



Memorandum

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: March 2, 2011

From: Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks & Recreation

RE: Staff Evaluation of Shaw Park as a Site for a Dog Park

Overview: During the 2007 Master Plan process, a dog park was an amenity that was suggested as an enhancement to the park system that the residents would support. At that time, the consultants did not support this in any of the city's existing parks. The Master Plan evaluated the current park land available to the residents (84.41 acres) and compared it to the demand (84.70) and determined that the city was lacking in available park land and therefore should not consider a dog park until additional land is made available. Consideration of a Dog Park in Shaw Park was talked about at that time and the consensus of staff as well as the consultants who worked with us on the Master Plan was that this regional park is already heavily programmed and this amenity would not be a good fit for this park due to the already heavy usage.

At their January 3, 2011, the Parks & Recreation Commission requested that staff compile a report on the viability of a dog park in the location identified by residents in attendance. This report has been put together in order to provide information on current usage as well as pros and cons, from staff perspective, of the conversion of an area of the park on the southwest end to a dog park.

Shaw Park Usage: In the 2007 Master Plan, an analysis of the existing conditions in Shaw Park resulted in the following perspective of the park:

- Shaw Park is Clayton's "central" park. It is heavily used and accommodates a wide variety of activities such as athletics, an outdoor ice rink, an outdoor tennis center and an outdoor swimming pool. This park is also the location for Clayton's many outdoor festivals and events. Simultaneously, it also serves as a neighborhood park to many residents. As a result of this multifaceted and heavy use, the park is showing signs of overuse.
- In addition to offering a wide variety of recreational amenities and environments, Shaw Park's central location makes it a centerpiece of the community, which further increases both its visibility and use.

In FY10, staff estimated that over 320,000 visitors came to the park to utilize a facility, participate in a program, attend an event or enjoy a walk, run or ride through the park. In addition, many residents and non-residents come to simply enjoy the beauty of this regional park.

Our estimation is based on the following calculations:

- Shaw Park Aquatic Center – 92,825
- Shaw Park Ice Rink – 11,358
- Shaw Park Tennis Center – 21,634
- Shaw Park Fields & Volleyball Courts – 87,500
- Shaw Park Pavilions and Picnic Sites – 18,600
- Program Usage – 16,500 (Boot Camp)
- Event Attendance – 10,000
- Passive Users – 63,250 (300 per day during the season; 50 per day during the off season)
- **Total – 321,667**

While these numbers are estimated; I believe they are fairly accurate, perhaps even underestimating total usage. This equates to nearly 880 visitors, on average, per day.

Shaw Park Acreage in Use: The total acreage in Shaw Park is 47.6 acres; of this acreage, 23.67 acres or nearly 50% of the park is developed, programmed space. This includes parking lots, shelters, fields, playgrounds and facilities. It does not include the service roads and sidewalks, which, if they were included, would reduce the available green space even further. While there are no set standards for development of park land, this is a significant amount of land that is already in use by a large number of people. It is important to keep in mind that on the perimeter of the park sits Clayton High School and The Center of Clayton; both heavy users of the parking that is adjacent to the park.

PROS/CONS: Outlined below are what staff considers to be the pros and cons of this proposal:

PROS:

- There is parking available in the early morning and at various times when the park is not in full use.
- This location would not impact surrounding residences as the closest neighbors are those on the north end, across from Shaw Park.
- A dog park may help reduce the number of off-leash dogs in Shaw Park.
- This dog park would be well utilized, thus increasing our performance measures in both membership and facility usage.
- Addition of a facility, one that is wanted by the community, would enhance our NRPA Gold Medal Park application.

- A dog park would satisfy an expressed need in the community. (In the 2010 community survey, 45% of respondents indicated that they thought this was an important initiative, if appropriate location is identified).

