



# CITY OF SPOKANE DOG PARK GUIDELINES

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation

October 2022



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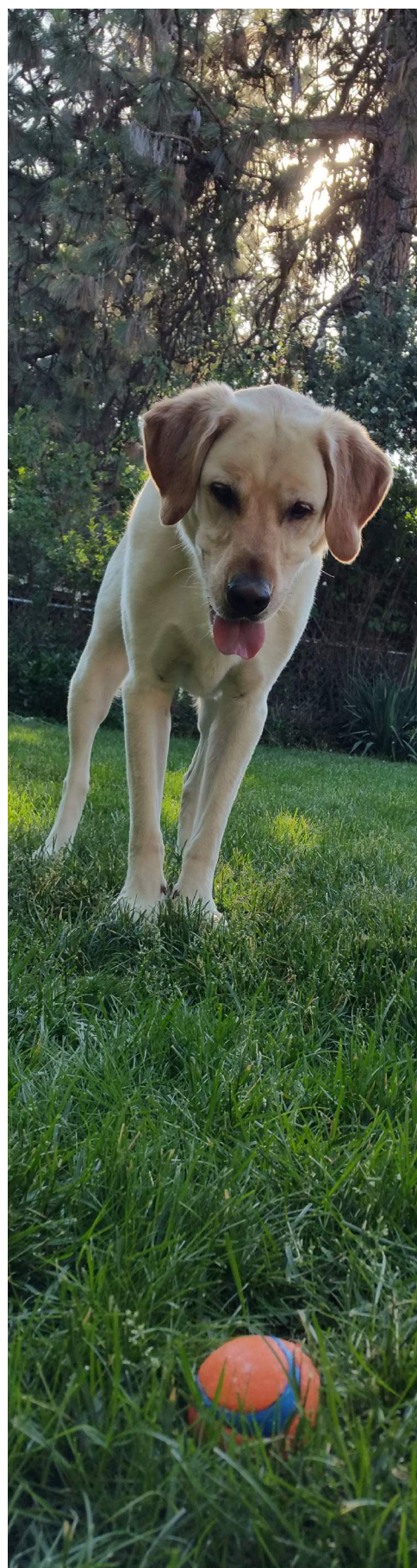
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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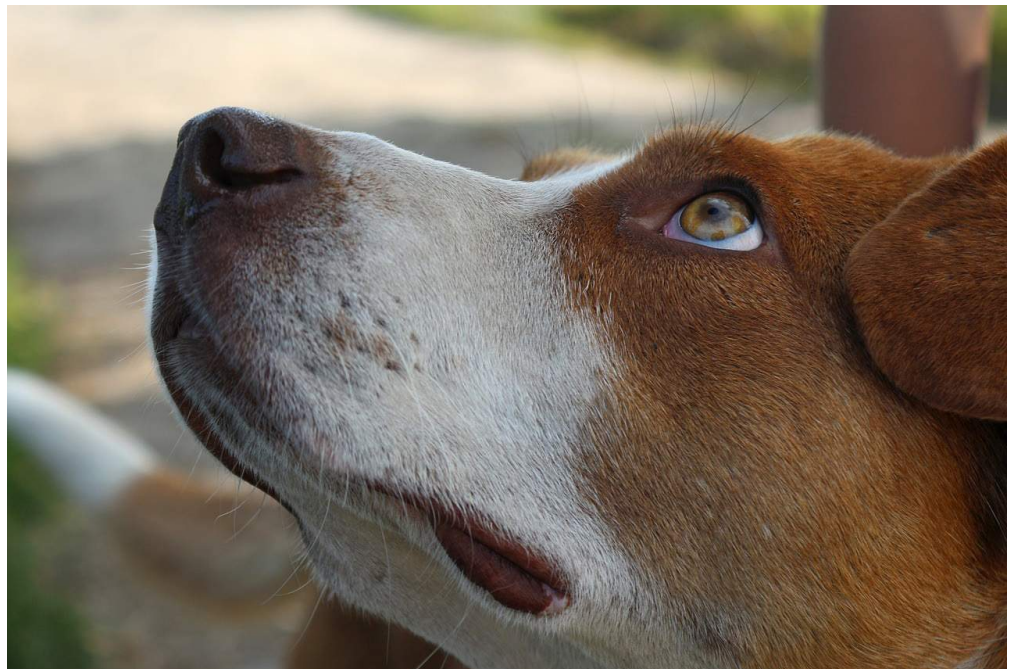
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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The City of Spokane Dog Park Guidelines document is designed to provide information on level of service demand, location siting, design and maintenance to be used as a reference when the City is selecting and designing future dog parks. Throughout the process of developing these guidelines, research on award-winning dog parks and dog parks in municipalities has been compiled and analyzed so that a thoughtful design process can be established.



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**Spokane is a certified "Pet-Friendly City", the third city in Washington to obtain this award.**

## BACKGROUND

The demand for dog parks and designated off-leash areas has grown tremendously in the past couple decades since their introduction to the US in 1979. As population density increases, we see a focus in providing more multi-family housing and houses on smaller residential lots. A growing percent of residents need places to bring their dogs outdoors.

According to the 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the desire for dog parks ranks 21st in importance compared to other recreational activities. A recorded 11.5% of Washington residents use established dog parks, and nearly 52% of residents report walking with a dog, whether on-leash or off-leash. These numbers are projected to increase. The Trust for Public Land has reported that between 2009 and 2019, the number of dog parks have increased by 74% in the nation's 100 largest cities.

The American Veterinary Medical Association states that there are 1.6 dogs per household on average in the United States. Dog ownership increased by nearly 11% during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Based on the 2020 Census, the City of Spokane's 230,328 residents live in 93,075 households which means that in 2020 there were just under 150,000 dogs in the City.

As part of the preparation for the 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Spokane conducted a survey on current park use and future park desires. About two-thirds of residents preferred that Parks focus first on adding dog parks and off-leash areas in the next few years. Half of the participants felt that dog parks in natural areas were less desired, but respondents in District 1 favored the idea more. In fact, District 1 had a much higher reported desire for adding dog parks and off-leash areas (76%) compared to District 2 (62%) and District 3 (56%).

The City of Spokane currently has two designated off-leash area dog parks: High Bridge Dog Park and the Downtown Dog Park at Riverside Avenue. Through these guidelines, other potential areas will be examined for future dog park expansion.

***People love dogs.  
You can never go  
wrong adding a dog  
to the story.***

***~ Jim Butcher***



# SPOKANE DOG STATS

BY THE NUMBERS:

Public Survey Results:

1,158 participants  
87% City of Spokane residents  
90% dog owners

Current  
City  
Dog  
Parks

2

3 Other Substantial Public  
Dog Parks in the County

53% of survey respondents  
are willing to walk 15 minutes  
to a dog park

81% will walk 10 minutes



Preferred Design Look:

Natural &  
Expansive

Representative of the  
native Spokane landscape

56% of people prefer  
larger sized drivable facilities



Other  
high-ranking  
features:

Large Size  
&  
Availability of  
Site Utilities

Substantial  
Existing Tree  
Canopy

Top Desired Dog  
Park Feature

150,000

Estimated Dog Population



79% would prefer  
dog park sizes to be  
reduced or located  
on developed land if  
it meant protecting  
"natural" lands

93% agree it is  
important to protect  
water quality and  
riparian habitat





## GLOSSARY .....

**Citywide Dog Park Committee (CDPC)** - Also referred to as the Dog Park Advisory Committee or PAC, this diverse team of volunteer members has been specially curated to help guide the selection and design of future dog parks. Each member was selected based on their Park District region, expertise in a certain field, or experience in dog parks.

**Dog Park** - A fenced off-leash area specifically designed and designated for use by dogs and their human companions.

**Level of Service (LOS)** - The minimum capacity and quality of public facilities or services that are needed to serve the community at a desired and measurable standard.

**Off-Leash Area (OLA)** - An area, either fenced or open, that is available for dogs to roam leash free. Areas may include special restrictions, such as limited hours or off-season use only.

**Pathway** - a designated, paved path of travel for pedestrians

**Pocket Park** - A very small outdoor public space under 1 acre in size, typically located in urban or densely populated neighborhoods.

**Trail** - An organic, socially developed walkway within the landscape for pedestrians and dogs.





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## **PART 1**

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# **SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES**

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# LEVEL OF SERVICE

There is no standard method of determining a minimum number of facilities needed when it comes to locating dog parks. Most municipalities either focus on providing a predetermined number of facilities to each of their individual districts or rely on placing dog parks based solely on the measured distance between facilities.

While both concepts can be useful for determining placement of new facilities, they do not provide a measurable standard of how we can determine the demand of designated off-leash space. As a response, the City of Spokane's desired level of service is determined by a combination of two metrics: quantity of facilities and area of designated dog space.

- ✦ Current City LOS =1 dog park per ~115,000 people
- ✦ National Average =1 per 46,000 people
- ✦ Avg. for Pop 100k-250k = 1 per 76,000 people
- ✦ Pacific Northwest Avg. = 1 per 26,600 people

With Spokane's current population of approximately 230,000 residents, the two existing facilities greatly under serve the City. Based on the statistics above, Spokane Parks and Recreation should expect to pursue a level of service of between 1 facility per 26,000 – 76,000. This will require a total of between 3 and 9 facilities, or a net increase of 1 to 7 facilities, depending on distribution, functionality, dog park type, location, and citizen preferences for other desired amenities.

Further research was taken into comparing several similar sized cities based on population, land area, and population density. Table A.1 looks at the number of facilities provided by each city, and the estimated dogs they serve per park. Based on these calculations, these cities provide off-leash parks at much higher levels of service than Spokane.

To be on par with these other cities, Spokane would need to provide a minimum of 6 dog parks (as shown in Table A.2). This equals approximately **1 facility per 38,000 people**, or **1 facility per 25,000 dogs**.

Rank	City	No. Dog Parks	Est. Dogs per Park
1	Boise, ID	16	9,536
2	Baton Rouge, LA	6	22,329
3	Spokane, WA	6	24,820
4	Tacoma, WA	5	26,780
5	Santa Clarita, CA	4	27,990
6	Richmond, VA	5	28,761
7	Grand Rapids, MI	3	40,225

Table A.2 - Desired Density-based Level of Service

City	Population	Land Area (sq. mi)	Pop. Density (#/sq. mi)	Households	Est. Dog Population	No. Dog Parks	Est. Dogs per Park
Boise, ID	235,684	84.0	2,806	95,359	152,574	16	9,536
Santa Clarita, CA	228,673	70.8	3,230	69,975	111,960	4	27,990
Baton Rouge, LA	227,470	86.3	2,636	83,733	133,973	6	22,329
Richmond, VA	226,610	59.9	3,783	89,878	143,805	5	28,761
Tacoma, WA	222,975	49.8	4,481	83,688	133,901	5	26,780
Grand Rapids, MI	203,644	44.8	4,550	75,422	120,675	3	40,225
Spokane, WA	228,989	68.8	3,328	93,075	148,920	2	74,460

Table A.1 - Current Level of Service Comparison (Number of Facilities)

Rank	City	No. Dog Parks	Dog Park Area (acre)	Dog Park Size Range (acre)	Calc. LOS provided (ac. per 10,000 residents)
1	Boise, ID	16	20.40 + 239 OLA	1 - 10 (4 - 153 OLA)	0.86 (10.99 Incl. OLA)
2	Tacoma, WA	5	14.50	1 - 7	0.65
3	Baton Rouge, LA	6	12.65	0.75 - 6	0.56
<b>4</b>	<b>Spokane, WA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9.36</b>	<b>Downtown: 0.07 High Bridge: 9.29</b>	<b>0.41</b>
5	Grand Rapids, MI	3	3.00	1	0.15
6	Santa Clarita, CA	4	2.75	Up to 1.3	0.12
7	Richmond, VA	5	2.38	Up to 1.2	0.11

Table A.3 - Current Level of Service Comparison (Acreage)

Although a good starting place, quantity LOS calculations do not consider the variations in size of off-leash areas. The same cities as before were examined based on total acreage of dog park space provided. As seen in Table A.3, the results vary widely. The cities with higher population densities have far less available space. Even though the population density of Spokane is on the higher side, there is a greater opportunity in finding available city-owned land.

It is important to note that for the City of Boise, they distinguish their dog areas into 2 categories: Dog Parks and unfenced Off-Leash Areas. For the purpose of these guidelines, we are looking at fenced dog parks specifically. However, values for off-leash areas have been included for Boise in case Spokane would one day consider providing off-season, unfenced dog use in some of the already established parks.

Spokane scores moderately well already when looking at total acreage of dog parks, at 0.41 acres per 10,000 people. To match Boise's calculated LOS rate of 0.86 acres per 10,000 residents, the City would need to add an additional 10.33 acres for a total of 19.69 acres. For **0.75 acre per 10,000 people** (which is what is proposed), Spokane would need to **designate a total of 17.17 acres** of city-owned land for dog parks.



Image A.1 - High Bridge Dog Park provides a large mulch area for dogs and their humans to socialize.



# DOG PARK SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

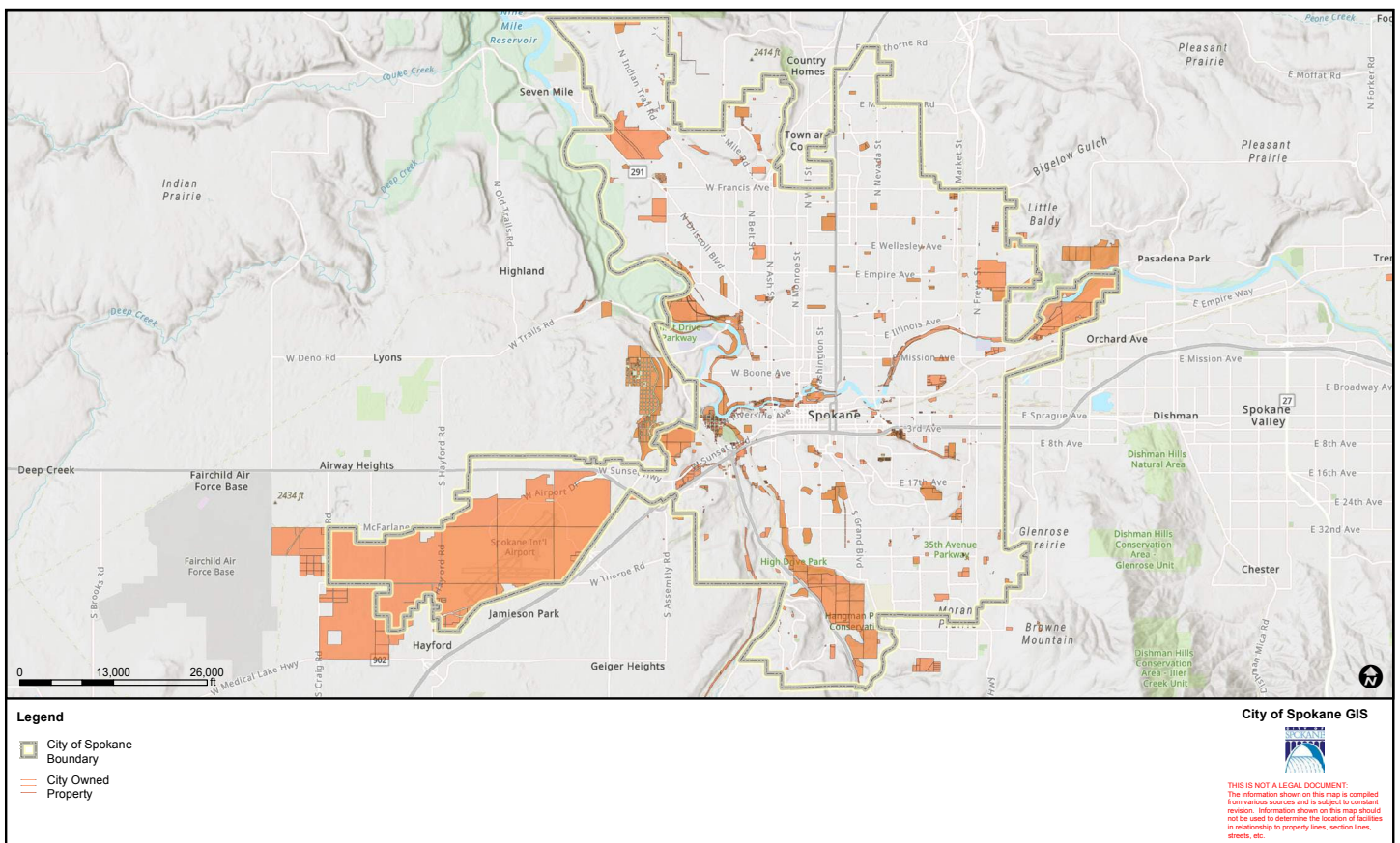
While they are a highly desired use, dog parks have some issues that require careful consideration when selecting their location, placement, and design. Based on research from municipalities across the U.S. and guidance from the Dog Park PAC, the City has prepared the following site selection and placement criteria for future dog parks. These criteria create a score for each park and are intended to guide discussions on where dog parks are most needed and desired in the City and make provisions for their location within existing City-owned properties. The criteria then go further to guide site-specific features such as its general size, potential impacts, mitigations, and expected audience.

Dog park placement criteria have been divided into three scoring tiers starting with a City-wide examination at Tier 1. Tiers 2 and 3 use weighted scoring to hone in on specific locations for dog parks. Tier 2 criteria help determine which properties are best suited for dog parks. Tier 3 criteria then examine specific locations within properties for potential impacts and mitigations to determine a best location based on the highest scoring placement.

## Tier 1: Size and Distribution Criteria

To begin assessing potential properties, the first step was to create an inventory of all city-owned property. From there, properties were eliminated if they included certain restrictions. These restrictions were predetermined before developing a list of potential properties.

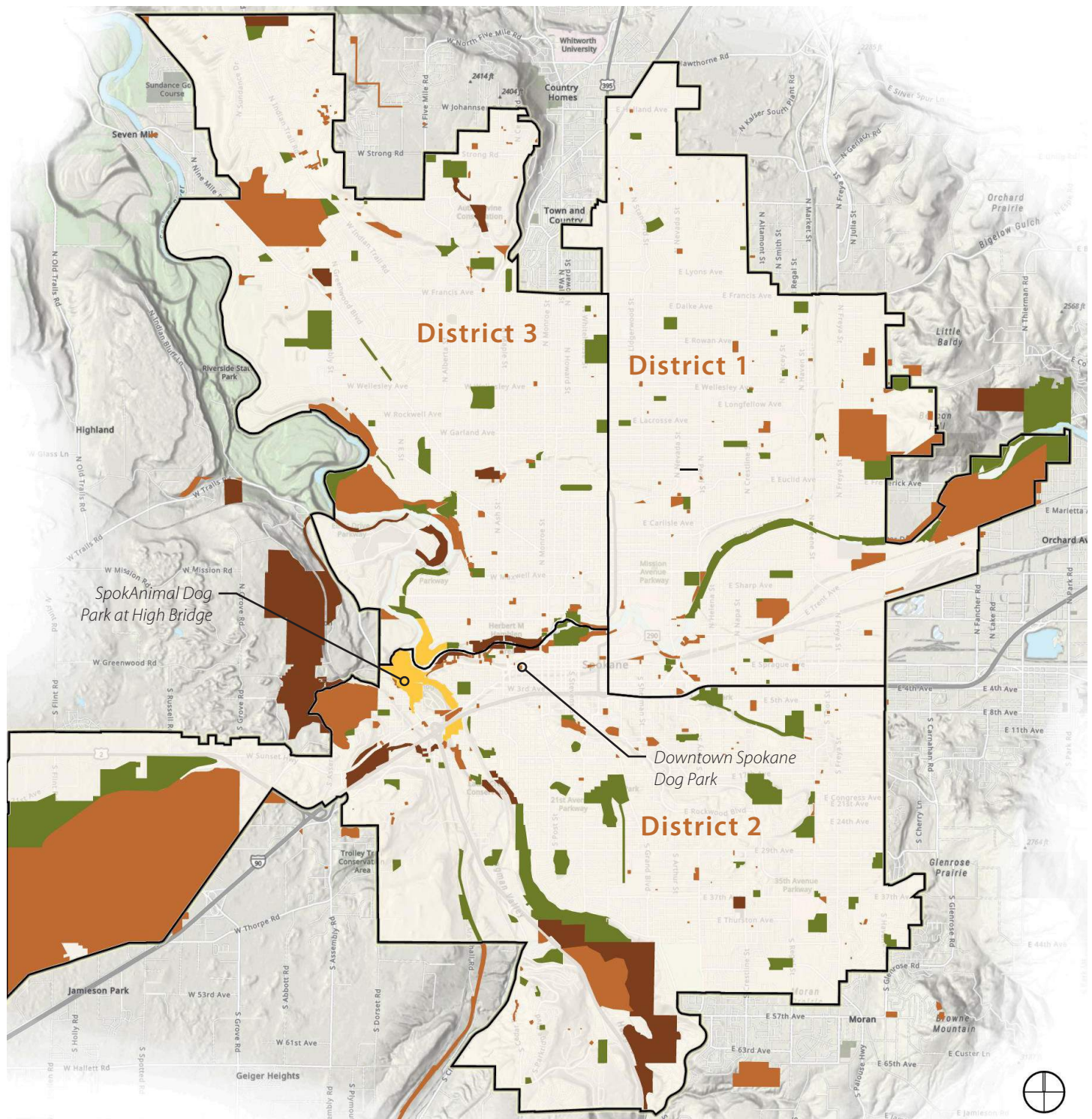
- ✦ Lack of pedestrian access
- ✦ No parking lot or on-street parking adjacent
- ✦ Land fully programmed or fully occupied
- ✦ Total contiguous land <0.5 acres
- ✦ Property too steep to develop (>2:1 slope)
- ✦ Current golf course locations
- ✦ Waste locations (occupied landfills, WWTP)
- ✦ Airports
- ✦ Designated park natural lands (conservation land, arboretum)
- ✦ Established trails and parkways



Map A.1 -Inventory of City-Owned Property, Courtesy of the City of Spokane

# Inventory of City-Owned Property

## Overall City of Spokane Map



### Legend:

- Suitable for Evaluation
- Property Deemed Unsuitable
- Current Dog Park Locations
- Natural Areas

Map A.2-Inventory of City-Owned Property, Evaluated (Overall Map)





Any land that could not be accessed directly from the road and lands that would be too steep to traverse or develop were immediately eliminated. Properties needed to have a place nearby to park if not directly on the site to accommodate visitors. Sites located on busy arterials with no on-street parking or space to develop a parking lot would be a safety hazard.

The size of properties was also examined. Anything less than half an acre was removed from the list. There were a number of reasons why this was done which will be further discussed, but the main reasons were for safety of dogs in relation to confined spaces, and limitations to developing such a small site. Trails and parkways were also removed as these were often limited to confined spaces too narrow in width to support a fenced space.

Natural lands, such as designated conservation land and arboretums were removed. Based on the recent Master Plan, residents preferred that dogs be kept out of these areas.

The last category examined was the amount of available, unprogrammed space on each parcel. Any property fully programmed was eliminated. This could include golf courses, fire and police stations, airports, material staging grounds, utility stations, and waste locations such as occupied

landfills and wastewater treatment plants. Properties such as reservoirs were often left on the list because there was substantial open, unused land separate from the space occupied by the reservoirs.

