

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 latest 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 our 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:

I agree with Emily. We should have a discussion about the possibility for a fenced in area in Florence Park for dogs. It doesn't necessarily need to be as large as we had previously discussed when looking at options for a dog park. Some of the emails were pretty specific and there are also some good suggestions/support on a Facebook post from a few days ago

Tina

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2020, at 12:58 PM, Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:

I was asking about the emails regarding a dog park in Florence Park, which seems to have some public support. Did you see those forwarded by Dan Natchez? Isn't the trial you referred to and that we addressed at the last meeting about walking leashed dogs? We didn't address off leash.

Emily

On Aug 1, 2020, at 11:49 AM, Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com> wrote:

I believe we should review the trial allowance of dogs in the parks first. There is some pushback regarding Columbus Park.

On Sat, Aug 1, 2020 at 9:13 AM Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello, All.

So it seems there's a movement for a dog park in Florence Park. Is this going to be on the agenda for next week?

Thanks,

Emily

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel S. Natchez** <dannatchez@vomny.org>

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

Dan

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>

Subject: Dogs Permitted in Florence Park

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Carley Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

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Randi S. Robinowitz

*Associate Real Estate Broker
Licensed in New York & CT*

Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty
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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

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

I agree with Emily. We should have a discussion about the possibility for a fenced in area in Florence Park for dogs. It doesn't necessarily need to be as large as we had previously discussed when looking at options for a dog park. Some of the emails were pretty specific and there are also some good suggestions/support on a Facebook post from a few days ago

Tina

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2020, at 12:58 PM, Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:

I was asking about the emails regarding a dog park in Florence Park, which seems to have some public support. Did you see those forwarded by Dan Natchez? Isn't the trial you referred to and that we addressed at the last meeting about walking leashed dogs? We didn't address off leash.

Emily

On Aug 1, 2020, at 11:49 AM, Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com> wrote:

I believe we should review the trial allowance of dogs in the parks first. There is some pushback regarding Columbus Park.

On Sat, Aug 1, 2020 at 9:13 AM Emily Marshall <emarshall564@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello, All.

So it seems there's a movement for a dog park in Florence Park. Is this going to be on the agenda for next week?

Thanks,

Emily

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daniel S. Natchez** <dannatchez@vomny.org>

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>

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

WilliamPitt

Re: Dogs Permitted in Florence Park

Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>

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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 <nluccas@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.

On Jul 31, 2020, at 4:43 PM, Kelly Wenstrup <kwenstrup@vomny.org> wrote:

Hillary,

I recognize your good intentions to be informative, but I believe you post misrepresents the state of things.

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

Also

The trustees will pass the Harbor Island but are resisting a trial for September until November for the other parks

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

comments in February or March prompted BOT to ask the Rec/Parks Commission to reach out to residents, but then Covid and reaching out to anyone ceased!

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,

Nora

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@me.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:35 PM

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

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

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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

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 7:50 AM
To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>
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

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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.)

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Goals and Objectives.....	6
Planning Process	
Overview.....	7
Input Process.....	8
Committees.....	9
Public Meetings.....	10
Survey.....	11
Best Practices Research.....	13
Existing Dog Park System Overview.....	14
Recommendations.....	23
Upgrading Existing Facilities.....	24
Improve Staffing / Enforcement / Education.....	29
Facilities and Services.....	32
Developing Partnerships.....	35

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 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

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:

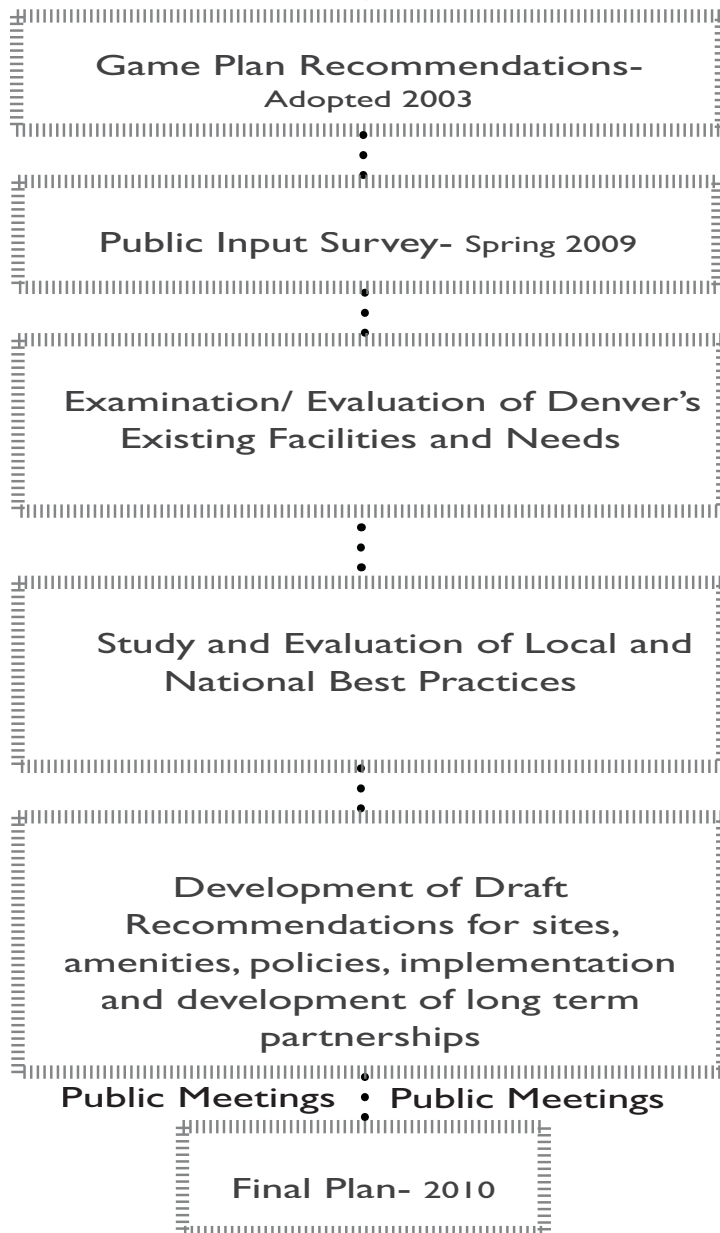
- The evaluation of current dog parks and consideration of possible spaces and solutions for future dog park facilities
- Design options and recommendations that are site specific
- Development of recommendations for more and for better city-wide enforcement of dog off-leash regulations
- Improvement 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.

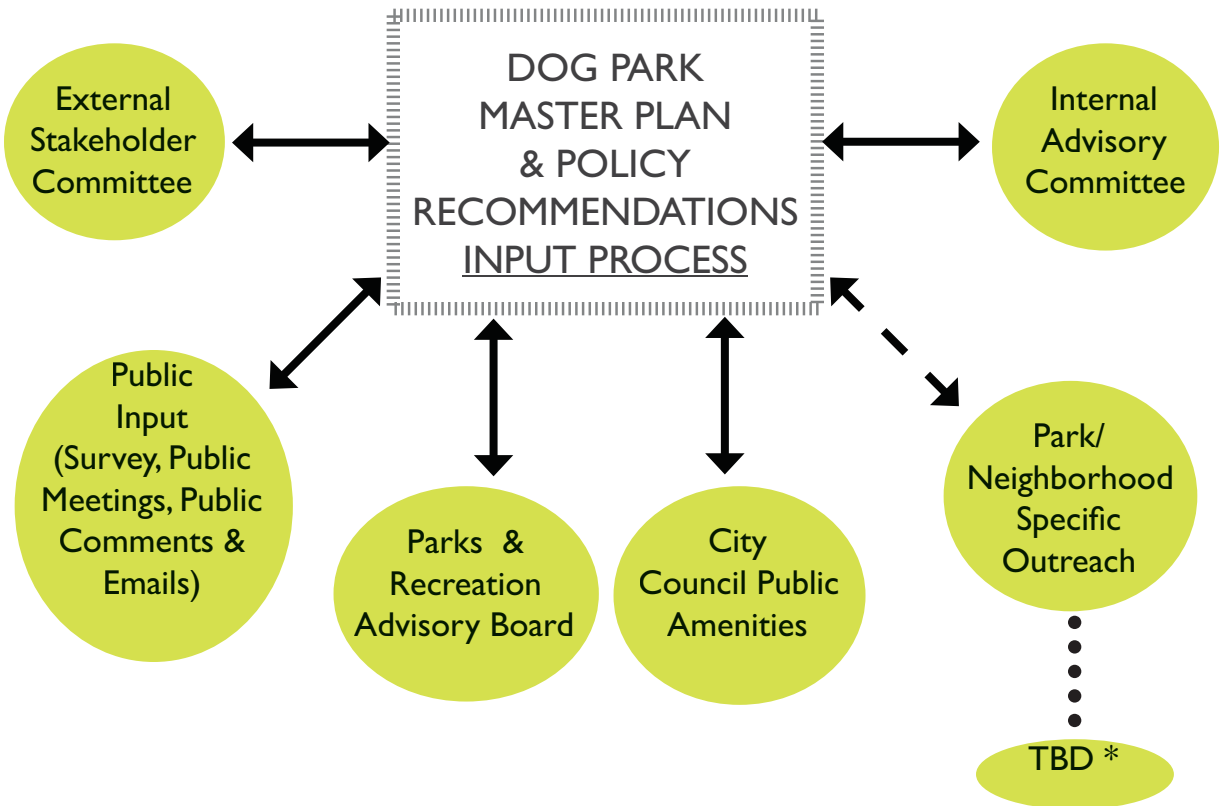
Master Plan Planning Process Overview



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 1 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.

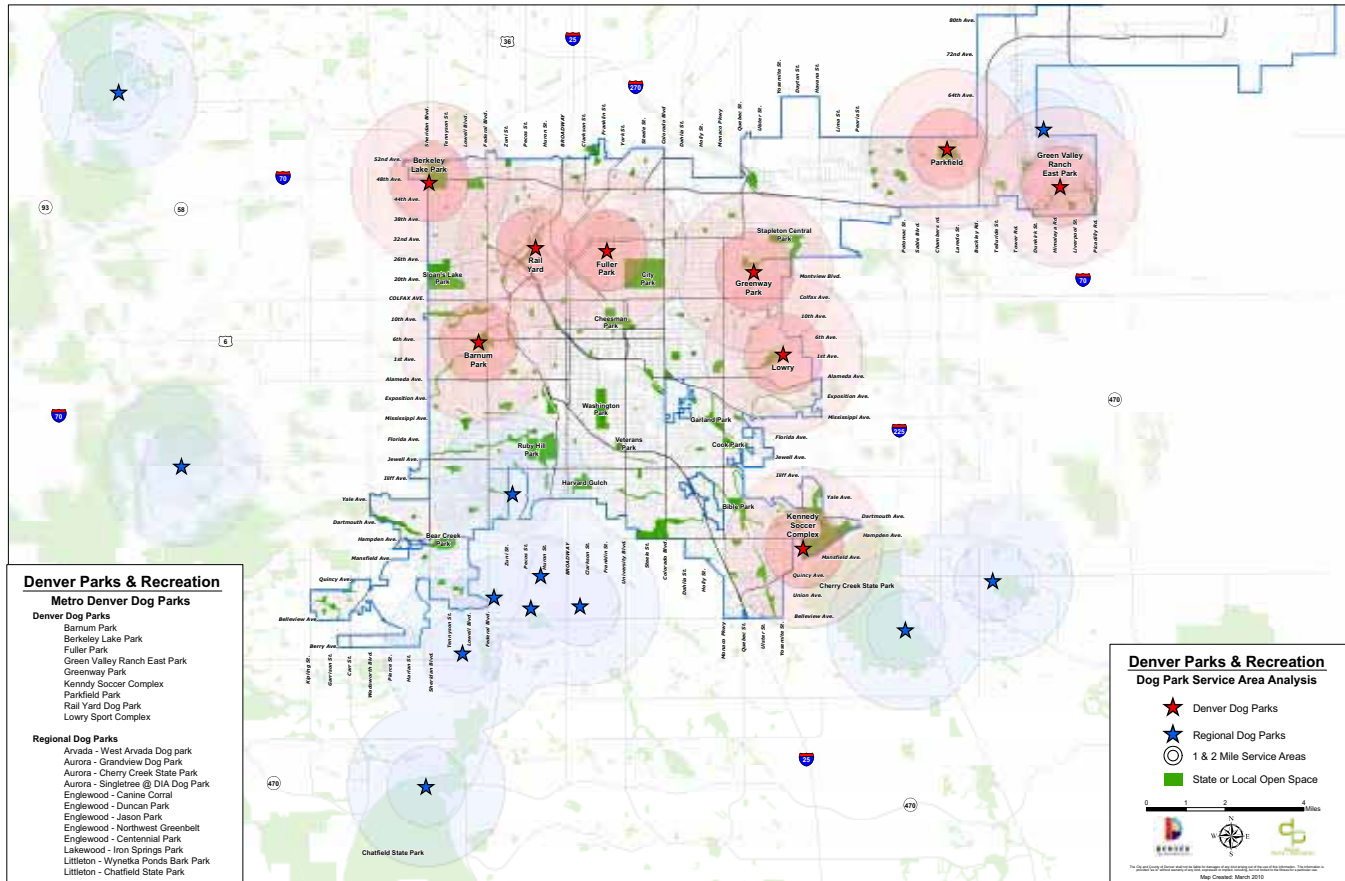
Vancouver, BC, Canada has 31 parks with off-leash locations. Use times and descriptions vary. There is a very strong education and training program on responsible dog ownership. They utilize radio and television advertisements.

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

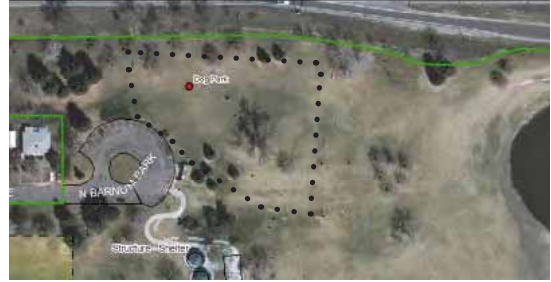
Existing Dog Park System Overview

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

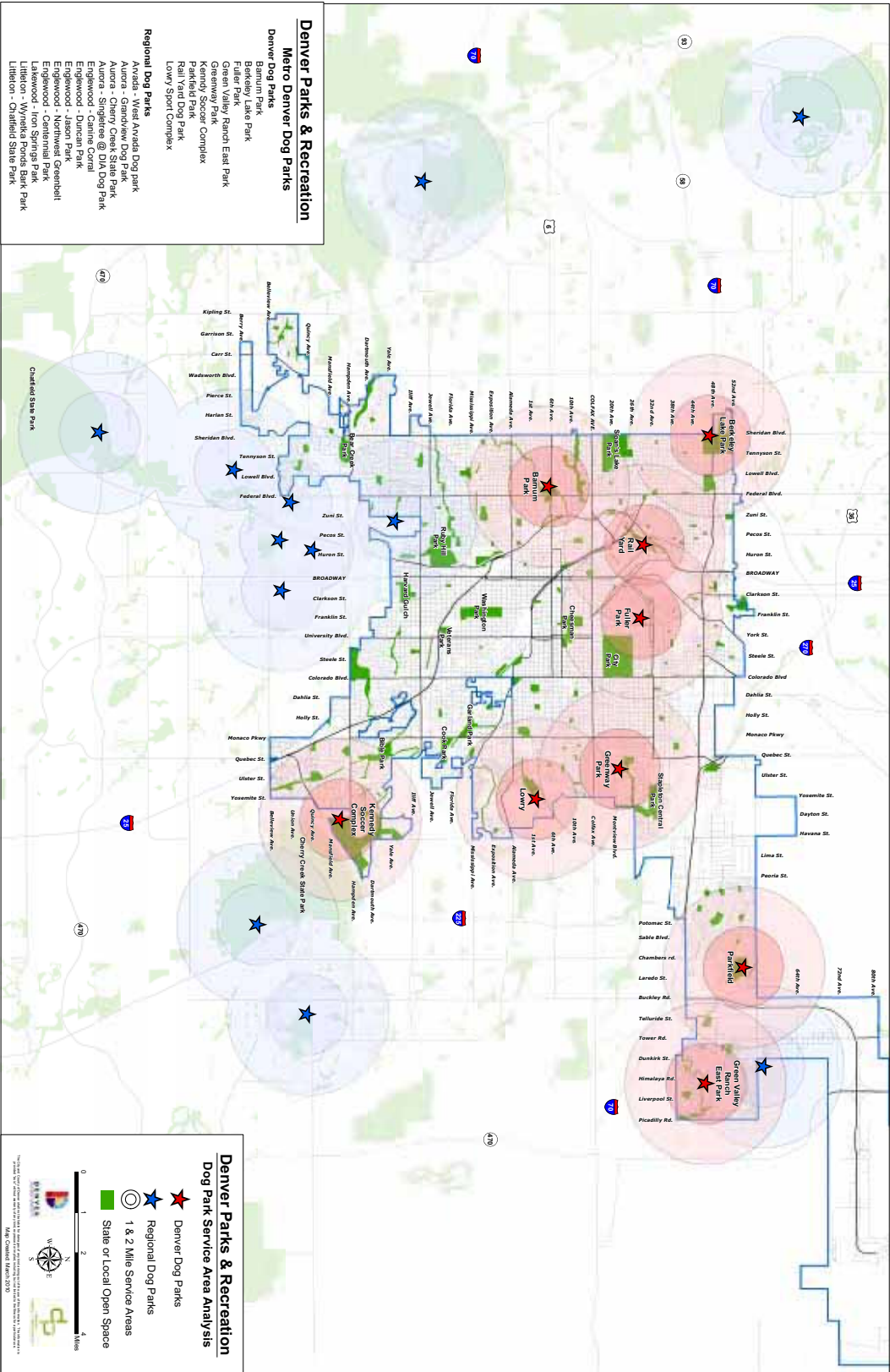
In neighborhoods with lower population density, such as Barnum, a two-mile service area radius for dog park facilities is recommended.

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

 **Railyard Dogpark**
DENVER PARKS & RECREATION

  **DRAFT Dog Park Master Plan & Policy Recommendations**

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 Montbello 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

parkfield lake park-phase III
MONTBELLO, DENVER, CO

DECEMBER 13, 2008

Appendix 4.



