



Dog Park Master Plan & Policy Recommendations

Denver Parks and Recreation 2010



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

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Introduction

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



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



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



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

Introduction



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



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



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

Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives Achieved in the Planning Process:

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

Goals

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

Objectives

Objectives of the plan and policy recommendations include:

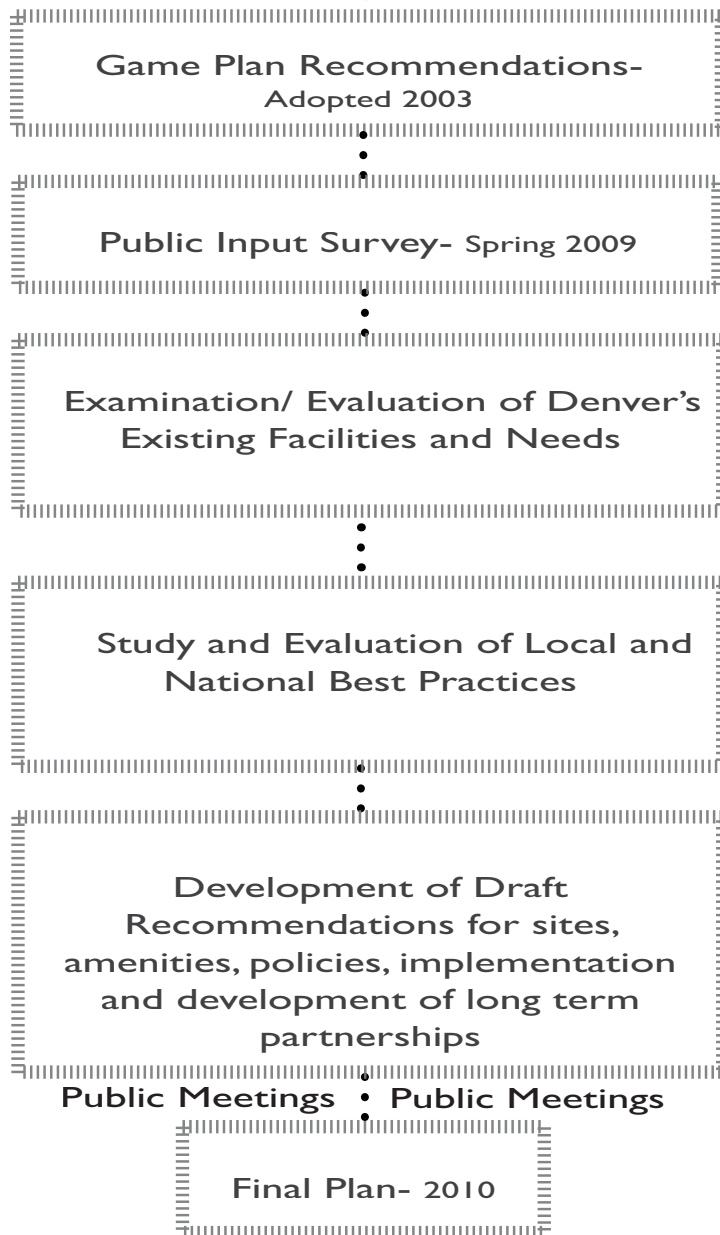
- The evaluation of current dog parks and consideration of possible spaces and solutions for future dog park facilities
- Design options and recommendations that are site specific
- Development of recommendations for more and for better city-wide enforcement of dog off-leash regulations
- Improvement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