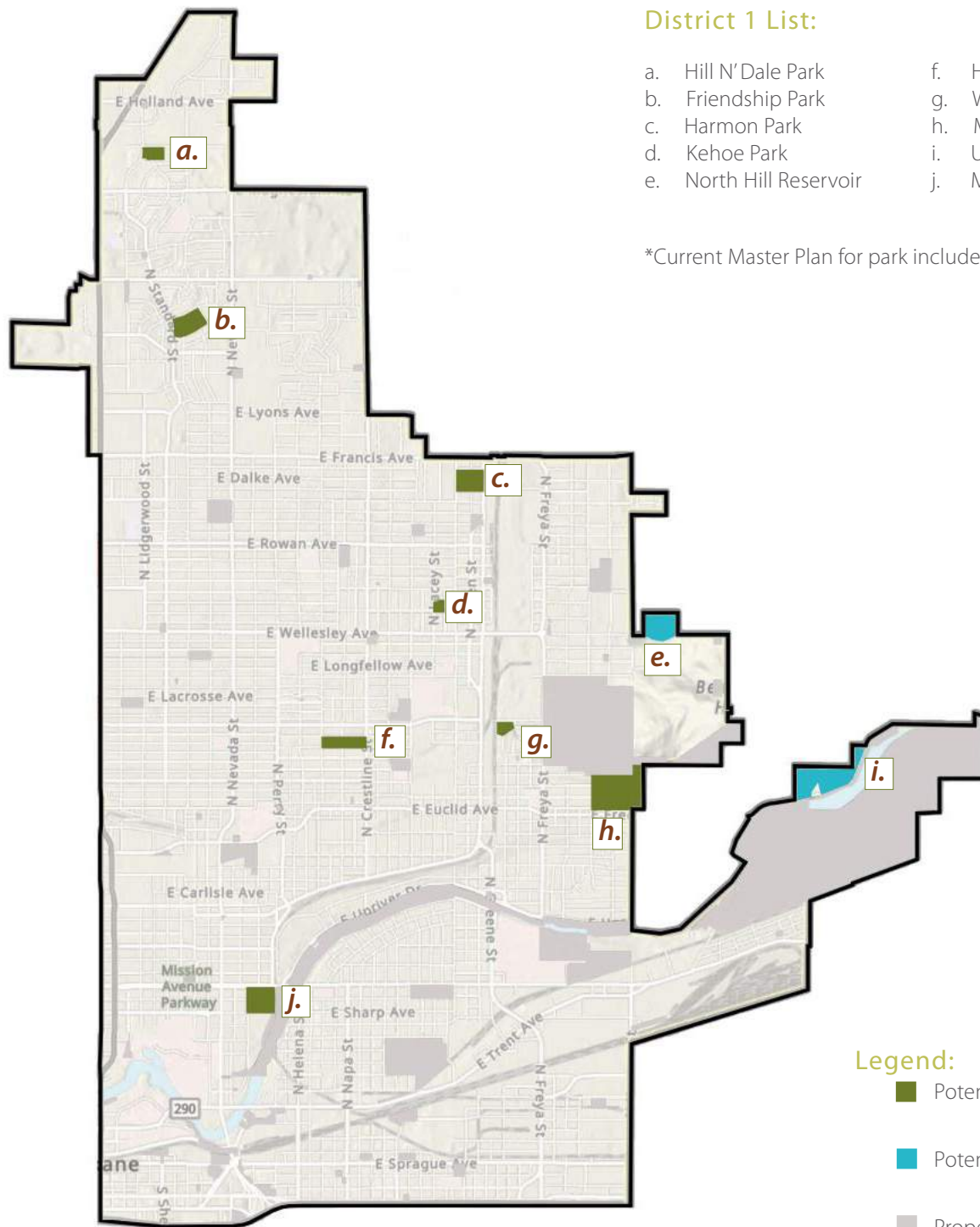
Map A.1 shows all city-owned property. All properties at least half an acre in size that could potentially be evaluated have been designated as "Suitable for Evaluation," as shown on Map A.2.

***Dogs are not our  
whole life, but they  
make our lives  
whole.***

***~ Roger Caras***

## Inventory of City-Owned Property

### District 1 Map



### District 1 List:

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Hill N’Dale Park     | f. Hays Park       |
| b. Friendship Park      | g. Wildhorse Park  |
| c. Harmon Park          | h. Minnehaha Park* |
| d. Kehoe Park           | i. Upriver Park    |
| e. North Hill Reservoir | j. Mission Park    |

\*Current Master Plan for park includes dog park program.

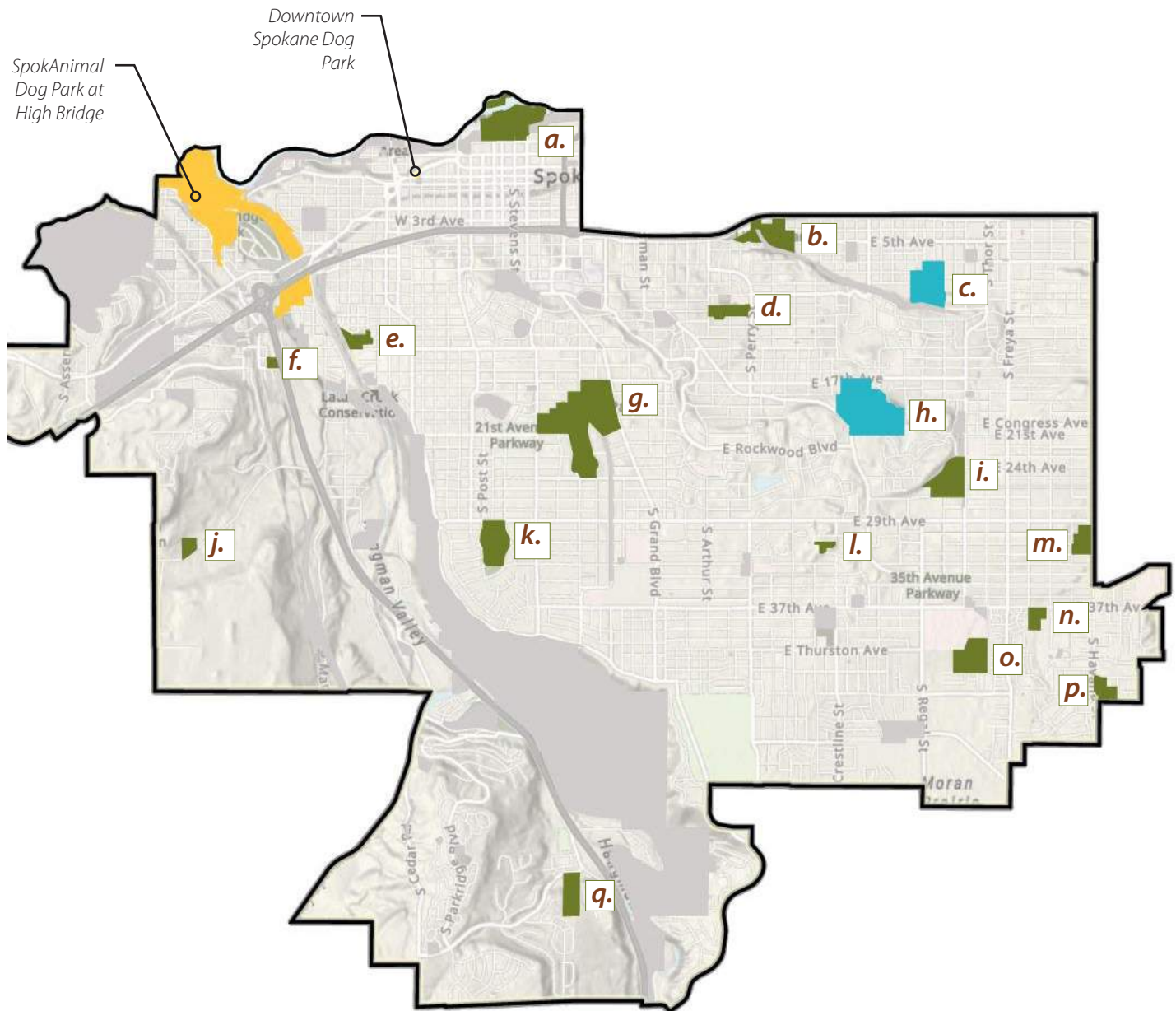
Legend:

- Potential Evaluation -  
1.00 - 6.99 ac. Available
- Potential Evaluation -  
7.00 ac. + Available
- Property Deemed Unsuitable
- Current Dog Park Locations



## Inventory of City-Owned Property

### District 2 Map



### District 2 List:

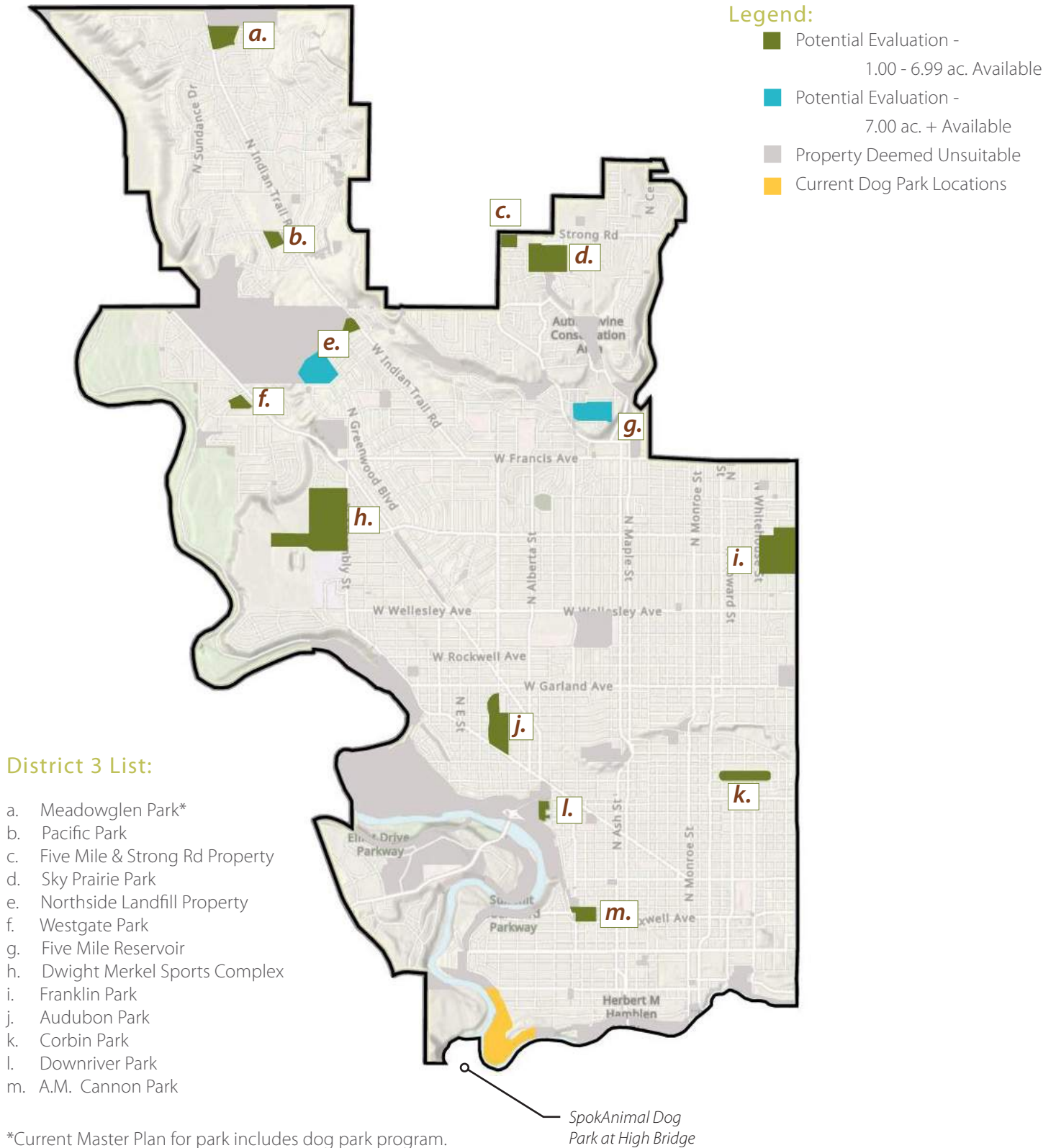
- |                             |                           |                                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Riverfront Park*         | g. Manito Park            | m. Frog Ponds                        |
| b. Liberty Park**           | h. Lincoln Park           | n. 37th Ave Stormwater Facility      |
| c. Underhill Park           | i. Thornton Murphy Park   | o. Hazel's Creek Stormwater Facility |
| d. Grant Park               | j. Thorpe Road Reservoir  | p. Ben Burr Park                     |
| e. Polly Judd Park          | k. Comstock Park          | q. Fire Station 5                    |
| f. Fish Lake Trail Property | l. Garden Park Water Tank |                                      |

\*Current location selected and in planning phase. Omitted from further evaluation.

\*\*Current Master Plan for park includes dog park program.

## Inventory of City-Owned Property

### District 3 Map



Map A.5 - Inventory of City-Owned Property (District 3)

Based on available properties, research from other communities, and responses from the Citywide Dog Park Committee (CDPC), it made the most sense to divide dog parks into three categories based on size and area demands:

1. **Community Facility - over 7 acres**
2. **Neighborhood Facility - between 1 and 6.99 acres**
3. **Pocket Facility - less than 1 acre**

### Community Facilities

Community facilities are large open-space areas that can support a high population of dogs and users. These regional attractions are auto-oriented, where a majority of users would ideally drive no more than 20 minutes to reach the park.

### Neighborhood Facilities

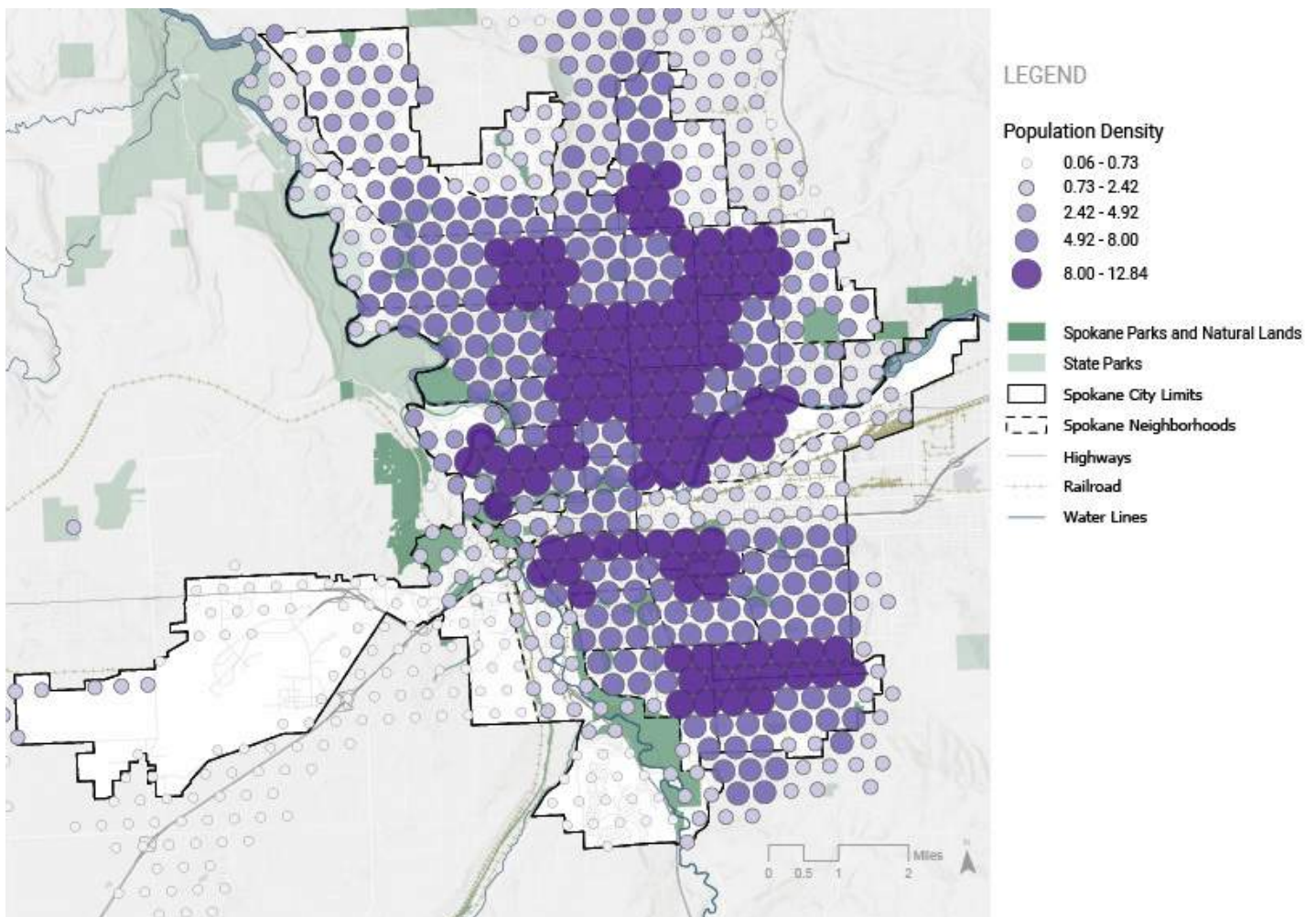
Neighborhood facilities are intended to be moderately sized and serve a balance of walking and driving user populations. Walking distance for these facilities is generally no more than

15 minutes and they may attract drivers up to 15 minutes away. The facility needs equal design focus on walkable connections and parking.

### Pocket Facilities

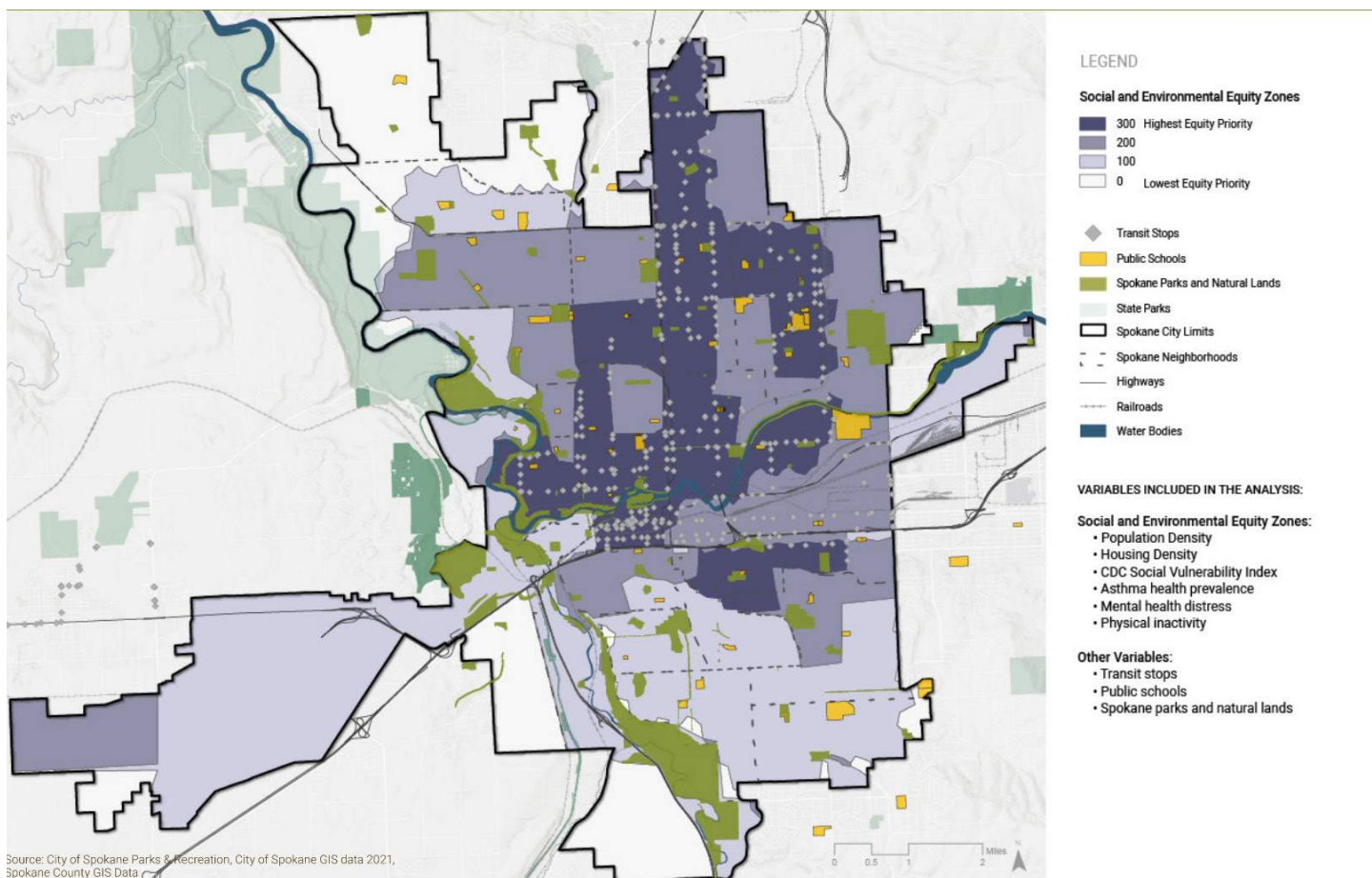
Pocket Facilities are a great use of small under-utilized properties. These facilities are used almost exclusively by users walking to the site and tend to be concentrated in urban high-density areas with multi-family housing or single-family lots with minimal yard space. Since the potential locations of these properties are not examined in these guidelines, there is more flexibility in where these can be located. This also provides freedom for people to apply for a specific location to be considered.

The City has determined that the desired distribution of these facilities should be for each district to have at least one community and one neighborhood-sized facility. This would spread out the facilities so that no area other than the airport would be more than a 20-minute drive from a



Map A.6 - Population Density Map. Courtesy of the City of Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan Draft, dated May 2022.





Map A.7 - Equity Zone Map. Courtesy of the City of Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan Draft, dated May 2022.

Community Facility. Ideally, these facilities would be placed in such a way that the majority of each district is within a 10-minute drive of a larger-sized dog park. Pocket facilities would be located in a manner that allows less mobile populations the opportunity to socialize and exercise their pets. Maps A.3 - A.5 show all properties in each individual district. These only show properties that could support community and neighborhood facilities, as pocket parks will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The ratio and spread of facilities may vary from district to district based on factors like lack of available larger property and population density, which is further examined as a part of Tier 2.

## Tier 2: General Location Scoring

Once a list of potential properties was developed, a system was established to refine and condense the list to a more manageable size. Two sets of criteria were created and vetted by the City PAC. The first set, known as Tier 2, looks at each site as a whole and analyzes features at that specific location.

Location Criteria	Average Score	Median Score	Range	Most Common Response
Available Area	4.4	5	3 - 5	5
Tree Canopy	3.7	4	2 - 5	4 & 5
Surrounding Uses	3.7	4	2 - 5	4
Water Access	3.4	3.5	1 - 5	5
Quality Habitat / Protected Areas	3.3	4	1 - 5	4
Proximity to Arterials	2.8	3	1 - 5	4
Existing Use / Displacement	2.5	3	1 - 4	3
Proximity to Existing Dog Parks	1.4	1	1 - 3	1

Table A.4 - Tier 2 Criteria Scoring priority as determined by the Advisory Board.