CONS:

- The recently completed Inclusion Playground has already brought significant numbers of families to Shaw Park; since it has not been open a full year, staff has not been able to gauge the impact of the new playground on the park and available parking.
- The identified site is very close to the future location of the Centennial Greenway Trailhead; what type of impact this amenity will have on use of the park is unknown at this time.
- Shaw Park is already a very actively programmed park; this additional usage will increase foot traffic to Shaw Park and will impact the balance of activity versus open green space.
- The 2010 Updated Shaw Park Master Plan calls for this area to remain an amphitheatre for such things as movies in the park, small performances, etc. until such time as the Ice Rink is renovated to create a performance venue. At that time, this area is slated to become a Nature Garden. At no point during the six month process of review was it suggested that Shaw Park be the site of a dog park.
- The proposed area is well utilized by parents and children who are watching and participating in youth sports games.
- This location is part of the home course for the Clayton High School Cross Country Team; they hold practices at the site and host two events per year in Shaw Park.
- Parking is an issue as it is for not only the Clayton High School Cross Country meets, but also Baseball and Soccer Games and Tennis Matches; this would create another significant use in the park.
- This site is used for conditioning work by the Clayton High School Teams.
- This would impact park rentals as the proposed site is very close to both the South Shelter and Pavilion; this may not be seen as an amenity by those who are currently renting the site for the events and parties.
- As the area becomes worn down, it will be in a highly visible portion of Shaw Park thus detracting from the overall appearance of Shaw Park.
- The entrances to Shaw Park are already lined with ball fields and facilities on three sides of the park. Shaw Park Drive will no longer be a good place to get a view into Shaw Park if a dog park were located at this site.
- The additional ongoing maintenance costs to the City's budget for this amenity; in addition, the additional work for the current staff.
- Other municipalities have experienced problems maintaining the grass within their dog parks.
- This project is not a priority project in the 2007 Master Plan; many others are and should be the focus of staff's efforts.

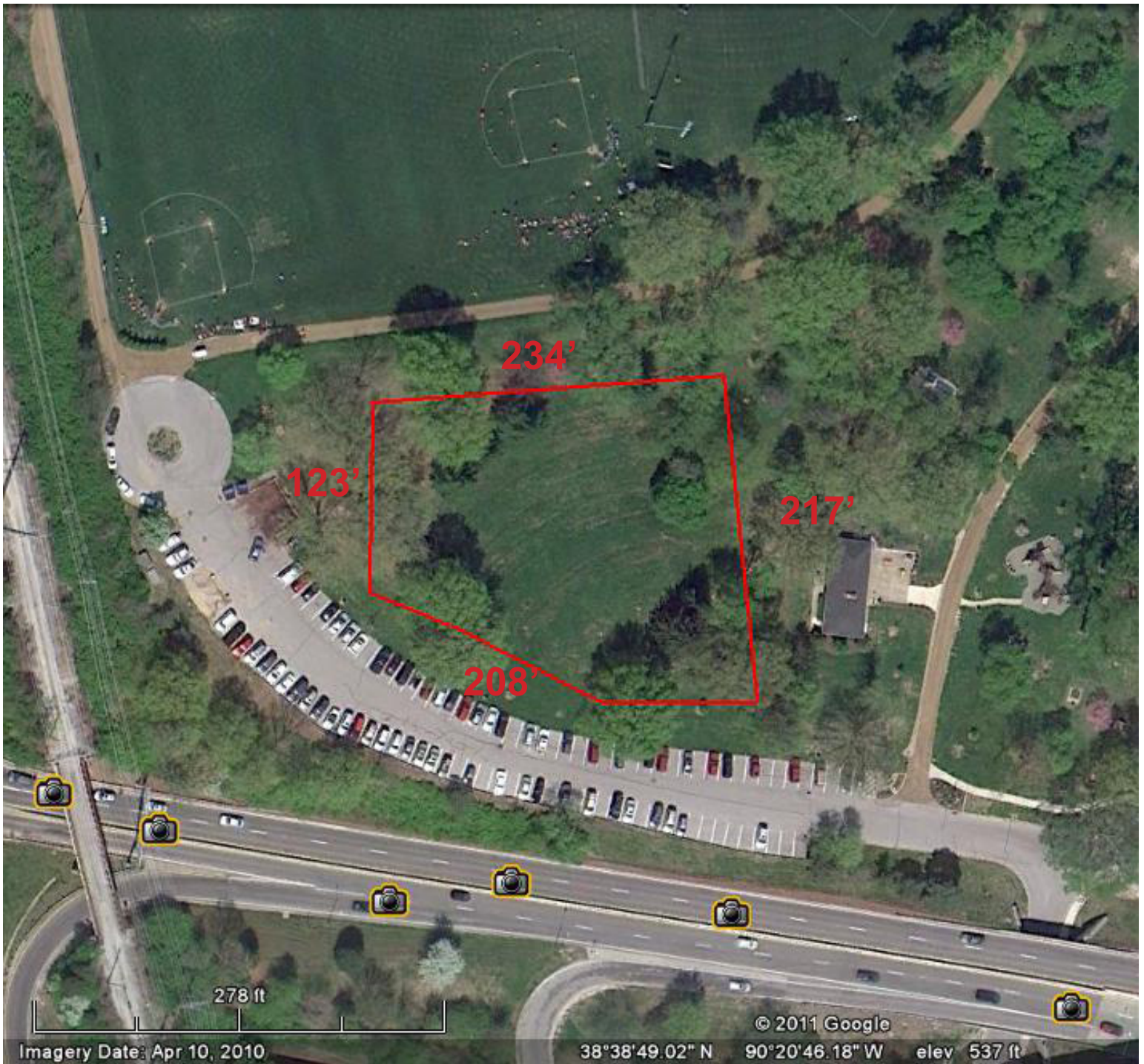
In summary, it is understandable why this site might make sense. It does pass the test of the neighbors, appears to have good available parking at times, and is underutilized some of the time. The real question should not be whether a dog park can be fit into this site, but rather, is it a good idea to add another amenity to an already well programmed park where parking is an issue on weekends and the majority of summer weekdays, where a new playground is already experiencing significant usage even during the winter months and where a new trail and trailhead are slated for some time in the next two years?