Planning Process

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

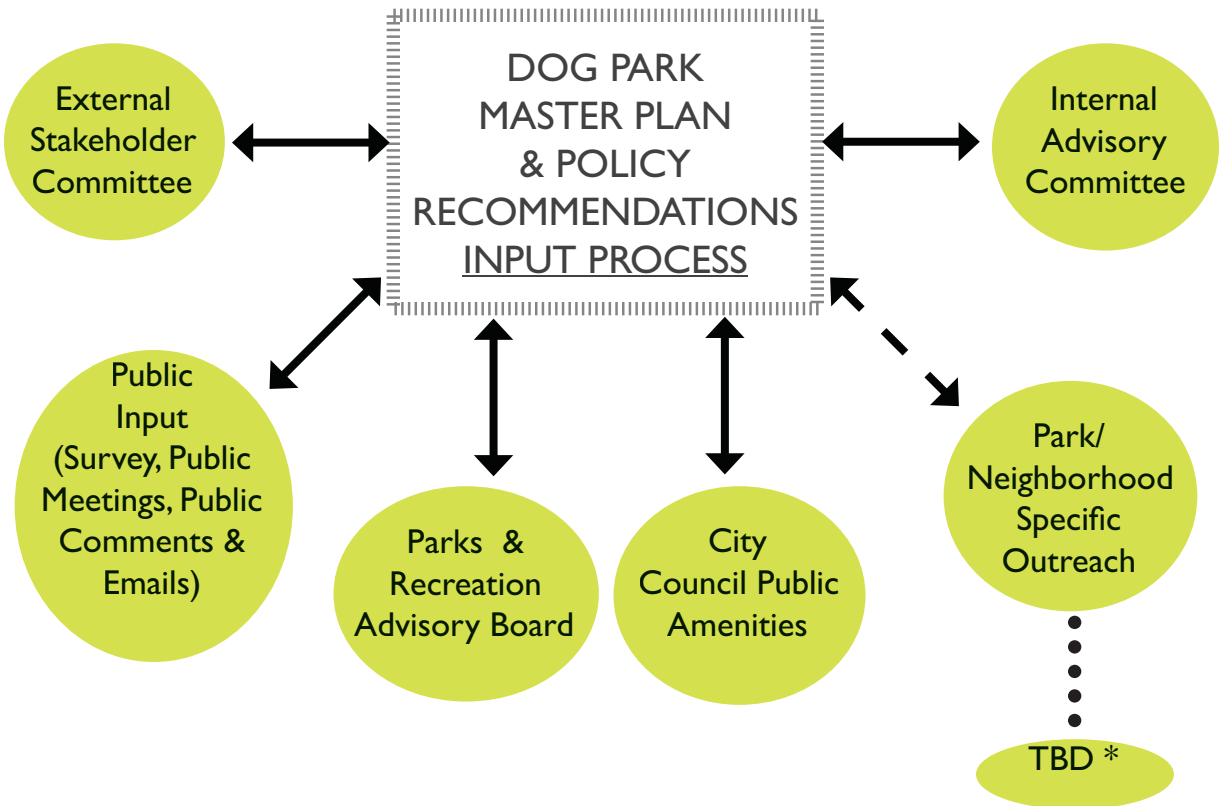
Master Plan Planning Process Overview



Planning Process

Input Process

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



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

Planning Process



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

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

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



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

This group was comprised of:

- Two members from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) including Council District 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.