Potential Site	Tier 2: General Location Scoring					Weighted Avg Subtotal
	Available Acreage	Surrounding Uses	Quality Habitat	Street Access	Existing Uses Displaced	
	Enter number of acres as (#.#)	Add points for each adjacency: Multi-family Residential - RTF, RMF, RHD (3 pt) Center and Corridor Zones - CC1-CC4 (2 pt) Commercial - O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC (1 pt) Industrial - LI, HI, PI (1 pt)	yes (0 pt) no (1 pt)	Direct access to arterial (2 pt) Local access roads only (1 pt) Street improvements needed (-1 pt)	None (0 pt) Minimal/Flexible (-1 pt) Significant Impact (-3 pt)	
Name						
Weight	35%	25%	10%	10%	20%	100%

Table A.5 - Tier 2 Criteria Scoring as shown in the Siting Matrix.

A sample list of criteria was compiled based on similar criteria used in other municipalities, and discussions were led regarding the importance of each. From there, each criteria was scored a rank from 1 to 5 based on how desirable that element would be when determining a location. Table A.4 shows the accumulation of scores, with the highest scoring criteria on top.

Given the information from the PAC, a design matrix spreadsheet was created to list and weigh each element based on its determined worth. Higher percentages were given to the elements that scored higher in the PAC survey, or were determined to be of higher importance after further discussion with the PAC. Some elements have negative or neutral scores as they can be seen as problematic to the location and design of the facility.



Image A.2 - Walking paths and trails are highly desirable for humans and their companions to feel secluded and to engage in exercise.

The Siting Matrix as shown in Table A.5 presents the criteria applied to all City-owned properties within City limits. Tier 2 criteria is defined as follows:

**Total Site Acreage:** Total area of City-Owned property in one contiguous area. Not all of the area counted may be

suited for a dog park, and is therefore not calculated in the scoring.

**Available Acreage:** A rough estimate of how much open, unused property is available on a portion of the site. This may or may not include area calculated for parking, access to the fenced areas, and buffers needed.

**Surrounding Uses:** Scoring based on nearby zoning. More points are given to areas that support multi-family residential development and areas such as Center and Corridor Zones that focus on revitalizing particular regions and support growth. Refer to the City of Spokane Zoning Map for the location of adjacent zones.

**Quality Habitat:** Property that is relatively undisturbed and supports the habitation of wildlife and native flora. Displacing or destroying this habitation could be seen as undesirable, so no points are given to these properties. These sites may need further mitigation to provide separation between uses.

**Street Access:** The level of complication for getting to the site. Direct access to an arterial makes it easy to find the dog park and easy to get in and out. A local road may be more confusing to traverse and cause more disruption for neighbors. For sites that require the added cost of new or improved streets in order to provide pedestrian and parking access, a negative score is given.

**Existing Uses Displaced:** The amount of existing programmed uses directly located at or adjacent to the proposed dog park site that would be displaced. Uses may include walking trails, picnic areas, or open fields. The more substantial the list, the lower the score. Some uses can be rerouted or relocated. Certain sites such as current multi-use sports fields that are used as informal flex space would be highly affected, especially if this is the only space available on the property for that use. PAC members felt that the displacement of some of these uses was highly problematic.

The presence of water bodies was explored but ultimately removed from the list since the City expressed that they would prefer dogs not have access to this. Having a water body such as a stream or wetland within the fenced area would be very costly and challenging to maintain its ecological integrity and usability. For sites that do provide these features, it is recommended to fence outside of these sensitive areas as mitigation.

At one point the proximity to bus routes was also examined. Locating dog parks near public transit would be beneficial to those who do not have other means of transportation. Unfortunately Spokane Transit Authority does not allow dogs on their buses at this time unless they can be contained on a lap or in a crate. Since the option of using a bus is not available to many dog owners, this was omitted from the list of criteria.

The last criteria point that was omitted was proximity to existing dog parks. Although this can still be unofficially considered in regards to current dog park locations, it was challenging to determine how to measure this prior to siting more dog parks. A better way of looking at the situation is to look at individual districts as a whole and the distribution of potential properties within the districts. Most properties under consideration are already spread apart, and other criteria such as acreage seemed to matter more to PAC members.

### Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring

Tier 3 evaluates specific unprogrammed locations within a given City property to determine the best location for a future dog park. For some of the larger sites, several diverse options have been explored. These criteria examine potential impacts and the costs for mitigations, infrastructure, and improvements. Sites requiring less construction of infrastructure and buffers will score higher as they can likely be funded and constructed in a more timely fashion.

The City PAC again evaluated a list of criteria and ranked each in order of importance, as seen in Table A.6. Note that some criteria look at existing features that are currently available somewhere on site, whereas other criteria look at the plausibility or level of ease in adding certain features.

The Siting Matrix as shown in Table A.7 defines the Tier 3 criteria as follows:

**Terrain:** The relative steepness or unevenness of a site. Having topographical variation can be seen as desirable,

Placement Criteria	Average Score	Median Score	Range	Most Common Response
Accessibility	4.4	4.5	3 - 5	5
Existing Street Parking	3.9	4	3 - 5	4
Buffers Needed	3.7	4	2 - 5	4
Existing Trees	3.7	4	2 - 5	4
Existing Off-Street Parking	3.4	4	1 - 5	4
Existing Utilities	3.2	3	2 - 5	2, 3 & 4
Existing Shade Structures	3.2	3	1 - 5	3
Existing Lighting	2.8	3	1 - 4	3 & 4
Existing Restrooms	2.7	3	1 - 4	3
Existing Irrigation	2.5	3	1 - 4	3

Table A.6 - Tier 3 Criteria Scoring priority as determined by the Advisory Board.

but too much variation may make a site less accessible to mobility impaired users. Steep slopes that are degraded by dog use may also erode at a faster rate.

**Accessibility:** The ability to create an ADA compliant pathway from the parking area to the entrance of the dog park. This also looks at the accessibility immediately inside the fenced area, and how easy it would be to add a nearby gathering space for people of all abilities.

**Import Needed:** The need to provide imported fill to areas of rough terrain. Certain sites are more rocky such as Lincoln Park, which contains solid bedrock. These types of sites would need added soil to even out the surface. The more that is needed, the higher the price tag.

**Residential Buffers Needed:** The need for buffers based on proximity to existing residences. Some areas may just need a visual screening if viewed from a distance, whereas other dog parks that immediately abut the backyards of houses will need a more dense visual and sound buffer.

**Activity Buffers Needed:** The need for buffers based on proximity to existing activities, such as sports fields, courts and playgrounds. Many dogs are not familiar with these



uses and may become anxious if they can see what is going on around them. Children also may be nervous around dogs if they can see them. Providing separation through distance as well as a vegetative screen helps define these uses as distinctly different.

**Mitigation Buffers Needed:** The need for buffers based on proximity to sensitive natural areas such as wetlands and creeks. Vegetative buffers can absorb or filter contaminants from the soil that would otherwise end up downstream.

**Street Parking Available:** Parking spaces along the street that are currently provided adjacent to the property. Adding street parking would be too challenging. Unless a new road was constructed, this would be unlikely to change.

**Off-Street Parking:** The presence of a parking lot on the site. Sites that currently have adequate parking stalls available score the highest. Sites that are not graded properly for a parking lot or otherwise do not have the space or access for one are not ranked.

**Tree Canopy:** The presence of mature trees on the site. The more trees there are, the more favorable shade is provided. Having little to no trees means that some other form of shade, such as a shade structure, would be highly advised to be added.

**Utilities:** The presence of utilities on the site or along the roads adjacent to the property. These may include water, power, or sewer lines. For existing parks slated for improvements, routing utilities would not be too challenging. However, it would be challenging and costly

to add all-new utilities to a region that does not provide it currently.

**Lighting:** The presence of lighting at or around the location of the proposed dog park. This may include street lights, large overhead lights within parks, or lighting on restroom or storage buildings. Since additional lighting would likely need to be added to any design, this was ranked low.

**Restrooms:** The presence of a restroom facility somewhere on the property. Structures within close proximity were given a higher score.

After examining the sites, none of the potential candidates had existing shade structures. Therefore that criteria was omitted. Existing irrigation was also removed because not all sites would need irrigation depending on the surfacing used. For those that would need it, the system would more than likely need to be retrofitted or fully replaced to meet the design intents.

A total of 39 properties between the three districts were examined when filling out the Siting Matrix. A few of those properties (Manito Park and the Northside Sanitary Landfill) examined several locations on the property. These large sites varied in features depending on where they were located and would offer very different types of dog park experiences. Based on the criteria determined by the PAC, the following properties ranked the highest (see Table A.8). These include both community and neighborhood-sized properties. From here, the Spokane Parks Board can take this criteria and determine which locations would best serve as a dog park.

Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring												Weighted Avg Subtotal
Terrain	Accessibility to Facility	Import Required	Residential Buffers Needed	Activity Buffers Needed	Mitigation Buffers Needed	Street Parking Available	Off-Street Parking	Tree Canopy	Utilities	Lighting	Restrooms	
Flat (4 pt)	Easily capable of being ADA compliant (2 pt)	None anticipated (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	Yes (3 pt)	Existing (3 pt)	Heavy (3 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)	
Rolling (2 pt)	Challenging to add ADA accessibility (0 pt)	Some anticipated (1 pt)	Street buffer only (1 pt)	Sports/ playgrounds (0 pt)	Required (0 pt)	No (0 pt)	Possible (1 pt)	Some (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	
Steep (0 pt)		Significant anticipated (0 pt)	Adjacent (0 pt)				Not possible (0 pt)	Nothing on-site (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (0 pt)	
10%	15%	5%	10%	15%	5%	8%	8%	15%	4%	3%	2%	100%

Table A.7 - Tier 3 Criteria Scoring as shown in the Siting Matrix.

Site Name	District	Available Acreage	Tier 2 Subtotal	Tier 3 Subtotal2	Grand Total
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Large)	3	21.2	8.07	1.16	9.23
Upriver Park	1	13	4.75	1.88	6.63
Five Mile Reservoir	3	9.3	4.11	1.84	5.95
Underhill Park	2	7.2	3.37	1.82	5.19
North Hill Reservoir	1	8.2	2.82	1.66	4.48
Lincoln Park	2	7.5	3.58	0.82	4.40
Hazel's Creek	2	7.1	2.39	1.53	3.92
Hill N'Dale Park	1	1.8	1.73	2.12	3.85
Thornton Murphy Park	2	1.2	2.22	1.61	3.83
Manito Park Option 3 (North Option)	2	1.2	1.47	2.32	3.79
Franklin Park	3	1.5	1.38	2.11	3.49
Grant Park	2	1.4	0.99	2.41	3.40
Harmon Park	1	1	1.55	1.83	3.38
A.M. Cannon Park	3	1	1.45	1.81	3.26
Mission Park	1	1	0.80	2.38	3.18
Meadowglen Park	3	1.1	1.34	1.84	3.18
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	3	1.6	1.61	1.47	3.08
Hays Park	1	1.5	0.83	2.25	3.08
Pacific Park	3	1.6	1.81	1.24	3.05
Manito Park Option 1 (West Option)	2	2.8	1.18	1.82	3.00
Manito Park Option 2 (East Option)	2	2.8	1.08	1.92	3.00
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Small)	3	3.4	1.84	1.16	3.00
Comstock Park	2	2.3	0.91	2.08	2.99
Corbin Park	3	2.4	0.84	2.14	2.98
Five Mile & Strong Rd Property	3	4	1.70	1.24	2.94
Westgate Park	3	1.3	1.31	1.62	2.93
Fire Station 5	2	5	1.45	1.46	2.91
Thorpe Road Reservoir	2	1.6	0.56	2.27	2.83
Minnehaha Park	1	3	1.25	1.56	2.81
Fish Lake Trail Property	2	1.7	0.70	1.94	2.64
Sky Prairie Park	3	4.6	1.11	1.51	2.62
37th Ave Stormwater Facility	2	2.8	1.18	1.44	2.62
Garden Park Water Tank	2	1.8	1.28	1.28	2.56
Downriver Stormwater Facility	3	2.8	1.08	1.41	2.49
Wildhorse Park	1	1.2	0.67	1.64	2.31
Frog Ponds	2	3.9	1.27	1.03	2.30
Kehoe Park	1	1	0.70	1.55	2.25
Audubon Park	3	1	0.65	1.58	2.23
Liberty Park	2	0.5	1.13	1.03	2.16
Friendship Park	1	1	0.35	1.62	1.97
Polly Judd Park	2	1	0.45	1.48	1.93
Ben Burr Park	2	1	0.05	1.71	1.76

Table A.8 - Ranked score of all potential dog park properties

### District 1:

1. Upriver Park
2. North Hill Reservoir
3. Hill N'Dale Park
4. Harmon Park

### District 2:

1. Underhill Park
2. Lincoln Park
3. Hazel's Creek Stormwater Facility
4. Thornton Murphy Park
5. Manito Park

### District 3:

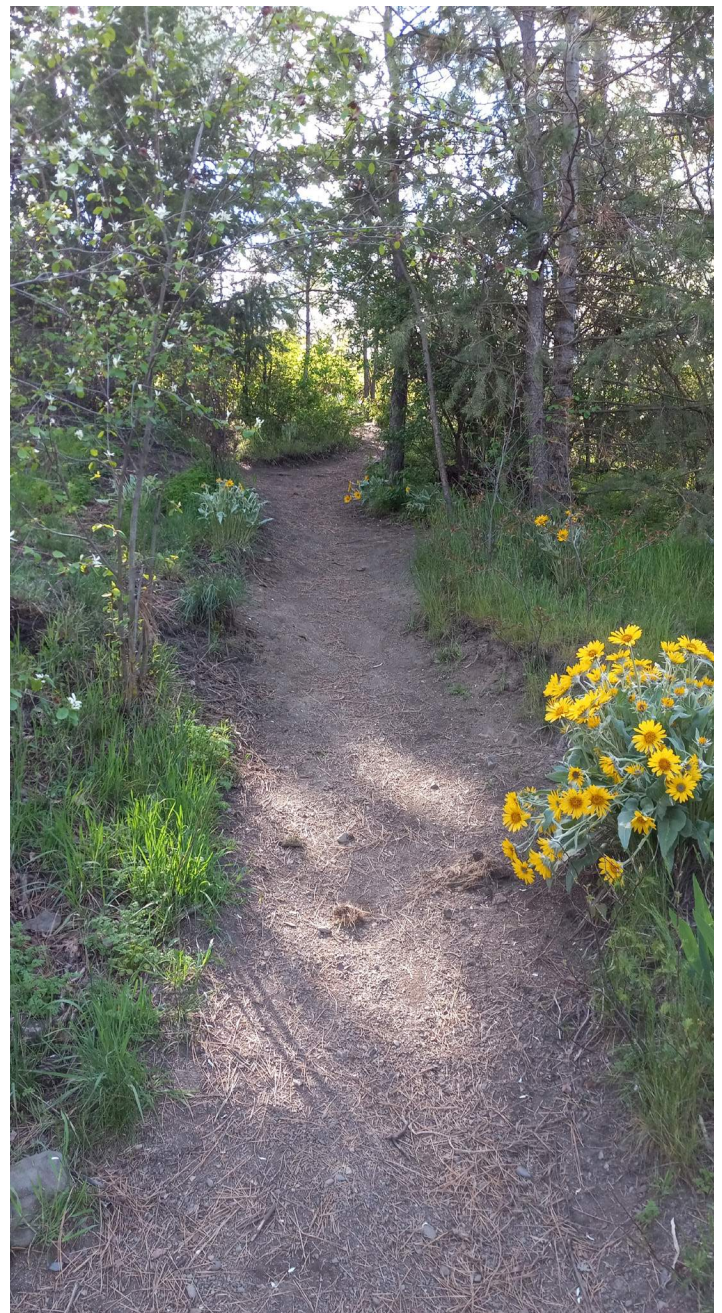
1. Northside Sanitary Landfill
2. Five Mile Reservoir
3. Franklin Park
4. A.M. Cannon Park

## PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS .....

On August 9, 2022, a 20 question survey was released to the public. Questions ranged from demographics to desired site features. A total of 1,158 respondents participated, and many people provided written responses in addition to the poll questions.

Most responses supported the priorities established by the PAC members. Features like existing tree canopies and flat, accessible sites scored high while features like existing restrooms had less of an impact on people. The level of service metric that was refined by the PAC was confirmed. There was a slight preference for larger, drivable options (56%) over smaller, walkable facilities.

An interesting revelation was that a significant amount of people were concerned in preserving natural land. Although none of the properties analyzed are designated conservation or natural lands by City Parks classifications,



*Image A.3 - The social trails scattered along the hillside of High Bridge Park offer wonderful opportunities for respite and exploration.*

many were worried that the undeveloped areas perceived as natural would be disturbed or diminished. Most would consider shrinking the size of the dog park if it meant minimizing or avoiding the impact on undeveloped lands.

Even if dog parks are not located in natural or seemingly natural lands, that is the desired look and feel that survey participants voted for. 61% of people wanted a "natural" feel that represents the local Spokane landscape, followed by large turf fields at just 19%.



Parking did not seem to be as big of a factor. Although most wanted parking provided nearby, there wasn't a strong preference of off-street parking lots over on-street parking. That gives more flexibility for neighborhood facilities in particular which may not host a large number of visitors at a time.

Having existing utilities on site scored high as well. This is likely because people want to ensure water and lighting are provided at parks. Some potential sites may have utilities nearby that can be tapped into, but other more remote sites will require more work to add these features.

Access to bodies of water such as the Spokane River was highly advocated for in the comments section of the survey. People wanted their dogs to be able to swim, which is a dog park use not currently provided. This was highly analyzed throughout the site selection process. Although this could create a unique experience that draws in people from far away, we found a number of flaws that would limit our options:

- ✦ Not all river access is city-owned.
- ✦ Much of the city-owned property is designated as natural area.

- ✦ Most of the available land is located at High Bridge or neighboring Peoples' Park, which is in close proximity to the existing dog park there.
- ✦ Land is too steep to allow for safe pedestrian or vehicular access.
- ✦ Certain portions of the Spokane River are fast-moving and too dangerous for direct access. Advertising this option as a safe public space could open up Parks to more liabilities.
- ✦ Static water bodies can harbor more diseases that dogs are susceptible to.
- ✦ Providing access to the water would negatively impact riparian buffers by disturbing wildlife habitat and degrading vegetation.

Based on this list of limitations and the limited availability of potential sites that included water access or riparian areas in the first place, the PAC advised not pursuing this option. If there is enough evidence compiled that would contradict any of these points and enough support was rallied behind the idea, considering areas with water bodies could be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING NEW DOG PARKS .....

All new dog parks should include a public engagement process to address public concerns about the potential benefits and risks of proposed off-leash areas. Proposed plans for off-leash areas should be published in order to facilitate public feedback. Various stakeholders, including dog owners, non-dog owners, adjoining property owners, and park user groups should be consulted prior to initiating off-leash dog park development.

Neighborhoods have a critical role in the formation of dog parks. As such, citizens should be involved in all phases of the process from site selection to design to maintenance. The Parks department should include community suggestions and address concerns when developing dog park plans, but it is the City of Spokane Park Board which determines if a new dog park is feasible or desired at a specific location. When making siting decisions and developing a new dog park, it is highly encouraged that Parks determine the level of community and neighborhood support for a particular proposal.

Park improvements resulting in grading over 1-acre of land or moving more than 500 cubic yards of soil will be required to participate in a SEPA process during permitting. The dog park public engagement process will be used to inform SEPA. The SEPA process should not be used in lieu of specific outreach for dog parks.

After construction, ongoing communication between City Parks and stakeholders may also alleviate concerns and prevent conflicts. Online polls, email lists, or scheduled meetings allowing park users and nearby residents to communicate park-related concerns with Parks may inform ongoing park evaluation and improvements in response to perceived risks. The suggested cadence for formal check-ins is:

1. 30-days after opening
2. 6-months after opening
3. 1-year after opening & once per year following

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS & MITIGATION

Mitigation considerations are very important for the selection and design processes. Many of these impacts are inevitable, and many can be reduced or avoided based on where a dog park is located. Tables A.9 and A.10 line out potential impacts and the mitigations that should be examined.

### Social & Environmental Impacts

Potential Impact	Potential Mitigations
<b>Traffic:</b> Adding dog park activity will generate more trips on nearby streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Locate facilities and parking near arterials.</li> <li>✦ Discourage use of residential streets for parking.</li> </ul>
<b>Noise:</b> Barking dogs will disrupt quiet neighborhoods, park spaces, and wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide vegetated buffers between residential uses, wildlife spaces and the dog park perimeter fencing.</li> </ul>
<b>Odor:</b> Urine and feces odors will be pronounced during hot weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide readily accessible waste bags to encourage all park users to clean up after their dogs.</li> <li>✦ Consider closing the park temporarily if owners are not picking up after their pets.</li> <li>✦ Consider the use of odor-eliminating fertilizers in high traffic areas.</li> <li>✦ Rotate locations of “vertical targets” that might attract dogs to help reduce urine concentrations in one area.</li> </ul>
<b>Light Pollution:</b> Too intense of lighting may disrupt nearby residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide downturned, shielded fixtures with warm-colored LEDs or CFLs.</li> <li>✦ Avoid adding excessive quantities of fixtures throughout the site. Focus on locations that provide a level of protection for park users.</li> <li>✦ Limit the time lights are on to only when the dog park is open.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Consumption:</b> Irrigation may be required for washing down surfaces. Dog parks would need access to city water to provide irrigation infrastructure, which would increase water use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Select surface materials that do not require being washed down.</li> <li>✦ Set watering windows late at night or early in the morning to increase efficiency and avoid muddy conditions during hours of use.</li> <li>✦ Select water-wise irrigation that avoids runoff. Consider the use of bubblers near trees.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Contamination:</b> Erosion runoff from denuded dog park soils will contaminate streams, rivers, and water bodies. Urine and feces contamination will lead to algae blooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Consider treating dog park surfaces similar to paved PGS with requirements to contain and infiltrate runoff.</li> <li>✦ Provide vegetated buffers between dog parks and water bodies.</li> <li>✦ If swimming is desired, provide artificial pools.</li> </ul>
<b>Ground Disturbance:</b> Overcompaction, erosion, and digging due to dog behavior and park operations can alter existing site conditions and impact ecological health both within and outside of designated dog areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Select surface materials that encourage the infiltration of water, reduce ground compaction, and discourage digging.</li> <li>✦ Discourage pedestrian traffic in areas not suited for compaction, such as within a tree’s critical root zone or through vegetation that can easily be trampled. Consider how the dog park design can encourage use in other areas of the park.</li> <li>✦ Add drains around wet areas to avoid pooling of water or runoff, which may cause erosion. Avoid situations where mud accumulation may occur.</li> <li>✦ Add impervious paving to areas prone to heavy wear, such as within double gate areas.</li> <li>✦ Add vegetation to areas prone to erosion, such as steep slopes.</li> </ul>

Table A.9 - Social and Environmental Impacts

## Health & Safety Impacts

Potential Impact	Potential Mitigations
<b>Disease Exposure:</b> Common pathogens associated with dog parks (giardia, etc.) and parasites (intestinal worms and protozoa, fleas and ticks) may infect park users, nearby neighbors, and wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide signage with requirements for all participating dogs to be vaccinated and licensed.</li> <li>✦ Provide adequate tools for owners to clean up feces, such as trash cans, bags, and poop scoops. It is recommended that a designated maintenance crew routinely dispose of trash collected in trash cans and pick up loose debris.</li> <li>✦ Avoid communal water dishes for dogs unless they can drain after each use, or require users to fill their own dishes.</li> <li>✦ Do not select locations that include standing bodies of water. Regrade portions of the site that include depressions that fill with water.</li> <li>✦ Consider play structures that can be easily cleaned on a regular basis if needed. Discourage visitors from bringing in outside toys.</li> <li>✦ Consider closing the park temporarily if diseases are reported.</li> </ul>
<b>Heat Exposure:</b> Overexposure to the sun and lack of protection may cause heat exhaustion and stroke to dogs and humans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide shade structures within the park. Also consider benches for areas of respite while walking around the site.</li> <li>✦ Retain as many existing trees as possible without reducing the integrity of the park.</li> <li>✦ Provide drinking fountains for humans and dogs. Consider a hose or dog-washing station to help dogs cool off.</li> </ul>
<b>Canine Aggression:</b> Aggressive (or even just playful) dogs may injure owners or nearby people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide signage to educate owners on how to recognize play vs. aggressive behavior. Include emergency vet phone numbers.</li> <li>✦ Separate large and small dogs with a sturdy, 6 foot height barrier fence. Consider separating out spaces for timid dogs as well. Opaque barrier fencing recommended to create more visual separation.</li> <li>✦ Set maximum occupancy to avoid overcrowding.</li> <li>✦ Consider controlled access - Provide key fob access or require dog passes obtained during licensing to filter out those who are not willing to follow rules.</li> <li>✦ Provide transparent fencing so that owners can assess conditions before entering.</li> <li>✦ Double gates can avoid interactions between leashed and unleashed pets. Consider a staggered staging area with self-closing and self-latching hardware. Avoid corner entrances and angles in the fencing equal to or less than 90 degrees.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety:</b> Limited visibility and potential blind spots may lead to unwanted, unsafe behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Provide lighting at all parking lots, entrances, and structures.</li> <li>✦ Illuminate any potential blind spots around the site.</li> <li>✦ Thin out areas of thick vegetation to avoid hiding spots and unwanted habitation.</li> <li>✦ Locate parking within close proximity to the dog park.</li> <li>✦ Avoid large, site-obstructing structures on the site.</li> <li>✦ Ensure landscape buffers are at least partially see-through for visibility. Buffers can help provide separation between different park uses.</li> <li>✦ Consider installing an official roving security team to check in on different dog parks. Adding extra eyes to a space can help ensure rules are abided by and unwanted behavior is squelched.</li> <li>✦ Provide ADA accessible paths free of obstruction and appropriate for users of wheeled devices.</li> </ul>

Table A.10 - Health and Safety Impacts



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## PART 2

# DESIGN GUIDELINES

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# SITE FEATURES

## Facilities

Each type of facility comes with its own unique set of design guidelines. Not all sized facilities can support the same features. The features listed below serve as suggestions based on what has worked for other municipalities and what advisory board members ranked as being important.