I have included as attachments to this memorandum several documents that I believe will be useful in preparing for our discussion:

- A rendering of the proposed site.
- A Parks & Recreation System Current Park Analysis: This was put together by the subcommittee that previously studied this topic and contains some germane information.
- Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful Off-Lease Dog Exercise Ares: Recent research conducted at UC Davis.
- Two emails submitted by Ben Uchitelle on behalf of the Dog Park Supporters.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information please feel free to contact me.

Proposed Shaw Dog Park



$$234' \times 217' \times 208' \times 123' = 48,672 \text{ sqft}$$

$$48,672 \text{ sqft} / 1 \text{ acre (43,560)} = 1.1 \text{ acres}$$



Parks and Recreation System Current Park Analysis

The existing supply of park land and open space with the City of Clayton is tabulated below. Each existing park with the Clayton Park system was classified as to its park type based on standards from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), St. Louis County and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR). The City's current park land is approximately 5.1% of the total city land area.

Existing Park Land Totals

Existing City Park	Size (in acres)	Classification
Clayshire Park	0.04	Pocket Park
Alamo Park	0.11	Pocket Park
DeMun Park	0.60	Playlot
Whitburn Park	0.11	Pocket Park
Taylor Park	1.00	Mini Park
Wydown Park	0.55	Mini Park
Concordia Park	1.50	Mini Park
Oak Knoll Park	14.50	Neighborhood Park
Shaw Park	65.00*	District Park

* includes 17.4 acres for The Center of Clayton.

Park Land Standards

Classification	Standard*	Service Area Radius
Pocket Park	.25 acre/1000 #	1/10 mile
Playlot	.30 acre/1000	¼ mile
Mini Park	.25 acre/1000	½ mile
Neighborhood Park	1.5 acre/1000	1 mile
District Park	2.5 acre/1000	3 miles

* Standards from 1993 Clayton Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Standard determined by Planning Design Studio from 2007 Clayton Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Based on the American Kennel Club's recommendation of a minimum of one acre for the ideal dog park, the following parks would fall into that category (*based on size alone, factoring none of each park's current facilities or amenities*):

- Taylor Park
- Concordia Park
- Oak Knoll Park
- Shaw Park



2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Analysis Summary

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared to provide the City of Clayton with a valuable aid for continuing its efforts to meet and exceed the recreation needs and goals set forth by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Park Commission, the Clayton Recreation Sports and Wellness Commission (CRSWC) and the citizens of Clayton.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan does not list a dog park in its priorities for any of the parks within the Clayton Parks and Recreation System. The following statement is made in the Plan Analysis (page 6):

Although the implementation of a “Dog Park” has not been indicated as a high priority for this plan, should the opportunity arise to work with an independent funding, maintenance and operations organization, the City should at that time consider an appropriate location for such a facility.