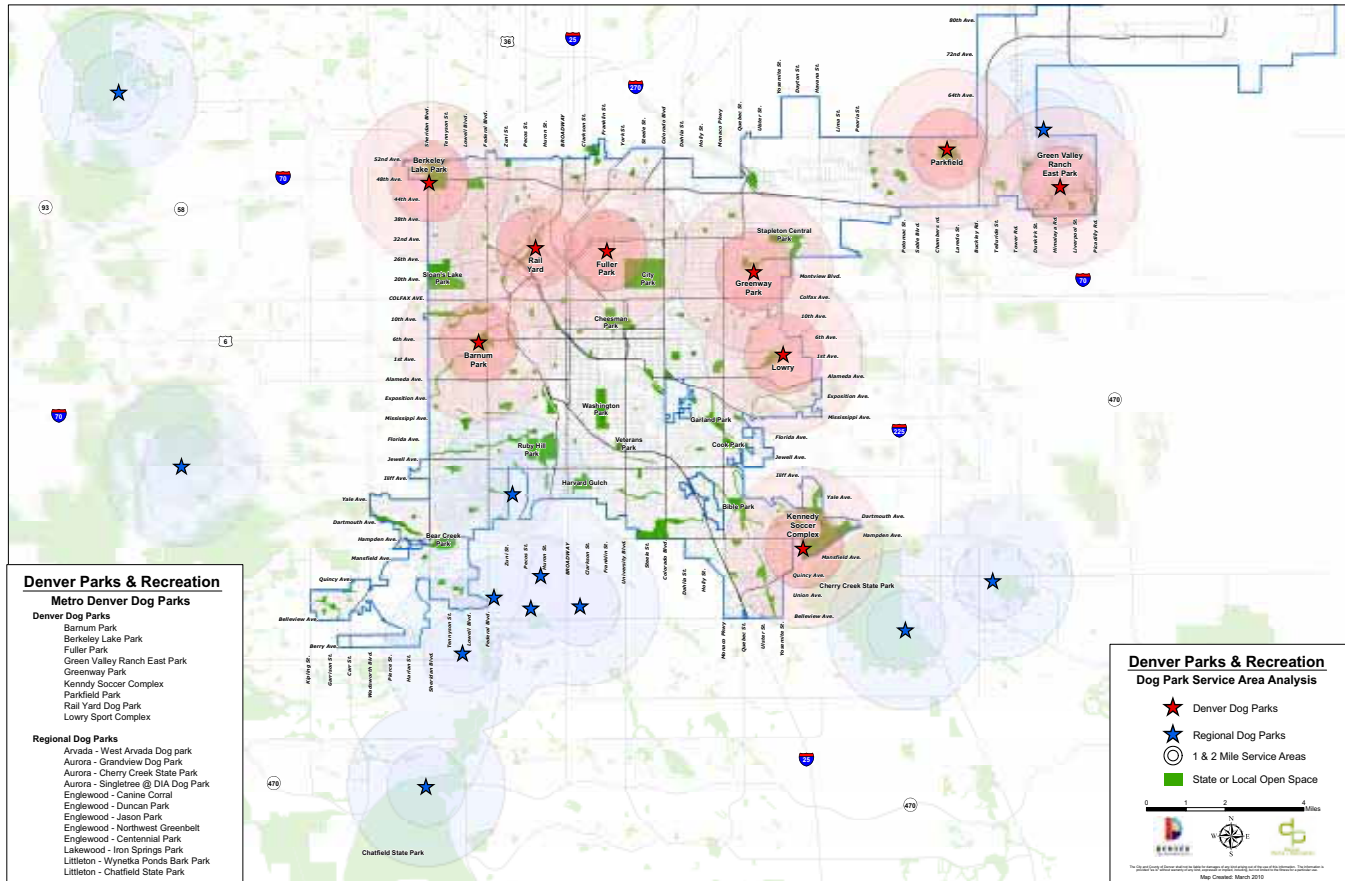
Vancouver, BC, Canada has 31 parks with off-leash locations. Use times and descriptions vary. There is a very strong education and training program on responsible dog ownership. They utilize radio and television advertisements.