### Community Facility

Due to the large population of dogs and owners these facilities serve, large areas of unprogrammed open-space park property is ideal. Placement should include provisions for adequate parking, buffers from adjacent uses, and the suitability of the land to support the use of dogs. The site should have permeable soils and be located so that runoff does not impact areas outside the dog park or water bodies. Ideally, the majority of the facility will be visible from surrounding public streets or within the property itself.



Image B.1 - Point Defiance Dog Park in the Tacoma metropolitan area features approximately 7 acres of mature natural landscaping set within the greater Point Defiance Park.

### Features:

- ✦ 7 acres or greater in size
- ✦ Primarily drivable
- ✦ Evenly distributed when possible
- ✦ Ample on-site parking available
- ✦ 2 fenced areas for small and large dog separation. Consideration for specialized fenced areas such as a space for timid dogs.
- ✦ Large socialization area
- ✦ Ball chasing area

- ✦ Walking trails
- ✦ Safety lighting at entrances for operational hours
- ✦ Set maximum occupancy to avoid overcrowding.

### Neighborhood Facility

Neighborhood facilities are intended to be embedded into existing parks or other City property. These will serve more walking-oriented users, so they should be located near public rights of way to reduce the need for dog owners to travel through other areas of a park. Parking can be shared with other park uses but consideration should be made to add parking for the new dog park use. Similar to community facilities, these include provisions for buffers from adjacent uses, and the suitability of the land to support the use of dogs. The site should protect areas outside the dog park, with the majority of the facility visible from the surrounding public street and property.

### Features:

- ✦ Between 1 and 6.99 acres in size
- ✦ Walkable (10-15 min radius) and drivable
- ✦ Evenly distributed when possible
- ✦ Minimal off-street and/or street parking available
- ✦ 2 fenced areas for small and large dog separation.
- ✦ Large socialization area
- ✦ Ball chasing area
- ✦ Safety lighting at entrances for operational hours

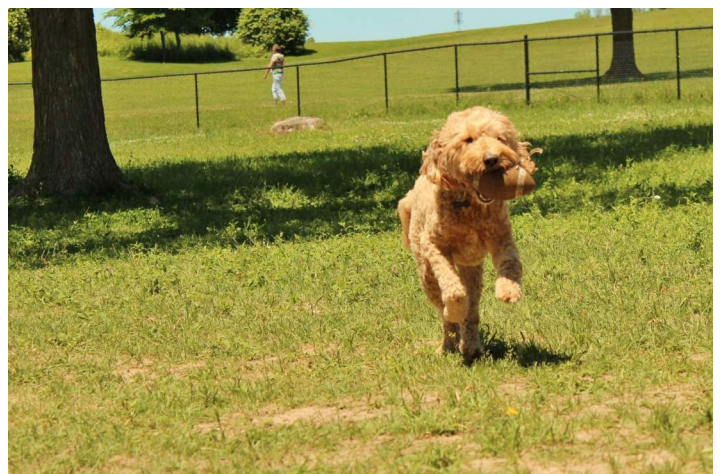


Image B.2 - Cascade Hospital for Animals Dog Park in Grand Rapids, MI features a large turf area set within Cascades Township Park.

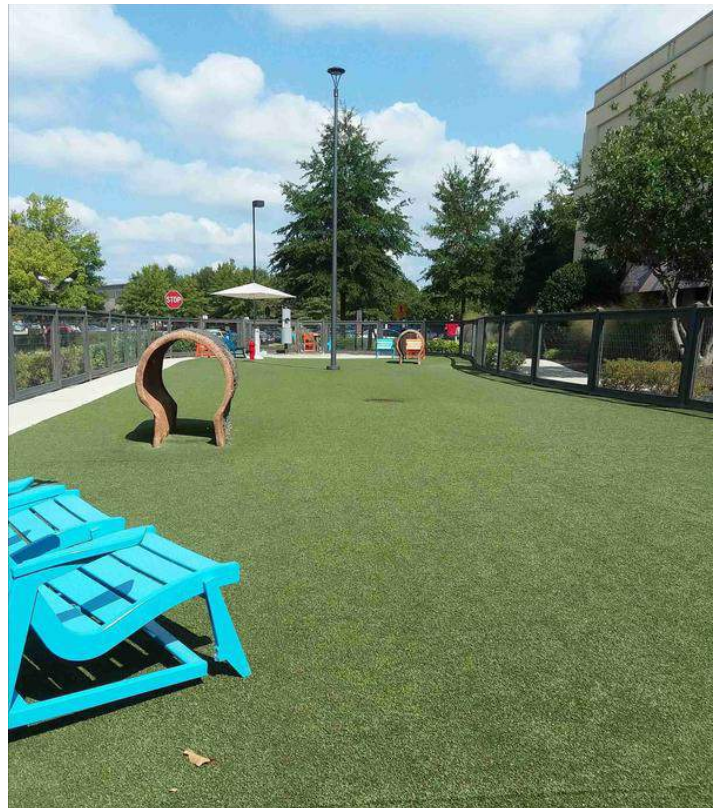


### Pocket Facility

While small, these comparatively pint-sized facilities may have the most benefit for those in the most need of space to take their pets. Pocket facilities can be embedded in most parks and even occupy those “left over” pieces of public property like the small triangle that has become the Downtown Spokane Dog Park on Riverside Avenue. Priority for these facilities will be to locate in high-density highly urban spaces or near multi-family housing where small off-leash facilities will have greater benefit and use. Almost completely walking-oriented users will need these sites to be adjacent to public sidewalks and easily visible from surrounding streets. Residential housing should be only lightly buffered allowing surveillance of the facility.

#### Features:

- ✦ Less than 1 acre in size
- ✦ Walkable
- ✦ Located in high demand areas (high density, urban, etc.)
- ✦ Parking not required
- ✦ One fenced area
- ✦ Clear sightlines across the entire site
- ✦ Safety lighting throughout for operational hours



*Image B.3 - The dog park at Stony Point Fashion Park in Richmond, VA features boutique finishes and a plethora of site furnishings packed within a footprint of less than a tenth of an acre.*





# GENERAL DESIGN

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## Overview

Different sites will require different design methods based on constraints and unique features. Before thinking about what elements go into the dog park, the site needs to be shaped and manipulated. The following suggestions can be implemented to help transform a barren site into a functional, enticing dog park.

## Site Engineering

### Grading and Drainage

Flatter sites are ideal from an accessibility and erosion standpoint. Steeper sites will require erosion control in order to avoid spread of contamination and wearing. Permeable soils would be ideal so that disturbances can be contained to one area. It is also recommended that drainage be monitored and controlled on site to avoid future problems.

### Protected Resources

Sensitive features that exist on the site such as wildlife habitat, native threatened vegetation, and water bodies are of concern to residents. There are concerns of contamination and destruction, especially from dogs. For sites that are complicated to work around, mitigation may be required.

### Sightlines

Safety is a great concern among residents. The easiest way to accommodate this is to provide visibility both inside and outside the fenced areas. A visible site leads to less hiding spaces. Owners who can see the dog park while approaching can more quickly assess if the facility is too busy or if there is undesirable behavior taking place that is best to avoid.

### Site Integration

Many participants of the PAC stated that dog parks need to capitalize what is unique to Spokane: the natural beauty of our landscape. A site that is seemingly undisturbed and models the local ecology feels more inviting and helps owners forget they are contained in a fenced dog park.

### Buffers

Based on site constraints and proximity to existing uses, an appropriate setback distance or vegetative screening around the perimeter of dog parks may be advised. This is further evaluated in the guidelines.

### Accessibility

Each dog park needs to provide ADA access from the

street or parking lot to the fenced entrance(s). In addition, participants of the survey strongly felt that at least one ADA compliant walking path should be included on the site.

## Design Additions

### Parking

Parking lots at neighborhood and community facilities should meet code requirements, including a minimum of 1 van accessible parking stall.

### Maintenance Access

It is advised that all facilities provide at least 1 vehicle maintenance gate per fenced area to allow maintenance crews to drive in with their trucks to lay surface material and easily clean the site.

### Lighting

It is highly recommended that all dog parks have lighting at the entrance(s) and near any parking areas at a minimum. Large gathering spaces and shelters may also benefit from illumination to provide safety during hours of operation, specifically during the winter when sunlight is limited.

### Fencing

A fully enclosed dog park is more widely accepted by residents for off-leash activity. Specifics on layout and fence materials are suggested in detail later in the guidelines.

### Open Space

Providing large, open areas for running and playing fetch is essential for those who do not have a yard or otherwise some other place to bring their dogs off-leash. Flexible open space could be used as a staging ground for equipment or even a large gathering space.

### Walking Paths and Trails

There is a benefit to adding walking paths within dog parks. Paths help owners navigate the site and allow for exercise. Including a perimeter loop at a minimum is recommended for large community parks. These may be in the form of paved pathways or soft, user-made trails.

### Plants

Native, drought tolerant species are recommended to reduce upkeep costs. Consideration should be taken into including fire-resistant species and species that best tolerate large concentrations of urine.

# BUFFERS

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## Overview

Not all locations are created equal. Even the most ideal dog park location may be situated around conflicting land uses. Landscape buffers are used to create a visual and sound barrier along the fenceline of the dog park.

There are three types of buffers to consider in the design of any dog park: residential, activity, and mitigation. Each have their own purpose in providing separation from various uses. Just as there are different types of buffers to consider, there are many site-specific factors that dictate how big a buffer is or what it consists of. Each site should be analyzed separately to determine which methods are best suited for conditions.

## Distinctions

### Residential Buffers

There are two types of residential buffers to consider. The first is a visual buffer, located around the entrance either in front of the fencing or in front of the parking area. For properties that are across the street and are somewhat removed from immediate impacts of the dog park but still have to deal with visual distractions, a visual buffer may be desired. This way, residents do not have direct sightlines into the fenced area.

The other type of buffer would be a screening buffer that surrounds the side and back sides of the fenced area(s). For those with backyards immediately abutting the fenced dog areas, not only would a full visual screen be beneficial to block sightlines in and out, but it could help control the sounds and smells that dog parks sometimes provide. This could best be mitigated with dense plantings or site-obscuring fencing. One caveat to this is that owners may want at least minimal sightlines to monitor for undesired behavior inside and directly outside the fenced areas.

Based on survey results, participants were fairly evenly split over whether minimal or extensive setbacks would be needed, or if no setbacks were fine as long as fencing were provided. Again, this would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Setbacks could be extensive and provide trails for on-leash dog walkers and non-dog owners to utilize. This could also take up valuable real estate that could be better utilized in the dog park itself. A small buffer may cost less to install and maintain, but may also be more restrictive to those trying to get around the site and lead to entrapment.

### Activity Buffers

In highly-programmed areas such as neighborhood parks, there may need to be separation from conflicting uses. This may include activities such as sports courts, fields, and playgrounds. Highly active uses may serve as a distraction for dogs and may make them feel more nervous because they are not used to that kind of interaction. Not only should the comfort of the dogs be considered, but that of humans as well. Children may be uneasy being in close contact with hyper dogs. At a minimum, some kind of screening should be provided to block sightlines. Setbacks should also be considered, as there is the potential that a fly ball may land behind the fencing. The distance of these setbacks would vary based on the intensity of the adjacent uses.

### Mitigation Buffers

For sites that contain sensitive features, a unique mitigation buffer may be well-suited to protect these features. Features may include but are not limited to wetlands and water body access, known habitat land, or steep slopes prone to erosion. For mitigation, providing space in between dogs and these sensitive areas is vital. Setbacks should be substantial, and vegetation should be used in the setbacks to help filter contaminants and provide erosion control. Adding see-through fencing may also be warranted to provide separation while also allowing for desired sightlines through the more visually appealing vegetation. Wildland-urban interface (WUI) fuel treatments may also need to be researched to help control the spread of wildfires in more rural, densely vegetated areas.

## Methods

The following methods may be considered to provide visual or sight-obscuring screens:

- ✦ See-through fencing
- ✦ Tall, site-obscuring fencing
- ✦ Densely planted landscape for screening
- ✦ Lightly planted landscape for visual relief
- ✦ Berms
- ✦ Wide vegetated setbacks

# FENCING

## Layout

Fenced areas will look different for different dog parks since they vary in size. For Pocket Facilities, one shared fenced area would suffice. Although a minimum of 1/2 an acre is suggested, the size is dependent on what space is available on the site. For Neighborhood and Regional Facilities that provide separate fenced areas, refer to Table B.1.

A third fenced area is highly encouraged for larger facilities that can support the space. The City can decide from there how to use the extra space. Possible uses could be a space for puppies or shy dogs to encourage positive socialization, reserved space for training classes and other activities, or maintenance rest area for turf areas that are trampled and require seasonal repair.

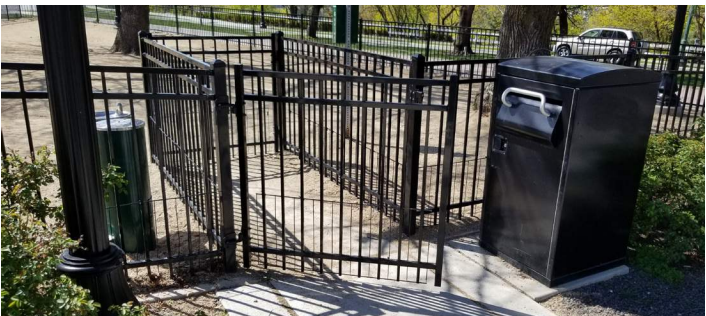


Image B.4 - The entry corral at the Downtown Spokane Dog Park is small, but includes locking latches and a paved surface up to the gate. A trash receptacle, drinking fountain, and street light are located immediately around the entry for a safe experience and convenient use.

## Materials

### Fencing

Fencing should be of solid construction and run continuously. Refer to Table B.1 for appropriate fence heights. It is advised that fence panels be transparent at eye level so that anyone approaching the fenced area can assess if they would like to

enter. Fencing layouts should consider avoiding 90 degree angles to help prevent aggressive dogs from trapping others. For high-traffic areas, a 6-foot height may be more appropriate.

### Features:

- ✦ Galvanized chainlink, vinyl-coated chainlink or decorative metal material
- ✦ 9-gauge fabric with 2-inch mesh size for chainlink fences. Knuckle selvage along top.
- ✦ Bottom 24 inches of small dog fencing = max. 2-inch opening size
- ✦ No stranded wire fencing
- ✦ Fence panels with non-obstructed views through

### Entry Gates

It is preferred that all entrances consist of a corral-style double gate to allow pets to be taken off-leash or put on prior to entering or leaving the fenced area. Gates should not be placed at corners or high pedestrian traffic areas as dogs may get intimidated by crowds or aggressive dogs that pin them in place. Access near busy roads should also be avoided in case a dog manages to slip out and get loose. For small pocket parks, a singular gate may suffice. This should be evaluated with Parks staff and users.

### Features:

- ✦ Minimum 8-foot by 8-foot wide footprint with concrete pavement surfacing
- ✦ ADA minimum 32" clear gates
- ✦ 2 gates (3 if shared between small and large dog areas)
- ✦ Same height and material as the fence
- ✦ Heavy-duty hinges
- ✦ Lockable latches

Fenced Areas	Users	Facility Size			Fenced Area Size (minimum size)	Fence Height (minimum)
		Pocket	Neighborhood	Regional		
Small Dog Area	Dogs <30 lbs		x	x	2,000 SF	3 feet
Large Dog Area	Dogs >30 lbs		x	x	3/4 acre	6 feet
Optional 3rd Area	Varies			x	1/4 acre	6 feet

Table B.1 - Fenced Area Table





Image B.5 - The corral at the small dog park area for High Bridge Park. The gravel surface has eroded leaving large gaps under the fence small dogs can escape through. There is no paved access to the gates.

# SURFACING

## Layout

Spokane does not have a preferred surfacing for dog parks. There is no standard surface material for dog parks in general, but some serve as a better fit than others based on criteria such as the size of the facility, expected concentration of dogs, and install and maintenance budget. Table B.3 lists appropriate, dog-tested surface materials and provides notes on what works well and doesn't work well with each option. Table B.2 suggests which surfaces would be appropriate for each size facility based on how they would be used. The City will ultimately determine which should be used at each facility. This is recommended to be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Soil types, infiltration rates, and the presence of bedrock or other rocky conditions should all be considered when determining the best materials for a site. Some facilities may even benefit from using several types of surfaces available to add diversity to the site.

## Accessibility

All walkways to and through the entry corrals shall be ADA accessible. The preferred material in these areas is concrete although asphalt and bound gravel pavements are acceptable. Bound gravel surfaces in these areas shall be compacted and treated with a bio-based soil stabilizer.

## Unsuitable Materials

Extensive pavement or direct exposure to bedrock is discouraged because the surface is hard and uncomfortable on the paws of dogs. Crushed gravel is cheap and abundant but because it is angular in shape, it can hurt paws as well. Products like recycled asphalt, rubber, plastic, and other

## Maintenance Gates

Every fenced area should include a locked vehicle gate for maintenance and fire district access. Entries shall be located along existing vehicular maintenance routes or be easily accessible from the street. Locate gates where slopes are as flat as possible to cut down on design costs.

## Features:

- ✦ 16-foot wide gate (Two 8-foot leaf gates)
- ✦ One-way inward swing
- ✦ Same height and material as the fence
- ✦ Heavy-duty hinges and lockable latches
- ✦ Bottom rail no more than 2-inches above grade

petroleum-based materials would also be discouraged because of the unhealthy exposure to carcinogens.

Natural turf has remained on the list, but it is highly recommended that it be avoided if at all possible. Because turf easily becomes degraded in a short amount of time, it is not suitable for small, intensely used spaces. Even for large sites or in areas where it can rotated out periodically, the level of maintenance required and cost of watering are cause for concern. If it is still desired, it would be better suited in a wet environment that will not require regular mowing.

Wood mulch is another material that has its limitations. Although it works well on paths and small areas as fill, it can be rather rough on the dogs if it is the primary surfacing available.

Surface Name	Pocket Facility	Neighborhood Facility	Community Facility
Natural Turf			x
Native Surface		x	x
Artificial Turf	x		
Wood Mulch		x	x
Decomposed Granite	x	x	x
Pea Gravel	x	x	x
Sand	x	x	x

Table B.2 -Appropriate surface materials based on size and cost of facilities.

## Surfacing Comparison

Surface Name	Notes	Pros	Cons
<b>Natural Turf</b>	Ideal only for large, open spaces or where uses can be cycled or rotated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Comfortable for paws</li> <li>✦ Lower surface temperatures</li> <li>✦ Low install cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Wears easily and creates uneven surfaces</li> <li>✦ Surface becomes compacted over time</li> <li>✦ Requires frequent maintenance and replacement</li> <li>✦ Requires high levels of irrigation</li> <li>✦ Requires regular mowing</li> <li>✦ Requires clearing of waste prior to mowing</li> <li>✦ High urine contents kill off turf</li> </ul>
<b>Native Surface</b>	More natural, familiar look.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Little to no irrigation needed</li> <li>✦ No install cost; existing surfacing used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Wears easily and creates uneven surfaces</li> <li>✦ Surface becomes compacted over time</li> <li>✦ Harder to keep dogs from getting dirty</li> <li>✦ Plant diversity diminishes over time; complex native planting replacement required</li> </ul>
<b>Artificial Turf</b>	Costly, but provides a uniform look for a long period of time. Requires drainage layer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Works well on mounds and steeper grade changes</li> <li>✦ Surfacing ADA compliant</li> <li>✦ Dog waste visible for easy disposal</li> <li>✦ Comfortable for paws</li> <li>✦ Well draining surface</li> <li>✦ Great for high traffic areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ High initial cost</li> <li>✦ Requires irrigation to clean off surface</li> <li>✦ Specialized maintenance experience needed</li> </ul>
<b>Wood Mulch</b>	Simple to replace frequently. To be laid at least 6 inches thick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Simple installation</li> <li>✦ Low replacement cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Somewhat uncomfortable for paws</li> <li>✦ Surfacing not always ADA compliant</li> <li>✦ Dog waste easily hidden</li> <li>✦ Retains strong urine smell</li> <li>✦ Frequent replacement needed</li> </ul>
<b>Decomposed Granite</b>	Compacted surface that is easy to traverse on. To be laid at least 4 inches thick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Simple installation</li> <li>✦ Surfacing ADA compliant</li> <li>✦ Dog waste visible for easy disposal</li> <li>✦ Great for high traffic areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Higher surface temperatures</li> <li>✦ Moderate replacement cost</li> <li>✦ Generates dusty conditions</li> <li>✦ Retains strong urine smell</li> <li>✦ Frequent replacement needed</li> </ul>
<b>Pea Gravel</b>	Uniform look. To be laid at least 4 inches thick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Simple installation</li> <li>✦ Well draining surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Higher surface temperatures</li> <li>✦ Surfacing not ADA compliant</li> <li>✦ Frequent replacement needed</li> </ul>
<b>Course Sand</b>	Uniform look. To be laid at least 6 inches thick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Simple installation</li> <li>✦ Comfortable for paws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Surfacing not ADA compliant</li> <li>✦ Dog waste easily hidden</li> </ul>

Table B.3 - Comparison of various dog park surfacing materials.