The 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan details the following information about the four parks which measure one acre and above.

Taylor Park

- Taylor Park is popular with residents and children of the surrounding area.
- Its close proximity to downtown also makes it a frequent meeting place for business people.
- The park’s northern edge near the adjacent condominiums is poorly defined.
- The current chain link fence which separates Taylor Park’s other major open space from a second neighbor is in poor condition and does not provide adequate buffering.

Concordia Park

- The City of Clayton has leased this passive 1.5 acre park from Concordia Seminary since 1972.
- This park is a lovely place to enjoy nature while sitting at one of the benches or picnic tables provided.
- There is lack of a long term agreement for usage of Concordia Park.
- There are significant drainage problems during heavy rains.

Oak Knoll Park

- Oak Knoll Park accommodates primarily passive activities such as picnicking, dog walking and visiting the playground.
- The outstanding feature of this park is its natural beauty.
- Oak Knoll Park has a small internal parking lot.
- Oak Knoll Park current serves as a venue for certain special events and should continue in that capacity to help reduce the level of use at Shaw Park.

Shaw Park

- Shaw Park is the City's oldest and largest park and is home to several special events throughout the year.
- Shaw Park is slated as the trailhead and/or destination for a portion of the Centennial Greenway. The greenway will need to lead into the pathway system of the park.
- Shaw Park is heavily used and accommodates a wide variety of activities. As a result of this multi-faceted and heavy use, the park is showing signs of overuse.
- There is a lack of parking near the various activities throughout the park.



Citizen and Community Input Summary

Parks and Recreation Community Survey

As part of the master planning process, ETC Institute conducted a Parks and Recreation Community Survey to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the City. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from a randomly selected sample of residents.

Residents indicated low satisfaction with the availability of the following top-three amenities/facilities (in order):

1. Walking and Biking Trails
2. Nature Trails and Nature Center
3. Off-Leash Dog Parks

Stakeholder Interviews

During the master planning process, the Planning Team conducted approximately 15 stakeholder group interviews with the following groups:

Ice Rink Users	Teens
Clayton Shaw Park Swim Team	Adult Sport Captains
Tennis Clubs	High School Coaches
Parks and Recreation Administration Staff	Youth Sport Captains
Parks Maintenance Staff	Recreation Division Staff
City of Clayton Staff	Corporate Users
Clayton Chamber of Commerce	Cultural Festivals, Inc.
Clayton Water Polo and Diving Clubs	Hanley House Council

During these interviews, lack of a dog park was indicated as a negative element of the Clayton Park System. A designated park for dogs was also listed as one of the top priorities for improving the Clayton Parks and Recreation System by stakeholders.

Public Workshop

Another component of the planning process involved soliciting input through Public Workshops in which each participant ranked what they felt were the three most important ideas discussed during the workshop session. The audience was grouped into teams of 4-5 people, and team leaders presented the groups findings to the larger audience.

A designated dog park was not listed in the “Most Important Idea Summary” for the public workshop.

**GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE
OF SUCCESSFUL OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS**

Produced by:

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GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCCESSFUL OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS

General Comments

There are many perspectives and types of information that need to be taken into consideration when developing and managing off-leash dog parks that are successful in terms of harmony with the surrounding community as well as with the park users. Community support and involvement is integral to this process, especially in promoting a harmonious relationship with the neighbors of the park. Maintenance, along with the proper selection of a location, is essential in the continued success of a park. Indeed, our research, based on a study of 17 off-leash dog parks, profiles maintenance of the park as probably the single most important determinant of success. Although our research did not show a statistically significant correlation of dog park club involvement and perceived success, the correlation was positive. Managers of parks repeatedly stressed the importance of an active dog park club, and we strongly recommend that these clubs be involved in the planning process, as well as helping to maintain an ongoing relationship with the management of the park. The lines of communication must remain open between the municipality or organization managing the park and the community to promptly address actual or perceived problems, and to profile the benefits that a dog park can bring to the community. Under various headings below, we describe suggested guidelines that should be considered in establishing and managing an off-leash dog park. The specific recommendations are a reflection of conclusions from data analysis of our study of off-leash dog parks, as well as a reflection of repeated comments from interviewed managers and park users.