SCHEMATIC DESIGN
DESIGN WORKSHOP
APRIL 13TH

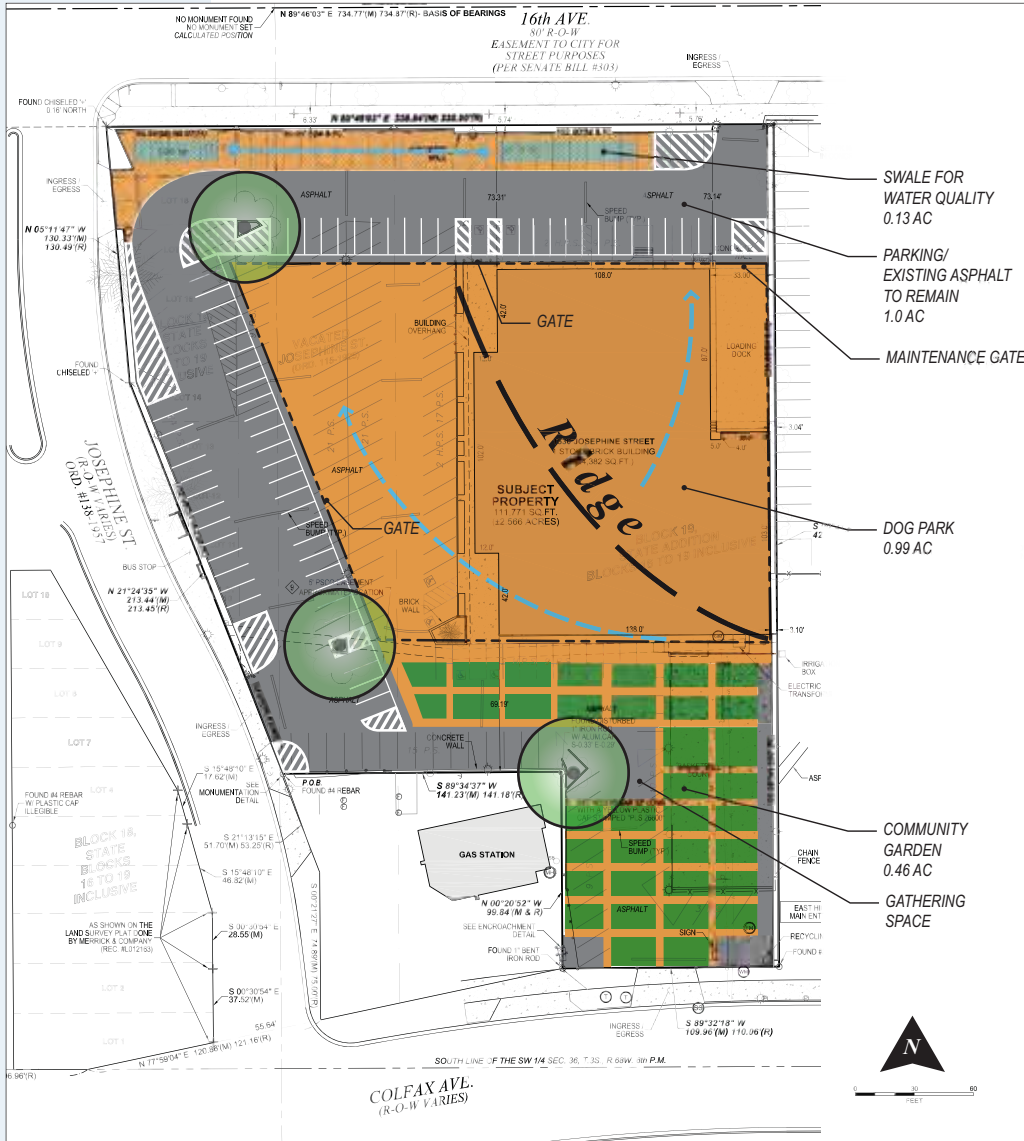
LOWRY EAST DOG PARK DENVER CO
LRA

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 Acres
	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
Henderson	240,614	5	2.1
St. Petersburg	248,098	5	2.0
Seattle	562,454	11	1.9
Colorado Springs	372,437	7	1.9
Austin	709,893	13	1.8
Anchorage/Anchorage Borough	278,700	4	1.4
Albuquerque	504,949	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
Longhorn	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

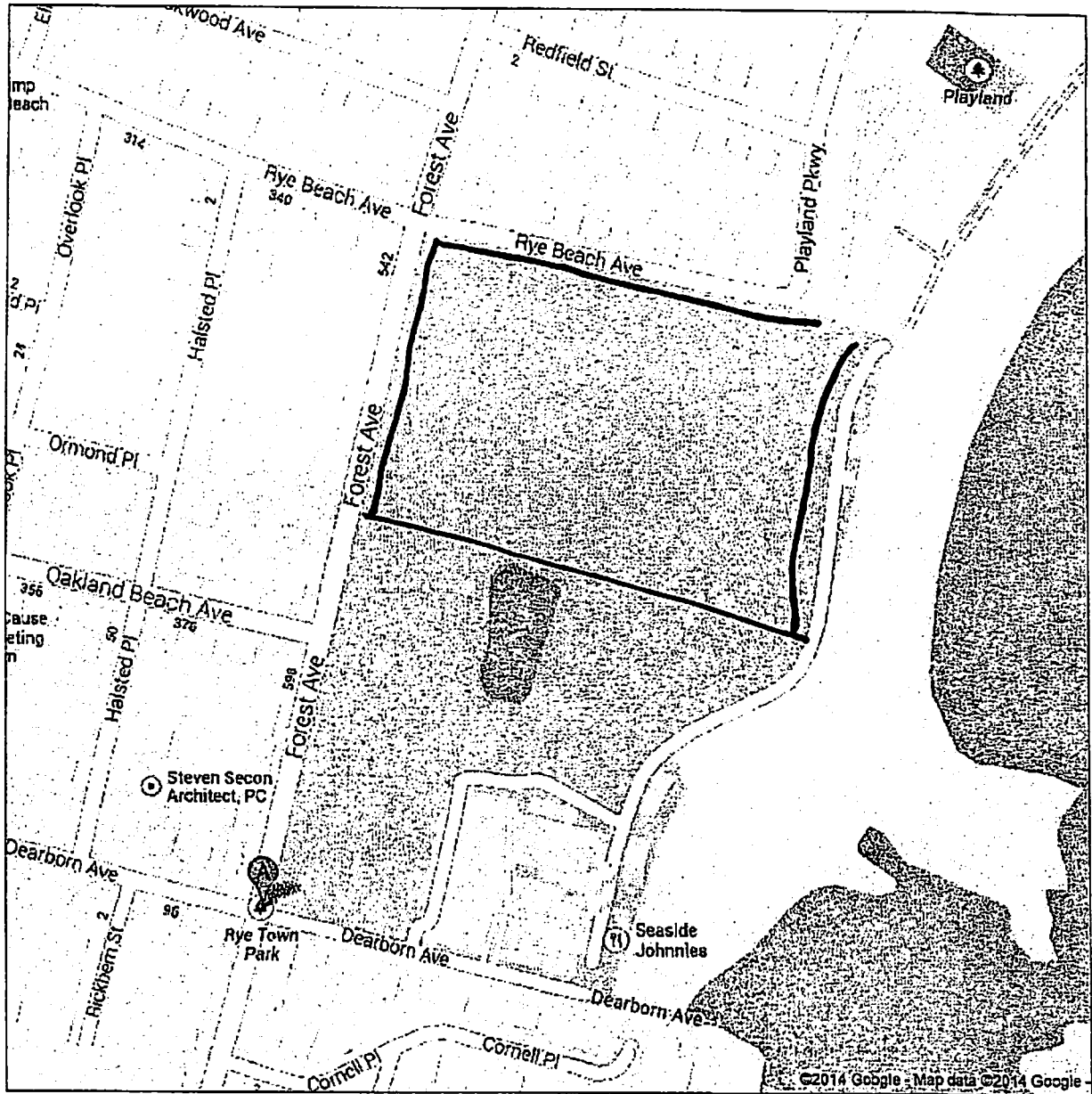
Signature of Owner

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

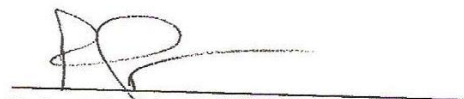
Thank you to the many Commissions, Committees, Organizations, and Town Department who took the time to hear us, engage with us, and provide your valuable opinions as we reviewed each site. This includes a special thanks to Councilman Wali Kadeem and the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee who 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

INDEX

Introduction	1
History - Parks & Recreation Committee	2
History - Stratford Dog Park Action Committee	4
Site Vetting Process	5
Public Forum & Correspondence Summary	7
Stratford Dog Park Action Committee Online Survey	11
Potential Dog Park Sites	12 - 36
Boothe Park	12
Great Meadows Park	20
Longbrook Park	23
Roosevelt Forest	29
Short Beach	33
Conclusion	37
Appendices	i - xv
Appendix A	
Town of Stratford Charter	
Chapter 152, Article III. Dog Park and Exercise Area	i
Appendix B	
Rules of the Stratford Dog Park	iii
Appendix C	
Connecticut State Statute Re; Liability	iv
Appendix D	
Vetting Spreadsheets	v - vii
Recommended Sites	v
Sites Not Recommended	vi

Appendix E	
Site Maps (Not To Scale)	viii - xii
Boothe Park	viii
Great Meadow Park	ix
Longbrook Park	x
Roosevelt Forest	xi
Short Beach	xii
Appendix F	
Town of Stratford Charter	
Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches	
Article IV. Great Meadows Park	xiii
Appendix G	xiv
Expert Opinion on Impact of Dog Parks on Wetlands Areas	
Appendix H	xv
Town of Stratford Charter	
Chapter 152. Parks and Beaches	
Article II. Recreational Areas	
§ 152-17 Dogs and other pets	

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

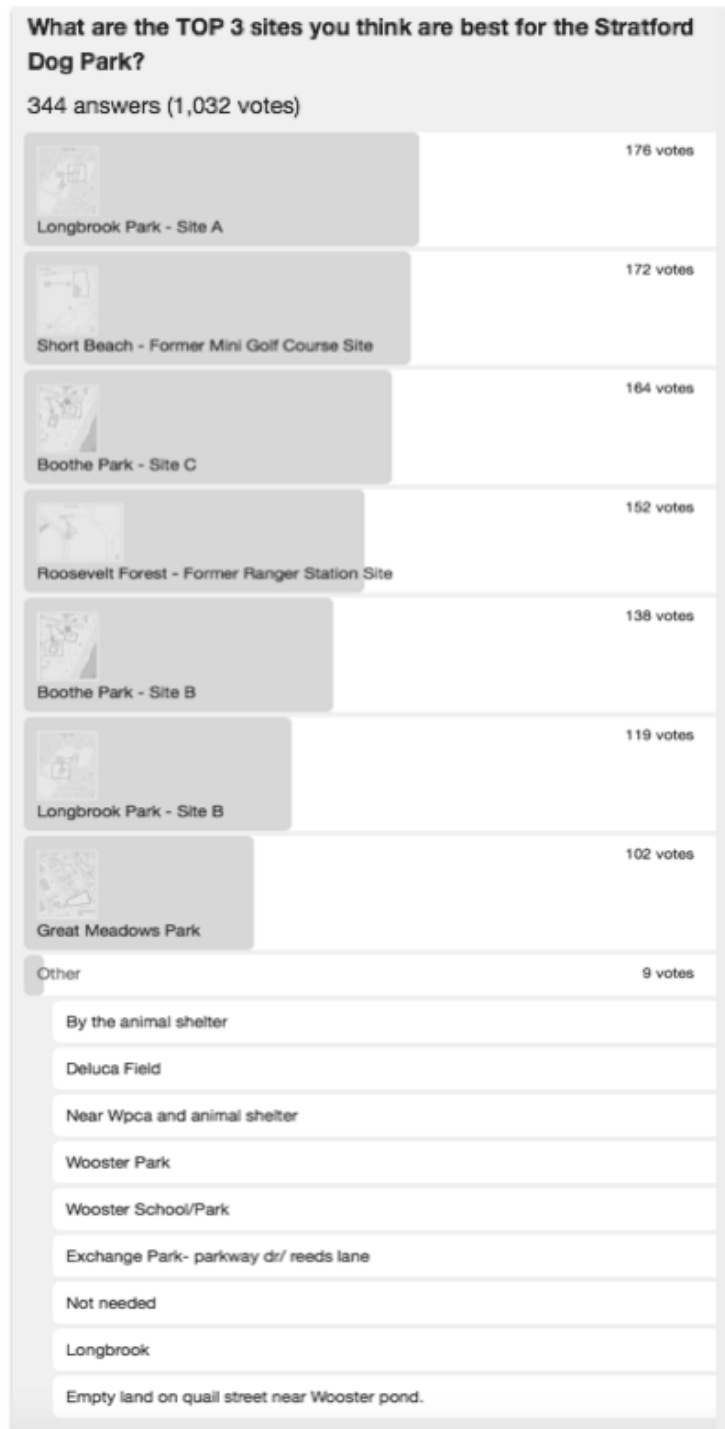
Thirty Five (35) AGAINST the sites in Longbrook Park
Five (5) FOR the sites in Longbrook Park

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.



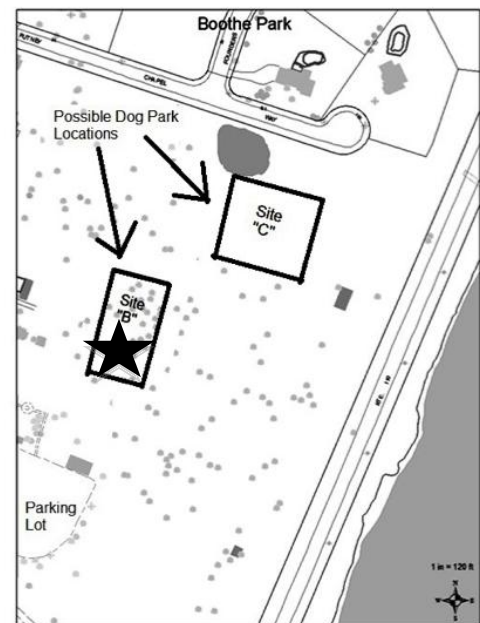
POTENTIAL DOG PARK SITES (A-Z Order)

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

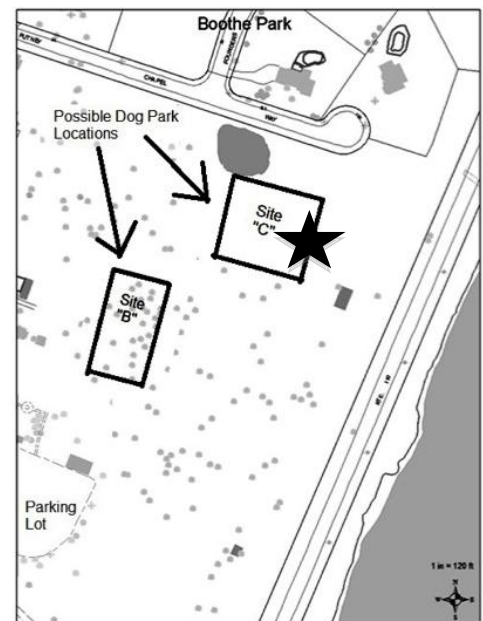
Threats

- 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:

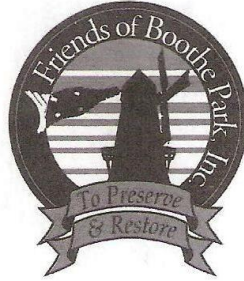
- Council Member J. Vincent Chase – in favor of a Dog Park in Stratford, but it should be more centrally located in town;

- 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.

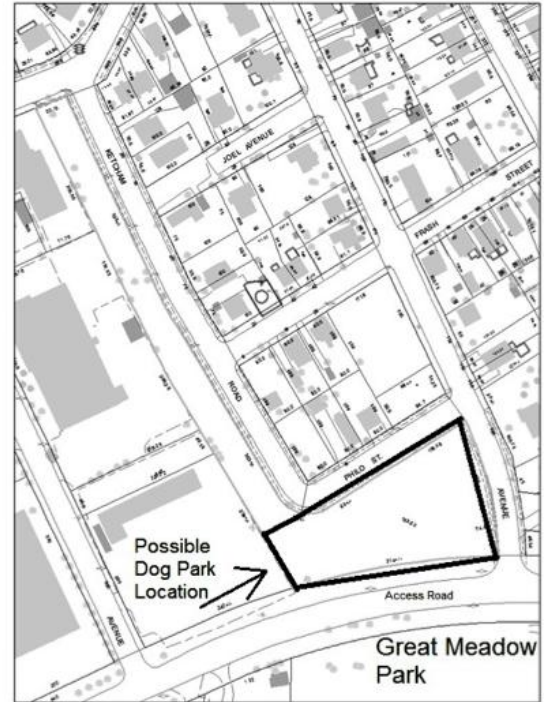
Kind regards,

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.

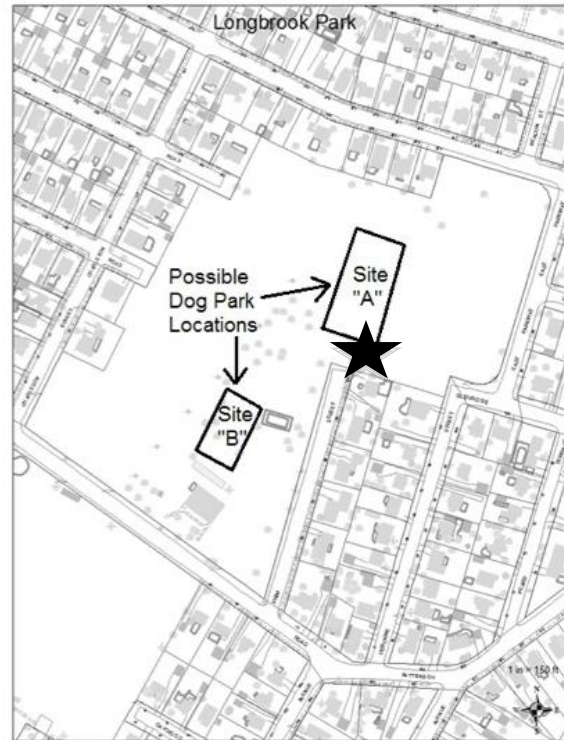
Mr. Rich gave an overview of the project stating the Subcommittee was reviewing and fully vetting out all possible locations. He stated that Great Meadows Park did meet the minimum requirements for consideration based on the background vetting questions, but since Great Meadows Park does not have a Park 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:

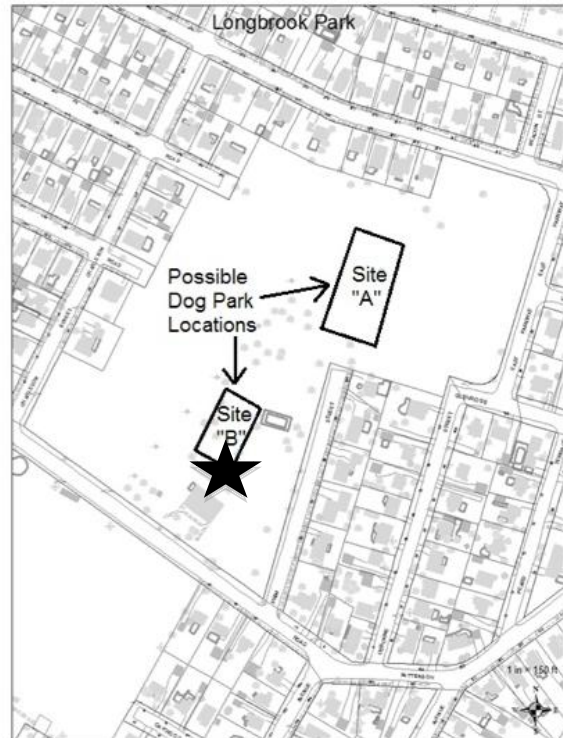
Longbrook Park A - SITE LOCATION – 2ND OPTION

- 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.

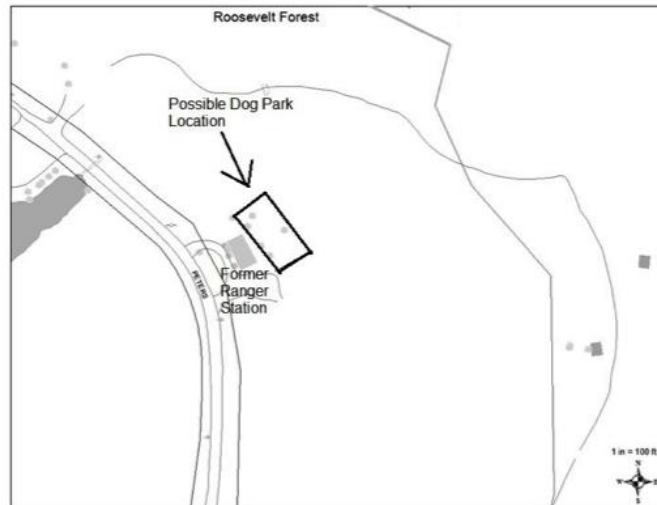
I hope this addresses your question. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

*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.