## AMENITIES & FURNISHINGS

### Water Sources

#### Drinking Fountains & Water Bowls

One of the biggest concerns of dog owners is keeping their dogs hydrated. At least one water source is preferred at the entry corral of the dog park. However, fountains with static dog bowls develop scummy water that can transmit diseases such as leptospirosis and giardia between dogs which can then transfer to humans and other wildlife. Dog owners will be encouraged to bring their own water bowls during visits to the park in order to decrease the spread of communicable disease.

#### Hose Bibb

Being able to tap into the water source can be very helpful to provide a quick means of spraying down surfaces such as the pavement under shelters and in the corral areas. If the park chooses, they could also leave the hose attached so that visitors can spray down their dogs after a messy play session or allow them to fill their own dog bowls.

#### Washing Facilities

Although not required, having a formal facility for spraying down dogs could be beneficial; especially for locations with native surfacing which may become muddy. This may be a feature that individual dog park committees spearhead if the demand is high.

#### Splash Pools

Much like the washing facilities, splash pools or pads can be seen as a luxury item and would not be required. A willing dog park committee would need to take charge of maintaining the pool such that disease would not overtake the water. Special provisions would need to be made to make sure it is a safe feature for dogs and young children. Many public survey respondents requested these be included in the design as dogs seem to enjoy engaging with them. Splash pools would be best suited in high intensity areas where they would get a lot of use.

### Shade Sources

#### Trees

Shade is one of the most highly desired features for dog parks, and the easiest way to accommodate this is by locating a dog park in an area with already existing, dense tree canopies. A site with too much shade may not be able to dry as fast as needed and could inhibit turf growth, so finding a balance between shade and open space is important. Trees can



*Image B.6 - The splash pad at Paws University in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii features a unique water experience for pets.*

also be added over time, although it is important to note that young trees may be more likely to get disturbed and stressed during the early years of establishment unless they are properly protected.

#### Shade Structures

Shade structures not only provide a stable source of shade, but create a landmark where humans can gather. Structures can protect people from the elements as well. It is recommended that each fenced area have at least one source of shade, and this would provide an instant solution to sites without trees in particular.



*Image B.7 - Shade structures, such as this one at High Bridge Park, can come in all sizes to fit the demand of users.*



## Furnishings

### Dog Waste and Trash Receptacles

All entrances and gathering areas should have waste receptacles accessible to users. Trash receptacles should have tamper-proof lids to keep out wildlife. Receptacles should also be close to maintenance routes in order to improve the efficiency of clearing them out.

### Bag Holders

Specific dog waste bag holders can be purchased, or a holder can be manufactured and attached to a fence or structure. It is recommended that these are located near entrances and gathering spaces at a minimum. Specialty bags can be purchased for the holders, or owners can provide their own.

### Benches

Every fenced area should provide at least 1 bench. Seating should at a minimum be located at accessible locations such as shelters or entrances, although more can be provided across the site as seen fit. Because food is discouraged in dog parks, picnic tables are not recommended.

### Agility Equipment

Equipment can vary from manufactured, specialized dog equipment to natural elements such as logs and boulders. Care should be taken to make sure no sharp objects are protruding from non-regulated equipment. Materials need to be durable enough to hold up to years of use. Equipment that is easy to clean off is encouraged.



Image B.8 - Equipment such as this fallen tree at High Bridge Park can provide a cost-effective opportunity for play.

## Signage

### Community Bulletin Board

Bulletin boards should be posted at all Neighborhood and Community facilities. A centralized public location to post about upcoming events, missing pets, and other information pertinent to what's important for citizens could be seen as very important to owners, especially to those who do not regularly have access to the information on the Internet.



Image B.9 - Bulletin boards such as the one shown here in Boulder, Colorado can provide an inviting space to post dog-related information.

### Codes of Conduct and Rules

All locations need some sort of standard signage posted that clearly states the rules of each City facility. This may include both general park rules and specific dog park rules.

### Requirements for Entry

The City should work with local animal shelters and veterinarians to establish an adequate list of requirements. Requirements could include minimum age of dogs allowed, vaccinations needed, and mandatory licensure of all pets.

### Hours

Most commonly seen from dawn to dusk. Hours could be adapted as seen fit; especially during off-seasons when sunlight is limited.

### Wayfinding

Depending on the visibility of the location, signage may be needed to point visitors in the right location to the fenced area(s) and prominently display the name of the dog park.

### Restrooms

Most jurisdictions do not consider restrooms as a necessary dog park amenity and typically do not consider the addition of restrooms in the planning process. Based on survey results, citizens of Spokane have a unique concern over access and proximity to restroom facilities. There are no standard distances from restrooms when it comes to dog park design. Many eligible sites under consideration are a part of a greater park which includes restroom facilities. For destination Community Dog Parks without existing restrooms, the city can assess if adding them in would be beneficial. Restrooms should not be located inside the fenced areas in order to provide access to all visitors. A centralized location near the entrance would be preferred.

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## **PART 3**

# **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES**



## REGULATIONS

A great deal of planning is required to help a good dog park run. In reality, it takes more than the Parks Department to operate a dog park. Local shelters, designated dog park committees and even individual residents can make a large impact on how a dog park functions.

### Dog Park Rules

The SpokAnimal Dog Park at High Bridge includes City of Spokane Park Use Rules as well as specific SpokAnimal rules. If the City would like to adopt official dog park rules that can be universally used at all locations, it is encouraged that they collaborate with local animal shelters and veterinarians to establish an appropriate, complete list of rules.

Rules may include not allowing dogs younger than 4 months or those in heat, requiring up-to-date vaccinations, and setting maximum occupancy. The rules may also include a list of unacceptable behaviors amongst the dogs and their owners, which would lead to them being reprimanded.

### Enforcement

In order to keep dog parks a safe, enjoyable place to come back to, patrons need to have a favorable experience. Unfortunately, a trip can potentially turn sour when someone decides to use facilities inappropriately or fail to care for their pets. A system of enforcement should be in place to help control unwanted behavior.



One way to help enforce dog parks is by establishing a city-paid position. These park rangers or monitors would manage both dog park activity and dog activity in other parks that do not allow for off-leash activity.

There are other ways to be proactive about curbing undesirable behavior. Many municipalities charge a fee and control who enters the facility. The following options could be considered:

- ✦ Required permits (included with pet licensure)
- ✦ Key fob or key code entry
- ✦ Entry fees and annual passes
- ✦ Specific operation hours (typically dawn to dusk)

## CITY MAINTENANCE

### Minimum Maintenance Requirements

#### Routine Maintenance (1-3 Times/Week)

The following is a recommended list of items that should be monitored on a weekly basis. A designated crew would need to be established in order to provide consistent, year-round care.

- ✦ Empty waste containers and restock bag dispensers.
- ✦ Sanitize any water bowls on site.
- ✦ Sweep or spray down hardscape surfaces. Shovel snow off paved surfaces in winter.
- ✦ Spray down furnishings such as agility equipment with

water to clean off dirt and reduce the chances of disease lingering on the surfaces.

- ✦ Inspect furniture and fence integrity. Inspect site for tampering or vandalism. Note repairs that need to be made if conditions are unsafe, and assess if they need to be made immediately or not.
- ✦ Check for leaks at water fountains. Turn off any water left on.
- ✦ Mow turf areas as needed.
- ✦ Water the landscape and remove weeds as needed.
- ✦ Notify authorities of active undesired behavior.

### Seasonal Maintenance (Once a Year)

The following items do not require constant monitoring or replacement, but should be addressed at least once a year, or as needed. This may be done by the designated dog park staff or other Parks staff that is available.

- ✦ Replenish surfacing material to adequate depth
- ✦ Repair sod in worn areas.
- ✦ Fill in any low spots in the terrain that may be pooling water on the surface.
- ✦ Repair any furnishings that have yet to be repaired.
- ✦ Analyze irrigation system for any inefficiencies.

- ✦ Shut off irrigation and other water sources such as drinking fountains and hoses in the off-season to reduce the chance of damage to the pipes.

In natural turf areas, there may need to be a certain period of time allotted where a fenced area is not in use. This way seed or sod can be added to troubled spots and have time to establish before coming into contact with dogs again. For parks that have a third fenced area, the dogs that would normally frequent the closed fence area could easily relocate. In the case that that is not an option, the City could consider either combining large and small dogs together, or suggest that the displaced dogs visit a different dog park for the time being.



Image C.1 - Panorama view of the dog park at High Bridge shows off the expanse of large open space and variation amongst surfacing types.

## COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

### Designated Dog Park Committees

#### Expectations

There is high value in having a designated dog park committee for each individual dog park. An established organization can help tremendously with day-to-day operations. Being a member of an organization brings with it a sense of pride and camaraderie, and a strong desire to make a difference in one's neighborhood.

Since the Parks department does not have the resources to finely monitor the use of dog parks, a designated committee can more freely address situations as they come up. The committee may also be more in-tune with specific features and nuances of a site, and can tailor their means of operation and management to better fit how the community thinks.

The following list of items would be more appropriate for the committees to manage:

- ✦ Encourage users to pick up after their pets.
- ✦ Inform frequent users about disease outbreak.
- ✦ Coordinate volunteer events.

- ✦ Coordinate special events such as designated dog breed meet-up days
- ✦ Provide any park updates on a designated website or social media page.

### Volunteer Efforts

#### Expectations

Even with an appointed maintenance crew and dog park committee, there may be times when a little more help is needed to keep a dog park running. Many community members have voiced that they would be open to volunteering their time on occasion if it meant the aesthetics and operations of the park would be boosted.

- ✦ Add additional landscaping to beautify the site.
- ✦ Rally to construct a shelter.
- ✦ Raise funds to add site amenities.
- ✦ Sponsor events to draw in more patrons.
- ✦ Host educational programs about dog etiquette.

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## APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX A: LITERATURE REVIEW BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**The following documents were used as references in the preparation of this guideline document.**

- ✦ American Kennel Club - Dog Park Guide
- ✦ America Veterinary Medical Association - U.S. Pet Ownership Statistics
- ✦ Ann Arbor Michigan Parks & Recreation - Recommendations and Guidelines for Dog Park Site Selection, Design, and Operations and Maintenance
- ✦ Association of Professional Dog Trainers - What Makes a Good Dog Park
- ✦ Better Cities for Pets - A Playbook for Pet-Friendly Cities
- ✦ Bloomberg.com CityLab - The Anatomy of a Great Dog Park
- ✦ Brown, L., Ball State University - Guidelines for Behaviorally, Mentally, and Physically Responsive Dog Parks
- ✦ Clovis, California - Dog Park Master Plan
- ✦ Denver, Colorado - Dog Park Master Plan Technical Update
- ✦ District of Columbia - Dog Park Design Guidelines
- ✦ DoodyCalls Pet Waste Management - Ten Tips for Planning and Building a Dog Park in Your Community
- ✦ Doyle, Don Richard - Canine Design: A Design Approach for Creating Modern Dog Parks
- ✦ Mars Petcare & Nashville Civic Design Center - Urban Dog Park of the Future: Creating Pet Friendly Spaces and Places
- ✦ Montgomery County Planning Board - 6/13/2019 Briefing Memo: Dog Park Siting
- ✦ Fairfax County Virginia - County Park Authority Dog Parks Study Report
- ✦ Holderness-Roddam, Bob - Design, Planning and Management of Off-leash Dog Parks
- ✦ Holderness-Roddam, Bob - The effects of domestic dogs as a disturbance agent on the natural environment.
- ✦ Kansas City Parks - Off Leash Facility Design and Program Guidelines
- ✦ Kansas State University - "Dog Parks Offer Fun, But Veterinarian Says a Few Precautions Can Make Visits Even Better"
- ✦ National Recreation and Park Association - Designing and Managing Innovative Dog Parks
- ✦ Oakland, California - Policy Recommendations for Dogs in Oakland Parks
- ✦ Salt Lake County - Dog Park Potential Sites & Selection Matrix
- ✦ Seattle, Washington - People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan
- ✦ SingleCare - the Checkup:How to Keep Your Dog Healthy and Safe at the Dog Park
- ✦ Spokane, Washington - Spokane Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan
- ✦ Spokane Transit Authority - System Map
- ✦ Trust for Public Lands - Dog Parks Best Practices
- ✦ Trust for Public Lands - Dog Park Facts and Statistics
- ✦ U.S. Population Data - Wikipedia and Google Statistics

## **APPENDIX B: PHOTO CITATIONS**

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Front Cover: Marissa Haugen

Back Cover: Craig Andersen

Page 3: Craig Andersen

Page 4: Adobe Stock Photo

Page 7: Lauren Schubring

Page 15: Adobe Stock Photo

Page 34: Lauren Schubring

Page 44: Adobe Stock Photo

Image A.1 Craig Andersen at High Bridge Park

Image A.2 Adobe Stock Photo

Image A.3 Marissa Haugen at High Bridge Park

Image B.1 Bring Fido.com

Image B.2 Bring Fido.com

Image B.3 K9 Grass Example Photo

Image B.4 Craig Andersen at Downtown Spokane Dog Park

Image B.5 Craig Andersen at High Bridge Park

Image B.6 Bring Fido.com

Image B.7 Craig Andersen at High Bridge Park

Image B.8 Marissa Haugen at High Bridge Park

Image B.9 Bring Fido.com

Image C.1 Craig Andersen at High Bridge Park



***APPENDIX C: MEETING MINUTES***

# MEETING MINUTES



**TO:** Nick Hamad  
City of Spokane Parks & Recreation  
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd

**MEETING DATE:** June 21, 2022

**PROJECT NO.:** 2220184.40

**PROJECT NAME:** City of Spokane - Citywide Dog Park Guidelines

**PREPARED BY:** Marissa Haugen

**MTG. LOCATION:** Spokane City Hall – Sister Cities Conference Room

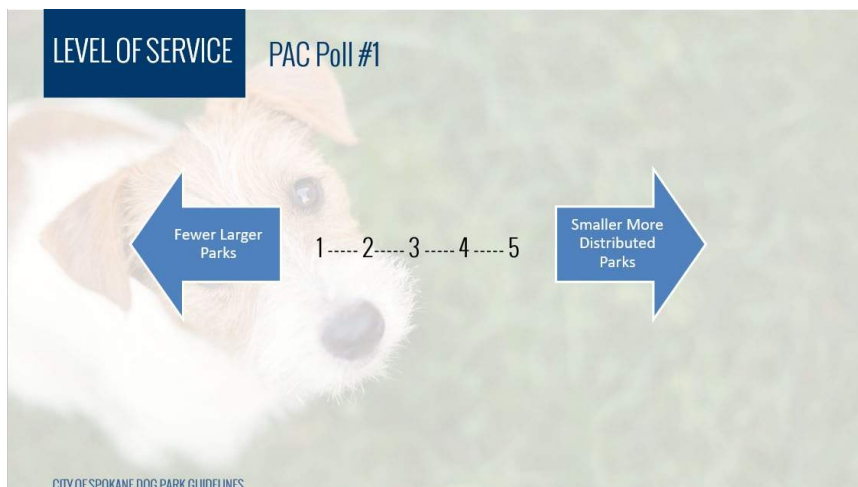
**MEETING FACILITATORS:** Craig Andersen & Marissa Haugen (AHBL)

**PAC MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Cliff Winger (Shiloh Hills NC – District 1), Kim Morin (Spokane Humane Society), Bob Anderson (Spokane Park Board), Lisa Wiese (Relief Vet), Ken Mewhinney (South Hill Dog Park – District 2), Brian Falteisek (CedarPlank LLC/Citizen – District 1), Nick Hamad (City of Spokane Parks & Recreation), Greg Forsyth (Spokane Public Schools).

**PAC MEMBERS ABSENTEE:** Trevor Finchamp (Friends of the Bluff – District 2), Lauren Schubring (Citizen – District 3), Maribeth Watt (Citizen – District 3)

## Poll Data

1. **Poll Question #1** - Would you prefer Spokane have a few large area dog parks, or smaller more distributed parks that are easy to access?

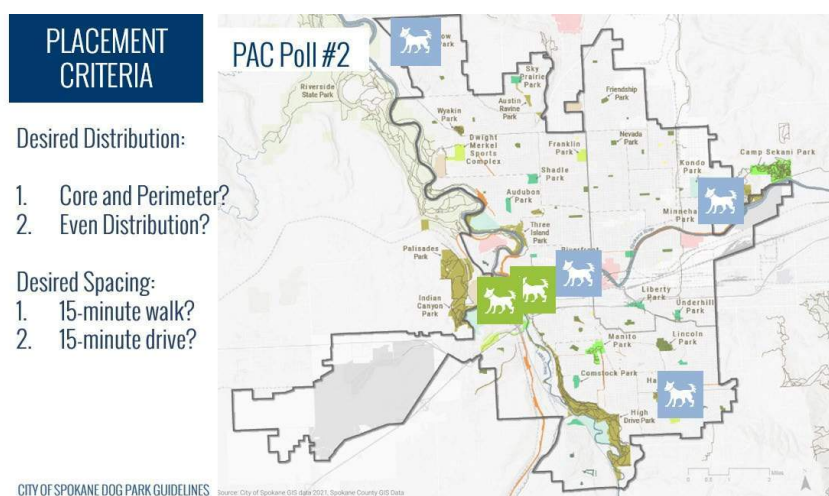


- Poll results: Average score of **3.0**
  - Median score = 3, range = 1 – 4, participants = 10
- Poll comments:
  - \*Note: Poll comments may include input from PAC members that were present and 2 of those who were voting absentee.
  - Desire for 2 large facilities on the north side.
  - Not just size but shape should be considered.
  - Larger facilities are easier to upkeep and maintain, and reduce the frequency of incidents.



- All dog parks should be larger than 1 acre (or 2 acres).
- Smaller pocket parks seem more useful downtown and near apartments.
- Blend of small and large facilities. Smaller parks can more easily be evenly distributed.
- Neighborhood-sized facilities are more inclusive to the overall population.
- Existing city parks are available for daily 'on-leash' dog walking, so these dogs parks should be larger to provide 'off-leash' service for a larger area of town.

2. **Poll Question #2A** - Would you prefer Spokane have dog parks located in the City core and perimeter? Or more evenly distributed throughout the City?



- Poll comments: The consensus is that more even distribution should be the priority. In addition to the current core locations, there is a desire to have larger perimeter locations and then fill in any gaps with smaller-sized parks. The following additional notes were recorded in the comments section of the poll:
  - Provide as many dog parks as possible. Infill areas with smaller parks as needed.
  - Locate in neighborhoods that currently lack service.
  - Provide smaller-size dog parks in high residential areas.
  - Larger parks along the perimeter makes sense as that is what is more readily available.
  - Focus on city core and perimeter dog parks.
  - Smaller, more evenly distributed parks lead to more regular visitors, which fosters a sense of community and encourages new friendships.
  - Add a community-sized park in each district. Other parks to be neighborhood-sized.
  - Test park facilities in northern parts of town where there are no facilities currently.





3. **Poll Question #2B** - If a more even distribution of smaller parks is desired, would you prefer parks be spaced on a 15-minute walk radius? Or a 15-minute drive radius?
- Poll comments: Respondents seemed divided over the best method of spacing parks, and what metric to use to measure travel time. It was discussed that there may not be a one-size-fits-all approach to the situation. Some lower income neighborhoods and districts may require more walkable sites, as transportation may not be an option or may be too challenging to make the logistic work. For other more affluent neighborhoods, driving may be easier and faster. These areas are also more likely have the space to provide larger facilities, and therefore parking lots. Each district may end up providing their own method that is most effective for their residents. The following additional notes were recorded in the comments section of the poll:
    - Opinion #1 = Walking preferred whenever possible. Less driving is desirable.
      - Loading up dogs, kids, and gear in a vehicle can be a deterrent. Challenges establishing a daily routine.
    - Opinion #2 = 10–15-minute driving radius is appropriate.
      - Concerns with funding/logistics behind having a larger quantity of walkable facilities. Driving seems more practical.
    - Community-sized facilities should be drivable and available by transit in order to be accessed by all.
    - Achieving a 15 minute walk distance would require over 85 facilities, which is not achievable in the foreseeable future.
4. **Poll Question #3** – Please rank your preferences for the most important location criteria.
- Poll results: The following categories have been organized based on order of importance. NOTE: the higher the score, the more important the location criteria is to the PAC members.

Location Criteria	Average Score	Median Score	Range	Most common response
Available Area	4.4	5	3 - 5	5
Tree Canopy	3.7	4	2 - 5	4 & 5
Surrounding Uses	3.7	4	2 - 5	4
Water Access	3.4	3.5	1 - 5	5
Quality Habitat / Protected Areas	3.3	4	1 - 5	4
Proximity to Arterials	2.8	3	1 - 5	4



Existing Use / Displacement	<b>2.5</b>	3	1 - 4	3
Proximity to Existing Dog Parks	<b>1.4</b>	1	1 - 3	1

5. **Poll Question #4** – Please rank your preferences for the most important placement criteria.

- Poll results: The following categories have been organized based on order of importance. NOTE: the higher the score, the more important the placement criteria is to the PAC members.

Placement Criteria	Average Score	Median Score	Range	Most common response
Accessibility	<b>4.4</b>	4.5	3 - 5	5
Existing Street Parking	<b>3.9</b>	4	3 - 5	4
Buffers Needed	<b>3.7</b>	4	2 - 5	4
Existing Trees	<b>3.7</b>	4	2 - 5	4
Existing On-Site Parking	<b>3.4</b>	4	1 - 5	4
Existing Utilities	<b>3.2</b>	3	2 - 5	2, 3, & 4
Existing Shade Structures	<b>3.2</b>	3	1 - 5	3
Existing Light	<b>2.8</b>	3	1 - 4	3 & 4
Existing Restrooms	<b>2.7</b>	3	1 - 4	3
Existing Irrigation	<b>2.5</b>	3	1 - 4	3

- Poll comments:
  - Add a category – Could an amenity can be easily added?



## Discussion

### 6. Level of Service

- The three methods for identifying & establishing dog park level of service were presented & discussed. Although a consensus was not reached, participants felt that Method C (Area of Parks) would be easily surpassed to meet levels of service recommended in Method A (parks per person) and Method B (parks per dog). This suggests that Method C may not be as effective given the Spokane community's dog park desires. Method A (parks per person) and Method B (parks per dog) seemed to align better with the goals of providing enough resources for residents.
- After analysis & PAC discussion, recommend utilizing level of service recommendations from Methods A & B, resulting in approximately 6 dog park facilities, achieving a density of less than 25,000 dogs per dog & 37,000 people per dog park.