The topics discussed first involve the primary concerns expressed by community officials, namely safety to humans and other dogs, noise generated from a concentration of barking dogs, and sanitation problems from the build-up of feces. As it turns out, these concerns do not represent the issues deserving of the most attention, because problems in these areas appear to be relatively infrequent, at least in the dog parks that we visited.

Some community decision-makers and park managers mentioned a concern about possible disturbance of wildlife or native plants. Our study focused mainly on urban parks and disturbance of wildlife in these parks did not appear to be an issue. This topic could be addressed in a study that includes more parks established within natural reserves or nature areas.

Finally, in the way of general comments, we strongly encourage communities seriously considering establishing or modifying a dog park to retain a professional consultant knowledgeable in helping to prevent and resolve problems or concerns about off-leash parks.

Safety

Park managers and community officials ranked the safety of people and dogs as a primary concern in dealing with dog parks. However, our study, as well as those conducted elsewhere, reveal that injuries to people and dogs from dog bites at legal off-leash areas are rare. One possible reason for the low risk of a dog bite may be that park users almost always do not bring dogs that are likely to bite other dogs or people. However, overly assertive, overly unruly, and undersocialized dogs can negatively impact the behavior and welfare of other dogs visiting the park. To help ensure that this does not become an issue, the following suggestions should be implemented:

1. Overtly aggressive, overly assertive, overly unruly, and undersocialized dogs should be discouraged from visiting the parks. Park users should be educated in the signs that dogs display when performing these behaviors. While not aggressive to the point of fighting with other dogs, a dog that displays these types of behaviors can cause other dogs to become excessively fearful.
2. Park users should be discouraged from bringing young puppies or fearful dogs to parks, as they may be made more fearful by highly assertive dogs, highly interactive dogs, or rough play. A fearful dog may snap or bite as a way of defending itself, and perhaps develop problems that can be seen outside of the confines of a dog park.
3. The park users must have their dog under voice control.
4. Children should always be closely supervised by a responsible adult.
5. Owners should carry their leash on them at all times.
6. One activity for a dog park club is to help monitor interactions between dogs and other dogs and between dogs and people. The best option for an organization is to obtain indemnification from potential liability from their local government. If a local government has this sort of expectation from a dog park user group, then the governmental entity should be required to indemnify the group and absorb any legal liability (and legal costs) that might ensue.

Noise

This is another frequently mentioned concern of community officials. The noise level at parks invariably increased over baseline in the area of the highest concentration of activity during peak use. The degree that the surrounding community will notice this depends upon the degree to which the noise level potentially reflects an increase in ambient noise from such things as noise from increased automobile traffic. It should be kept in mind that sound level declines exponentially with distance from the source of the sound. Our research revealed no correlation approaching significance between the increase in noise level at dog parks during times of heavy use and ranking of park success. In park locations where noise from dogs may be an issue, we suggest the following:

1. Do not establish a dog park immediately adjacent to residential property lines.
2. If the dog park must be located immediately adjacent to residential property lines, create sound buffers with plants, fencing or earthen berms if needed.
3. If an established park shares a border with residential property lines, move the area of heaviest usage away from that boundary.

Sanitation

This is the third most highly profiled concern of community officials and park managers. However, our study found no significant correlation between fecal counts and success. The absence of a correlation may indicate a rather low occurrence of residual fecal droppings in parks. The median was 1 fecal dropping per 100 square meters (120 square yards). Clearly almost all users of dog parks are conscientious about picking up after their dogs. We did find a correlation between the number of signs reminding users to pick up after their dogs and a lower fecal count. The posting of signs highlighting the rule of picking up feces appeared to be more important than the number of refuse cans available – as long as the cans were accessible and not overflowing. To help assure compliance with community expectations of a clean park, we suggest the following:

1. Plan and budget for an appropriate maintenance and cleaning schedule, done by the municipality or organization managing the dog park.
2. Place signs stating the rules at the entrance(s) to the park, as well as within the park, profiling the rule that owners must pick up the feces of their dogs. Be sure that the signs are well maintained.
3. Provide adequate disposable bags, or other means of removing feces, and refuse cans for feces cleanup.
4. Suggest that an active dog park club help monitor the sanitation of the park.