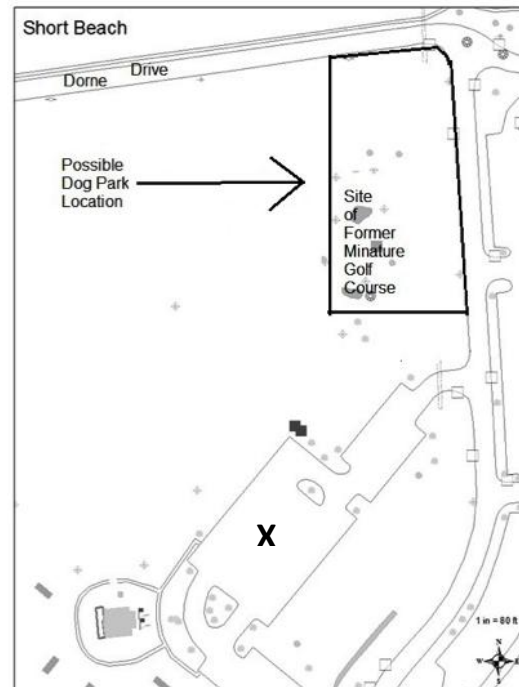
- Jim Brown – Yes
- Ellen Scerba-Carey – Yes
- Elaine Watson – No
- Ed Bitsco – Yes
- Bob David – Yes
- Bob Ford – Yes
- Frank Bevacqua – Yes
- Tina Manus – Yes
- Alan Llewelyn – No

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

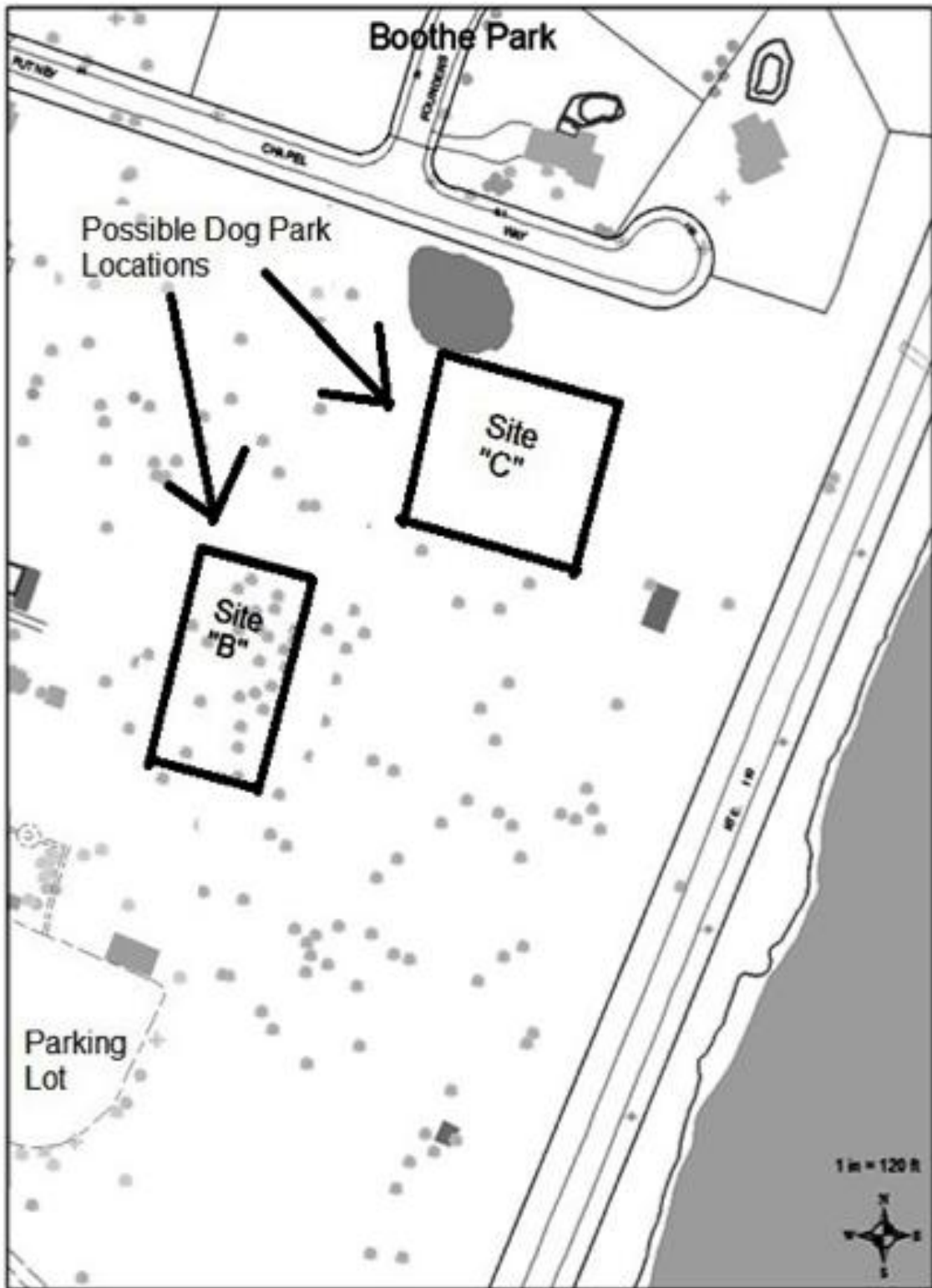
Page 1

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
Boothie Park "A"	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Friends of BP & HS	Not Voted On					Other Park Use: Rental Area
Boothie 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	
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	No	Shedding House	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None			N/A		No	\$8K		Size < 1 Acre
Stedling House Park "B"	No	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	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

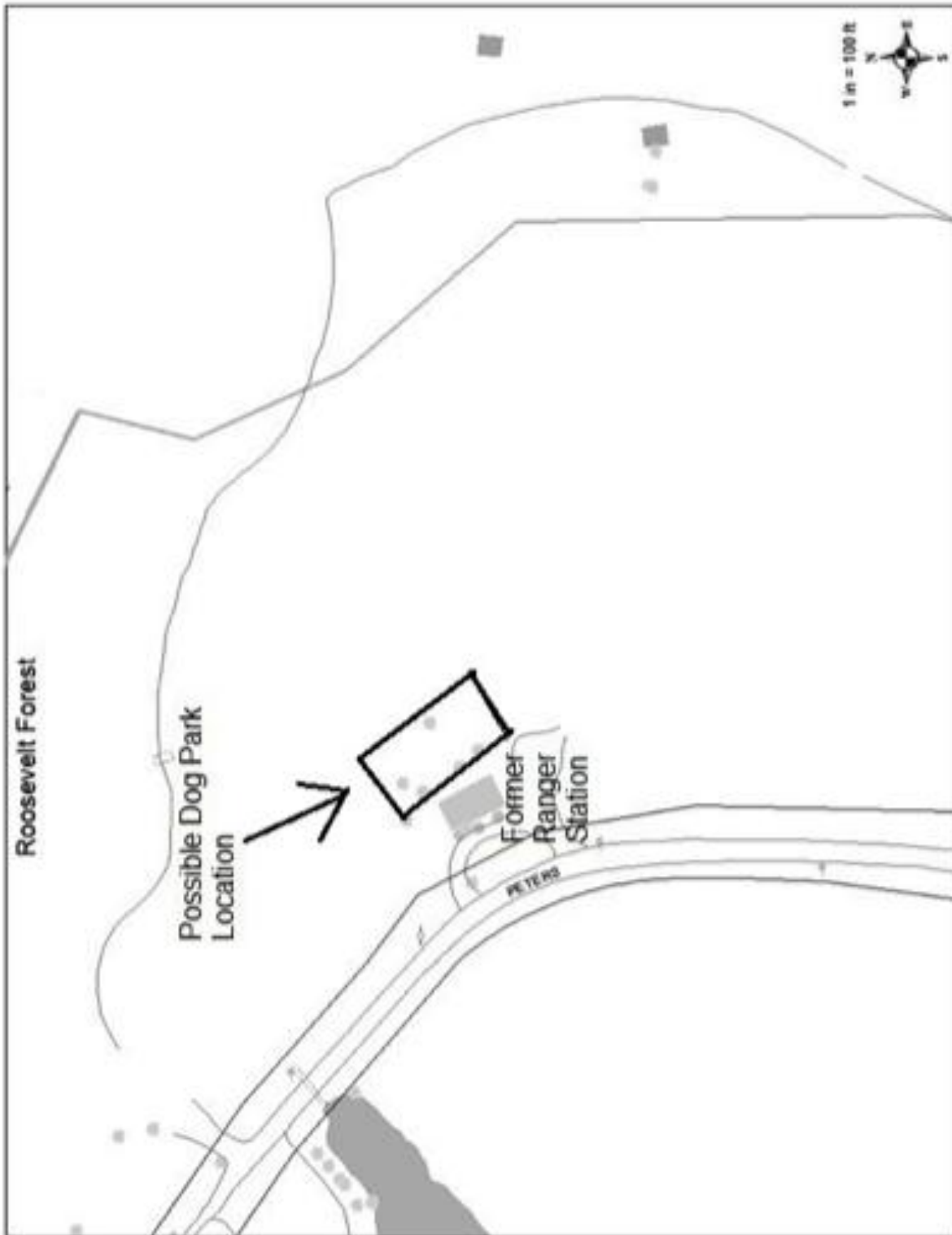
Appendix E1



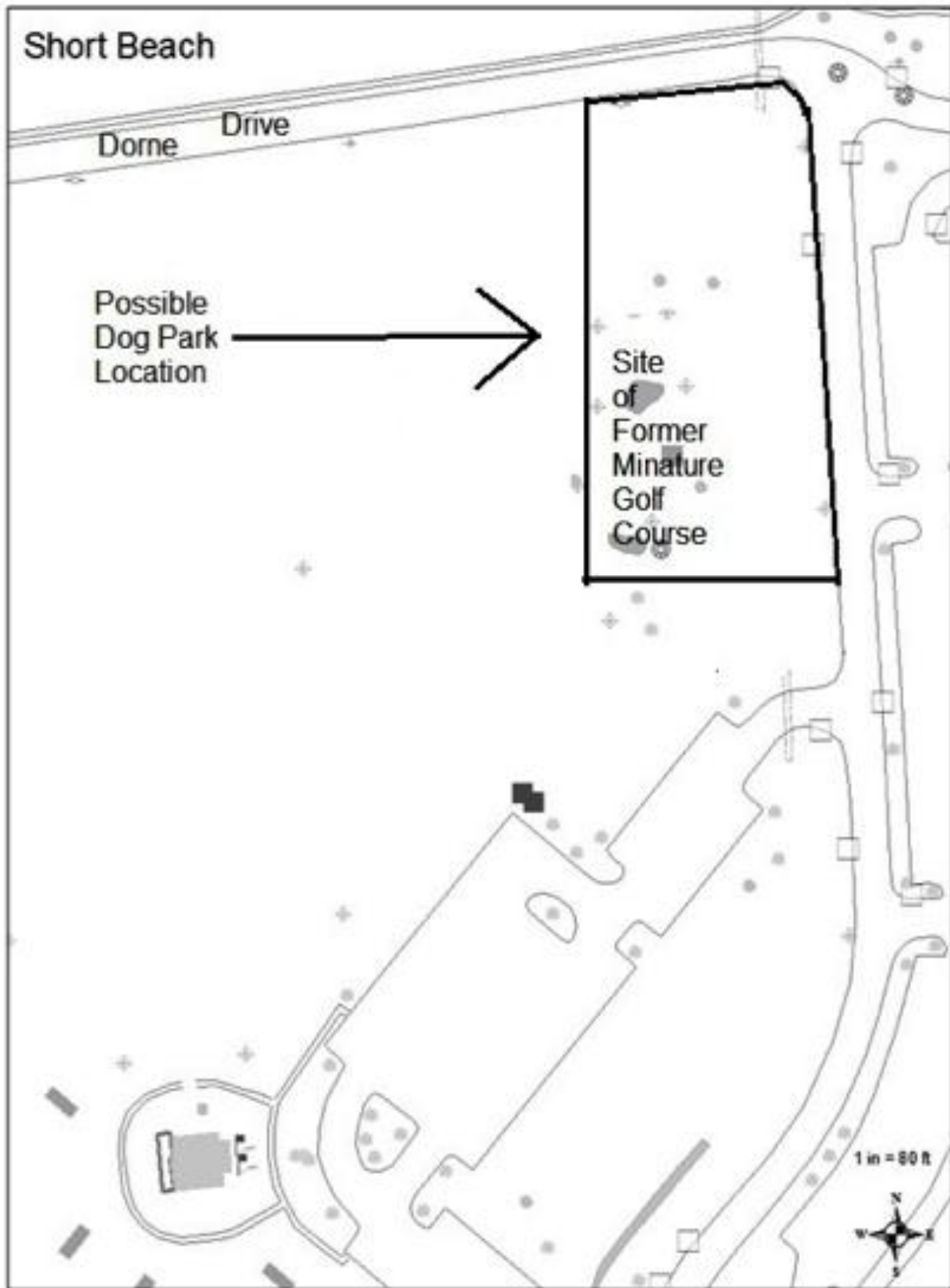
Appendix E2



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.

© *Dog-On-It-Parks, Inc, 2010*
(Revised 2012)

ORIENTA POINT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 365 Mamaroneck, New York 10543
Email: www.orientapoint.org

September 26, 2022

Dear Mayor and Board of Trustees,

The **Orienta** Point Association has recently learned of the Village's interest in setting up a dog park on Rushmore Avenue in Mamaroneck. We understand that an ad hoc committee has been established to make recommendations to the board for this project. We are quite surprised that the Village has undertaken a study of this project in our community, yet we have not been contacted to participate in the study, let alone provide community members who could serve on this committee. There are a number of factors which we feel will have a negative impact on our community: lack of parking, lack of appropriate space for the dogs to run, (Based on the amount required for both large and small dogs.) a discussion about the cost to establish and maintain the park, the cost to police and monitor the park, would the dog park be for Mamaroneck residents only and how would that be monitored, what fees if any that would be charged to maintain it, the effect of the noise on the residents, and the smell which could emanate from the dog park. Further we understand that this project would require HCZM approval for consistency. (We assume that this was vetted by HCZM previously for the other location.)

It should be noted that the original dog park was discussed to be put at the Stanley Avenue Park and later was also discussed to be placed along Boston Post Road near the sewer treatment plant. As we at the OPA knew, the placement by the sewer treatment plant was agreed upon as the final destination. When did this change and once again, why was the OPA excluded from the process?

Before any decisions should be made, all of these other options and concerns should be discussed and vetted.

Further, the OPA has been working with the REC department and HIC to redesign and renovate the long-awaited existing playground on Rushmore Avenue. This process began pre covid and was stalled as a result of the pandemic. It has been brought to the forefront again this year with great enthusiasm from our community and Board members of the OPA. This will clearly need to be considered when choosing the location of the dog park.

This letter is in addition to and supports the letter sent by one of our residents, Mr. Bob Heiss regarding this matter. We plan to share this with all the residents of OPA for their input as well.

We at the OPA believe this project needs more research and would like to insist we as a neighborhood organization be included in this process. We respectfully request a "Seat at the table" as this most definitely impacts our neighborhood. Also, the following committees need to be brought into this process: the Harbor Island Conservancy, and the Recreation/Parks Department.

Kind regards,



George Mgrditchian, President
Orienta Point Association

CC: Executive Board, Board members, HIC

Re: The role of a dog park committee member

Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Thu 9/29/2022 2:29 PM

To: Hillary Short <Hillary_short@mac.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Manny Rawlings <manny.rawlings@gmail.com>

Again writing your a quick response since I'm working...

You really need to get your information from a more accurate source.

If you take some time to watch the work session you may learn that Nora is NOT creating this committee.

A board liaison to any committee is there to offer guidance if the committee needs it. She has not been leading the committee nor should any trustee be leading it.

I am welcome to Randi correcting my information if I am wrong. We do miss you Randi!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:20 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>

> Hi Nora

>

> I understand you are forming a brand new dog park committee with 9 members in October. That as an ad hoc committee the role is to do the research, make recommendations to the parks and Rec committee but the dog park committee has zero authority. Then the parks and Rec committee take that recommendations and form the ultimate recommendation to the board.

>

> It all sounds long winded and too many stages of communication. Which have currently been mishandled by you as the liaison. I hope at this point somebody at the top of the chain of command can take control by the reigns and lead this dog park in the correct direction.

>

> As a village resident similar to all we have a right to be fully informed on village matters. I have included Randi on this as she always gives solid advice and understands the process.

>

> I do hope Manny Rawlings is a trustee in December and finally steer the parks and recs in a good direction for all.

>

> Best

>

> Hillary Short

Re: The role of a dog park committee member

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Thu 9/29/2022 2:44 PM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Manny Rawlings <manny.rawlings@gmail.com>

That's what I thought. I was on the Arts Council for 3 months and the liaison was the trustee who reported back to the board. I was wondering if the ad hoc dog park meeting is online or where are the minutes.

The reason why I keep including the board and now Randi is because I don't see how the dog park is working effectively. For example Tina did you know I brought residents to the board meetings to speak in support of the dog park progressing? Why if you don't know the work that has been going on to support this and how can you be kept in touch with everything. Also where is the full review as to why the harbor island site is now off the table? Will there be a committee walk done during peak soccer times. And a review done of the fields. We are all here to help. Apparently Nora says the board received 40 emails from residents recently. When will they be put up on line. Also the full reason for not considering the sewage treatment location.

I see Stuart Tiekert posting on my Nextdoor post that there has been no transparency in the village about the dog park. Although he is in favor. He also says the fob wouldn't be allowed because the park is funded federally.

> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:29 PM, Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net> wrote:

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> You really need to get your information from a more accurate source.

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>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

Re: The dog park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Thu 9/29/2022 2:47 PM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>

I forwarded it to her. Thanks

> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:22 PM, Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net> wrote:

>

> I've added Liz to this email since you must have forgotten to cc her.

>

> I don't have time to respond to this right now. You are sadly misinformed. I will try my best to get back to you this evening after work and after attending back to school night for my children if I'm not too tired by then.

>

> Tina

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Sep 29, 2022, at 11:13 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hi everyone

>>

>> I just had a lengthy conversation with Elizabeth on the dog committee. There are 3 committee members who joined this committee to help meet the public's need by locating and providing a dog park. Their frustration is what we commonly here so often around here is that when young volunteers join these committees they don't feel as if the issues are moved forward they keep facing obstacles from others on the committee.

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>> I filled Elizabeth in that Nora is fully aware that Suzi Oppenheimer came to a meeting and said we would find a way to finance this. The committee wasn't made aware of this. The space was fully decided upon by the sewage treatment center. With the entrance to the dog park aligning with the parking lot. So nobody understands the messaging that dogs will be running across BPR. Our village manager invested a lot of time and energy on this committee to get it right and now he isn't at the meetings but Jason Pinto is who isn't enthusiastic about problem solving to get the park done. Also there are 3 committee members on the committee that aren't moving this forward. They called a meeting after a year this week and completely confused the 3 pro dog park committee members about moving the location to a site that would never pass. The dog park committee has never done a walk through when the soccer games are in session to review if the games are problematic to the park. These are all not good findings. I suggest putting residents on this committee (I have applied and so will Rachel Kasper) who will work hard to make sure the public gets their dog park. I suggested

to Elizabeth that we need a map of the whole village to see where there is an acre of land with water.

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>>

>> Thank you for being true public servants Tom and Lou.

>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

Re: The dog park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Thu 9/29/2022 5:22 PM

To: Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>

Cc: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>; Marisa Inzucchi <marisa.inzucchi@gmail.com>

Thanks Liz. Looking forward to the whole village being kept up to date about this process moving forward. I don't think an annual meeting will produce a dog park. Also it would be good to see an agenda and the minutes provided so our community can be updated. A Facebook page allocated for those interested would be useful. Which neighborhoods are you specifically looking for members from to help allocate a space? Also has a map of the village been produced with grassy areas over an acre big with water been looked at for a location?

As this has been going on for 10 years I highly suspect this community will not be getting a dog park. It is a shame because our village manager has experience building them.

> On Sep 29, 2022, at 5:09 PM, Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Hillary

>

> Regretfully, we no longer have the consensus we need from among our partners and stakeholders in the community to make an immediate decision with respect to the location for the dog park in our village. As such, we have been informed that our dog park sub-committee will be expanded to better reflect the interests of our community members. We look forward to working alongside our new ad hoc dog park sub-committee members to identify the most suitable location for our village dog park with all due haste.

>

> Best

> Elizabeth Yong

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> Sent from my iPhone

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>>>> Thank you for being true public servants Tom and Lou.

>>>> Best

>>>> Hillary Short

Re: The role of a dog park committee member

Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>

Thu 9/29/2022 4:30 PM

To: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Cc: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Randi Robinowitz <randi10543@gmail.com>; Manny Rawlings <manny.rawlings@gmail.com>

Dear Hillary

You make a good point that our dog park dossier needs to be updated with material to reflect correspondence from the community. This has also been raised by other community members and I'm sure it will be updated in due course.

An announcement will come from the village to solicit for additional members to the ad-hoc dog park sub-committee. Please look out for it, consider applying, and/ or share it with others who would be interested.

I had a good conversation with Nora and the good news is that the ad-hoc dog park sub-committee will take a fresh look together at potential dog park locations, both new ones as well as ones we had considered before. We also welcome suggestions from community members. We look forward to working with our new sub-committee members with all due haste.

Best

Elizabeth Yong

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:44 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

> That's what I thought. I was on the Arts Council for 3 months and the liaison was the trustee who reported back to the board. I was wondering if the ad hoc dog park meeting is online or where are the minutes.

