they go, their owners will expect some sort of facility, even if it is just a portable toilet. This becomes critical at larger destination parks. Video cameras on the building (even fake ones, or just signs that say video cameras are being used) can greatly help to reduce vandalism in your park.

Surfacing – While grass is ideal, it will become worn out by enthusiastic canines. Consider reinforcing high-use areas with crushed rock, decomposed granite, artificial turf, rubberized grid or a certified engineered wood fiber. Wood fiber interlocks to stay in place far better than ordinary chips and helps to eliminate the mud problems that can often close a park. The grass adjacent to the fence line is especially susceptible to damage, so consider creating a gravel perimeter track and only maintaining the grass in the middle of the park.

Shade – Shade shelters or gazebos are highly recommended to help shield park users from rain, UV rays and hot sun, even in northern climates. Fabric shade shelters are quite inexpensive and may not even require a building permit. However, the fabric roof needs to be removed seasonally in locations where snow is likely. Larger hard-roofed park shelters are a more permanent solution and can become an important gathering and social location in your park.

Signage – Good signage can be an effective user-education tool, while bad signage will be completely ignored. Signs should have friendly and colorful graphics, and the text should take a positive tone instead of a long list of “Don’ts.” Keep the rules brief and provide a phone number to contact parks staff in case there is a maintenance issue or other problem at the park. Materials like fiberglass and lexan are easily cleaned of spray paint or markers, since any flat surface can become a graffiti target. Fast removal sends a signal to vandals that graffiti is not tolerated and shows park users that you care.

These tips will help make your dog park more successful, from concept through the grand opening. If you have any additional suggestions on how to create better dog parks, please send your tips to us at sales@dog-on-it-parks.com.

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(Revised 2012)