Location

Our research indirectly points out the important role that the location of a park can have in its perceived success. In some instances, good use may be made of areas that are not in high demand for human-only use. As an extreme, one park was located underneath a freeway. In other instances, a location previously used by transients was upgraded as a community resource by the presence of off-leash dog use. The establishment of a well-maintained and responsibly-used dog park may actually improve the value of some neighborhoods. Another benefit for a well-located park, according to park managers, is that the availability of an off-leash park reduced the tendency for people to allow their dogs off-leash in areas where it is not legal.

Park size is important. We found a correlation between the size of the park and ranking of park success, with larger parks being ranked as more successful. Even for parks less than 3 acres, the larger the better. If everything else is equal, choose the larger of 2 possible locations. As observed by our study investigators, and verified by the manager interviews, it was not uncommon for users to allow their dogs off-leash when coming to or leaving a dog park, even though there were rules against allowing dogs off-leash away from the park. Locating a park close to convenient parking spaces for cars may reduce or eliminate this problem. The following are specific suggestions regarding location:

1. The size of the park should be as large as feasible. However, the municipality or organization managing the park needs to be able to adequately maintain the space.
2. Utilize alternate or nontraditional locations, if needed, to help decrease the chance for conflict with other community users.

1. Locate the park so that it is not directly adjacent to residential property lines, to help decrease the chance of actual and perceived problems between park users and the neighbors. However, the park should be close enough to a residential area that dog owners will take their dogs to the park and not allow them off-leash elsewhere.
2. Provide adequate parking for the dog park users, as most users (95%) drive to them. In addition, locate the off-leash area close to the parking lot as possible to discourage owners letting their dogs off-leash between the dog park and parking.
3. If applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be taken into consideration.

Maintenance

If asked about the three things that influence how well an off-leash dog park works, one could answer maintenance, maintenance, and maintenance. This is a factor that proved to significantly correlate with ranking of park success, regardless of park size or whether dog-exclusive or multiple-use. The bottom line is that before establishing on an off-leash park, the community must plan ahead and commit resources for maintenance. The monetary costs and time for maintenance should be budgeted and taken into consideration prior to approval of the park. The factors that are part of maintenance include, but are not limited to, are: frequency of emptying refuse cans; re-supplying disposable plastic pick up bags; replacing or fixing broken, bent, or weathered signs displaying rules; filling holes dug by dogs; irrigation and maintenance of vegetation and turf; repairing fencing. Maintenance also includes cleaning restrooms and other park user amenities, such as benches. One perspective is that, as in reducing the occurrence of graffiti in urban areas by promptly removing graffiti, promptly removing fecal droppings encourages people to follow the rules about cleanliness. The following are our recommendations:

1. Plan and budget for appropriate maintenance and a cleaning schedule, which includes adequate sanitation procedures, filling of holes that are dug by dogs, proper maintenance of the substrate, and proper maintenance of fencing and amenities.
2. It is suggested that an active dog park club help advise the municipality as to the needed resources to maintain the park, and to help monitor their condition. However, do not rely on the club to handle the required maintenance.

Substrate

While the substrate within a park is undoubtedly important and correlates with park success, this is often the most difficult topic for which to make specific recommendations. All substrate types, whether turf, ground tree bark, decomposed granite, or heavily compacted base rock, may be appropriate for some parks or some areas in parks. It is important to choose an appropriate substrate for the location and resources available for adequate maintenance. Some thought must also be given for what is best for the dogs. The following are some guidelines:

- 1. Turf.** This is a favorable substrate if the location is appropriate and the municipality is able to undertake fairly intensive maintenance. If turf is planted, it must be adequately maintained to help prevent degeneration into dirt or mud, which includes irrigation, mowing, and weeding. Some parks are closed periodically for reseeded/resodding the grass. Feces may be hard to detect in turf, especially if it is long.