>

> The reason why I keep including the board and now Randi is because I don't see how the dog park is working effectively. For example Tina did you know I brought residents to the board meetings to speak in support of the dog park progressing? Why if you don't know the work that has been going on to support this and how can you be kept in touch with everything. Also where is the full review as to why the harbor island site is now off the table? Will there be a committee walk done during peak soccer times. And a review done of the fields. We are all here to help. Apparently Nora says the board received 40 emails from residents recently. When will they be put up on line. Also the full reason for not considering the sewage treatment location.

>

> I see Stuart Tiekert posting on my Nextdoor post that there has been no transparency in the village about the dog park. Although he is in favor. He also says the fob wouldn't be allowed because the park is funded federally.

>

>> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:29 PM, Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net> wrote:

>> Again writing your a quick response since I'm working...

>> You really need to get your information from a more accurate source.

>>

>> If you take some time to watch the work session you may learn that Nora is NOT creating this committee.

>>

>> A board liaison to any committee is there to offer guidance if the committee needs it. She has not been leading the committee nor should any trustee be leading it.

>>

>> I am welcome to Randi correcting my information if I am wrong. We do miss you Randi!

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>> On Sep 29, 2022, at 2:20 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>>> Hi Nora

>>> I understand you are forming a brand new dog park committee with 9 members in October. That as an ad hoc committee the role is to do the research, make recommendations to the parks and Rec committee but the dog park committee has zero authority. Then the parks and Rec committee take that recommendations and form the ultimate recommendation to the board.

>>> It all sounds long winded and too many stages of communication. Which have currently been mishandled by you as the liaison. I hope at this point somebody at the top of the chain of command can take control by the reigns and lead this dog park in the correct direction.

>>> As a village resident similar to all we have a right to be fully informed on village matters. I have included Randi on this as she always gives solid advice and understands the process.

>>> I do hope Manny Rawlings is a trustee in December and finally steer the parks and recs in a good direction for all.

>>> Best

>>> Hillary Short

Re: The dog park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Thu 9/29/2022 8:27 PM

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

Cc: Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; **Mayor and Board** <**mayorandboard@vomny.org**>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; **Rec&Parks** <**Rec&Parks@vomny.org**>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>; Marisa Inzucchi <marisa.inzucchi@gmail.com>

Thank you Tom for not shutting that door. During the meeting Tina kept referring to the email from Dan Margoshe to the board as to why this location wasn't suitable any longer when will his email be made public so that all members of the public can view his reasoning and decide for ourselves whether it is a strong enough argument. I know Dan well and have had lots of discussions in the last year about the dog park coming to the harbor. Many of us in the dog community discussed havnt t shirts designed in support of a dog park and coming en masse to the meeting. When are we expecting this ad hoc committee to be formed that ultimately will have no power but just a suggestion again to the park and recs committee who can decline it a year later and recommend a non feasible option. I wish our government was run how the British Parliament is run and everyone was more direct and argued this all out until there was a resolution instead of keep kicking the can down the road.

Best

Hillary Short

On Sep 29, 2022, at 7:25 PM, Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org> wrote:

Thank you Liz!

I just want to clarify that the original site is not off the table and change depends upon a demonstrably better site being located.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

On Sep 29, 2022, at 5:09 PM, Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com> wrote:

Dear Hillary

Regretfully, we no longer have the consensus we need from among our partners and stakeholders in the community to make an immediate decision with respect to the location for the dog park in our village. As such, we have been informed that our dog park sub-committee will be expanded to better reflect the interests of our community members. We look forward to working alongside our new ad hoc dog park sub-committee members to identify the most suitable location for our village dog park with all due haste.

Best
Elizabeth Yong

Sent from my iPhone

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Tina

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 29, 2022, at 11:13 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

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committee.

I filled Elizabeth in that Nora is fully aware that Suzi Oppenheimer came to a meeting and said we would find a way to finance this. The committee wasn't made aware of this. The space was fully decided upon by the sewage treatment center. With the entrance to the dog park aligning with the parking lot. So nobody understands the messaging that dogs will be running across BPR. Our village manager invested a lot of time and energy on this committee to get it right and now he isn't at the meetings but Jason Pinto is who isn't enthusiastic about problem solving to get the park done. Also there are 3 committee members on the committee that aren't moving this forward. They called a meeting after a year this week and completely confused the 3 pro dog park committee members about moving the location to a site that would never pass. The dog park committee has never done a walk through when the soccer games are in session to review if the games are problematic to the park. These are all not good findings. I suggest putting residents on this committee (I have applied and so will Rachel Kasper) who will work hard to make sure the public gets their dog park. I suggested to Elizabeth that we need a map of the whole village to see where there is an acre of land with water.

I sent Elizabeth the meeting from Tuesday where the Mayor gave great info for the committee to move forward. As Nora feels it is below her to communicate with me because I call her out on her lack of interest in providing residents with a dog park, I hope the Mayor and trustee Young will keep communicating with us. And that we can soon see the pros and cons emails from the public regarding a dog park.

Thank you for being true public servants Tom and Lou.

Best

Hillary Short

The Dog Park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sat 10/1/2022 7:29 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Hi Tom

Could I humbly suggest that the ad hoc dog park is formed after the election because we will have a better understanding of who will be on the board and their support of this endeavor.

I understand Nora contacted folks on the ad hoc tennis / recreation committee to reform that Kelly was instrumental in putting together. Nora was told to wait until after the elections.

As many of us don't understand that the only role of the ad hoc dog park is to find a location and the decision then goes to parks and Rec. When the new board decides who goes on any of these 3 committees could you please ensure that the volunteers primary purpose is support every residents wishes for progress.

I understand from a long time resident that Donna Dickerson who works for the village attempted getting a dog park together 12 years ago. When new wishes are brought to the committees why doesn't anyone pull up the volunteers hard work from the past? I saw this also on the arts council committee. New members were bringing old ideas to the table thinking they were original thoughts.

Looking forward to a reshuffle on the board and committees with fresh faces etc. I hope an affordable housing board will also be formed.

Best

Hillary Short

Re: Dog Park Vote

stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 7:37 AM

To: Rec&Parks <rec&parks@vomny.org>

Dear Chair and Members of the Recreation Committee

I am writing because I have read the Chair's 9/22/22 email to the BOT as well as reviewing the maps of the other proposed sites.

My general comment is that I hope the Committee will continue to look for alternative sites in the Village remembering to consider smaller sites because I don't believe there is any reason that the large and small dog parks have to be in the same location.

Specifically:

West Basin site -

- I don't understand why it would be sited in the middle of the open area, breaking up the large green space at its most level point in an area where I regularly observe small children soccer groups playing on the weekends.
- I walked from the nearest parking space in the West Basin, around the seawall and it took me nine and a half minutes to get to where dog park entrance would be. It is close to a half mile walk. I don't think ten minutes is considered a "short" walk. BTW, walking over I observed three people fishing from the sea wall and two people smoking on benches.
- Why not consider tucking it in the south end of the field between the walking paths

Greenhaven Road site -

Unless the Village is going to mostly clear cut another acre of mature native trees, put in parking area and do a lot of site work this is not a great site.

Alternatives -

There is a large, flat area behind the Parks garages in HIP that could be utilized for large dogs and easily accessible from the west basin parking area. The east end of Bub Walker Park would be suitable for small dogs if the long abandoned bocce court was removed.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

On Monday, September 19, 2022 at 02:14:46 PM EDT, stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Chair and Members of the Recreation Committee,

I am writing because I see that the only thing on your agenda for Tuesday night's meeting is a discussion and possible vote on the Harbor Island Dog Park.

I am in favor of a dog park in the Village but the devil is always in the details. What I don't see on your agenda or previous agenda is any back-up that will inform your discussion and vote.

The BOT has appropriated \$115,000 for the dog park, including \$20,000 for "engineering design" costs.

Given the \$20,000 appropriated for design it seems reasonable to expect that prior to committees voting that a plan for the work would be made available.

Additionally, I hope you will ask your liaison whether a dog park will require the [alienation of the area](#) and whether under the terms of the federal grant money received for HIP whether the Village can restrict the use of the dog park to residents.

I hope the Committee will consider requesting the above information before voting on this matter.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

Re: The Dog Park

Reca, Carlo <CReca@vomny.net>

Mon 10/3/2022 8:10 AM

To: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Morning,

Hopefully everyone had a nice weekend. The VOM community has been talking about a dog park area for many years and nothing has happened for many reasons. In my opinion there are 4 potential area solutions.

1-Rushmore Ave

2-Taylor's Lane

3-Florence Park

In the above 3 potential sites we always have to consider that neighbors will not want it in their backyard (NIMBY). We may want to consider what Rye has done for their dog park which is to open our beach area. This is an easy solution and less costly than building a new area. Please see information below from Rye Town site.

When can I walk my dog on the Rye Town beaches?

You can walk your dog before 9:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. from the Saturday before Memorial Day until the Saturday following Labor Day. (At other times of the year these hourly restrictions do not apply.)

- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Waste must be picked up immediately and taken with you upon leaving.

Everyone have a great week and Stay Well!

Carlo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 7:29:20 PM

To: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Subject: The Dog Park

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Best

Hillary Short

Re: The dog park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 10:56 AM

To: Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>

Cc: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Elizabeth Yong <lizping@mac.com>

I know you are a dedicated employee. And have spoken to you about supporting your great ideas for the village. Glad to hear you are proactive about finally getting a dog park for the community. Let's hope the public can be better informed as to why the sewage plant sight has now become problematic. I have observed the village manager at board meetings discussing the fencing and having found it etc. my experience at trustee meetings were an engaged village manager. Happy to hear you are also on board with this endeavor. It is a tough one to get sorted.

Best

Hillary Short

P.S. I love the idea about the beach being officially dog friendly for the winter

> On Oct 3, 2022, at 10:34 AM, Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org> wrote:

>

> Good Morning Hillary,

>

> I have been away on vacation, but I would like to correct the record on a comment you made in the below email (copied the text below).

>

> "Our village manager invested a lot of time and energy on this committee to get it right and now he isn't at the meetings but Jason Pinto is who isn't enthusiastic about problem solving to get the park done."

>

> This statement could not be more factually inaccurate. As a dedicated employee of the Village for the last seven years, I have gone above and beyond expectations to perform my duties for our residents. I would encourage you to ask anyone who has worked with me about my willingness to problem solve and create solutions. I believe most people you will encounter regarding my dedication will convey nothing but positive experiences in working with me; this includes working to make the dog park a reality for the community. My entire professional career has been devoted to this Village and its residents. I would appreciate you not making inaccurate and false statements regarding meetings that you have never attended, including mentioning my name or any other member of my staff in your emails. Our goal as a department is to create a dog park which will be enjoyed by the entire community. Spreading mistruths to our elected officials, Village management, volunteers, and residents is not helpful towards achieving that goal.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Jason Pinto
> Superintendent of Recreation
> Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation
>
> Phone: 914-777-7784
> Email: jpinto@vomny.org
>
> Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion
> Harbor Island Park
> Mamaroneck, NY 10543
>
> www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/parks-recreation

>
>
> Online Registration: vomrec.recdesk.com
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>
> Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:14 AM
> To: Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>
> Subject: The dog park

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> Best

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> Hillary Short

Re: The Dog Park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 11:19 AM

To: Reca, Carlo <CReca@vomny.net>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Thanks for your input. Yes dogs on the beach in the winter would be great. Maybe only at certain times? Even though I am not sure in the dead of winter anyone is on there except the dog folks (unofficially).

On Oct 3, 2022, at 8:10 AM, Reca, Carlo <CReca@vomny.net> wrote:

Morning,

Hopefully everyone had a nice weekend. The VOM community has been talking about a dog park area for many years and nothing has happened for many reasons. In my opinion there are 4 potential area solutions.

1-Rushmore Ave

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In the above 3 potential sites we always have to consider that neighbors will not want it in their backyard (NIMBY). We may want to consider what Rye has done for their dog park which is to open our beach area. This is an easy solution and less costly than building a new area. Please see information below from Rye Town site.

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- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Waste must be picked up immediately and taken with you upon leaving.

Everyone have a great week and Stay Well!

Carlo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 7:29:20 PM

To: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Subject: The Dog Park

Hi Tom

Could I humbly suggest that the ad hoc dog park is formed after the election because we will have a better understanding of who will be on the board and their support of this endeavor.

I understand Nora contacted folks on the ad hoc tennis / recreation committee to reform that Kelly was instrumental in putting together. Nora was told to wait until after the elections.

As many of us don't understand that the only role of the ad hoc dog park is to find a location and the decision then goes to parks and Rec. When the new board decides who goes on any of these 3 committees could you please ensure that the volunteers primary purpose is support every residents wishes for progress.

I understand from a long time resident that Donna Dickerson who works for the village attempted getting a dog park together 12 years ago. When new wishes are brought to the committees why doesn't anyone pull up the volunteers hard work from the past? I saw this also on the arts council committee. New members were bringing old ideas to the table thinking they were original thoughts.

Looking forward to a reshuffle on the board and committees with fresh faces etc. I hope an affordable housing board will also be formed.

Best

Hillary Short

Re: The dog park

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 12:24 PM

To: Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>

Cc: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Elizabeth Yong <lizping@mac.com>

If anyone has the parks and Rec committee meeting and the ad hoc meeting I have time to view both this week. To see what was said about the dog park by the sewage plant. So I can send more accurate emails and transcribe what was said if necessary. I would also like to see Dan's email. Who I know well and trust what he says to be a factual argument against the harbor island community dog park. Thanks in advance to whomever can send the links.

> On Oct 3, 2022, at 10:56 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>

> I know you are a dedicated employee. And have spoken to you about supporting your great ideas for the village. Glad to hear you are proactive about finally getting a dog park for the community. Let's hope the public can be better informed as to why the sewage plant sight has now become problematic. I have observed the village manager at board meetings discussing the fencing and having found it etc. my experience at trustee meetings were an engaged village manager. Happy to hear you are also on board with this endeavor. It is a tough one to get sorted.

>

> Best

>

> Hillary Short

>

> P.S. I love the idea about the beach being officially dog friendly for the winter

>

>> On Oct 3, 2022, at 10:34 AM, Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org> wrote:

>>

>> Good Morning Hillary,

>>

>> I have been away on vacation, but I would like to correct the record on a comment you made in the below email (copied the text below).

>>

>> "Our village manager invested a lot of time and energy on this committee to get it right and now he isn't at the meetings but Jason Pinto is who isn't enthusiastic about problem solving to get the park done."

>>

>> This statement could not be more factually inaccurate. As a dedicated employee of the Village for the last seven years, I have gone above and beyond expectations to perform my duties for our residents. I would encourage you to ask anyone who has worked with me about my willingness to problem solve and create solutions. I believe most people you will encounter regarding my dedication will convey nothing but positive experiences in working with me; this includes working to make the dog park a reality for the community. My entire professional career has been devoted to this Village

and its residents. I would appreciate you not making inaccurate and false statements regarding meetings that you have never attended, including mentioning my name or any other member of my staff in your emails. Our goal as a department is to create a dog park which will be enjoyed by the entire community. Spreading mistruths to our elected officials, Village management, volunteers, and residents is not helpful towards achieving that goal.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>>

>> Jason Pinto

>> Superintendent of Recreation

>> Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation

>>

>> Phone: 914-777-7784

>> Email: jpinto@vomny.org

>>

>> Stephen E. Johnston Beach Pavilion

>> Harbor Island Park

>> Mamaroneck, NY 10543

>>

>> www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/parks-recreation

>>

>>

>> Online Registration: vomrec.recdesk.com

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

>> Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:14 AM

>> To: Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>;

Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne

<jahne@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller

<catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Rec&Parks

<Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>

>> Subject: The dog park

>>

>> Hi everyone

>>

>> I just had a lengthy conversation with Elizabeth on the dog committee. There are 3 committee members who joined this committee to help meet the public's need by locating and providing a dog park. Their frustration is what we commonly here so often around here is that when young volunteers join these committees they don't feel as if the issues are moved forward they keep facing obstacles from others on the committee.

>>

>> I filled Elizabeth in that Nora is fully aware that Suzi Oppenheimer came to a meeting and said we would find a way to finance this. The committee wasn't made aware of this. The space was fully decided upon by the sewage treatment center. With the entrance to the dog park aligning with the parking lot. So nobody understands the messaging that dogs will be running across BPR. Our village manager invested a lot of time and energy on this committee to get it right and now he isn't at the

meetings but Jason Pinto is who isn't enthusiastic about problem solving to get the park done. Also there are 3 committee members on the committee that aren't moving this forward. They called a meeting after a year this week and completely confused the 3 pro dog park committee members about moving the location to a site that would never pass. The dog park committee has never done a walk through when the soccer games are in session to review if the games are problematic to the park. These are all not good findings. I suggest putting residents on this committee (I have applied and so will Rachel Kasper) who will work hard to make sure the public gets their dog park. I suggested to Elizabeth that we need a map of the whole village to see where there is an acre of land with water.

>>

>> I sent Elizabeth the meeting from Tuesday where the Mayor gave great info for the committee to move forward. As Nora feels it is below her to communicate with me because I call her out on her lack of interest in providing residents with a dog park, I hope the Mayor and trustee Young will keep communicating with us. And that we can soon see the pros and cons emails from the public regarding a dog park.

>>

>> Thank you for being true public servants Tom and Lou.

>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

Re: The Dog Park: A Temporary Solution on the Beach

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 12:50 PM

To: catherine_hiller@yahoo.com <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Reca, Carlo <CReca@vomny.net>

Perfect idea.

On Oct 3, 2022, at 12:28 PM, catherine_hiller@yahoo.com wrote:

There is yet another solution, possibly temporary.

Why not allow dogs on our beach October 1-June 1? No fence necessary and surely no environmental studies! No NIMBY problems either.

Limit it by time (until noon?) if necessary, though I don't really see why. Put up a couple of signs saying "Temporary Dog Park, October 1-June 1." And make sure both gates to the beach are open: at present, only the gate near the recreation building is open (why only that one?).

Let's give it a try!

Best wishes to all--
Catherine Hiller

On Monday, October 3, 2022 at 08:10:10 AM EDT, Reca, Carlo <creca@vomny.net> wrote:

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Looking forward to a reshuffle on the board and committees with fresh faces etc. I hope an affordable housing board will also be formed.

Best

Hillary Short

Re: The Dog Park: A Temporary Solution on the Beach

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Mon 10/3/2022 1:31 PM

To: catherine_hiller@yahoo.com <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Reca, Carlo <CReca@vomny.net>

I just spent 20 mins trying to find the taping of the parks and recs. And as hoc dog park meeting.

When will the emails be added to the dog park dossier to see what pro and con residents are saying?

Where are the tapes of both meetings and when do board minutes get put up on the website?

Thank in advance.

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Best

Hillary Short

Re: Proposed dog park

Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Thu 10/20/2022 4:27 PM

To: kdams13@gmail.com <kdams13@gmail.com>; Mayor and Board
<MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Hi Kristen,

I am on the Recreation & Parks Commission and the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee. Speaking for myself as a member of both, I hope I can clear up what seems to be a lot of confusion and misinformation that has been circling around lately.

The goal of the Rec & Parks Commission, and the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee, is to create a much needed fenced-in, safe space for dogs to be able to go for some year-round, off-leash exercise and playtime, without disruption to our community, residents or wildlife.

It is not entirely accurate to say that those in favor of a dog park are petitioning for one at Harbor Island Park, there was an earlier petition that circulated in favor of Taylors Lane as well. We have in fact been looking throughout the Village for anywhere that could be a suitable site, and while that has included Harbor Island Park that is not the only place we've considered. To answer your question about Harbor Island Park, there are 3 spots that we've looked at; along the Boston Post Rd by the Wastewater Treatment Plant, along Rushmore Ave on the West Basin side, and by the flagpole near the County Pier.

There are a lot of logistics involved in determining what would make a good dog park location in the Village and the process has not been an easy one nor is it a task we take lightly. What is clear, is that many residents do indeed want to see a dog park 'somewhere' in the Village of Mamaroneck, and while no spot is perfect and we know we won't make everyone happy, we hope to be able to provide one that takes our whole community into consideration.

Currently the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee has been expanded to include additional members of our community and will be revisiting and scouting out any and all possible locations so we can provide the Board our recommendation by January 4, 2023.

Please reach out if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Karrie Sergio
Recreation & Parks Commission member
Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee member

From: Kristen Dams Balestra <kdams13@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 10:38 AM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Subject: Re: Proposed dog park on Rushmore Ave

Dear Mayor Murphy, Mr. Natchez, Board, and Committee Members,

It has come to our attention that a Change.org petition is being circulated by community members who hope to garner support for a dog park in the Village. When this petition is shared on community platforms such as Nextdoor.com, the request misleadingly suggests that they are petitioning for a dog park "anywhere in the community," while it is clear that those in favor are petitioning for a dog park at Harbor Island Park. Requests for information regarding exactly where in Harbor Island Park the proposed dog park would be located have gone unanswered. Is this information you are able to provide, so our neighbors can make informed decisions regarding their support for the proposal at hand?