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

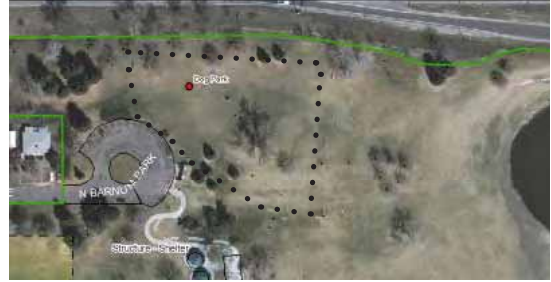
Existing Dog Park System Overview

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

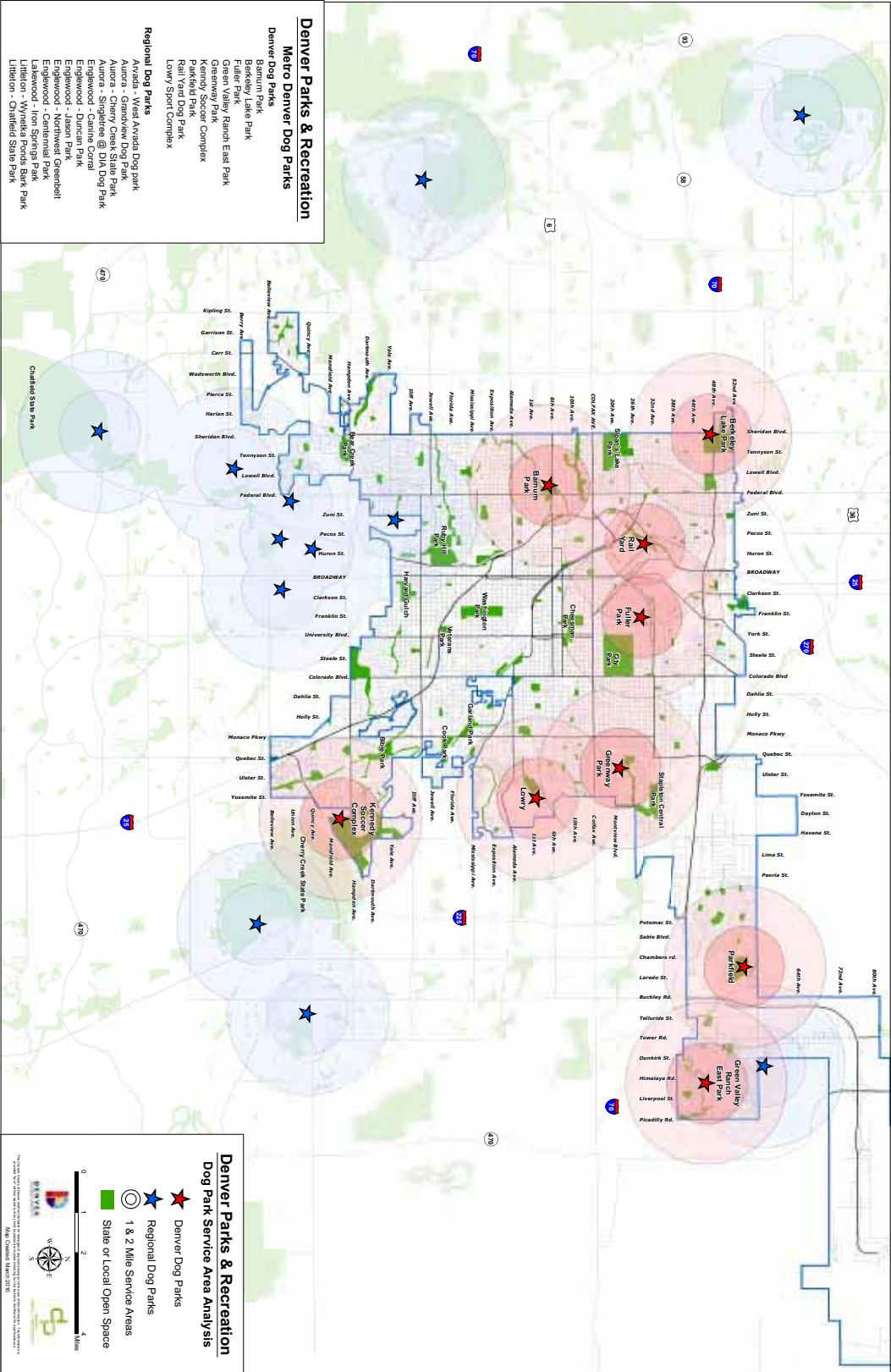
In neighborhoods with lower population density, such as Barnum, a two-mile service area radius for dog park facilities is recommended.

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.



Appendix 3.

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

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 Montebello Recreation Center
- 13 Multi-Use Fields (2)
- Lighted Fields
- 14 Basketball Plaza (4 courts)
- Lighted
- 15 Existing Parking Lot
- 16 Play Area and Sun Deck
- 17 Amphitheater
- 18 Sledding Hill/Bluegrass Meadow

LEGEND

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



parkfield lake park-phase III
MONTBELLO, DENVER, CO

DECEMBER 13, 2008

Appendix 4.