### 7. Tier 1: Desired Size, Use Classification, and Distribution

- No objections were made known regarding the categories of dog parks, their size or use radius.
- There was robust discussion regarding dog park size. It was important to committee members that from a safety standpoint that dog parks be large enough to provide designated small and large dog areas. It was also noted that the current 'temporary' south hill dog park of 5.1 acres seems to be working better than expected. Small-scale dog parks account for a high rate of incidents because of competition, crowding, and other conflicts. Based on PAC voting (above), committee members desire a relative balance between large and smaller facilities.
  - Based on responses from a group of local veterinarians, being able to provide more space for dog parks is likely the most important factor to decrease the rate of altercations and disease transmission.
  - From a vet/animal shelter perspective, Spokane has a high percentage of large breed dogs. Smaller dogs are more common in high density areas where lack of space and housing restrictions on dog sizes are prevalent. This may affect the size distribution and demand between different regions.
- Division of dog parks into Spokane's 3 different districts was discussed after looking at city distribution maps. It was agreed that there were some major voids where service was lacking, especially on the north side of town. Participants seemed open to looking at different solutions for different districts, such as a larger quantity of smaller parks in district 1 where there are more geographic constraints. It was also expressed that the north side would be another good location for a test case, as that area (particularly district 1) already has low park density and no dog parks available.
- It was mentioned that there should be strong consideration for adding small dog parks in as land becomes available. Having something available in a region would be better than nothing, and it could be a low-hanging fruit for the City. Having the space privately maintained by someone like a developer of HOA could also make prospects of an additional park more desirable. Distribution in this case wouldn't necessarily hold much weight.
- It was mentioned that existing city parks already serve as 'dog parks', albeit 'on-leash', and as a result this project should focus on the larger 'off-leash' dog facility.





- It has been observed in places like the current South Hill Dog Park (SHDP) that most visitors visit daily and typically at the same time every day. Being able to provide more locations (2-5 acres) spaced out throughout the city will likely attract and serve more “regulars”.
- After getting into a discussion over low-income and high-density areas and the greater demand these users would have for dog park access, we (AHBL) felt it would be important to review a heat map provided by the City to identify these locations of population density. This could help site parks within the “middle regions” of the city which may be located farther from the core or perimeter locations and cause transportation conflicts.

#### 8. Tier 2: General Location Scoring and Location Criteria

- Concerns over transportation were brought up in the meeting. For many, driving may not be an option. It is important for facilities to be on or near a bus route, especially for those larger facilities with larger service areas. Even for those with vehicles, rising gas prices could prevent people from visiting locations as frequently. The following question was asked: How can we make dog parks more walking accessible to a greater number of people, especially those who can't drive to a location? After discussing accessibility to transportation and the general desire for spacing between facilities as discussed previously, it was determined that there may not be a simple answer to the issue. For areas with less car owners and limited transit access, walking distances may hold more weight. Proximity to transit lines will be analyzed by AHBL and added to the location criteria portion of the siting matrix.
- It was asked how these sites under consideration may change over time, and if the site constraints found today will be a concern in the future. It stemmed an interesting conversation into park evolution and how some of these categories may no longer hold importance over time. Further analysis into demands of park space and future plans will be made.
- Although uncommon, it was mentioned that exposure to wildlife occasionally will lead to infectious disease transmission between dogs and wildlife. If a desirable site is frequently inundated with wildlife, there may need to be additional methods taken to sanitize and create a buffer between wild animals and dogs.

#### 9. Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring and Placement Criteria

- Some of the most important features of a dog park that were discussed included site visibility, openness, and ADA accessibility. Safety was the biggest concern when considering placement criteria. Other safety aspects that were mentioned were on-site parking spots and lighting. All of these, along with the poll results, will be considered when ranking criteria.
- It was asked if there was any research done into other dog-friendly spaces in Spokane, such as restaurants. These spaces may attract more visitors to the area, which would increase the likelihood that dog park facilities would be utilized. These types of facilities will be further studied.
- It was brought up and agreed upon that providing portions of the dog park with shade is desirable. Having a more “natural” woodland walking environment helps support Spokane's identity. We already have so many spaces that are heavily shaded, and it would not necessarily make sense to remove those trees. Shade also helps dogs from getting hot as fast while they are actively playing. Retaining established canopies in particular would be an easy method of cooling a site.



- In response to including existing utilities under the placement criteria category, it was stated that tapping utilities would not be as challenging as perceived. The region may already be slated for utility upgrades and adding demand for access may expedite construction. This is something that the City can coordinate.

## 10. Dog Park Design

- Although details about dog park siting within existing city-owned property was not addressed in this meeting, discussions regarding what has been successful were brought up.
- It was expressed that not only the placement, but the shape of the dog park is important. The “L” shape of the current SHDP work well. It lends well for a division of active and passive spaces, and still provides wide enough visibility. Having enough ‘width’ to distance dogs from each other when needed is desired. Considerations of dog park shape will be addressed the Design portion of the guidelines, such as what constitutes an ideal shape and what site restrictions may alter perimeter extents of the dog park.
- It has been observed in the case of the SHDP that once the site was reduced and existing entrances were no longer in play, more neighbors started driving to the few remaining entrances. With larger community-sized facilities it is important to provide multiple entrances from different locations. Nearby neighbors will be walking in from all directions, and if they must walk further that may become a hinderance.
- There was a concern over fire hazards in certain parks. We (AHBL) came to the conclusion that emergency access would be very important to provide, and that limbing up trees and clearing out dense vegetation can all reduce the chances of wildfires spreading.
- There was also a concern over water quality on sites where there would be bodies of water. After further considering what City-owned property would be available, we concluded that very few properties would provide access to natural bodies of water (ponds/streams/lakes). For those sites, special considerations can be taken to preserve and protect water quality. Some solutions brainstormed included mitigation plantings around bodies of water to prevent runoff of contaminated water and providing dog washing stations to contain and safely drain contaminants off the site.
- Some additional site amenities that were desired by participants included seating, shade for people, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal, locked trash cans, signage listing rules for the park, and separation of small and large dogs via fenced areas. Fence partitions between large and small dog areas shall be tall and clearly post limitations for each area (small dogs 0-35 lbs vs. large dogs 35+ lbs). Double gate entrances help provide additional security. All these amenities have been previously researched and will be addressed in the Design portion of the guidelines.
- The inclusion of walking paths was also brought up, as these loops can help spread out dogs and keep traffic flowing. In addition to limiting altercations, it encourages owners to get moderate exercise. It was a highly favored feature at the old SHDP.

## 11. Dog Park Maintenance

- Several conversations sprung up about who would be managing the dog parks, and what has worked well for other parks and jurisdictions.
- It was discussed that when a designated organization is formed for specific dog parks, people are more likely to enforce poor behavior and maintain the grounds. Often general neighbors who care about the



well-being of the park will step up and become involved in order to keep the dog park running smoothly. The involvement of community members has also been backed up in case studies as seen in this project's research. This suggests that 'management partnerships' with user groups should be considered or potentially required when developing additional dog parks.

- Developing a partnership with local organizations like dog groomers, vets and animal shelters for sponsored dog waste bag dispensers, water tanks, etc. can help keep materials replenished.
- It was stated that the South Hill Dog Park uses an online program for residents to report illness in dogs among other things. It has worked well from an accountability and safety standpoint and would be beneficial to replicate for other dog parks in the area.
- It has been observed that lower income areas traditionally have lower vaccination rates and socialization rates for dogs. For these areas, additional consideration may need to be taken for maintenance. Incentives for vaccination may also help boost rates.
- The transmission of canine infectious diseases can be caused and spread by a number of factors that would need to be monitored.
  - Shared water bowls can harbor bacteria such as kennel cough, and surfaces that regularly come into contact with saliva may carry parvo virus, distemper virus, and canine oral papillomatosis. These materials would need to be limited or regularly cleaned. Some of these diseases are also airborne, which makes its presence more prevalent. Even soil exposed to infected feces, vomit and saliva needs to be cleaned since parvo virus can live in the soil for up to a year.
  - Certain environments may contain increased populations of fleas, ticks and mosquitoes, so those areas may require special maintenance practices such as spraying grounds.
  - Feces and urine can carry diseases such as leptospirosis and intestinal parasites. Being able to clean up messes quickly and prevent pooling of urine can help remove these hinderances.
  - Dogs can also carry rabies, which can be spread via saliva or biting. Establishing rules for dog behavior may help reduce altercations that result in close contact of dogs.
- The following vet-recommended rules have been discussed. It is suggested that these be added to either a sign posted at the entrances or on a designated website for the dog park. The City of Spokane should reiterate that they are not responsible for injuries or damages, and that parks should be used at your own risk.
  - Owners are to properly clean up dog feces. Each park should provide equipment to do so, such as waste receptacles.
  - Shared water bowls are discouraged, and water must flow away to prevent standing water conditions. Providing a dog water fountain and allowing people to bring their own water and bowl is encouraged.
  - It is recommended that bringing in outside toys and treats not be allowed, in order to prevent resource guarding and food aggression.
  - Consider putting on a limit on how many dogs an owner can bring into the park at once so they can keep control of all dogs
  - No leashed/harnesses/collars allowed on dogs while in the park to avoid getting caught and choking.





- Puppies less than 5 months old are not allowed, as they spread or catch infectious diseases. Intact females are NOT allowed in the park while in heat. Dogs with a history of aggression towards dogs and/or people are also not allowed.
- Consider a restriction on children in the park as some dogs are not socialized well to children and could play too rough with them or be threatened by them and act aggressive due to fear
- Dogs not fully vaccinated and current for Rabies and Distemper/Parvo and preferably Kennel Cough are highly discouraged from coming into the park. All dogs are encouraged to be treated with fleas/ticks/heartworm prevention at appropriate times of the year.
- Disease outbreaks should be reported on the dog park website to warn owners of possible exposure.
- Conversations recorded will be addressed in the Operations and Maintenance portion of the guidelines.

### Action Items

- AHBL to continue evaluating City properties and develop lists of eligible properties divided into facility sizes. These lists and corresponding graphics will be ready to present for the next meeting.
- AHBL to analyze survey data and responses to create scoring “weights”, and then prepare preliminary score for location recommendations.
- AHBL to continue developing guidelines.
- City Parks to provide AHBL with a heat map reflecting the City’s density distribution.
- AHBL and City Parks to meet before PAC meeting #2 to review siting matrix details and determine if the scoring direction is appropriate.

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### End of Meeting Minutes

*The above summation is our interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above-referenced meeting. Any person desiring to add or otherwise correct the Minutes is requested to submit their comments in writing to AHBL within 14 days of the meeting date.*

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# MEETING MINUTES



**TO:** Nick Hamad  
City of Spokane Parks & Recreation  
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd

**MEETING DATE:** July 26, 2022

**PROJECT NO.:** 2220184.40

**PROJECT NAME:** City of Spokane - Citywide Dog Park Guidelines

**PREPARED BY:** Marissa Haugen

**MTG. LOCATION:** Spokane City Hall – City Conference Room 5A

**MEETING FACILITATORS:** Craig Andersen & Marissa Haugen (AHBL)

**PAC MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Cliff Winger (Shiloh Hills NC – District 1), Kim Morin (Spokane Humane Society), Bob Anderson (Spokane Park Board), Jennifer Ogden (Spokane Park Board), Lisa Wiese (Relief Vet), Ken Mewhinney (South Hill Dog Park – District 2), Brian Falteisek (CedarPlank LLC/Citizen – District 1), Aaron Reese (Five Mile – District 3), Nick Hamad (City of Spokane Parks & Recreation), Greg Forsyth (Spokane Public Schools).

**PAC MEMBERS ABSENTEE:** Trevor Finchamp (Friends of the Bluff – District 2), Lauren Schubring (Citizen – District 3)

## General Discussion

### 1. General Comments

- Spokane Transit Authority (STA) has a strict no-dog policy on their buses, unless they are service animals, or small dogs that can fit in crates and be stored on laps or stowed away.
  - This conflicts with Spokane's dog demographic, which consists mainly of medium to larger sized breeds. This infers that transportation for medium to large-dog owners is limited to driving or walking.
  - More focus will likely need to be put on drivable facilities as alternative modes of transportation are limited. Strategic locations of neighborhood dog parks could help serve more walkable patrons, but serving these populations would be challenging unless more pocket parks were utilized.
- The current South Hill Dog Park (SHDP) sees hundreds of cars a day, with as many as 40 cars at one time. Other community-sized parks should anticipate a similar number of trips and be able to accommodate that level of parking.
- It was reminded to the team that dog parks are high-impact additions. Any decision made will have a large impact on the site itself and surrounding areas.
- The importance of considering where the city will be in 40-50 years was stressed. In the past the City has not been able to take full advantage of acquiring park land in congruence with population expansion, leading to limited available land left for purchase and development. Looking at future annexation plans and anticipating where available land and housing demand is all helps in locating new dog parks.
- Adding parking lots cost about \$12,000 to \$15,000 per stall. This expense would be a large hit for those community dog park locations that do not currently have on-site parking. Fencing was also mentioned to cost a lot, but that would be a more universal cost across all park candidates.
- The process of implementing dog parks will have to be a phased system, as budgets will be limited. It was discussed and agreed upon that focusing on the selection and installation of community dog parks would be the best first step to take. Neighborhood facilities could then be installed in a later phase.



- Since there are limited large properties and several are at risk of being sold as surplus, it's important to jump on those opportunities first.
- There will always be options for small pocket park properties, so those can be implemented in future phases if needed.
- It was discussed that there are still opportunities for dogs in our other City Parks, albeit on a leash. Not all regions may be represented as well in areas that do not have available city-owned property but taking dogs to a neighborhood park on a leash is still an option.
  - Dog Parks should be seen as a separate, unique experience. Large off-leash areas are especially different from the opportunities provided in parks thus far. Our focus should be on creating that experience with our selection and design.
  - Current parks may need more waste stations to accommodate dog walkers.
- There was a general hesitation amongst many PAC members about locking in on site selection at this time. Having a general idea of expenses for each candidate would help, as one choice may cost significantly more to install than another. There was fear that unknowingly selecting the more expensive option may also wipe out funds for future dog parks next in line to install.
  - It was encouraged that members try to look past the financial logistics at this point and focus more attention on which site could offer a more favorable experience.
  - Although it was too soon to analyze sites at this level of detail, AHBL and City Parks will continue to move forward with research in order to identify as many site constraints as possible prior to selection.
  - Because each district has 2 strong contenders for community parks, these can be presented to the Spokane Park Board and voted on at a later date. Site constraints will be made available to them so that they can make the most informed decision.
- After reviewing the sites and the scoring behind them, it was determined that dog park size is the most important factor, even in comparison to distribution. Members generally agreed that fewer but larger parks would be more beneficial especially in the early planning stages.
  - During meeting #1 members ranked the level of service at a 3.0 out of 5, meaning that members were conflicted or divisive over having fewer larger parks vs. smaller but more distributed parks.
  - During meeting #2, most PAC members voiced that large parks should be the focus. Some mentioned that smaller parks were good to fill in when needed and should not be discredited. A score of 2.0 may better reflect the desire of the team. This shift will be documented in the guidelines.

## 2. Site Scoring and Matrix Edits

- The PAC had no major concerns with the scoring that was established by AHBL in the scoring matrix. After showing how their votes on criteria reflected in the matrix criteria, the team agreed that things were going in the right direction.
- After reviewing some of the highly programmed parks such as Harmon and Franklin, there were concerns that too many existing uses were getting displaced, and this wasn't being reflected enough in the matrix.



Further analysis of these sites will be taken, and scoring penalties will be reflected more highly in these situations.

- Areas that are multi-use, such as fields for youth sports are more highly desirable. They are more challenging to replace, especially when the only place available for them would potentially be removed with the addition of a singular use dog park. Displacing these multi-use areas should weigh more in the matrix. Changes will be made to reflect this.
- After discussing the category of accessibility, it was determined that this should be further divided into two categories:
  - Overall conditions on the site (steep, flat, etc.)
  - Presence/opportunity of an ADA accessible pathway from the parking area to entrance(s).
- Because using transit for commuting was discovered to no longer be a feasible means of transportation for a majority of users, this category will be removed from the matrix.
- Dr. Weise pointed out that the behavior of dogs in response to stimuli was not reflected in the matrix but could potentially be a large factor in site usability. An area highly programmed for sports may be too loud or visually stimulating, which can stress dogs that are not used to the behavior leading to aggressive behaviors. Traffic is less likely to be a factor since dogs are used to the presence of cars.
- Buffer criteria needs further refinement as it is currently very limited. The largest concern is over the lack of natural area mitigation buffers, which are large and not reflected in the available acreage calculation. Factoring these buffers in will change the amount of usable land available for sensitive areas like the Frog Ponds and Hazel's Creek.

### 3. Survey Implementation

- The focus of the survey is to present value-based criteria and ask the greater public for validation.
  - We will not ask participants to choose sites from a list as they may favor certain sites based on personal gain. We want participants to understand how each potential property is scored.
  - Participants will not suggest potential properties as these have already been selected and vetted.
  - Participants may be asked to rank a pre-determined list, such as our list of criteria. The idea is to have them critically think about how the criteria works together, and helps them see our process behind ranking properties.
  - Participants will be asked if they agree or disagree with our assessment of certain items. This will help us determine if the participants are on the same track as our PAC team, or if their views of importance on items are skewed from what we have determined.
  - The survey can help educate participants on general dog health so that they can see how a decision impacts not only humans but canines.
  - Specific matrix scoring should be shown at the end as opposed to earlier in the survey to avoid bias.





- It was mentioned and discussed that having some sort of live poll (such as what Survey Monkey provides) that would immediately reveal trending answers would be beneficial. It helps improve participant satisfaction by showing that their voice makes a difference. It may also help motivate participants to share the survey with their like-minded colleagues in order for their voices to be heard on matters that they may strongly agree or disagree on.
- The City has in the past been able to see voter demographics internally, such as which regions are more highly represented.
- For areas immediately adjacent to potential dog park properties, more outreach may be needed to make sure that there are enough participants able to voice their concerns on a site that directly affects them.

## Site Analysis

### 4. District 1

- **Upriver Park** – No major concerns. There were questions about parking and access between the Shields Park/Minnehaha Rocks parking lot and the site since there is a private residence in between, but it was discussed that existing trails to the north already exist to connect the spaces.
- **North Hill Reservoir** – No concerns voiced.
- **Harmon Park** – Hesitations based on highly programmed spaces adjacent to the potential area in question, and removing the only turf flex space. There were also concerns over noise and proximity to traffic.
- **Hill N'Dale Park** – More favorably accepted as a neighborhood-sized facility. High density multi-family housing and ample parking are located nearby, which means it is a high-demand area that could accommodate commuters. Being a quieter, undisturbed space was also a favorable attribute.

### 5. District 3

- **Northside Sanitary Landfill** – Size was appealing to members. With all the available space, there could be more than a dog park located there. If there was a desire for a whole new regional park it could fit in that space, and it could be a good candidate for a future bond project. Otherwise, it would be very expensive to develop on its own with the need to add street access and parking amongst other expenses. Having to otherwise access the site through the neighborhood was not enticing.
- **Five Mile Reservoir** – Neighbors are already aware of the potential of the property and have been bringing their dogs there as an alternative to Sky Prairie Park. Access to the site is also favorable.
- **Franklin Park** – A great central location that could cater to a greater population of walkers. Having direct access to a large parking lot was also a positive. It was mentioned that there would be busy times in that area of the park during ball games, but it likely wouldn't be too much of a hinderance. Because the adjacent softball field has controlled access, it leaves the dog park location more isolated.
- **A.M. Cannon** – The West Central location was favorable. There were concerns about the current undesirable activity, but based on prior experience with revitalizing problematic park areas, the illicit behavior seems to all but leave when spaces are updated or reprogrammed. Locating a park here could



actually improve the safety of the area. There would need to be specific design considerations due to potential issues such as discarded needles.

## 6. District 2

- **Lincoln Park** – Size of space was favorable. There were concerns about the rocky conditions, limited tree canopy, and potential of venomous snakes. As of now there is not enough parking space. It is likely easier to add stalls to the park entrance, but creating an ADA path from there to the dog park would be challenging and costly. There is a paved road but the state of it needs to be assessed. Replacing said road would be very expensive due to grade changes. The location would less likely have a negative response with neighbors because it is removed enough from surrounding uses geographically. It also already draws in dog walkers. The site should be reclassified as steep in the matrix.
- **Underhill Park** – Well accepted by members. There were a few concerns for surrounding neighbors that would be addressed with buffers. The site already has ample on-site parking and more street parking along the east side. Ball games may affect parking availability on occasion. The parking seems to be a good distance away and could easily accommodate an ADA path connecting the space. With the new addition of high-density housing in the future, the site may be more heavily used. There were concerns about springing a dog park on a historically underrepresented neighborhood, but it could also bring in more revenue and more upstanding visitors.
- **Thornton Murphy** – No concerns were expressed. Having ample parking options was favorable. Being able to have more eyes on the park would be beneficial. The site has been studied for other programs and has been sitting unprogrammed for a while.
- **Manito Park** – No concerns were expressed. Off-street parking would need to be considered.

## 7. South Hill Dog Park Selection

- **Lincoln Park** – See above.
- **Underhill Park** – See above.
- **Frog Ponds** – Members were hesitant about the site due to the unknown but potentially extensive wetland areas that would require mitigation buffers to avoid. The Lincoln Heights Garden Club and local Girl Scouts troop have done work in the past in this area placing trails and making improvements, so coordination with them would be encouraged. If there is poor drainage in the area, dog waste would not be able to percolate in a fast enough manner and would increase the risk of giardia. The site would also need parking added and possibly additional site-specific improvements due to current site conditions.
- **Hazel's Creek** – There were concerns about trying to develop an already controversial site due to experiences with past development. There is an agreement with the Water Department, who takes on much of the maintenance of the property, that no development will occur in the creek or stormwater treatment areas north of there. The existing habitat areas draw in birdwatchers which could be displaced with a dog park added. Just like the Frog Ponds, wetland areas and poor drainage would be concerns, and with added buffers the size would shrink. Parking would have to be added along the south since access to the site is limited.



- After examining all four sites, there did not seem to be any draws to either the Frog Pond or Hazel's Creek sites. The amount of work needed would be extensive and would likely reduce the available space so much that it would no longer be large enough to be classified as a Community Dog Park. The consensus was that there was no need to complicate things when there were already 2 qualified and enticing sites identified. The potential size of Frog Ponds and Hazel's Creek will be adjusted assuming 30' setbacks from the creek and potential wetland areas that can be identified on aerial imagery.

### Action Items

- AHBL to draft survey questions for the public survey.
- AHBL and City Parks to meet the week of 8/1 to refine and finalize survey questions. Due 8/5.
- City Parks to release the public survey on 8/8. Survey to run through Labor Day.
- AHBL and City Parks to review survey results and adjust site scoring as needed. Top choice for community dog parks in each district to be reviewed and suggested. Replacement South Hill Dog Park location to be selected and documented in the guidelines.
- AHBL and City Parks to visit potential park sites to analyze current conditions and identify possible concerns.
- City Parks to reach out to STA to ask about dog policies.
- AHBL to continue developing draft design and O&M guidelines for a September review with the PAC.

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### End of Meeting Minutes

*The above summation is our interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above-referenced meeting. Any person desiring to add or otherwise correct the Minutes is requested to submit their comments in writing to AHBL within 14 days of the meeting date.*

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# MEETING MINUTES



**TO:** Nick Hamad  
City of Spokane Parks & Recreation  
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd

**MEETING DATE:** September 16, 2022

**PROJECT NO.:** 2220184.40

**PROJECT NAME:** City of Spokane - Citywide Dog Park Guidelines

**PREPARED BY:** Marissa Haugen

**MTG. LOCATION:** Spokane City Hall – City Council Briefing Center

**MEETING FACILITATORS:** Craig Andersen & Marissa Haugen (AHBL)

**PAC MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Cliff Winger (Shiloh Hills NC – District 1), Kim Morin (Spokane Humane Society), Bob Anderson (Spokane Park Board), Ken Mewhinney (South Hill Dog Park – District 2), Nick Hamad (City of Spokane Parks & Recreation), Greg Forsyth (Spokane Public Schools).