Thank you for your service to our community,
Kristen Dams-O'Connor

On Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 8:04 PM Kristen Dams Balestra <kdams13@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your committed service to our Village.

I am writing to express concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. A dog park on Rushmore Ave would be problematic for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is a very narrow road; if a car is parked even momentarily, traffic must stop one way to allow passage around the vehicle. Cars regularly park illegally on the grass along Rushmore, and cars regularly park on the nearby residential streets. On nice days, the two side streets nearest to the grassy area along Rushmore (Sylvan and Stiles) are lined with cars on both sides, often blocking driveways, and effectively turning these residential streets into one-way roads. A dog park will increase traffic, congestion, and danger to pedestrians.
2. Rushmore Ave is a pedestrian route to schools and work for many. Unsafe passage along this street (most of which does not have sidewalks) has been a longstanding concern for residents; crossing the street at Rushmore and Orienta is already perilous - we need to make this walkway safer - not more heavily trafficked.
3. For many of us living in Orienta and throughout the residences along Old Post Road and Boston Post Road, the wide open grassy space along Rushmore/Harbor park is the closest to which our children can walk/ride. This is where the kids play pickup ball games, practice sports drills, and picnic with friends. Turning this into a dog park with unleashed dogs will erode the enjoyment of this space for most residents.
4. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residents. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kristen Dams-O'Connor and Chris Balestra
614 Sylvan Ave

--

Kristen Dams-O'Connor, Ph.D.
Jack Nash Professor
Director, Brain Injury Research Center
Vice Chair of Research
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
Department of Neurology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

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To: Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Hi Karrie,

Thanks for taking the time to provide this information. I agree - it sounds like there is some confusion and misinformation. This [change.org](https://www.change.org/p/off-leash-dog-park-in-the-village-of-mamaroneck) petition may have been misinterpreted (<https://www.change.org/p/off-leash-dog-park-in-the-village-of-mamaroneck>). It's clear that a dog park along Rushmore would raise myriad problems, but I think just knowing what locations are being considered is helpful for people to understand. Thank you for your transparency, and for volunteering your time to serve our Village!

Best,

Kristen

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Re: Dog park committee?

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sat 10/22/2022 11:34 AM

To: Yahoo! <elizabeth_yong@yahoo.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; lyizar@gmail.com <lyizar@gmail.com>; Manny Rawlings <manny.rawlings@gmail.com>

Thanks for the update Liz. Once you get your VOM email please send to me. By the way you will like Richard who is on the committee. He is a fabulous dog advocate. Ask him about Gatsby and how he swims for hours in the harbor. And Richard has to borrow Bob's canoe to fetch him. Once we have our park you will love meeting our wonderful dog community in the village.

FYI. Richard will be advocating for the beach to be officially opened for dogs in the winter. I hope you will also support him on this.

Have a fab weekend. Lots of great events locally

Best

Hillary Short

> On Oct 22, 2022, at 11:19 AM, Yahoo! <elizabeth_yong@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Hillary

>

> I got a call from Nora this week to remind me to chase for a VOM email, as those of us not in the Parks and Rec Committee don't have one yet. Chasing. 😊 Nora was calling each of us individually to get our availability until those emails are set up. Once I know more, will let you know!

>

> Glad to hear about the fencing! That's good news as prices are surely only going to rise.

>

> Best

> Liz

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Oct 22, 2022, at 10:21 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Nora

>>

>> When are the meetings and will the discussions be online for all to hear?

>>

>> Many thanks. Looking forward to a vote on January 3. I heard from a good source the fencing has

already been ordered.

>>

>> Also happy to hear that both Manny and Craig are campaigning for a community center for all residents being built. Thank goodness. It is the number one ask of residents.

>>

>> As one of the ad hoc rec center committee said. Thank goodness when I reported what Craig said on the LMC media chat. This much needed center is a bipartisan issue.

>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

>>

>>

>

Opposed to Dog Park on Rushmore Ave

Kim Nguyen <kim.nguyen419@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 5:42 PM

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

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

1. The West Basin is an area heavily visited by families, religious groups, schools, and small children. Between the FAS runners, to the Liberty Montessori daily walks, to the birthday parties and nanny/baby playdates. This area is filled with people and activity and adding a dog park would most certainly bring an increased safety risk to the area. The corner of Rushmore and Orienta Ave is already such a difficult intersection to cross that adding more dog traffic to this area is extremely hazardous.
2. Placing a dog park that close to residential housing is a noise violation. Dogs barking at all hours is not appropriate. As a nurse who works night shifts and requires sleep at all hours, a dog park would severely impact my ability to perform my job well and adequately care for patients.
3. As more young families move to Orienta, many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A larger playground with a shared use communal space would benefit the entire community. A dog park will take up that space for a select few and eliminate the possibilities of creating a beautiful space that everyone can benefit from. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Kim & George Nguyen
305 Claflin Ave
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Opposed to Dog Park on Rushmore Ave

Kim Nguyen <kim.nguyen419@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 5:42 PM

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

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

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2. Placing a dog park that close to residential housing is a noise violation. Dogs barking at all hours is not appropriate. As a nurse who works night shifts and requires sleep at all hours, a dog park would severely impact my ability to perform my job well and adequately care for patients.
3. As more young families move to Orienta, many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A larger playground with a shared use communal space would benefit the entire community. A dog park will take up that space for a select few and eliminate the possibilities of creating a beautiful space that everyone can benefit from. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Kim & George Nguyen
305 Claflin Ave
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Dog Park at Harbor Island Park

Margoshes, Dan <dan.margoshes@verizon.net>

Tue 9/27/2022 4:01 PM

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

Cc: Rec&Parks <rec&parks@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jason Pinto <jpinto@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>

To the Mayor and Trustees,

I am a resident in the Heathcote Hill area near Harbor Island Park, a former member of the Budget and Parks & Recreation Committees, and a current member of the board of our community's youth soccer program - LMFC.

I understand that the Trustees will be considering a dog park to be built by the Post Rd next to the treatment plant at tonight's work session. This area is currently only occasionally used as a playing field, but it will be more heavily utilized in the future, as noted below. I strongly urge the Trustees to reconsider this location and evaluate other, better alternatives at the Harbor or elsewhere in the Village.

While I agree that a dog park is needed in the community, I don't believe that the chosen location was the best choice; instead it appears that it was a least-worst, most expedient, and merely adequate choice. My understanding is that the dog park committee considered several locations in and around the Harbor, Taylors Lane, and elsewhere in the Village that may have been better, but they were dismissed for a variety of reasons - several real, several imagined - and many of them NIMBY related. We've ended up with a situation where the *potential* concerns of a few residents outweigh the needs of thousands of families in the community, but I understand that there are no ideal solutions, and had even grudgingly accepted that if the goal was to get a dog park built quickly, then the area next to the treatment plant was probably the least worst alternative.

However, recent developments have made me rethink this location. I'm thrilled that the Village is finally undertaking a refurbishment of the playing fields at Harbor Island, starting with the east side of the Croce Fields. This is a very welcome project, but it is expected to last several years as different areas of the Harbor are fenced off, leveled, and reseeded, and it will require that youth sports be relocated to other less utilized areas of the Harbor, including the location of the proposed dog park. As you know, playing fields are already scarce in Mamaroneck and surrounding communities, but LMFC is pleased to be able to work with Village to complete the project and ensure that Harbor Island remains the jewel that provides so many recreational activities for our Village. Not incidentally, several realtors have told me that the Harbor playing fields full of kids are a tremendous selling point for newcomers to our community.

Harbor Island Park is large, but only a few areas are viable as playing fields, and the area next to the treatment plant is one of them. The choice that you are considering now may give the appearance that the Village prioritizes dogs over youth in the community. I believe that we can develop better solutions in the short-term and for the long-term and I urge that the Trustees ask the dog park committee to revisit some of the locations that were previously dismissed, including those in and around the Harbor, but also around Taylors Lane and other existing parks in the village.

Thank you,
Dan Margoshes

Dan Margoshes
536 Munro Ave.
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

(646) 379-9591
dan.margoshes@verizon.net

The Dog Park

catherine_hiller@yahoo.com <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 12:29 PM

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

Dear Mayor and Trustees:

For about a decade the creation of a dog park has been considered. I have been amazed at how the simplest idea has been turned into something so complex.

Environmental studies? For a *fence*?

Fobs to enter the dog park? Why? To discourage non-residents? This from "the friendly village"?

I have been to many dog parks and NONE have fobs. One dog park, in Sag Harbor, doesn't even have a fence. It's just a couple of acres of public land where people go with their dogs. People pick up after their dogs, as they do in all dog parks.

The dogs have fun together, but it's really a place for people to meet each other. A dog park is a great place to build community.

The top of the Rushmore area does not have many houses nearby, so I think it would be ideal. But the place near the sewage treatment plant would also work. People mention children being frightened of dogs. The dogs would be on leashes until they entered the dog park. This does not strike me as a scary situation.

People also mention the availability of parking. This is not very important: most people would simply walk their dogs to the park! For those who drive, there is plenty of parking nearby. Yes, you'd have to walk a couple of hundred yards within the park to the dog park. But dog owners have to walk anyway!

The other area near Taylor's Lane is beautiful now that it has been reclaimed from brownfield status. But it's not as central as Harbor Island Park (what is?) and I don't think many people would use it.

Anyway, it baffles me that people keep putting up objections to the simplest public good I can imagine!

Please stop this decade-long delay and give the people of Mamaroneck what residents of Larchmont, Rye, and New Rochelle have: a dog park!

Sincerely,

Catherine Hiller

Support for Proposed Dog Park on Rushmore Ave.

Jillian Levy <jillian.landau@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 1:43 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Cc: paul levy <pmlevy@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor, Board, and Committee Members,

We are writing to express our support for the proposed dog park on Rushmore Ave. We live on Rushmore Ave. and as it is, many dogs run through the park unleashed. Having a dedicated area for dogs would eliminate this fear that dogs could potentially jump on children or run around - this is happening now. Additionally many dogs go unleashed on the grassy areas of the bike path. The people in our neighborhood are clamoring for a place for dogs to run off leash - and without a dedicated space people have taken it to themselves to let dogs roam free.

Additionally, I believe the lack of parking will ensure that this remains a neighborhood dog park - a place for community members to walk and see neighbors. Many of our village members utilize Harbor Island Park and that is a short walk around the sea wall to Rushmore Park. As dog owners we drive 20 minutes away to find safe spaces for our dog to socialize. It would be wonderful to have a place for both dogs and neighbors to socialize in our village.

Thank you for your consideration!

Warmly,

Jillian & Paul Levy

1051 Rushmore Ave.

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Dog Park

Ryan Buck <ryandbuck@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 8:13 AM

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

Dear Mayor and Trustees, please let us finalize the proposed Dog Park location for our community. It has been too long. The site choice near the water treatment plant is an ideal location for many reasons, such as parking, centrally location, etc.

As a dog owner this space makes good sense and will add value to the community without impeding on anyone.

Let's get this done and enhance the quality of life for dog owners in our community.

Thank you,

Ryan Buck
504 Munro Ave
Mamaroneck, NY

Proposed dog park on Rushmore Avenue

Colleen Kearney <colleen.kearney21@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 8:08 AM

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

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our school children commuting to school; not less. Dog parks are busiest at the time school children are walking/biking to school. What happens if a car parks illegally forcing kids to walk around it, or a dog starts to chase a frightened child en route to school, or the increase in traffic makes Orienta Ave even more dangerous to cross?
2. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residences. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Kearney
917-754-0751

--

Colleen Kearney
(917) 754-0751

Dog Park support

Cathy DeVore <cathydevore@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 7:14 AM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

Cc: **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>

Dear Trustees & Board,

I am highly in favor of a dog park. Dog parks bring people together outside. They are a communal gathering place. I think Harbor Island would be a perfect location. I do not think we need a fob system, it sounds overcomplicated, expensive and exclusive. We are the friendly village...please vote yes!-Cathy & HL DeVore 317 Prospect Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

Dog park -Please read

Ilisa Crosby <sunpun71@gmail.com>

Tue 9/27/2022 12:36 AM

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

I recommend the site next to the water treatment plant, near the Harbor Island area!!!

Concerns about Dog Park on Rushmore Ave

Pamela Horn <pamela.leslie.horn@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 9:50 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Cc: Alex Horn <alexanderhorn@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Mayor and the Board

We are writing with concerns about the proposed dog park on Rushmore Avenue. We live directly across from the park (401 Rushmore Ave, yellow house) and while we love living across from the park, we already deal with an extreme amount of traffic and speeding due to the beach club traffic, school busses, sports practice pick up/drop off etc. There is also an inordinate amount of illegal parking on the grass across the street. We frequently have to call the police due to vehicles parked haphazardly on the grass.

We feel that adding a dog park on Rushmore will further exacerbate the problems. Especially when the playground is in dire need of upgrades.

Thank you for your time,

Pamela and Alexander Horn
401 Rushmore Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Support for dog park

Leslie Meyer <leslieameyer@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 9:49 PM

To: Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

To whom it may concern -

We are in support of the Dog Park Committee's recommendation for a dog park at Harbor Island, on the west basin side, parallel to Rushmore Ave which is underutilized and people already bring their dogs there now. I walk this route several mornings a week with our dogs - this space is already being used for this purpose & would be a welcome addition to the community.

Thank you -

Leslie Meyer

cell: (415) 269-5529

leslieameyer@gmail.com

Say No to a Proposed Dog Park Location on Rushmore Avenue

Jennifer Toth Swartley <jtoth503@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 9:05 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Cc: Steve <steveswartley@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village. We truly appreciate all you do for us.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park, moving it to Rushmore Avenue. I do NOT support the proposed dog park on Rushmore for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route and is already a congested street that can easily be blocked by a mailman, delivery truck or construction vehicle, causing stopped traffic and serious delays. Bringing more traffic into the area delaying parents driving to school or drawing more crowds and commotion as our kids make their way to school by foot or bike, could be a danger to our children and a nuisance to families. We need to focus on making this area safer with developments like a sidewalk along Rushmore and crossing guards, not deter from its safety with a dog park.
2. Large events along Rushmore Avenue have always drawn illegal parking, cars swerving around parked cars and danger for pedestrians. A dog park is only going to exacerbate that situation and make this the norm, not just a one off during special events. There is not enough parking to support the dog park on this side of the harbor, which should make it a non-starter.
3. I have been excited to hear there's been talk of a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore Avenue, which would benefit families greatly. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residences. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer & Stephen Swartley
626 Stiles Ave
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

--

Jennifer Toth Swartley
www.jenniferswartley.com

Against Rushmore lawn for dog park

Jordana Viuker <jordana.viuker@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:58 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <Mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express my passionate disagreement of the idea of placing a dog park near the small playground by Rushmore ave at the harbor. We live a couple blocks away and have three small children. We have heard from countless parents who agree we'd all love an updated / expanded playground. That said, we'd much rather keep our small playground as is and maintain the peaceful lawn than give up this valuable free play / kids running around / parents enjoying gorgeous views space to a fenced in dog park. Not only because of space usage issue, but also because of the noise, litter, and unsightliness that the park would bring to this pristine (cemetery-adjacent) spot.

I urge you not to do this to this to this lawn. It may look like it's not crowded, but it is such a peaceful area that is well used and loved by many families.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jordana

Dog Park - Mamaroneck

Tzu Ping Tan <lizping@mac.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:48 PM

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

Dear Village of Mamaroneck Mayor and Board, I understand that there is a vote tomorrow on the proposed location of the dog park. I sincerely hope that the work will proceed for the dog park location near the Mamaroneck water treatment plant. Dog-loving residents have been waiting for many, many years for space to be allocated and I hope that there will be no more further delays.

Thank you very much.

Best

Ping Tan

Ping TAN

+1 646 508-6424

Re: Dog park location

Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:47 PM

To: Rachel de Benedet <racheldebenedet@gmail.com>

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

I totally agree with your perspective. Thank you for writing.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

> On Sep 26, 2022, at 8:43 PM, Rachel de Benedet <racheldebenedet@gmail.com> wrote:

>

Dog park location

Rachel de Benedet <racheldebenedet@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:43 PM

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

Dear Mayor Murphy and board,

PLEASE leave the plans in place to create the dog park next to the water treatment plant. That location has ample parking and is already approved to begin.

I fear that the Rushmore location will be stalled for a long time due to environmental and neighborhood issues, whereas the area currently planned has none of those issues!

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Kasper Fitzsimons

211 Frank Ave

Mamaroneck, NY

917-488-6560

Sent from my iPhone

Dog park

thomas fitzsimons <tommyfitz33@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:43 PM

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

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please consider the much needed dog park in our town. The current proposal next to the water treatment plant is a perfect location.

Sincerely,

Tom Fitzsimons

211 Frank ave

Sent from my iPhone

Proposed dog park on Rushmore Ave

Kristen Dams Balestra <kdams13@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 8:05 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your committed service to our Village.

I am writing to express concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. A dog park on Rushmore Ave would be problematic for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is a very narrow road; if a car is parked even momentarily, traffic must stop one way to allow passage around the vehicle. Cars regularly park illegally on the grass along Rushmore, and cars regularly park on the nearby residential streets. On nice days, the two side streets nearest to the grassy area along Rushmore (Sylvan and Stiles) are lined with cars on both sides, often blocking driveways, and effectively turning these residential streets into one-way roads. A dog park will increase traffic, congestion, and danger to pedestrians.
2. Rushmore Ave is a pedestrian route to schools and work for many. Unsafe passage along this street (most of which does not have sidewalks) has been a longstanding concern for residents; crossing the street at Rushmore and Orienta is already perilous - we need to make this walkway safer - not more heavily trafficked.
3. For many of us living in Orienta and throughout the residences along Old Post Road and Boston Post Road, the wide open grassy space along Rushmore/Harbor park is the closest to which our children can walk/ride. This is where the kids play pickup ball games, practice sports drills, and picnic with friends. Turning this into a dog park with unleashed dogs will erode the enjoyment of this space for most residents.
4. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residents. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kristen Dams-O'Connor and Chris Balestra
614 Sylvan Ave

--

Kristen Dams-O'Connor, Ph.D.
Jack Nash Professor

Director, Brain Injury Research Center
Vice Chair of Research
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine
Department of Neurology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Proposed Dog Park Location on Rushmore Ave

Erica Calderone <calderone.eric@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 7:58 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>

>> Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

>>

>> Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

>>

>> I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

>>

>> 1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our school children commuting to school; not less. Dog parks are busiest at the time school children are walking/biking to school. What happens if a car parks illegally forcing kids to walk around it, or a dog starts to chase a frightened child en route to school, or the increase in traffic makes Orienta Ave even more dangerous to cross?

>>

>> 2. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residences. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

>>

>> Thank you for your consideration.

>>

>> Regards,

>> Erica and Chris Calderone

554 Claflin Ave

>> Mamaroneck, NY 10543

>>

>

Dog park

mabrahamsen@verizon.net <mabrahamsen@verizon.net>

Mon 9/26/2022 7:24 PM

To: Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

It has come to my attention that there is talk about a dog park possibly coming to Mamaroneck across from Toy Box on the grass in between the sewage treatment plant and the outfield of the baseball field and would go down towards the soccer field.

There are many reasons why this is NOT a good idea. There are plenty of empty fields that can be utilized.

The area in the Harbor is already congested with too many people. The noise of the passing cars, kids and whistles from games would be a negative reaction to the dogs.

There are hundreds of kids at this location daily between soccer and baseball, so we must also keep in mind that there are many children who are fearful of dogs. With the anxiety and other issues that have been caused post-covid, a child who is afraid should not have to worry when they are going outdoors to enjoy the open space and exercise.

That location can be used for more team sports that is much needed.

I am a dog owner and would love a dog park in the area, but I would not feel safe having my dog go to one there. I actually go to the Harrison Dog Park, since my husband is a fire fighter in Harrison. That location is secluded from the public.