1. **Bark or wood chips.** This substrate is easily maintained. It needs to be replenished periodically, but does afford adequate drainage. Care should be taken when selecting a wood product so that dogs do not get splinters. Wood chips that are used for playgrounds are a good choice. Feces may be difficult to detect on the wood chips, but are easily removed. To some people wood chips are not very aesthetically pleasing.
2. **Decomposed granite.** As with wood chips this is relatively easily maintained. It needs to be replenished periodically. If deep enough and graded well, it allows adequate drainage. Feces are easily detected and removed from this substrate. Maintenance of holes dug by dogs needs to be addressed, because if there is not an adequate depth dogs may dig down to dirt, resulting in muddy holes.
3. **Sand.** This is the natural substrate in parks at the waterfront or on the beach. There is no worry about refilling holes dug by dogs, unless they are extremely large. It affords adequate drainage, and feces are easily detected and removed from this substrate. However, it is difficult for municipalities to maintain and keep clean, often requiring specialized equipment. Sand may become too hot for dogs' feet during warm weather.
4. **Heavily compacted base rock.** This may be the only option available, depending on the location. If used there are precautions to observe. First, pavement may get very hot if in direct sunlight. Secondly, users should be made aware that a dog might develop abrasions on the pads of their feet if they are not accustomed to spending a fair amount of time on this substrate. It is very low maintenance, and feces are easily detected and removed from this substrate. To help decrease odors, an enzyme-based disinfectant/deodorant can be sprayed on this substrate.
5. **Multiple different substrates used together.** Turf, bark, and concrete/asphalt trails may be used in different locations within a park. This offers dogs the opportunity to encounter and choose different types of footing. Trails encourage park users to walk with their dogs, therefore decreasing the density of dogs in one particular area. This also allows the human users the option to exercise themselves more easily.

Rules

We found that invariably all parks had rules. However, there was a wide disparity in how visible the rules were. The rules must be highly visible, so that everyone is well informed as to what is expected. We found a significant correlation between the number of signs posting fecal cleanup rules and the fecal count per 100 square meters (120 square yards). Short versions of the rules emphasizing clean-up should be posted in locations throughout the park, as well as at the entrance(s). This is an area where an active dog club may be very helpful by helping self-patrol the area. Park managers mentioned that “self-policing” and peer-pressure by park users helps the other users be more aware of the stated rules.

A charged issue about rules is placing a limit on the number of dogs allowed per user. The main concern is with regard to dogwalkers who may bring in as many as 15 dogs at a time. Our observations, reinforced by comments from users of the park, suggest that dogwalkers, and others with more than 3 dogs, are less conscientious about picking up fecal droppings or monitoring interactions with other dogs or people. In light of these observations it seems that limiting the number of off-leash dogs to 3 per adult user is not unreasonable. Here are our suggestions regarding rules:

1. Post rules in several visible locations; keep the signs well-maintained.
2. Rules should profile user responsibility, especially regarding clean-up.
3. Limit the number of dogs per adult allowed in the park. We suggest no more than 3 per adult user.
4. The park users must have their dog under voice control.
5. Do not allow dogs that are aggressive to other dogs or people into the park.
6. Unsupervised children under the age of 14 should not be allowed into the park for safety reasons.
7. Enforce leash laws in areas surrounding the dog park to decrease the number of dogs illegally off-leash going to and from the park.

Dog Park Clubs

The parks visited in our research had a range of dog park club involvement characterized as: none, currently inactive; moderately active with little financial or club newsletter involvement; quite active with a newsletter, and/or dues and meetings; and very active, involved with park management, self-policing by users and with dues, a newsletter and meetings. Clearly, an active dog park club is important to the success of a park and the more active the better. We suggest the following on this topic:

1. Suggest that an active dog park club participate in the planning of a dog park.
2. Suggest meetings of dog park club officials and the park management to review success and address any problems, or when serious problems arise.
3. Suggest that the dog park club sponsor an on-line and/or paper newsletter, and potentially an e-mail listserve, and charge reasonable dues.
4. Encourage the dog park club sponsor fundraiser with park users and periodically contribute proceeds to non-dog related functions, such as science and biology teaching in schools, to help increase harmony with the surrounding community.