**PAC MEMBERS ABSENTEE:** Jennifer Ogden (Spokane Park Board), Lisa Wiese (Relief Vet), Brian Falteisek (CedarPlank LLC/Citizen – District 1), Aaron Reese (Five Mile – District 3), Trevor Finchamp (Friends of the Bluff – District 2), Lauren Schubring (Citizen – District 3)

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## General Discussion

### 1. Guideline Review

- Suggested general revisions:
  - Change the language from “fully illuminated” to safety lighting during operational or transitional hours only.
  - Clarify that “communal” when referring to space does not mean the dog park as a whole, but only designated group gathering spaces.
  - Mention that protected areas need fencing around them, if not already mentioned.
  - Differentiate between walking paths and trails in the glossary. Trails are user-dictated, socially developed, and follow a desired path of travel. They may or may not be formal and are not hardscape like pathways would be. ADA access may or may not be paved.
- Suggested buffer revisions:
  - Buffer guidelines should be theoretical and generic, speaking to the intent more than just classifying buffers in terms of numbers. Buffers should be indicated as being site-specific.
  - Narrow spaces between fencelines may feel like they are trapping people between the dog park and private property. If there is space in between it should be wide enough to comfortably let people pass through.
  - Some sightlines into the dog park from the neighbors could actually be beneficial, as they can be the best sources for monitoring undesirable behavior at all times of the day.
- Suggested fencing revisions:
  - Specify that what is listed is the minimum requirement.
  - Fenced areas should not have 90 degree angles as this can create corners for trapping individuals.





- Chain link fencing does not need to be buried. It is very expensive to purchase extra material and then go through the labor of digging and burying it. With the SHDP, it's been noted that the citizens themselves will adapt and take it upon themselves to fix problems as needed. This may look something like blocking holes with blocks of concrete.
- Keeping the small dog fencing to a height of 3' may be sufficient.
- Chain link construction should include knuckle selvage on top to avoid sharp edges.
- Suggested surface material revisions:
  - Natural turf areas should be allowed only in large (community sized) areas. Neighborhood facilities are likely too small to accommodate this and should be removed from the table.
    - Parks expressed that it may be best to remove the option entirely as maintenance crews would be hesitant to enter and clean the spaces well.
    - Rotating turf areas in operation may be one of the only ways to make this option a possibility. Another may be to site the turf areas in places that stay moist and encourage growth, but also do not require regular mowing.
    - Irrigation costs would be very expensive and would be more extensive than the other surfacing options.
  - Wood mulch is not well accepted by dogs since it can be rough. It wouldn't be suitable for an entire area, but could be used in small spaces or on trails.
  - Sand should be elaborated as being coarse. The intent is for it to be more like the native soils of the area, not a beach.
  - Unsuitable materials should be listed as well. These are materials that cause safety concerns, such as crushed gravel, bedrock only, extensive paving, recycled asphalt, and anything containing carcinogens such as rubber, plastic, and petroleum based products

## 2. South Hill Dog Park Selection

- It was mentioned that providing multiple options for sites was confusing and unnecessary, since the options were arbitrary to begin with and didn't vary a ton. Each potential property has been reduced to one option only with the exception of Manito (and Northside Sanitary Landfill).
- The group reiterated and confirmed that the guidelines should remain separate from the South Hill dog park selection. That way the guidelines can be established first and provide the means on how to design all future dog parks.
- Site feasibility studies:
  - Look into the fatal flaws of a site first as a work study before too much time is spent considering them.
  - There is hesitation about showing anything to the public that could appear as a final design. Anything released should be highly conceptual.



- Lincoln:
  - Bedrock is still a large concern. Adding in soil or surfacing would be very expensive and would require continual replenishment.
  - Adding fencing would be challenging. Posts would either need to be pinned to the rock or foundations be carved out of the rock. This is something that should be assessed by local fencing contractors early to get an understanding of what is possible.
  - More parking would be needed. It was suggested that the lower existing lot be paved in order to create more defined spaces, and then add an additional lot further up. The existing fence would need to be moved back. Parking cannot be located too far within the site or else a fire access lane would need to be added.
  - There is no sewer or power on the site. Water can be pulled from the street. If power is added, it would be in the form of overhead poles.
  - Lincoln would likely require more work than Underhill and would be more expensive to establish.
  - There are no objects to further evaluating this site.
- Underhill:
  - Questions were brought up over whether gathering areas be pre-defined (grubbed) or created by users. There were concerns that it may be hard for users to visualize these spaces on their own. After discussion, it was determined that it's better that Parks determine where a majority of the use is in order to control wear on the site. Users will still create social trails as seen fit.
  - The nearby baseball dugout needs to be preserved. Plenty of space behind should be open, and a larger buffer would also be beneficial for screening. Locating smaller dogs here would be beneficial (this is also less steep area and close to the proposed entrance).
  - The lower lot north of the proposed dog park should also have access. Neighbors may also appreciate access from the local roads.
  - Large open buffer areas should be maintained between the dog park and residences. Locals appreciate walking through the area and enjoying the natural feel.
  - There are still some bedrock issues, which may dictate where fencing goes.
  - There are no objects to further evaluating this site.
- Hazel's Creek:
  - There are still conservation concerns with loss of habitat. Work will continue on refining where the wetland areas are in order to preserve some habitat land.
  - An aerial image showing colored zones for stormwater and buffers may be helpful, so that it is clear not all areas of the property are available for a dog park.
  - Members of the SHDP have voiced their views on using Hazel's Creek for their new dog park. Although not as much work went into evaluating this site compared to Underhill and Lincoln parks, it's important to evaluate this site for their sake if nothing else.



- For the board meeting later in October, all 3 sites will be presented to show that a number of potential properties were evaluated and vetted. From there, we can endorse the other two and explain why Hazel's Creek would not be the best first option for the new South Hill Dog Park location. We can explain that the PAC members and survey both back up these claims.

## Action Items

- AHBL to create appendix showing all potential properties and the proposed area of consideration for each.
- AHBL to create feasibility studies for Underhill Park, Lincoln Park, and Hazel's Creek.
- AHBL to finish draft guidelines and pass along to City Parks for distribution.
- PAC members to review guidelines and provide comments for improvements. Due October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- AHBL to put together comments and revise guidelines for a final copy. To be distributed at the Park Board meeting.
- City Parks to present information to neighborhoods and user groups prior to the October Park Board meeting in the form of an open house.
- City Parks to put together final documentation and materials needed for the Park Board and Special Park Board Meetings.

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## End of Meeting Minutes

*The above summation is our interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above-referenced meeting. Any person desiring to add or otherwise correct the Minutes is requested to submit their comments in writing to AHBL within 14 days of the meeting date.*

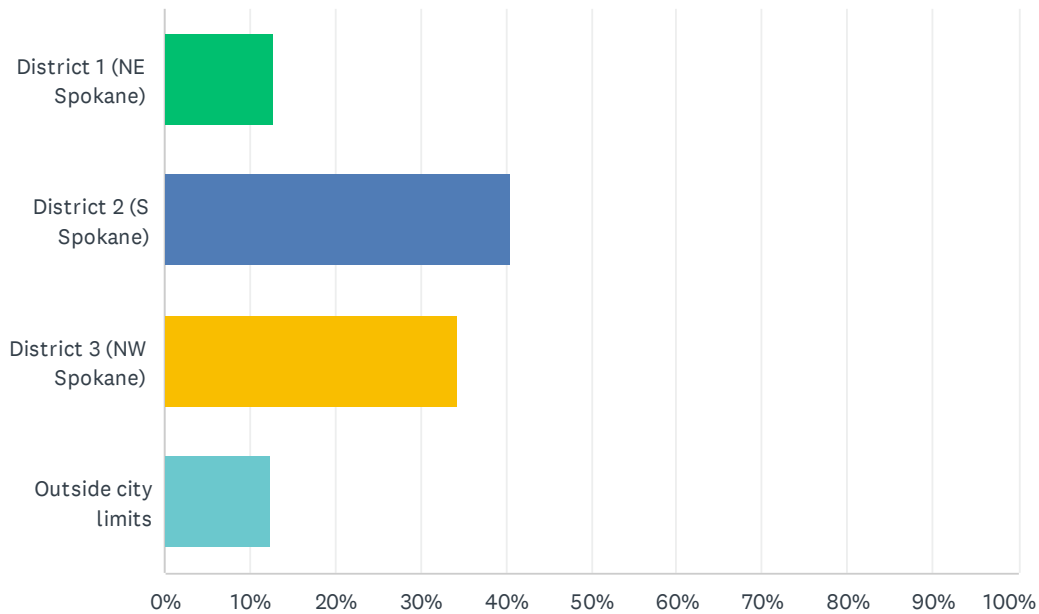
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## ***APPENDIX D: PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES***



## Q1 What City of Spokane District do you currently reside in?

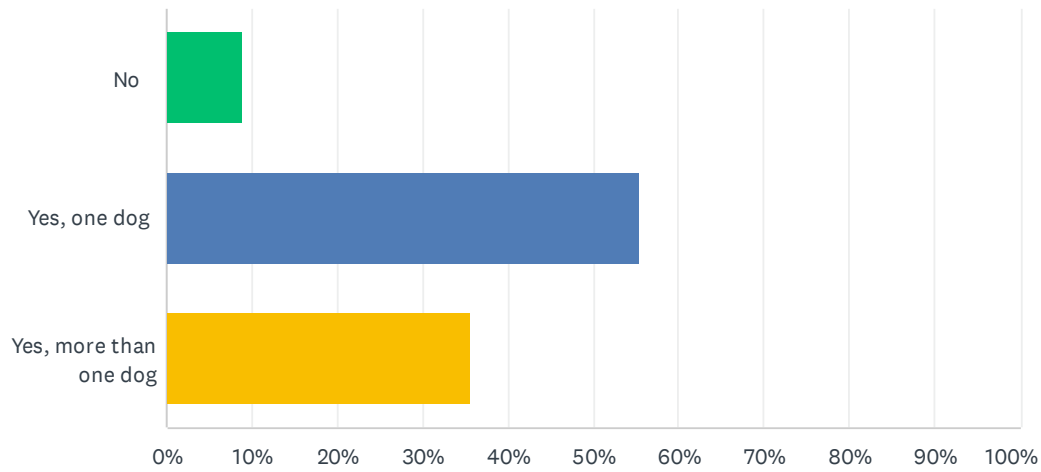
Answered: 1,147 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
District 1 (NE Spokane)	12.82%	147
District 2 (S Spokane)	40.45%	464
District 3 (NW Spokane)	34.35%	394
Outside city limits	12.38%	142
TOTAL		1,147

## Q2 Do you currently own a dog?

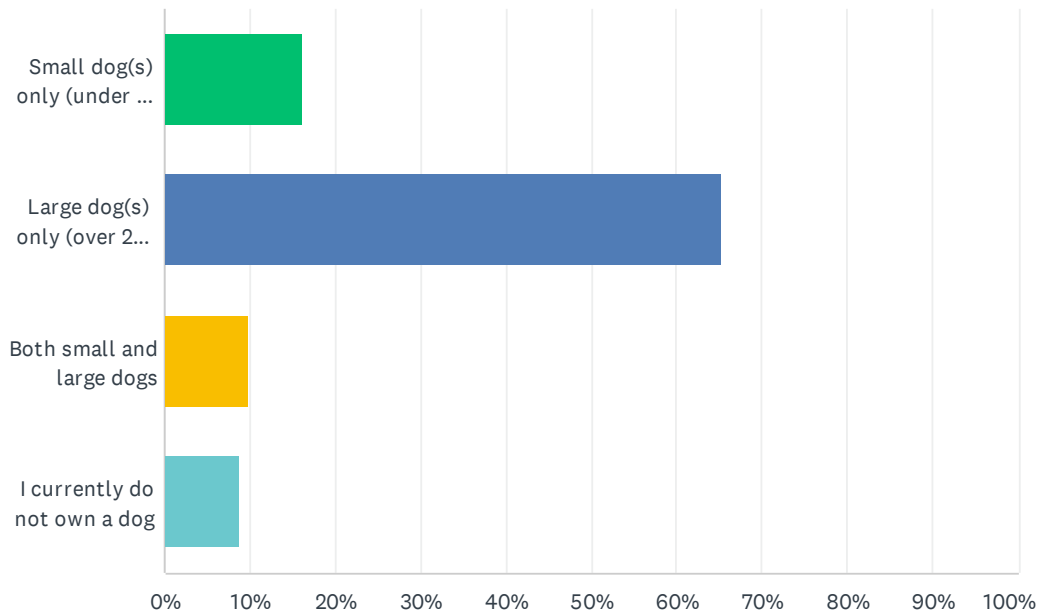
Answered: 1,153 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	9.02%	104
Yes, one dog	55.42%	639
Yes, more than one dog	35.56%	410
TOTAL		1,153

### Q3 Which category best describes your dog(s)?

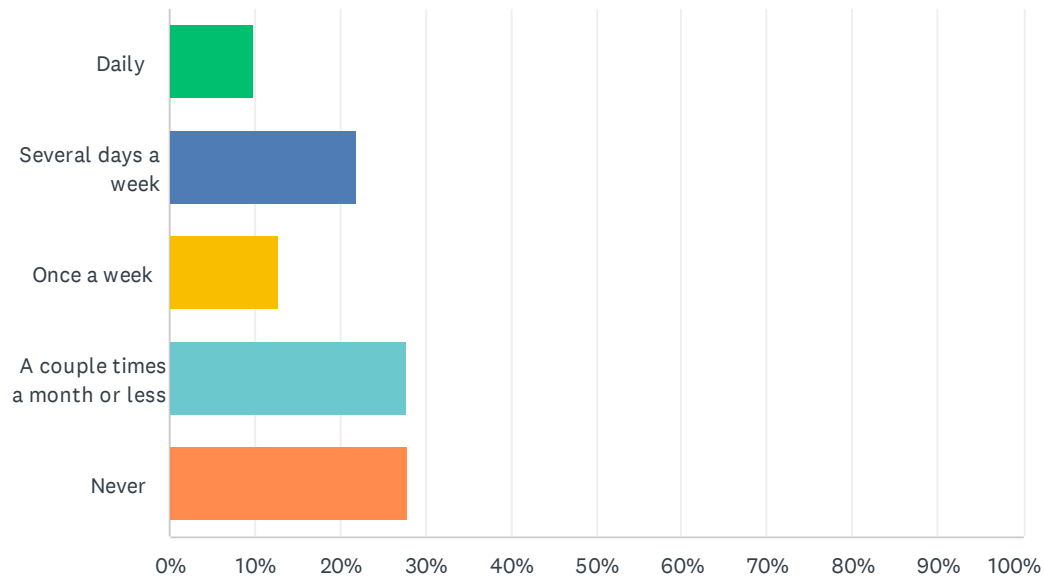
Answered: 1,153   Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Small dog(s) only (under 24 lbs)	16.13%	186
Large dog(s) only (over 24 lbs)	65.22%	752
Both small and large dogs	9.89%	114
I currently do not own a dog	8.76%	101
TOTAL		1,153

## Q4 How frequently do you visit dog parks/off-leash areas with your dog(s)?

Answered: 1,151 Skipped: 5

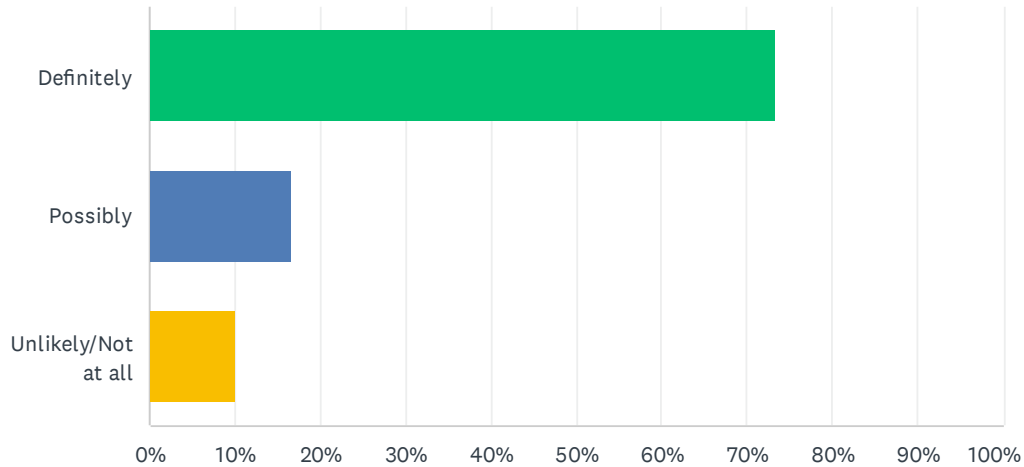


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	9.73%	112
Several days a week	21.89%	252
Once a week	12.86%	148
A couple times a month or less	27.63%	318
Never	27.89%	321
TOTAL		1,151



## Q5 Would you be more likely to visit a dog park/off-leash area if it were located closer to your residence?

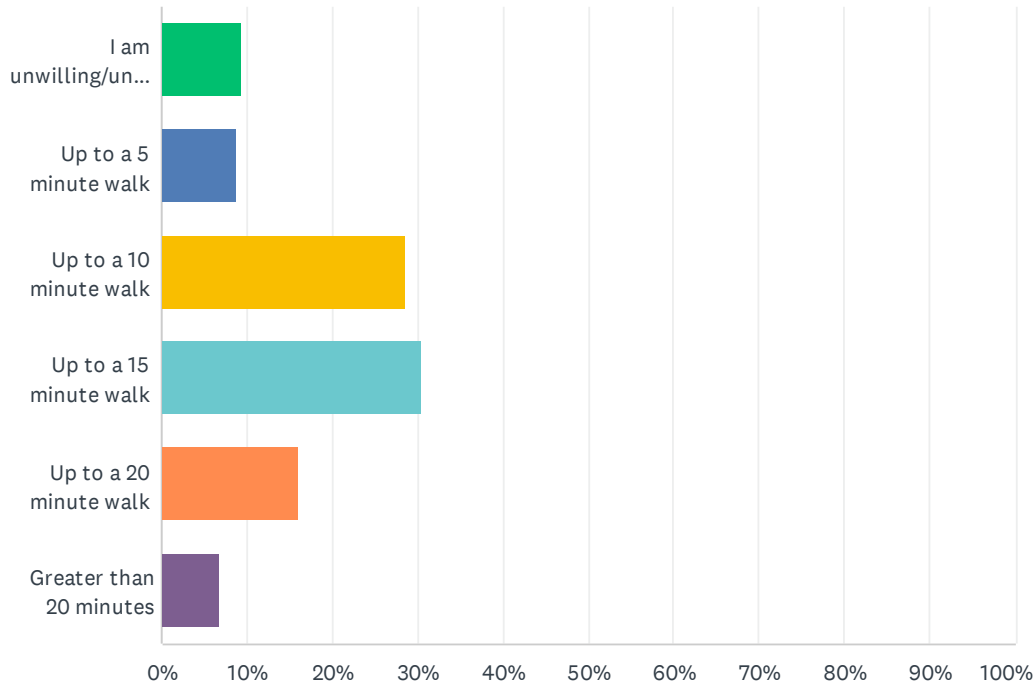
Answered: 1,155 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Definitely	73.42%	848
Possibly	16.62%	192
Unlikely/Not at all	9.96%	115
TOTAL		1,155

## Q6 How far would you be willing to walk to a dog park from your residence (one way)?

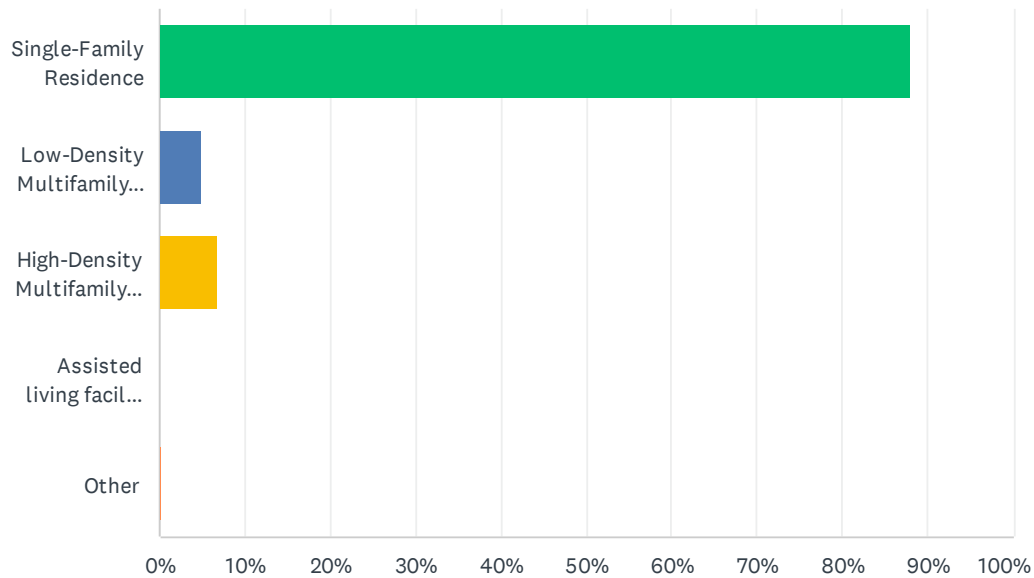
Answered: 1,152 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am unwilling/unable to walk to a facility	9.29%	107
Up to a 5 minute walk	8.77%	101
Up to a 10 minute walk	28.56%	329
Up to a 15 minute walk	30.47%	351
Up to a 20 minute walk	16.06%	185
Greater than 20 minutes	6.86%	79
TOTAL		1,152

## Q7 Which best represents your housing situation?

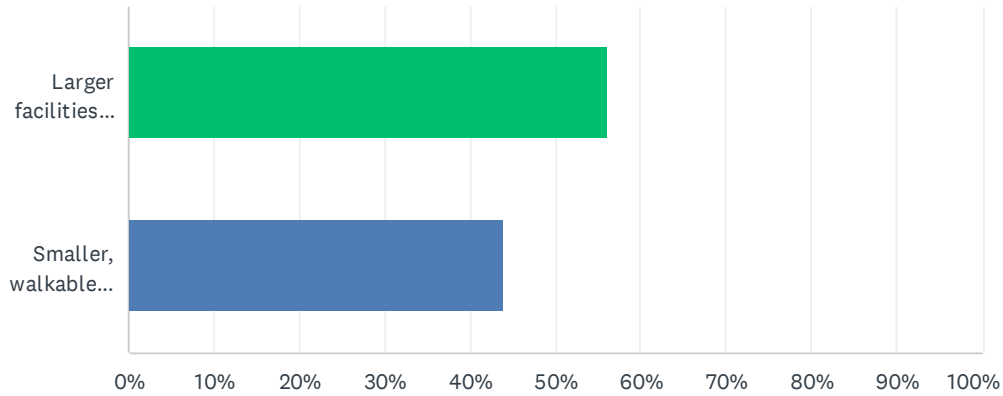
Answered: 1,153   Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single-Family Residence	88.12%	1,016
Low-Density Multifamily Residence (duplex, townhouse, etc.)	4.86%	56
High-Density Multifamily Residence (multi-story apartment complex)	6.76%	78
Assisted living facility or care center	0.00%	0
Other	0.26%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,153</b>