Regards,

Monica Abrahamsen

Proposed Dog Park on Rushmore Ave

Tracy-Ann Goodwin <tracyanngoodwin@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 7:19 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>

Cc: vincelim.com <vince@vincelim.com>

To whom this concerns,

As residents of Orienta, my husband and I have been notified by neighbors of a potential plan to move a dog park to Rushmore Ave. We are not people who have ever reached out to ask a question or share a perspective before but feel compelled to in this instance. That is because adding to the already ill-equipped Rushmore Ave infrastructure will result in chaos at best, harm/deadly consequences at worst. As it stands today, Rushmore Ave can't safely accommodate residents the minimum; those out for a walk, or a run, or a bike ride. Add to that peak time traffic volumes akin to any other main arterial route in Mamaronceck due to school busing as well as no legal parking and you have a situation where you're asking an already over stressed system to take on more. It doesn't compute.

Further, it likely goes without saying that Orienta is attractive to those currently living, or seeking to live, in the neighborhood because of its safety and privacy credentials. Besides the seemingly obvious tomfoolery of placing stress on an infrastructure that can't handle it, why put those two key things at risk? Safety for all of our children will be a key consideration for every parent in this neighborhood in light of this proposal and so too will the privacy. I imagine a world where we find people parking in our driveways and in front our homes. Parking illegally on the avenue leading to treacherous walking/biking/driving conditions.

All in all this feels like an idea conceived of by someone unfamiliar with the area - one that is without much merit for those who've chosen to pay the taxes to live in said area.

I would like to see the detailed long term mitigation plans, infrastructure upgrades, the scenarios pertaining to other areas under consideration and the comparisons across key metrics and standards. I would like to see this and the associated investment breakdowns compared to the investment in children-related facilities in the same area. Help us understand why one was chosen over the other and convince us that the substance behind it is indisputable.

Thank you in advance,
Tracy & Vince Lim
Orienta Residents

Sent from my iPhone


Re: Dog park

gmgrditchian@outlook.com <gmgrditchian@outlook.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 6:54 PM

To: Robert Heiss <heissr@gmail.com>; Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Daniel S. Natchez <dnatchez@vomny.org>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Lou Young <lyoung@vomny.org>

Cc: Laura Heiss <lheiss13@gmail.com>; info@orientapoint.org <info@orientapoint.org>; Ben Zoffness <info@zoffnesscollegeprep.com>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; catherine.hiller@yahoo.com <catherine.hiller@yahoo.com>; Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>; Steve Simkin <ssimkin@paulweiss.com>; CLWOLKOFF@VERIZON.NET <clwolkoff@verizon.net>; John Farris <john@atfarris.com>; June Ottinger <Ottingers@aol.com>

 1 attachments (433 KB)

Scan.pdf;

Good evening all,

So sorry we are late to the party, however the OPA would like to participate with comments and questions. For now we are submitting our letter in conjunction with Rober Heiss with equal concerns. Please see the attached letter.

George Mgrditchian, President

Orienta Point Association

Cc: HIC

From: Robert Heiss <heissr@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 10:14 AM

To: tmurphy@vomny.org <tmurphy@vomny.org>; nluucas@vomny.org <nluucas@vomny.org>; dnatchez@vomny.org <dnatchez@vomny.org>; vtafur@vomny.org <vtafur@vomny.org>; lyoung@vomny.org <lyoung@vomny.org>

Cc: Laura Heiss <lheiss13@gmail.com>; info@orientapoint.org <info@orientapoint.org>; Ben Zoffness <info@zoffnesscollegeprep.com>; tmaresca@vomny.net <tmaresca@vomny.net>; dsarnoff@vomny.org <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; jahne@vomny.org <jahne@vomny.org>; catherine.hiller@yahoo.com <catherine.hiller@yahoo.com>; Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Subject: Dog park

It has come to my attention that a Village committee has researched establishing a dog park in the Village of Mamaroneck and has recommended a site in Harbor Island Park on the Rushmore Ave. side. I understand that the Parks & Recreation Commission has approved the recommendation and it is on the agenda for the 9/27 Board of Trustees meeting.

I have several questions and concerns regarding those recommendations.

- How was the need for a dog park established? Was there a survey done or was it deduced from

casual conversations with dog-walkers in the park? It would be good to see or hear some data.

- Has there been a cost/benefit analysis?
 - Would there be a charge?
 - Would the monies collected cover the maintenance costs?
 - How many dogs would use the park? How many people would use the park?
- Has there been an analysis on:
 - Noise? That is a particular concern in a residential neighborhood.
 - Smell? Dogs and their “products” do smell.
 - Traffic? Rushmore Ave. is a narrow street.
 - Parking? Is it your attention to build a parking lot to accompany the dog park?
 - Non-Mamaroneck users? Dog parks attract people from neighboring municipalities.
 - Maintenance? How often will it be cleaned?

The recommended area for dog parks is 3000 to 5000 square feet. The parks are typically divided into small dog and large dog areas. That, along with the necessary parking and traffic is a rather large footprint which will create an eyesore in a pristing park.

The Rushmore Ave. side of Harbor Island Park has been a passive recreation area since its inception. The park is used extensively by people walking, flying kites, enjoying a sit and view from the benches, walking dogs, visiting the playground, etc. An active dog park does not fit the nature of the existing park and the activities enjoyed there.

Although I do not have the data, I would be surprised if there were any dog parks in residential neighborhoods, so close to residences. The noise, smell, traffic, etc. makes that undesirable and untenable.

From a personal perspective, do you think the value of the homes surrounding the dog park will increase because of the park? Certainly not! It would lead to a lowering of the market value of the houses and subsequently have an effect on the Village’s tax base.

I believe there are alternatives - near the sewer treatment plant, the county dock, other parks, etc. Please let me know your decision/recommendation criteria, any data or survey information you have, and the comparative charts you used.

Thank you,

Bob Heiss
(914) 804-7839

ORIENTA POINT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 365 Mamaroneck, New York 10543
Email: www.orientapoint.org

September 26, 2022

Dear Mayor and Board of Trustees,

The **Oriente** Point Association has recently learned of the Village's interest in setting up a dog park on Rushmore Avenue in Mamaroneck. We understand that an ad hoc committee has been established to make recommendations to the board for this project. We are quite surprised that the Village has undertaken a study of this project in our community, yet we have not been contacted to participate in the study, let alone provide community members who could serve on this committee. There are a number of factors which we feel will have a negative impact on our community: lack of parking, lack of appropriate space for the dogs to run, (Based on the amount required for both large and small dogs.) a discussion about the cost to establish and maintain the park, the cost to police and monitor the park, would the dog park be for Mamaroneck residents only and how would that be monitored, what fees if any that would be charged to maintain it, the effect of the noise on the residents, and the smell which could emanate from the dog park. Further we understand that this project would require HCZM approval for consistency. (We assume that this was vetted by HCZM previously for the other location.)

It should be noted that the original dog park was discussed to be put at the Stanley Avenue Park and later was also discussed to be placed along Boston Post Road near the sewer treatment plant. As we at the OPA knew, the placement by the sewer treatment plant was agreed upon as the final destination. When did this change and once again, why was the OPA excluded from the process?

Before any decisions should be made, all of these other options and concerns should be discussed and vetted.

Further, the OPA has been working with the REC department and HIC to redesign and renovate the long-awaited existing playground on Rushmore Avenue. This process began pre covid and was stalled as a result of the pandemic. It has been brought to the forefront again this year with great enthusiasm from our community and Board members of the OPA. This will clearly need to be considered when choosing the location of the dog park.

This letter is in addition to and supports the letter sent by one of our residents, Mr. Bob Heiss regarding this matter. We plan to share this with all the residents of OPA for their input as well.

We at the OPA believe this project needs more research and would like to insist we as a neighborhood organization be included in this process. We respectfully request a "Seat at the table" as this most definitely impacts our neighborhood. Also, the following committees need to be brought into this process: the Harbor Island Conservancy, and the Recreation/Parks Department.

Kind regards,



George Mgrditchian, President
Orienta Point Association

CC: Executive Board, Board members, HIC

Dog park

Dorothee Moutafis <dorothee.moutafis@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 5:12 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Good evening,

This email is to show my support of a dog park in Harbor Island.

However I do not believe that the current proposed location of the dog park at the Harbor next to the waste water treatment plant, between the soccer and baseball fields is appropriate.

I strongly support the idea of a new location on the west basin side, parallel to Rushmore Ave which is under-utilized and where people already bring their dogs.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

Dorothee Melis-Moutafis (resident at 610 Cortlandt avenue, Mamaroneck).

Dog Park

Annie Guill <annie.guill@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 5:10 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

>

>

> 1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our school children commuting to school; not less. Dog parks are busiest at the time school children are walking/biking to school. What happens if a car parks illegally forcing kids to walk around it, or a dog starts to chase a frightened child en route to school, or the increase in traffic makes Orienta Ave even more dangerous to cross?

>

> 2. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residences. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

> Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Annie

Dog Park

Jessica Sigalow <jessica.sigalow@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 4:41 PM

To: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members,

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village. I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Avenue as the location puts our children's safety in jeopardy.

Rushmore Avenue is on a school route to multiple schools in our Village. A dog park will bring more traffic to an area at a time when many children are walking or biking to school. The location also does not have any designated parking and increases the chances of illegal parking and unsafe street parking for all residents who live there.

In addition, a dog park increases the chances of having more unleashed dogs. Many children walk to school without parents and there is greater likelihood that there will be many children who are afraid of dogs and could run away from the dogs and into the street. We need to make sure the school routes are safe for all children as a Village that relies on students walking to and from school.

Further, many residents have been working hard to upgrade and improve the current playground on Rushmore Avenue. The equipment is old and worn out and a new playground would be a significant benefit to the neighborhood and to the many families who regularly walk to the location. A dog park will make a better playground much more difficult and unsafe for our youngest residences. We should put our efforts into improving our outdoor spaces for our children that are safe and fun; and finding a different location for a dog park that does not already have a designated purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Sigalow

Dog park and dogs in Florence Park

Debbie Sullivan <daksull@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 4:10 PM

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

Dear Mayor and Board,

I am very much in support of having a dog park in the Village and of allowing dogs on leashes in all of the Village Parks. Having lived in the city most of my life, I was shocked when I moved to Mamaroneck 7 years ago to find such unfriendliness to dogs and their owners. I had never heard of a park that didn't allow dogs. Nature preserves, yes; parks, no. I had never felt like such a second class citizen. And I like to take walks in the parks, but I mostly walk with my dog. I have very little use for Florence or Columbus Parks except a places to walk my dog. I really enjoy using Harbor Island with my dog now that it is finally allowed.

Parks are multiuse places, and dog owners deserve a share. Will there be problems? Probably. Some people will not pick up poop, or will allow their dogs off leash where they aren't supposed to. The areas need to be monitored by police or park rangers and violators need to be ticketed. But the majority of people are responsible. I go to Rye, Playland and Manor Parks frequently. I don't see major problems with dogs in these places. I remember one frigid winter day a few years ago when there were only 2 people in Harbor Island Park, and both of us were there illegally with our dogs. No one else was using the park!

As far as a dog park goes, this has been discussed and sort of promised to be coming soon since I moved here 7 years ago. I live in a condo and do not have access to a fenced yard for my dog to run in. And it's fun to watch the dogs play together and to talk with other dog owners. Even people without dogs can enjoy watching them from outside the fence. We used to do that all the time when my daughter was little before we had a dog. It's like going to the zoo! Yes, let's have a fee to use the dog park; and require VOM dog licenses. Can we allow people who live elsewhere to get the licenses? I agree that the West Harbor area is much more appropriate for a dog park than squeezed in by the water treatment plant. There's a lot of space there and it seems underutilized compared to the other side of the park. Since I have a small dog, I would probably only use the dog park if there is a small dog area.

I hope you will support the dog park in Harbor Island and to allow leashed dogs in Florence Park. I don't know if Columbus Park is under consideration for allowing leashed dog walking, but I hope it is.

Best,

Debbie Sullivan (and Sawyer)

--

Debbie

Proposed Dog Park Location on Rushmore Ave

Christine Bennett <christinembennett88@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 3:53 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Cc: Michael Bennett <MichaelCBennett88@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our school children commuting to school; not less. Dog parks are busiest at the time school children are walking/biking to school. What happens if a car parks illegally forcing kids to walk around it, or a dog starts to chase a frightened child en route to school, or the increase in traffic makes Orienta Ave even more dangerous to cross?

2. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult and less safe especially for our youngest residences. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Christine and Michael Bennett

630 Stiles Ave

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Objection to proposed dog park - Rushmore ave, Mamaroneck

Paul Reynolds <preynolds70@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 3:47 PM

To: Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Hope this reaches you well.

I am writing to voice my concerns over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave:

1. This is an emergency evacuation route , you are creating more opportunities for a logger jam and Rushmore ave is already "tight" for cars going each way as well as the beach club traffic.
2. Rushmore Ave is on a school route. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our school children commuting to school; not less. Dog parks are busiest at the time school children are walking/biking to school. What happens if a car parks illegally forcing kids to walk around it, or a dog starts to chase a frightened child en route to school, or the increase in traffic makes Orienta Ave even more dangerous to cross?
3. Where does the village think people will park? They will drive their dogs their and park in surrounding streets causing more disruption. If you believe people will park on post road and walk across you are very much mistaken. If you put signs up people will ignore them and it won't be enforced.
4. You have a child's play area and a place where people walk and try and enjoy the outdoors where people are dumping dog mess everywhere. That spot is tranquil and a dog park is an eyesore and health hazard.
5. Why not the Mamaroneck beach within harbor island park as Rye does in the summer off season. It's already fenced in, there is ample parking and it's easy to clean. It doesn't have to be all year round.

I love dogs and we have one but the Rushmore space is not ideal for so many reasons. There has to be somewhere else. I find it completely illogical.

Kind regards,

Paul Reynolds

Dog Park

Rick Rosa <rrosanyc@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 2:50 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; parksandrec@vomny.org
<parksandrec@vomny.org>

Hello Village of Mamaroneck:

I have no dogs.

I have pet allergies and cannot be near them.

I am opposed to funding a dog park.

If the Village insists on funding a dog park, please have the users of the dog park fund it and please keep it away from homes and residential buildings so residents do not have to be disturbed by barking dogs.

Tax money is better used in our public schools, helping provide services for residents in need, and keeping the village clean (enforcing building, sanitary, and commercial code) so we are not inundated with rats like we were last winter.

I'd rather have fewer hungry residents, fully staffed and funded schools and school programs, and a rat-free neighborhood than a dog park.

Thanks

Rick Rosa
330 Richbell Road
Mamaroneck NY 10543
917 880-5714 (cell)

Dog Park Concerns

Athena Maikish <maikish@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 2:46 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor, Board and Committee Members -

Thank you for your service and commitment to our Village.

I am writing to express my concern over a change of location to a proposed dog park. I do not support a dog park on Rushmore Ave for the following reasons:

1. Rushmore Ave is on a school route and has zero crossing guards or police monitoring any corner despite repeated asks to add a crossing guard. Bringing more traffic into the area which will undoubtedly park illegally and dogs which will undoubtedly wind up unleashed will be a significant danger to our children. We should be looking to make this area more safe for our children; not less. What happens when young kids walk or bike by at 815am - prime dog walking time - and a dog starts to chase? Are you willing to take on that liability?
2. Many residents are trying hard to fight for a better playground to replace the older playground on Rushmore. A dog park will make a bigger and better playground much more difficult. Let's create more outdoor spaces for our children.

I love dogs and we have one but the Rushmore space is not ideal for many reasons.

Many thanks!

Athena Belsito-Maikish

616 Stiles Ave

Re: Dog park

Robert Heiss <heissr@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 1:39 PM

To: Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Cc: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Daniel S. Natchez <dnatchez@vomny.org>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Lou Young <lyoung@vomny.org>; Laura Heiss <lheiss13@gmail.com>; info@orientapoint.org <info@orientapoint.org>; Ben Zoffness <info@zoffnesscollegeprep.com>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; catherine.hiller@yahoo.com <catherine.hiller@yahoo.com>; Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>; Sally Roberts <sroberts@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Does this study include situations where the dog park is literally 30 feet from your bedroom window? This dog park should not be near homes...

Bob Heiss

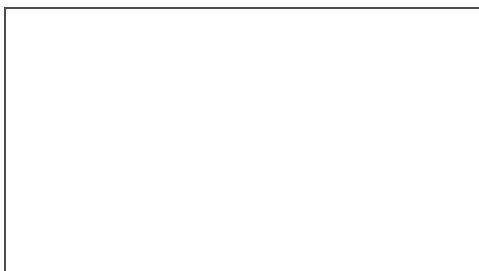
(914) 804-7839

On Sep 26, 2022, at 1:22 PM, Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net> wrote:

Hi all,

Just wanted to share an article to address the concern raised about dog parks and property values. It is a common misconception that dog parks lower actual property values. It really depends on what amenities a buyer is looking for. As a neighborhood dog park is by many a highly desired amenity to have in a community, there is no real evidence to say that it lowers actual property values. In reality, in combination with other amenities within a community (golf course, pools, parks, schools, churches, etc.) it may actually help make a particular neighborhood feel more complete and thus can give you higher property values vs. a community without all of those amenities.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/these-housing-markets-are-going-to-the-dogs-in-a-good-way-2018-03-29>



These housing markets are going to the dogs, in a good way

Dog parks don't just contribute to well-being of two- and four-legged residents, they may also help boost property values in communities that host them.

www.marketwatch.com

Thank you,
Karrie

From: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:34 PM

To: Robert Heiss <heissr@gmail.com>; Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Daniel S. Natchez <dnatchez@vomny.org>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Lou Young <lyoung@vomny.org>

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Subject: Re: Dog park

Thank you for your email Mr. Heiss. I am adding the Parks & Rec Commission so they can stay informed.

I do have the answer to some of your questions but don't have enough time at the moment to write you a thoughtful response. Will do my best to answer later on.

Sally & Dan Sarnoff - Why aren't all of these emails listed on the back up for tomorrow night's meeting? There are so many emails with great questions/suggestions/concerns that should be available to the community to view. Can we please add this so we have full transparency on the topic?????

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Parks & Rec Chairperson

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I have several questions and concerns regarding those recommendations.

- How was the need for a dog park established? Was there a survey done or was it deduced from

casual conversations with dog-walkers in the park? It would be good to see or hear some data.

- Has there been a cost/benefit analysis?
 - Would there be a charge?
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 - Noise? That is a particular concern in a residential neighborhood.
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 - Traffic? Rushmore Ave. is a narrow street.
 - Parking? Is it your attention to build a parking lot to accompany the dog park?
 - Non-Mamaroneck users? Dog parks attract people from neighboring municipalities.
 - Maintenance? How often will it be cleaned?

The recommended area for dog parks is 3000 to 5000 square feet. The parks are typically divided into small dog and large dog areas. That, along with the necessary parking and traffic is a rather large footprint which will create an eyesore in a pristing park.

The Rushmore Ave. side of Harbor Island Park has been a passive recreation area since its inception. The park is used extensively by people walking, flying kites, enjoying a sit and view from the benches, walking dogs, visiting the playground, etc. An active dog park does not fit the nature of the existing park and the activities enjoyed there.

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Thank you,

Bob Heiss
(914) 804-7839

Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Laura Rutto <ruttol@aol.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 10:50 AM

To: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Sally Roberts <sroberts@vomny.org>; Agostino Fusco <afusco@vomny.org>

Cc: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; catherine_hiller@yahoo.com <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; mmajic@yahoo.com <mmajic@yahoo.com>; maymargoshes@verizon.net <maymargoshes@verizon.net>; RuttoL@aol.com <ruttol@aol.com>; heissr@gmail.com <heissr@gmail.com>; tocroc@optonline.net <tocroc@optonline.net>; roconnor222@aol.com <roconnor222@aol.com>; Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>; pattitriff@gmail.com <pattitriff@gmail.com>; bctilecontractor@gmail.com <bctilecontractor@gmail.com>; jlstern1@verizon.net <jlstern1@verizon.net>

Good morning, all,

Hillary, thank you for including me in this email and giving me the opportunity to weigh in, as a dog lover and owner. I completely support a "Singular" Controlled Dog Park in an Environment that is safe and effective for all. Our village has much to-do rather than implement several Dog Park Locations within the VOM. To make this project viable, its best to focus on one location that is controlled and properly maintained and fits within the budgetary need of the village, its employees and the ability to properly service a location such as a dog park.

We have many pressing issues in the Village of Mamaroneck to deal with. We do not need or require several dog parks in the Village of Mamaroneck. It would be an added extra to incorporate one location!

After reviewing the locations that are presented.