Patty DeForrest

From: Ben Uchitelle [benuchitelle@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 11:39 AM
To: Patty DeForrest
Cc: Linda Goldstein; Craig Owens; Deb Dubin; Jill Fisher; Micarl Hill; peggregnew@aol.com; andyrama@aol.com; omri.praiss@huschblackwell.com; Alex Berger III; amdcons_sbc; Cynthia Garnholz (home); Judy Goodman; Michelle Harris; Steven Lichtenfeld
Subject: Clayton Dog Park

Patty:

We are very eager to continue to work with you and the City of Clayton to establish a safe, accessible off-leash dog park.

Two of the important issues to consider for a dog park are not being close to homes and good nearby parking. The excellent location in Shaw Park suggested by Andy and Peggy Newman certainly satisfies those criteria. It is far from homes and has ample nearby parking that is mostly unused. True, at times that parking is heavily used by ball players, etc. Yet at those periods our dog park users can either walk to the Dog Park and/or park at the Center of Clayton and come over. We would point out that everyone using the Creve Coeur Dog Park has a very long walk to get there from their parking lot and things work just fine.

At a recent Clayton Century Foundation meeting I spoke to you about getting together with several of our group to discuss all these matters prior to the March 7th Parks and Rec. meeting. We believe this would be most beneficial all around. Please let us know when it would be convenient to get together.

As you know, hundreds of Clayton residents and their dogs have joined the effort in support of a Clayton Dog Park. We'd like to share information about next steps with them as soon as possible.

Many thanks,
Ben, Deb, Jill, Mica, Peggy and Andy

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2/11/2011

Patty DeForrest

From: Ben Uchitelle [benuchitelle@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 11:06 AM
To: Patty DeForrest
Cc: Craig Owens; Linda Goldstein; mharris_sbc; Deb Dubin; Jill Fisher; omri.praiss@huschblackwell.com; peggregnew@aol.com; andyrama@aol.com
Subject: General Size of Dog Parks

Patty:

I am forwarding information I requested from Dog Park USA on the size of dog parks particularly in urban areas where land is more developed. Bottom line is that many fine dog parks are under an acre. You may recall I emailed you on March 29, 2010 information about a wonderful dog park in New York City (the Upper West Side) that was well under an acre.

I hope this will be helpful and if you need more information please let me know.
 Many thanks, Ben

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

From: Dog Park USA Editor <tholscla@ucsc.edu>
Date: Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 4:37 PM
Subject: Re: [General] Size of Dog Paarks
To: ben.uchitelle@gmail.com

In places where land is expensive the dog parks tend to be smaller. I live in the Bay Area of CA and the dog parks are usually under an acre. NYC does have smaller dog parks from what we hear as well. But people in metro areas are use to having smaller parks. In places where land is cheaper to come by usually the cost of fencing is what determines the size of the dog park, so they tend to be more like 2 acres. The most popular dog park in my area is maybe 1 acre total: about 1/4-1/3 of it is a little dog area (usually 50-100 dogs at a time in the area, all day, every day). The city has gone all out on this small space giving pet owners some great artificial turf, benches, cement walkways, mulch areas, and big shade trees; which is why it is more used than the much larger dog park a few streets away that is now dirt and some gravel and a few folding chairs. It is very hard to keep up grass in such small dog parks because of the heavy use: synthetic grass, gravel, or mulch holds up much better in a high use area. Here are some ideas: <http://www.dogparkusa.com/articles/dog-park-turf>

Even though the dog park may be small it is still important to have separate small dog area. Small dog sections prevent dog death and serious injury at the dog park. Here is something we wrote on the topic: <http://www.dogparkusa.com/articles/small-dog-section>

Hope this helps.
 -The Editor

On 1/17/2011 1:15 PM, ben.uchitelle@gmail.com wrote:

Ben Uchitelle sent a message using the contact form at <http://www.dogparkusa.com/feedb>

1/24/2011

We are working on creating a Dog Park in Clayton, MO., a suburb of St. Louis. We have about a half to three quarters of an acre for the Dog Park. Are there many Dog Parks of that size in New York City and other places?

Thanks for letting us have this information.

Ben Uchitelle

This user came from <http://www.dogparkusa.com/new-york/new-york-city>

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