LOWRY EAST DOGPARK DENVER CO
LRA

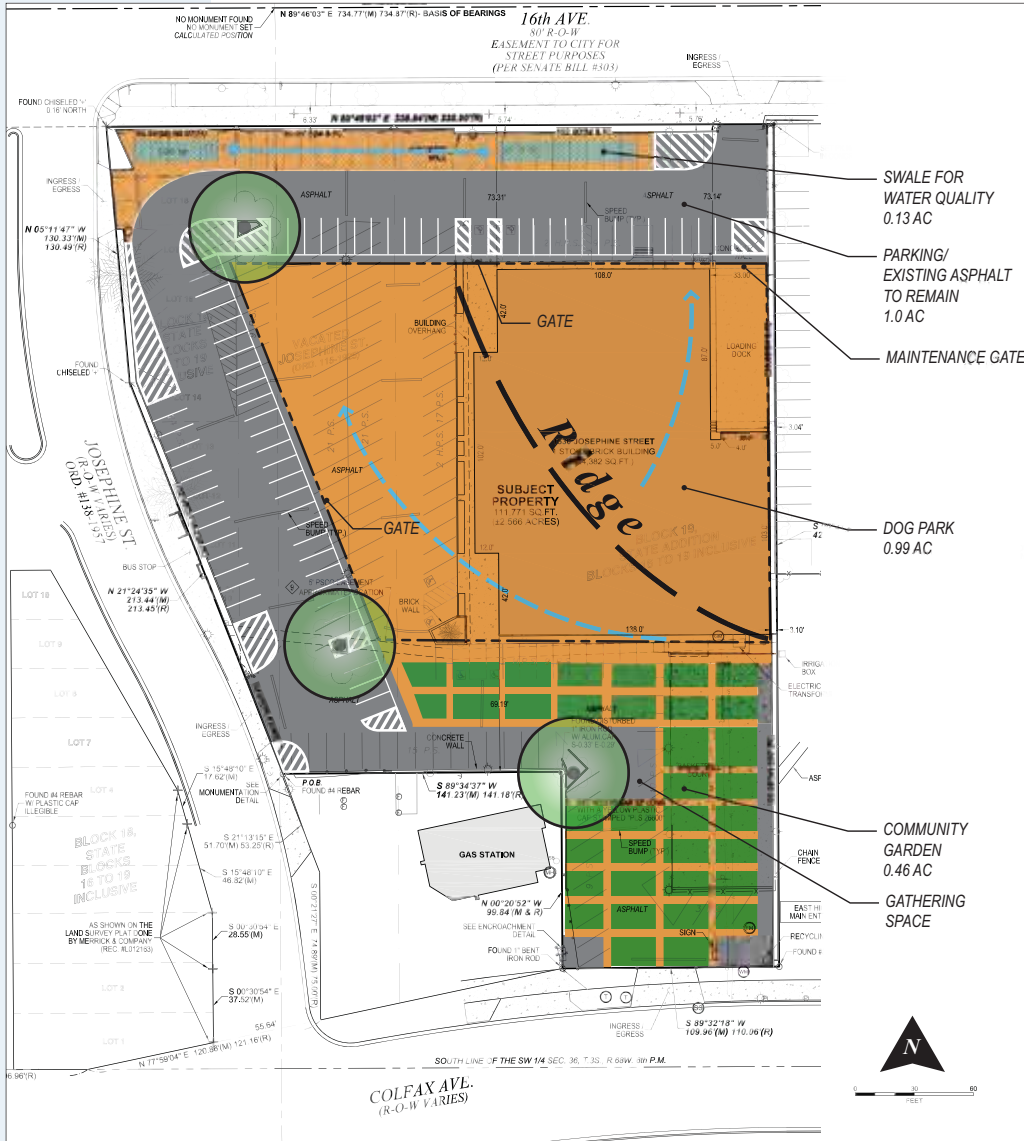
SCHEMATIC DESIGN
DESIGN WORKSHOP
APRIL 13TH

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
Columbus/Springa	372,437	7	1.9
Austin	709,893	13	1.8
Anchorage/Anchorage Bureau	278,700	4	1.4
Albuquerque	304,949	7	1.4
Riverside, Calif.	293,761	4	1.4
Cincinnati, Ohio	246,831	3	1.2
Cincinnati	332,252	4	1.2
San Diego	1,286,931	15	1.2
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.ppe.org/pe

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	2,833,321	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	918,849	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.