The proposed location on Boston Post Road is **NOT** an option for the following reasons:

1. Adding a dog park to the Boston Post Road will add additional further congestion to an exceedingly busy part of Harbor Island Park. This location already has high traffic in sports and entry. This area is used by residents utilizing the field for soccer and baseball.
2. Noise and disruption of the traffic on Boston Post Road, coupled with Children playing sports, Referees blowing whistles, parents and people watching all sporting events is disruptive to animals and would not be enjoyable or beneficial to the pet or to the resident or child who is fearful of animals.
3. This location impedes open field use and will be a miss use of space of playing fields in that area, restricting the capability of events that that are held or in the future, could be held in this area of our harbor.
4. A dog park should not be a focal point and crammed in the middle of a waster sewer

plant, a historical landmark (School House) along with a highly utilized ball field.

PRO of Rushmore Avenue location:

1. Currently VOM Residents are already bringing their dogs to the Rushmore location. It would be beneficial to build a structured dog Park for all to enjoy. Most residents walk to this area as the VOM is a walking Village. Now, many of whom walk there as it is centrally located being in the Harbor.
2. This area already has a park alongside Harbor Island:
Gillies Park Intersection of Orienta Avenue and Old Post Road. Grass area.
3. A dog park set to the side on Rushmore would be most productive. This location is ideal as it sets the Dog Park off and away from the mainstream areas of the Harbor, giving it the space and supports it needs.
4. There is currently a section on Rushmore that has a "curb cut" to create off Street parking (which can be planned to blend in with the area, using gravel instead of black top and limiting parking space for no more than six spots.
5. Currently there is no parking directly next to the site. However, there is parking at the Harbor which would be just a short walk around the sea wall, not a far walk at all!
6. There is currently off-street parking on Boston Post Road, or on public side streets that do not have parking restrictions. To be mindful of Residential Parking, restrictions can be implemented to support the neighborhood to ensure over parking will not affect the quality of life the neighbor requires.

The VOM Parks and Recreation can structure the sale of Dog Park Permits and sell a set amount of Residential passes to utilize the park and charge a larger substantial fee for a Non-resident to obtain.

To summarize, I support a Dog Park, I do not Support a dog Park at the proposed Boston Post Road Location. I support the Rushmore Avenue location.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration,

Laura and James Abbate

-----Original Message-----

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

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<Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; maymargoshes@verizon.net; Laura Abbate <RuttoL@aol.com>; heissr@gmail.com

Sent: Mon, Sep 26, 2022 8:44 am

Subject: Re: Dog park on Rushmore

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Dog park

Robert Heiss <heissr@gmail.com>

Mon 9/26/2022 10:14 AM

To: Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; Daniel S. Natchez <dnatchez@vomny.org>; Victor Tafur <vtafur@vomny.org>; Lou Young <lyoung@vomny.org>

Cc: Laura Heiss <lheiss13@gmail.com>; info@orientapoint.org <info@orientapoint.org>; Ben Zoffness <info@zoffnesscollegeprep.com>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; catherine.hiller@yahoo.com <catherine.hiller@yahoo.com>; Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

It has come to my attention that a Village committee has researched establishing a dog park in the Village of Mamaroneck and has recommended a site in Harbor Island Park on the Rushmore Ave. side. I understand that the Parks & Recreation Commission has approved the recommendation and it is on the agenda for the 9/27 Board of Trustees meeting.

I have several questions and concerns regarding those recommendations.

- How was the need for a dog park established? Was there a survey done or was it deduced from casual conversations with dog-walkers in the park? It would be good to see or hear some data.
- Has there been a cost/benefit analysis?
 - Would there be a charge?
 - Would the monies collected cover the maintenance costs?
 - How many dogs would use the park? How many people would use the park?
- Has there been an analysis on:
 - Noise? That is a particular concern in a residential neighborhood.
 - Smell? Dogs and their “products” do smell.
 - Traffic? Rushmore Ave. is a narrow street.
 - Parking? Is it your attention to build a parking lot to accompany the dog park?
 - Non-Mamaroneck users? Dog parks attract people from neighboring municipalities.
 - Maintenance? How often will it be cleaned?

The recommended area for dog parks is 3000 to 5000 square feet. The parks are typically divided into small dog and large dog areas. That, along with the necessary parking and traffic is a rather large footprint which will create an eyesore in a pristing park.

The Rushmore Ave. side of Harbor Island Park has been a passive recreation area since its inception. The park is used extensively by people walking, flying kites, enjoying a sit and view from the benches, walking dogs, visiting the playground, etc. An active dog park does not fit the nature of the existing park and the activities enjoyed there.

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Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Sun 9/25/2022 3:29 PM

To: Hillary Short <Hillary_short@mac.com>

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The recommendation of the Parks Department is before the BOT on Tuesday. This is a BOT decision now. I thank the Parks for their input. There are enough cooks in the broth at this point.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

On Sep 25, 2022, at 2:35 PM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

Hi Tina

I have included Bob Heiss on this email. There is absolutely no way the Rushmore side of the park would pass approval, for many reasons. Nobody from the parks & Rec dept or the dog committee approached the neighbors before coming up with this decision.

You say there is a 3rd idea that is costly. Please have that conversation with the trustees. Maybe residents would help pay for the fencing in an ideal situation

Best

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Sun 9/25/2022 2:35 PM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; heissr@gmail.com <heissr@gmail.com>

Hi Tina

I have included Bob Heiss on this email. There is absolutely no way the Rushmore side of the park would pass approval, for many reasons. Nobody from the parks & Rec dept or the dog committee approached the neighbors before coming up with this decision.

You say there is a 3rd idea that is costly. Please have that conversation with the trustees. Maybe residents would help pay for the fencing in an ideal situation

Best

Hillary Short

On Sep 24, 2022, at 12:06 PM, Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net> wrote:

Good morning Hillary, and all,

My apologies for not responding yesterday as it was a crazy day for me.

Just so everyone is clear, the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee (which is comprised of 3 parks & Rec members as well as 2 community members, myself being one of them) was charged with investigating areas in the Village of Mamaroneck to find the best suitable location to create a much desired dog park.

Unfortunately with Covid, flooding and other delays the Committee had a very long time, as we waited for next steps, to think about our recommendation. A recommendation which most of us felt was very rushed into making because we wanted to move forward with creating the dog park.. We understand the issues that can arise from trying to build it on the Rushmore side, however we have always felt that this was the ideal location.

With this in mind the Dog Park Committee reconvened and shared our findings with the Parks & Rec Commission who then deliberated and unanimously agreed that the location on the Boston Post Road was not ideal and that the Rushmore location was more suitable.

Our purpose was to recommend the best suitable, safest location for all residents and dogs so this is why we changed our recommendation to the Rushmore location. It is not up to us to speak to

residents, etc as Hillary suggests. We are volunteers to a committee, not public elected officials with any decision making authority.

Hillary, I apologize for any miscommunication, but if anyone knows Nancy Wasserman, no one is capable of making her do anything, so not sure how or why you would think that was the case, and as I said earlier, I had no time for much of anything yesterday.

Please know we are all on the same side and want to do what is best for all of the Village residents and definitely want to see a dog park in the proper location.

If I may mention there was a 3rd location that we liked but it would be more costly, still this could possibly be another alternative.

I will try my best to attend the meeting on Tuesday.

Enjoy your weekend and Happy New Year to those celebrating.

Thank you,
Tina

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:52 AM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Nancy Wasserman <nanchan@aol.com>; maymargoshes@verizon.net <maymargoshes@verizon.net>

Subject: Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Update. I can't find Laura Heiss' email or phone number. And they weren't outdoors this morning at the harbor. Apparently when this idea germinated a few years ago Laura wasn't opposed to it. I am sure somebody on this email chain has her info to contact her for feedback before you all discuss on Tuesday. She will know exactly how her neighbors will respond.

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Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sat 9/24/2022 12:15 PM

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Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Nancy Wasserman <nanchan@aol.com>; maymargoshes@verizon.net <maymargoshes@verizon.net>

Thanks Tina for the feedback. Looking forward to a dog park being found. I would be happy with it anywhere that pleases folks. Let's hope it gets approved soon and moved forward.

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>>>> Hillary Short

No dog park near Toy box!

Victoria Fata <vfata0245@gmail.com>

Sat 9/24/2022 10:17 AM

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

Good morning,

There are so many reasons why the field across the street from the Toy Box is a TERRIBLE LOCATION FOR A DOG PARK!!

Why are dogs getting preference over our children?? Our children lack field time for so many sports, we need this field!

This location interferes with so many things that happen in our park!

What about the children that are afraid of dogs?

What about the irresponsible dog owners that will not clean up or leash their dog? That is a very busy area, it is not a good location for a dog park.

I have a dog and look forward to the possibility of a dog park. As a tax payer there are so many other things I'd rather see the money spent on, but if you are going to do it, definitely don't do it across from toy box. Way too much car and people traffic!

This location should be voted on by residents!

Thank you!

Victoria Fata

1301 Raleigh Rd, Mamaroneck

Dog park concerns

Ana Alegre <anasmileee@yahoo.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 10:12 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to having a dog park at harbor island. These are some reasons given for why it isn't a good location:

1. Adding a dog park to this site brings further congestion to an already extraordinarily busy part of Harbor Island Park that is highly used by residents primarily engaging in soccer and baseball. The noises from the referee whistles, screaming kids, the crack of a baseball bat, and flying soccer and baseballs that could accidentally end up in the dog park, could be dangerous for the dogs and dog owners if the dog park is in this location.
2. There are hundreds of kids at this location daily between soccer and baseball, so we must also keep in mind that there are many children who are fearful of dogs. With the anxiety and other issues that have been caused post-covid, a child who is afraid should not have to worry when they are going outdoors to enjoy the open space and exercise.
3. The loud noises from the traffic on Boston Post Road are not conducive to the kind of atmosphere that a dog park should have and could also be a danger to the dogs if there was a runaway dog incident.
4. This location takes away any possible expansion of the much needed space of playing fields in that area. There is also some field work to be done over the next several years which will cause soccer to lose some playing fields, so they may desperately need that space as well.
5. This location will interfere with other special events that take place in the Harbor such as concerts, festivals, carnivals, fireworks, etc. which will not be beneficial to the dog park.

Best,

Ana & Jack Cordova

115 Teresa Lane, mmk ny

Sent from Ana's iPhone

917.733.4917

Dog Park in Mamaroneck

Simon Baigelman <simon.baigelman@gmail.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 2:22 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to support and request a change in the proposed location of the dog park to be created in the Village of Mamaroneck. I am in favor of the new location on the West Basin, Rushmore Avenue side.

I live in Orienta right near the West basin. I can't think of a more underutilized place to have a dog park -- a safe and beautiful place where my family and our dogs can come to be outdoors, enjoy the park and meet other friends and neighbors. Mamroneck would live up to its name of the Friendly Village!

I hope you'll take this into consideration, we would be so grateful to have a beautiful place to bring our family every week!

Simon Baigelman

914-582-0187

Dog Park in Mamaroneck

Bambi Fisher <bambifisher@gmail.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 1:51 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees,

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I hope you'll take this into consideration, we would be so grateful to have a beautiful place to bring our family every week!

Thank you,
Bambi Fisher

Change to Proposed Dog Park Location

Abby Baigelman <abby.baigelman@gmail.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 1:11 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees,

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I have lived in Larchmont and Mamaroneck my entire life. I have a 4-year-old cockapoo, Hank. We would love a safe place for him to play off leash with other dogs, and I think the town would really benefit from this addition.

I hope you will take this into consideration.

Best,
Abby Baigelman

Change to Proposed Dog Park Location

Katie Baigelman <katie.baigelman@gmail.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 12:51 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to request a change in the proposed location of the dog park to be created in the Village of Mamaroneck. I am in favor of the new location on the West Basin, Rushmore Avenue side.

I have lived in Mamaroneck my entire life, attending Central School all the way through MHS. I currently live in the Village with my family, including my 2 year old dog, Murphy. We would be thrilled to have a dog park in our town where we can meet other families, children, and build community. That being said, if the location is not safe for our dog or us, there's no point in building it.

I hope you'll take this into consideration, we would be so grateful to have a beautiful place to bring our family every week!

Thank you,
Katie Baigelman

Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 10:52 AM

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Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Nancy Wasserman <nanchan@aol.com>; maymargoshes@verizon.net <maymargoshes@verizon.net>

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>>>> Hillary Short

Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Fri 9/23/2022 10:11 AM

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

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

That's correct, we did discuss this at a meeting that was open to the public and we're not trying to hide anything, however, Hillary did not attend that meeting and she knew about our recommendation less than 12 hours after we sent our email to the Village Board/managers so it just feels like someone is trying to undermine the PRC's hard work of trying to get a long overdue dog park in the Village in a location that is safe and mindful of all our residents.

Enjoy the long weekend and look forward to discussing this further.

Thank you,
Karrie

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

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:33 AM

To: Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Subject: Re: Dog park on Rushmore

I have just gotten back today from vacation but wasn't this item talked about at a public meeting?

If so then there is no reasonable assumption of secrecy. It isn't an Executive Session item that requires confidentiality.

Hope you all have a great weekend!

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

On Sep 23, 2022, at 9:02 AM, Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net> wrote:

Hi,

Would someone please explain to the PRC how Hillary Short is already emailing us about the change in our recommendation for the location of the dog park before it's been made public information?

Thanks!

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

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To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

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Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

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Fri 9/23/2022 9:33 AM

To: Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net>

Cc: Mayor and Board <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

I have just gotten back today from vacation but wasn't this item talked about at a public meeting?

If so then there is no reasonable assumption of secrecy. It isn't an Executive Session item that requires confidentiality.

Hope you all have a great weekend!

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

On Sep 23, 2022, at 9:02 AM, Sergio, Karrie <KSergio@vomny.net> wrote:

Hi,

Would someone please explain to the PRC how Hillary Short is already emailing us about the change in our recommendation for the location of the dog park before it's been made public information?

Thanks!

From: Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:06 AM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: Mayor and Board <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Subject: Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Did you speak with Laura and Bob Heiss who have been long time residents and engaged in dogs allowed at the harbor for over 10 years? We will be wasting valuable time on getting a dog park

without the work being done prior to a meeting. Rushmore will never happen I think it came up when Kathy Savolt was mayor and turned down for many reasons. As you know this conversation has been going on since at least 2018.

> On Sep 23, 2022, at 8:01 AM, Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net> wrote:

>

> Thank you for your email Hillary.

>

> I've copied the Parks and Rec Commission so they stay informed.

>

> Tina

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Sep 23, 2022, at 7:21 AM, Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Tina

>>

>> Have you spoken to Laura and Bob Heiss about your recommendation? Although that location is ideal in many ways, no board in America would pass the building of a dog park that close to homes.

>>

>> I hope prior to submitting a request to the board you have had a long and lengthy conversation with Laura and bob who have been involved in dogs at the harbor for over 10 years. Nothing will pass without their valid input

>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

I urge the board to place residents involved in the local community on committees moving forward in December

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 8:16 AM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

Hi Tom

Lately I have been disappointed with decisions being made by committees that don't reflect the needs and desires of most residents. I know Lou called me a dictator, but I do think I am out and about in our downtown community a lot getting feedback from locals.

For instance a dog park committee and rec dept that comes up with an ideal of a Rushmore dog park that has been discussed for over 10 years and for many reasons will not happen. That idea is just going around in circles.

Naldo's permit to open a popular and much needed establishment in the community. Which sadly due to now opening in September after emails sent to the zoning board may not survive financially due to the large costs incurred to open. We saw something similar occur with Maple & Rose.

I urge the village to please take into consideration when placing folks on committees that they are truly invested in supporting local businesses and homeowners. Many of us residents work long hours to live in this community and can't afford the time luxury of being on boards.

Thanks in advance. And welcome home!!

Hillary Short

Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Fri 9/23/2022 8:07 AM

To: Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

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>>

>> Best

>>

>> Hillary Short

Re: Dog park on Rushmore

Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Fri 9/23/2022 8:01 AM

To: Hillary Short <Hillary_short@mac.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; Marina Majic <mmajic@yahoo.com>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>

Thank you for your email Hillary.

I've copied the Parks and Rec Commission so they stay informed.

Tina

Sent from my iPhone

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>

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>

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>

> Best

>

> Hillary Short

Change of Dog Park location - Back up Information

Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>

Thu 9/22/2022 8:46 PM

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

Cc: Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees,

After careful consideration and much deliberation, including additional site visits, the Parks & Recreation Commission, in agreement with the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee, would like to recommend a change in the proposed location of the dog park to be created in the Village of Mamaroneck.

The Dog Park Committee looked at several different sites and considered the pros and cons of each one. We had originally settled on the site next to the Waste Water and Treatment Plant due to its central location, proximity to parking, and minimal neighboring residents, but we have since decided this may not be the best location after all for a variety of reasons:

1. Adding a dog park to this site brings further congestion to an already extraordinarily busy part of Harbor Island Park that is highly used by residents primarily engaging in soccer and baseball. The noises from the referee whistles, screaming kids, the crack of a baseball bat, and flying soccer and baseballs that could accidentally end up in the dog park, could be dangerous for the dogs and dog owners if the dog park is in this location.
2. There are hundreds of kids at this location daily between soccer and baseball, so we must also keep in mind that there are many children who are fearful of dogs. With the anxiety and other issues that have been caused post-covid, a child who is afraid should not have to worry when they are going outdoors to enjoy the open space and exercise.
3. The loud noises from the traffic on Boston Post Road are not conducive to the kind of atmosphere that a dog park should have and could also be a danger to the dogs if there was a runaway dog incident.
4. This location takes away any possible expansion of the much needed space of playing fields in that area. There is also some field work to be done over the next several years which will cause soccer to lose some playing fields, so they may desperately need that space as well.
5. This location will interfere with other special events that take place in the Harbor such as concerts, festivals, carnivals, fireworks, etc. which will not be beneficial to the dog park.

After going back and taking another look at the site around the West Basin on Rushmore Avenue we strongly feel it is the better location for the following reasons:

1. It is a much larger space. When the dog park committee started looking

at locations we were told the minimum space that would be "ok" for dogs was 1 acre. This area allows the dog park to be larger than that minimal acreage.

2. It is quieter. When we looked at dog parks in other communities, none of them are located on a busy road such as Boston Post Road. In addition there are no other events that take place in this area of the park.

3. There are far fewer children playing in this location and we are able to keep a safer distance from the playground and there is no soccer or baseball in this location.

4. Residents are already bringing their dogs to this location now, many of whom walk there as it is centrally located being in the Harbor.

5. While there is no parking directly next to the site there is parking at the Harbor which would be just a short walk around the sea wall, or there is parking on Boston Post Road, or on public side streets that do not have parking restrictions. If required, we could look into carving out just a couple of handicap parking spots where the access curb is already in place, a simple gravel parking pad is all that would be needed.

If the Board of Trustees agrees to this new location, we would be mindful of site lines and not put the dog park too close to the protected marsh, the neighboring residents property, or the playground in that area.

We recommend that the Board of Trustees approve this new location to be located on the West Basin, Rushmore Avenue side, and that you submit a revised proposal to the HCZMC to ensure this would not have a negative environmental impact and would be consistent with the LWRP.

Our residents have been asking, begging, for a dog park for a long time. Let's finally give them one and let's do it in a manner that is thoughtful to all residents who may or may not be dog owners as well as to all the dogs.

Thank you,

Tina Maresca, Chairperson

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Reply Reply All Forward

Dog Park in Mamaroneck

Hillary Short <hillary_short@mac.com>

Thu 9/22/2022 8:46 PM

To: Georgios Moutafis <giorgos.moutafis@gmail.com>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Daniel Sarnoff <dsarnoff@vomny.org>; Jeff Ahne <jahne@vomny.org>; Catherine Hiller <catherine_hiller@yahoo.com>; Suzi Oppenheimer <suzioppen@gmail.com>; STEVEN OTIS <steveotisrye@aol.com>

Hi Nora

As the trustee liaison on both the dog park committee and the parks and recs department. How did the dog park get moved from the Boston post Road location to the Rushmore side of the park?

From what I have heard from residents Rushmore was discussed many years ago and wouldn't work due to there being homes on the field there. Also there isn't any parking. This part of the park has been discussed and decided against for both those reasons.

Until we get a new trustee liaison on the parks and rec committee this dog park in the village will never come to fruition.

Let's hope after December this can be sorted out. The Republicans brought this issue up 4 years ago when they were running as trustees. Nobody understands why a dog park in our community is so complex.

I don't have the bandwidth or interest in this any more, it is too ridiculous.

Best

Hillary Short

(No subject)

Jean Wurzburger <jeanniewurz@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/17/2022 2:58 PM

To: Rec&Parks <rec&parks@vomny.org>

I am vehemently opposed to a dog park at our parking lot location. We purchased a condo there with the parking lot being available to residents. You will negatively impact our resale values if there is no place for future purchasers to park. This lot was given with the knowledge it should remain a parking lot. There is a large apartment on Stuart Ave that already uses that street to park. I am sure there are other areas that can be used for a dog park. Taylors lane dump comes to mind as does some of Harbor island park.

Please do not entertain a dog park at Continental View.

Regards,

Gregory Wurzburger

Andrea Wurzburger

Rachel Wurzburger

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Continental View Condo

billy levy <wlancer522@gmail.com>

Thu 11/17/2022 5:26 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>; tmaresca@vommy.ne <tmaresca@vommy.ne>; jbarberio@vommy.org <jbarberio@vommy.org>; nlucas@vommy.org <nlucas@vommy.org>; ce@westchestergov.com <ce@westchestergov.com>

As residents of the Continental View , we find your "dog park" proposal to be both cruel and incomprehensible.

Many of us are older, some are handicapped, young parents with infants, toddlers and are desperately in need of parking, as close as possible to our building

We enjoy our home and the town we live in and have found it to be respectful of both young and old; somehow we are faced with this incredulous proposal.

We adamantly disagree with this proposal. We consider it both inconvenient and inconsiderate.

We wonder if this idea has been run past ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act. We do not think it was.

Please give the utmost attention to this issue. Please think, understand and give it the appropriate attention that it deserves

Thank you
William and Caryl Levy

Re: Continental View Condo

Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Thu 11/17/2022 6:01 PM

To: billy levy <wlancer522@gmail.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; tmaresca@vommy.ne <tmaresca@vommy.ne>; jbarberio@vommy.org <jbarberio@vommy.org>; nlucas@vommy.org <nlucas@vommy.org>; ce@westchestergov.com <ce@westchestergov.com>

I have no intentions of putting a dog park next to you. Folks on the Recreation sub-committee are exploring all their options.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

> On Nov 17, 2022, at 5:26 PM, billy levy <wlancer522@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

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> infants,toddlers and are desperately in need of parking, as close as

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> understand and give it the appropriate attention that it deserves

>

>

Thank you

>

William and Caryl Levy

>

>

Re: Continental View Parking Lot

patty pattyr.com <patty@pattyr.com>

Tue 11/22/2022 2:57 PM

To: Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; Patty Henry <phenry@benchmarkmgt.com>

Cc: MayorandBoard@vomny.net <MayorandBoard@vomny.net>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <TMaresca@vomny.net>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>; ce@westchestergov.com <ce@westchestergov.com>

Hi Jerry

Thank you for your response.

I understand that it would not be the entire parking lot. However, I still think it is an inappropriate place for a "dog park". It is already being used as such for this building and a little more space achieved by removing some spots would not make it a big enough area to accommodate any more dogs.

We do not need to have a neighborhood full of dogs barking under our windows.

Thank you.

Patty Ross



From: Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 at 8:56 PM

To: Patty Ross <patty@pattyr.com>, Patty Henry <phenry@benchmarkmgt.com>

Cc: "MayorandBoard@vomny.net" <MayorandBoard@vomny.net>, Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>, "Maresca, Tina" <TMaresca@vomny.net>, Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>, "ce@westchestergov.com" <ce@westchestergov.com>

Subject: Re: Continental View Parking Lot

Thank you. I have included your building manager Patty Henry from Benchmark. She has been leading our parking lot discussion for some time now.

To be clear, the idea discussed was to remove 60-80% of the parking and convert that space to a larger dog park. 40% of the parking would remain or approx. 10-20 spaces.

Thank you,

Jerry Barberio
Village Manager
Village of Mamaroneck

On Nov 18, 2022, at 2:04 PM, patty pattyr.com <patty@pattyr.com> wrote:

Dear Village of Mamaroneck Managers:

I am an owner at the Continental View in Mamaroneck, NY. It is my understanding that the Village of Mamaroneck is considering a plan to convert our parking lot into a dog park.

It is my unequivocal opinion that this would be a terrible idea and extremely detrimental to our residents.

We need this area for parking.

- We have residents who are elderly or have toddlers and they cannot be looking for parking on the street.
- When Continental View was built, the developer only gave the Parking area to the Village with the designated use of a Parking Lot.
- We have never seen a town/village look to downsize parking availability and we do not wish to see that now.

We need this area for our dogs.

- This is a dog friendly building and we already have many dogs who need to use this area.
- There are already many people from the area who use this park and any more dogs would be a health hazard.
- No one would be making sure people clean up after their dogs and it would be too many dogs for this small space.
- This area, even with the additional area of the parking lot, is in no way large enough to be a dog park for the neighborhood.
- Further, where would all these people park?

When this building was built, there were many rules and restrictions. Now that these have all expired and we are all paying full market price and taxes for this property, we do not feel that the parking lot and dog run, which is a small space to begin with, should be converted to an area that encourages more people to use it. It is just not right.

I am very opposed to this plan going forward and feel it would be tremendously detrimental to all who live here.

It is my sincere hope that the Village of Mamaroneck puts the needs of the residents above the desires of a few.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Ross L-7
Continental View Owner

AGAINST PROPOSAL FOR CVC LOT

sara celona <celonasarae@gmail.com>

Fri 11/18/2022 11:26 AM

To: Nora Lucas <nlucas@vomny.org>

Patricia and Sara Celona

1035 E Boston Post Road Apt. 2-8,
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Patricia Celona and I am a resident at Continental View with my daughter Sara Celona. I am writing to adamantly disagree with your proposal of turning the CVC parking lot into a "dog park". Since Continental View was opened on September 25, 1996, residents have been using the lot for parking as the developer intended since they opened.

It would be an immense inconvenience for the residents in this building. Not to mention, there would be a burden of cars on Stuart Ave despite it already being crowded. There are several tenants that are handicapped and wheelchair bound. As well as families with young children. There is already limited parking in this vicinity for the residences, not to mention, the lack of visitor parking. By turning CVC parking lot into a "dog park", you would be displacing 39 families with a safe, convenient place to park.

My family and I have been in Mamaroneck for over 30 years. We have come to love this town and our home.

Please reconsider, as we adamantly disagree with this proposal.

Re: Continental View Parking Lot

Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>

Tue 11/22/2022 3:30 PM

To: Mark Goreczny <MGoreczny@abramslaw.com>

Cc: Patty Henry <phenry@benchmarkmgt.com>; MayorandBoard@vomny.net
<MayorandBoard@vomny.net>; Rec&Parks <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina
<TMaresca@vomny.net>; Nora Lucas <nluucas@vomny.org>

Patty Henry and Mark,

please let me know when we can meet again to discuss the maintenance responsibilities of the parking lot. If we it is determined that we have that responsibility, it will make all the difference regarding the future use of that lot.

Thank you,

Jerry Barberio
Village Manager
Village of Mamaroneck

On Nov 22, 2022, at 2:57 PM, patty patty.com <patty@patty.com> wrote:

Hi Jerry

Thank you for your response.

I understand that it would not be the entire parking lot. However, I still think it is an inappropriate place for a "dog park". It is already being used as such for this building and a little more space achieved by removing some spots would not make it a big enough area to accommodate any more dogs.

We do not need to have a neighborhood full of dogs barking under our windows.

Thank you.

Patty Ross



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Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 at 8:56 PM

To: Patty Ross <patty@patty.com>, Patty Henry <phenry@benchmarkmgt.com>

Cc: "MayorandBoard@vomny.net" <MayorandBoard@vomny.net>, Rec&Parks
<Rec&Parks@vomny.org>, "Maresca, Tina" <TMaresca@vomny.net>, Nora Lucas

<nluucas@vomny.org>, "ce@westchestergov.com" <ce@westchestergov.com>

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- There are already many people from the area who use this park and any more dogs would be a health hazard.
- No one would be making sure people clean up after their dogs and it would be too many dogs for this small space.
- This area, even with the additional area of the parking lot, is in no way large enough to be a dog park for the neighborhood.
- Further, where would all these people park?

When this building was built, there were many rules and restrictions. Now that these have all expired and we are all paying full market price and taxes for this property, we do not feel that the parking lot and dog run, which is a small space to begin with,

should be converted to an area that encourages more people to use it. It is just not right.

I am very opposed to this plan going forward and feel it would be tremendously detrimental to all who live here.

It is my sincere hope that the Village of Mamaroneck puts the needs of the residents above the desires of a few.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patty Ross L-7
Continental View Owner

Village of Mamaroneck Dog Park

Sandra Pelio <sandraleepelio@gmail.com>

Wed 11/30/2022 9:55 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; jbarberi@vomny.org <jbarberi@vomny.org>

Hello,

As a current resident of Greenhaven (Brevoort Lane) and a dog lover, my family strongly opposes any creation of a dog park by Mangone's Garden Center on Greenhaven Road.

Our major concerns include: i) diminished property value, ii) constant barking, iii) influx of cars on an already busy Boston Post Road, iv) potential removal of trees to create parking space could adversely affect privacy of certain residents and v) disturbing the existing ecology of beautiful landscape.

We think that those seeking a dog park can find alternate places such as the nearby Playland dog beach / park. We hope you reconsider the Greenhaven location.

Best,
Sandra Pelio

Dog Park Greenhaven Road/Taylors Lane

Tina Dragone <tinadseemer@gmail.com>

Wed 11/30/2022 10:08 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; jbarbero@vomny.og <jbarbero@vomny.og>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>

Hello Village of Mamaroneck Board, Mayor, and Dog Park Committee Members,

We are writing to express our opposition to the creation of a dog park between Greenhaven Road and Taylors Lane.

The neighbors living in proximity of Greenhaven Road and Taylors Lane expressed several concerns with a potential dog park. A note was circulated to the residents to reach out to you all.

Our concerns are as follows:

- Lack of parking to accommodate dog park users
- Increased traffic
- Constant noise and inability of residents to enjoy the tranquility of their backyards
- Decreased property values for those homes that border on the park

All of the above concerns would adversely affect the privacy of our neighborhood. Please consider another area.

Kind regards,

Tina and John Seemer
520 Greenhaven Road

Possible Greenhaven dog park site

Dominique de Bourgnecht <d.debourgnecht@gmail.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 10:24 AM

To: mayorandboard@vomny.or <mayorandboard@vomny.or>; **Rec&Parks**
<**rec&parcs@vomny.org**>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>; jbarberi@vomny.org
<jbarberi@vomny.org>

Dear all,

I am a resident of Greenhaven and I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of a dog park at the entrance of our neighborhood. As you know, Greenhaven is a very special, beautifully landscaped neighborhood with a lot of history.

You can refer to the extraordinary history in the link below to a movie that was made about the neighborhood. I strongly feel that in addition to the traffic issue, ie having many cars enter one of the few exits to the neighborhood, using that location for a dog park would be an eyesore.

<https://youtu.be/RJOTvc-J3ak>

I have been to the dog park on Willett ave in Port Chester and it did not elevate the area. People come from all over to bring their dogs. In addition, the Rye beach is open to dogs all winter long, which seems sufficient for people who would like to bring their dogs for a run.

Warmly,

Dominique de Bourgnecht
72 Brevoort Ln, Rye, NY 10580

Opposition to Dog Park

Jenny Park <jentailuke@yahoo.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 2:20 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

Along with many of my neighbors,

I oppose any consideration of building a dog park near the Greenhaven neighborhood.

Thank you,

Jenny Park

69 Brevoort

Sent from my iPhone

Dog park

mark rejtig <mark.rejtig@gmail.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 2:36 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

I am writing to let you know my opinion on dog park behind mangones. I am against it. This will be a negative to our greenhaven community. Too many strangers coming in.

Please vote against it.

Mark Rejtig

917 371-0358

GREENHAVEN ROAD DOG PARK OPPOSITION

Laura Evangelista <lauraevangelista@yahoo.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 3:29 PM

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

Cc: Rec&Parks <rec&parcs@vomny.org>;jbarberi@vomny.org
<jbarberi@vomny.org>;tmaresca@vomny.org <tmaresca@vomny.org>;Maresca, Tina
<tmaresca@vomny.net>

Hello Mayor, Board of Trustees,

My name is Laura Evangelista and i am homeowner on Shadow Lane. It came to my attention that the property across from TD Bank on Greenhaven rd is being considered as a dog park location. As a member of the Rye neck community for almost 15 years I am fully aware how much people love their dogs. I am also hyper conscious how densely populated the village is.

The area mentioned on Greenhaven rd is already extremely dangerous. There are no sidewalks and adding more vehicle and animal traffic is asking for accidents. The traffic is so bad I don't let either of my kids go down greenhaven rd to and from school.

It is shocking that this location is being considered. I am appalled the village would consider an area that trees and the ecosystem would require being destroyed to make a dog park.

As a homeowner on Shadow Lane I am blessed to enjoy the beauty of nature in the Taylors Lane field.

Are you aware that bald eagles are known to frequent those trees near the property being considered? I last saw a bald eagle flying over taylors lane 2 weeks ago. What about the hundreds of birds, the raccoons, opossums, skunks, deer, coyotes, snakes and preying mantis to name a few that all call the field their home? Are we really going to destroy this habitat to create more traffic in an already busy area?

Another major consideration is the rising rate of crime in the community. Less than a month ago my husband called the village police to locate a man walking door to door soliciting and looking into cars. This type of activity is not going away unless we take a stand to keep our neighborhood a place where our children can feel safe walking or riding their bike. Bringing a dog park is only going to invite more strangers to drive around without consideration or knowledge where kids frequently walk and bike.

It is my hope the friendly village will choose a location that already has ample parking and will not require destruction of trees.

Kind regards,

Laura Evangelista
1406 Shadow Lane

Dog Park - Greenhaven

Antonio LaValva <antoniolavalva222@yahoo.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 3:31 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>; tmaresca@vomny.org <tmaresca@vomny.org>; lbarberi@vomny.org <lbarberi@vomny.org>

Hi Everyone,

I am a resident on Greenhaven road and wanted to express my support for a dog park which you are looking at the possibility for in Mamaroneck.

I'm sure you will receive many people who are displeasing of this but not as many express their support so I wanted to send a note to you as well.

Please let me know if there is anything additional you might need from me.

Thanks,
Antonio LaValva

RE: Proposal to develop a dog park behind Mangone's

Yvonne Insussarry <Yvonne.Insussarry@Altour.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 5:02 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks**
<rec&parcs@vomny.org>; tmaresca@vomny.org <tmaresca@vomny.org>; jbarbieri@vomny.org
<jbarbieri@vomny.org>

December 1, 2022

To the Board:

I have been a resident of Greenhaven since 2001. I echo the concerns of other neighbors worried about the disruption the development of this dog park would bring. Most concerning is the increase of visibility our neighborhood will have when strangers with and without dogs stroll around our streets. As it is, it has become increasingly difficult to curb car thefts and break-ins. Response time is slower to our area because we are far from the closest precincts. This property borders with Rye, so the inevitable increase in petty theft will also affect our city's resources.

In addition, we do not have formal sidewalks and having strangers in the area will increase close encounters with clueless dog-owners who will have to share the road with resident drivers...Safety of all is a serious concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Insussarry
240 Brevoort Lane
Rye NY 10580

Opposition to a dog park on the Greenhaven Rd

Florence Bagneris <fbagneris@gmail.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 5:28 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

Cc: Greg Berthomieu <g_berthomieu@yahoo.com>

Dear Sir, Madam:

As residents of Greenhaven, we' like to share our voice and oppose to the project of a dog park on the Greenhaven rd.

Thank you for taking our voice into consideration.

Best,

Florence and Greg Berthomieu

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Opposition to a dog park on the Greenhaven Rd

Thomas A. Murphy <tmurphy@vomny.org>

Thu 12/1/2022 5:48 PM

To: Florence Bagneris <fbagneris@gmail.com>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <MayorandBoard@vomny.org>; Greg Berthomieu <g_berthomieu@yahoo.com>

You have been heard. I tend to agree with your view. There have been no firm decisions made.

Respectfully,

Tom Murphy

Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck

He/His/Him

> On Dec 1, 2022, at 5:28 PM, Florence Bagneris <fbagneris@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Sir, Madam:

>

> As residents of Greenhaven, we'd like to share our voice and oppose to the project of a dog park on the Greenhaven rd.

>

> Thank you for taking our voice into consideration.

>

> Best,

> Florence and Greg Berthomieu

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Potential Dog Park

Maria Hancock <mariabhancock@icloud.com>

Thu 12/1/2022 5:59 PM

To: **Recreation** <recreation@vomny.org>

Cc: **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>

Dear Mr. Pinto,

We have been informed that the village of Mamaroneck is considering building a dog park behind Mangone's Garden Center.

We live in this neighborhood, and would appreciate if you could let us know if that is indeed being considered, and also inform you that like most of our neighbors, we would strongly oppose this project.

Regards,

Maria and Peter Hancock

Dog Park Greenhaven Road/Taylor's Lane

Lourdes Hollmann <riosihollmann@gmail.com>

Fri 12/2/2022 7:31 AM

To: Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>; Maresca, Tina <tmaresca@vomny.net>

Dear Village of Mamaroneck Board, Mayor, and Dog Park Committee Members:

I hope you each enjoyed a special Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

As you know a note was circulated to some residents in the area. It lists your emails, including an incorrect email for Mr. Jerry Barberio. Fortunately a friend sent me the correct email address.

In September, I came home with our first family dog. And even though we are filled with excitement and love for her, I am writing to communicate my opposition to the dog park being proposed between Greenhaven Road and Taylor's Lane. Our home is located just off Greenhaven Road and is in close proximity to Mangone's and Taylor's Lane.

Some of my concerns include but are not limited to the following:

- Parking to accommodate dog park users and non-dog park users alike
- Increased traffic along Boston Post Rd where we already experience high traffic volume, especially during school drop off/pick up times
- Noise, especially barking, and general disruption of the peace. I moved to Greenhaven for the "haven" of peace, quiet and privacy it offers. Noise from leaf blowers is already a significant disruption. There will be added noise, traffic, and other activity on top of it. I don't want to hear my own dog barking. I definitely don't want a cacophony of other dogs barking.
- Decreased property values for those homes that border the dog park
- I'm the sole home owner of my house and pay, what is for me, an exorbitant amount in taxes to live here. Will there be any tax increase? I also live on a "private" road. I have to pay for snow removal. I certainly will not pay more in taxes and I will fight tooth and nail not only for any increase but for a tax break as a result of the decrease in quality of life.
- Police diverted to dog park for disruption. There will be calls made to the Police Dept to report barking and other issues.
- Etc, etc, etc.

My list goes on and on. Please consider another area. There are already existing options that can be expanded, adjusted and modified at Oakland Beach and Playland.

Happy Holidays to all.

Sincere Regards,
Lourdes Rios-Hollmann
12 Brevoort Lane
Rye, NY 10580

Dog Park in Greenhaven

Cristen Willer <cristenwiller@gmail.com>

Sun 12/4/2022 1:25 PM

To: Jerry Barberio <jbarberio@vomny.org>; **Mayor and Board** <mayorandboard@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <rec&parks@vomny.org>; tmaresca@vomny.org <tmaresca@vomny.org>

Dear Village of Mamaroneck,

My husband and I own a home in Greenhaven (40 Lake Rd - we pay taxes to both Rye and Mamaroneck as our property is on both sides of the line).

I would be in favor of a dog park near Greenhaven Rd and Boston Post Road. I am also a dog owner. Our private beaches in the neighborhood do not allow dogs so it would be nice to have a fenced dog park nearby. Going around to Rye Town Park or Playland Beach is a bit of a hike for us.

Thanks,
Cristen Abecasis

Dog Park support

Patrick West <patrick@themachinenyc.com>

Fri 12/2/2022 12:34 PM

To: **Mayor and Board** <Mayorandboard@vomny.org>; Jerry Barberio <Jbarberio@vomny.org>; **Rec&Parks** <Rec&Parks@vomny.org>; **Dog Park Subcommittee** <Dogparks@vomny.net>

Hey there!!

As a resident of Mamaroneck in the Rye Neck area, I am voicing my opinion that a dog park anywhere would be great! I know there is space being considered near Greenhaven ... awesome! Great location, low traffic congestion, lots of space!

Im sure some Greenhaven richies will act all hurt about the idea somehow, but that's typical. Let's get it done!

Thanks,
Patrick West
208 Wagner Ave

PATRICK WEST

**BE THE
MACHINE**

P: (work + cell): 914.216.8948

208 Wagner Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

<http://www.themachinenyc.com>