## Q8 Would you rather drive to a larger dog park facility or walk to a smaller dog park?

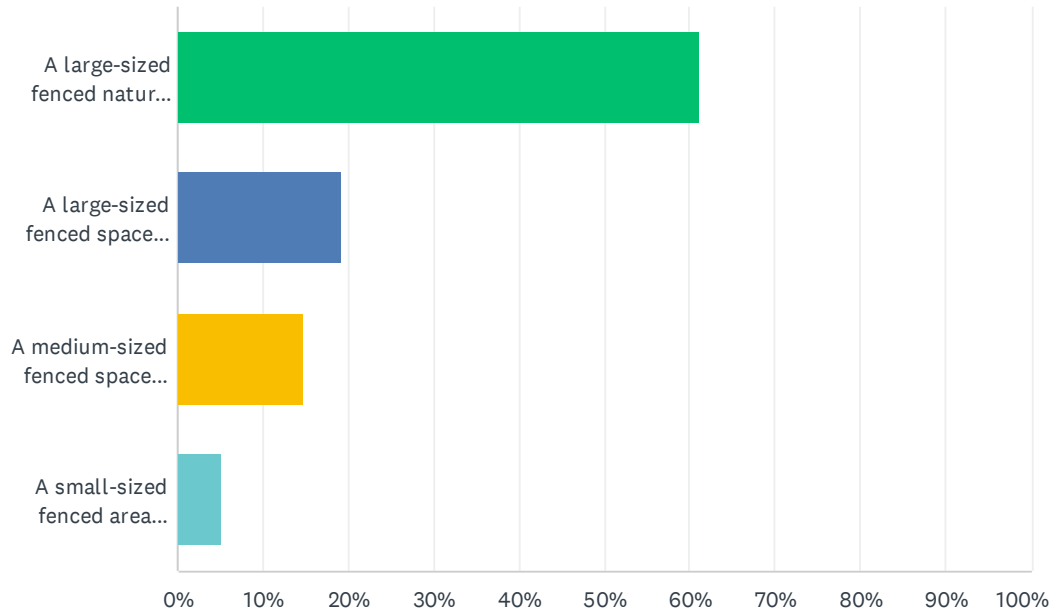
Answered: 1,141 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Larger facilities preferred	56.18%	641
Smaller, walkable facilities preferred	43.82%	500
TOTAL		1,141

## Q9 Which statement below describes your ideal 'feel' for a new off-leash dog park?

Answered: 1,145 Skipped: 11

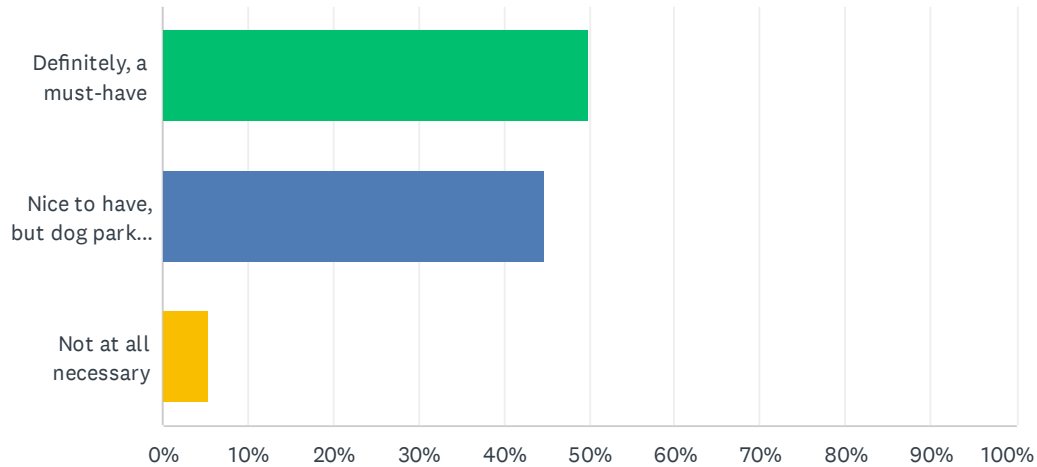


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A large-sized fenced natural space with trees and natural landscape dedicated to dogs	61.14%	700
A large-sized fenced space with irrigated turf and developed dog play features	19.13%	219
A medium-sized fenced space within an existing park dedicated to dogs	14.67%	168
A small-sized fenced area near my home to take my dog to stretch his/her legs	5.07%	58
TOTAL		1,145



## Q10 If you drive to a dog park, how important is it to have off-street parking nearby?

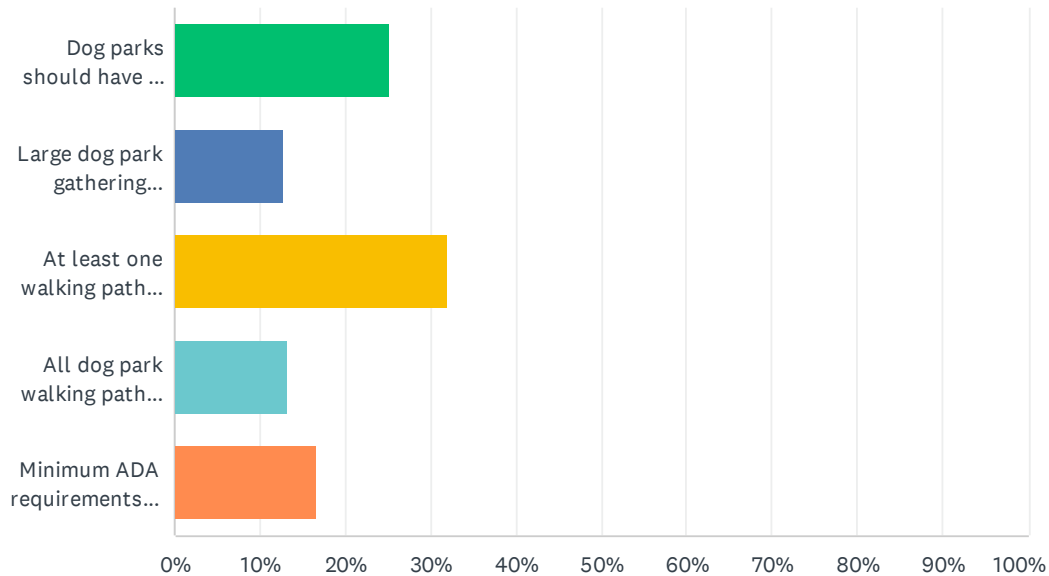
Answered: 1,148 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Definitely, a must-have	49.91%	573
Nice to have, but dog park amenities more important	44.86%	515
Not at all necessary	5.23%	60
TOTAL		1,148

**Q11 All Spokane Park projects meet ADA requirements. Select which statement best represents your preference for going above and beyond ADA requirements.**

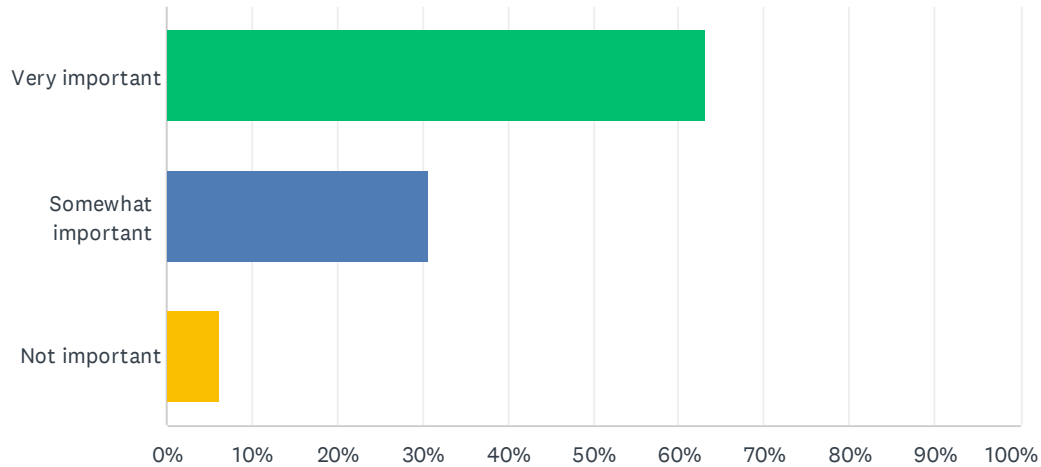
Answered: 1,143 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dog parks should have an accessible path of travel from the parking area to the entrance.	25.20%	288
Large dog park gathering spaces should be flat, centralized, and provide options for seating.	12.86%	147
At least one walking path in larger dog parks should be ADA compliant.	32.02%	366
All dog park walking paths need to be ADA compliant.	13.21%	151
Minimum ADA requirements are sufficient.	16.71%	191
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,143</b>

## Q12 How important is it to protect water quality and/or wetlands/riparian habitat from dog park impacts?

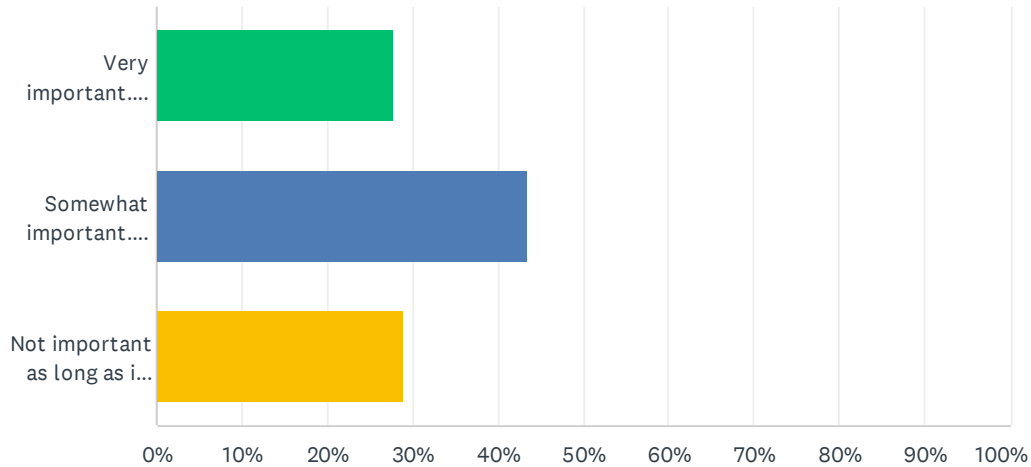
Answered: 1,150 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	63.13%	726
Somewhat important	30.70%	353
Not important	6.17%	71
TOTAL		1,150

## Q13 How important is it for the dog park fences to be set back from adjacent residential property?

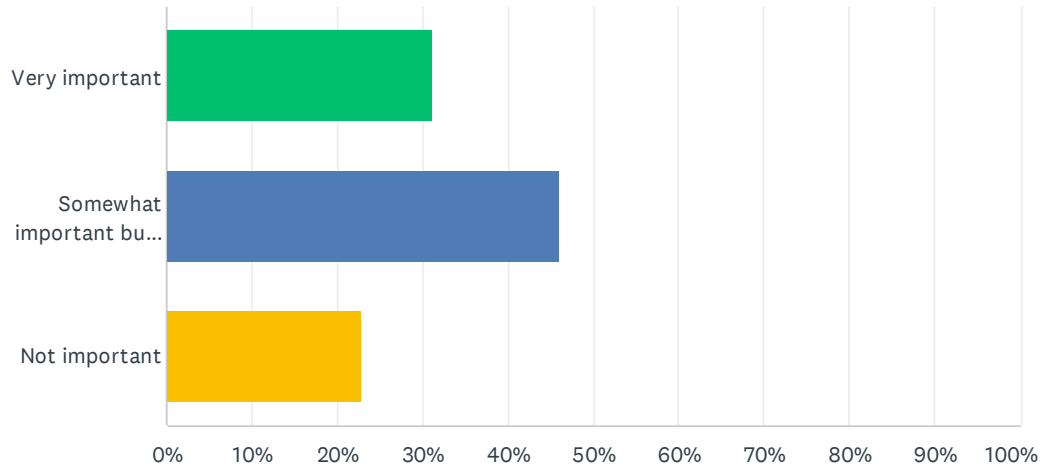
Answered: 1,149 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important. Extensive setback needed.	27.68%	318
Somewhat important. Minimal setback needed.	43.43%	499
Not important as long as it is fully fenced.	28.89%	332
TOTAL		1,149

## Q14 How important is it to have walking trails and areas secluded from other dogs within the dog park?

Answered: 1,149 Skipped: 7

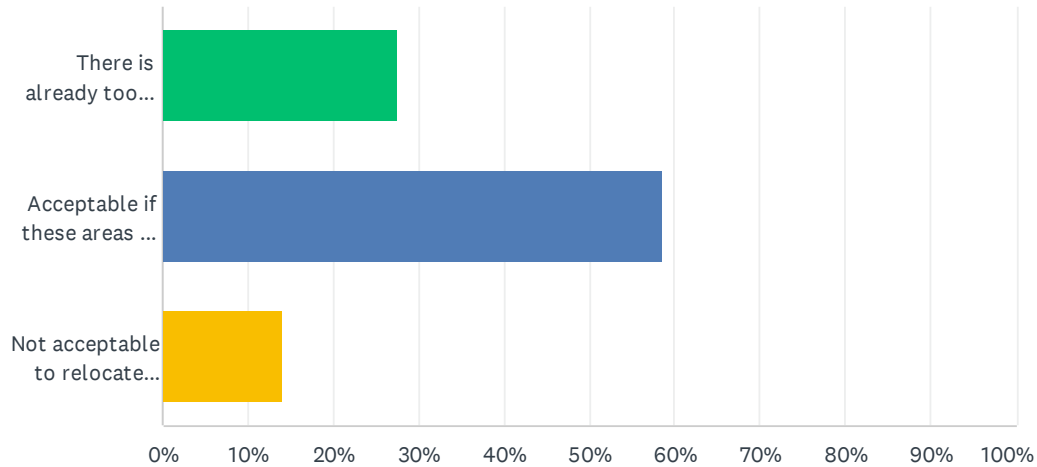


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	31.16%	358
Somewhat important but not necessary	46.04%	529
Not important	22.80%	262
TOTAL		1,149



## Q15 Is it acceptable for a dog park to displace existing uses in a park such as picnic areas or open lawn space?

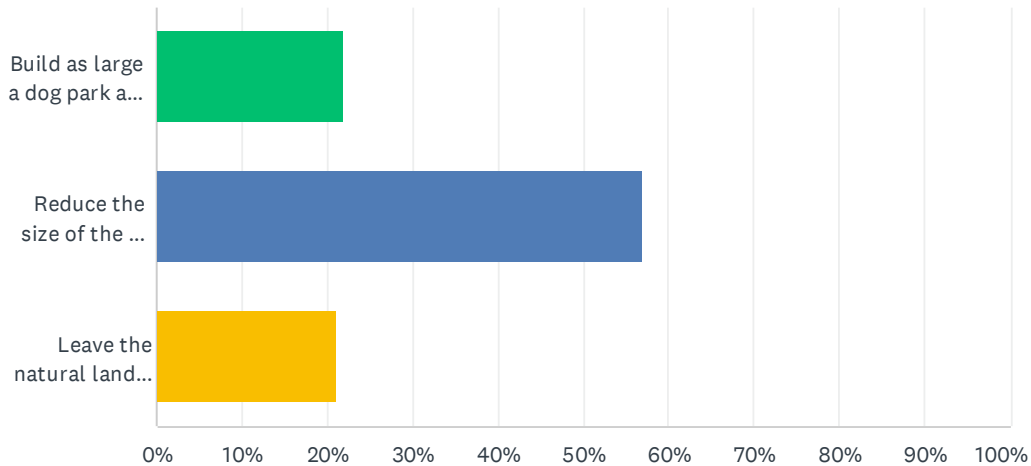
Answered: 1,148 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
There is already too much of this space.	27.44%	315
Acceptable if these areas can be relocated on site	58.54%	672
Not acceptable to relocate existing uses	14.02%	161
TOTAL		1,148

Q16 City owned properties that are large enough for regional dog parks (5+ acres) are often natural areas with trees, dryland grasses and brush. Dog parks may negatively impact this habitat. Which of the below would you prefer (pick one):

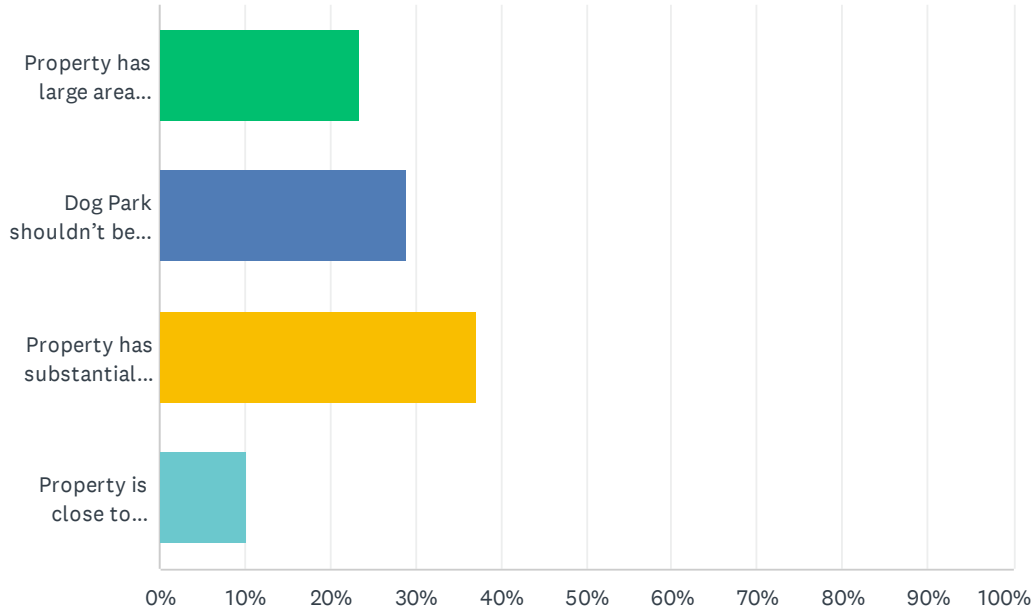
Answered: 1,147 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Build as large a dog park as possible, even if it negatively impacts this natural land	21.88%	251
Reduce the size of the dog park in natural areas to minimize impact on the natural environment	56.93%	653
Leave the natural land alone. Build dog parks within existing developed parks, even if that displaces other uses	21.19%	243
TOTAL		1,147

## Q17 Please select your top priority for selecting a property/site for an off-leash dog park:

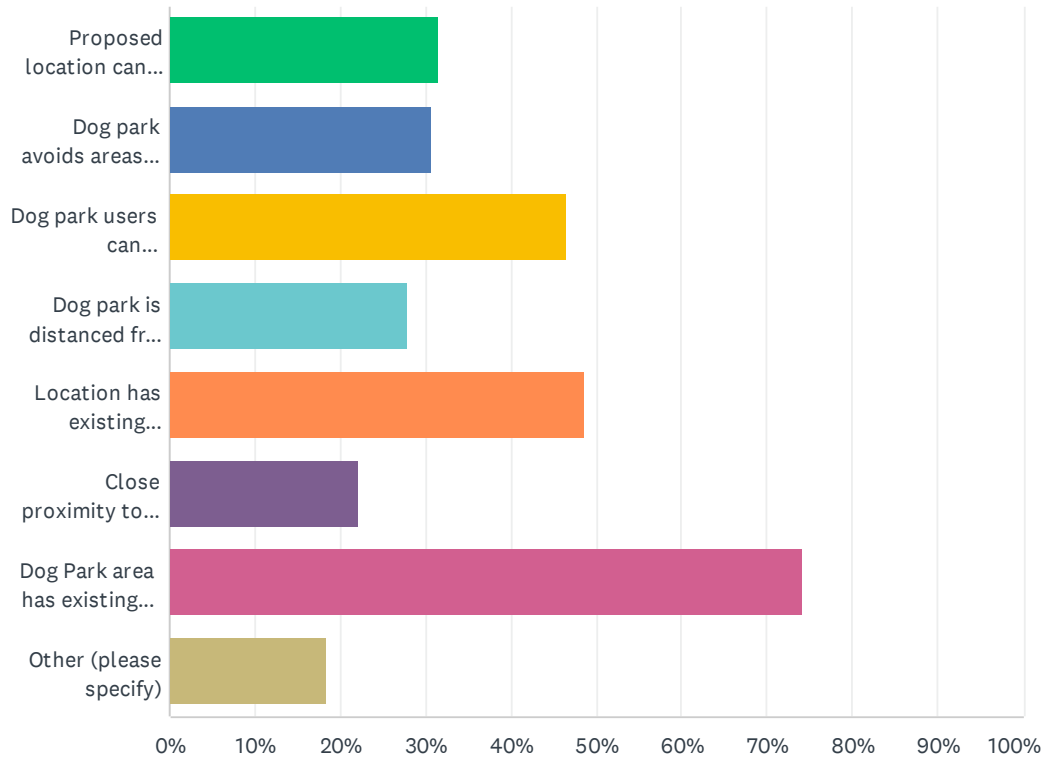
Answered: 1,156 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Property has large area available	23.53%	272
Dog Park shouldn't be located in conservation habitat/protected areas, such as wetlands, river shoreline, conservation plantings, etc.	28.98%	335
Property has substantial existing tree canopies/shade	37.20%	430
Property is close to multi-family housing and houses with small yards o Adding a dog park wouldn't displace other uses, such as picnic areas, sports fields, etc.	10.29%	119
TOTAL		1,156

## Q18 Please select your top THREE criteria when determining where to place an off-leash dog park on a specific property/site:

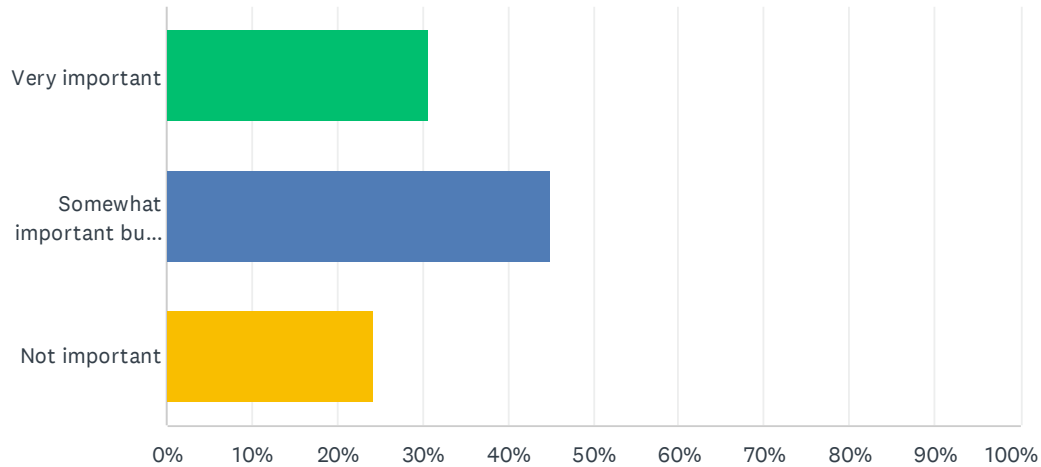
Answered: 1,156 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Proposed location can accommodate ADA accessibility to the entrance	31.49%	364
Dog park avoids areas where terrain is steep or uneven	30.71%	355
Dog park users can access/utilize existing parking	46.45%	537
Dog park is distanced from other activities so that less landscape buffering is needed	28.03%	324
Location has existing utilities such as water and lighting on-site, which can be utilized for dog park	48.62%	562
Close proximity to restrooms	22.15%	256
Dog Park area has existing trees/tree canopy	74.22%	858
Other (please specify)	18.34%	212
Total Respondents: 1,156		

## Q19 How important is it to have large dogs separate from small dogs in an off-leash dog park?

Answered: 1,151 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	30.76%	354
Somewhat important but not necessary	44.92%	517
Not important	24.33%	280
TOTAL		1,151



**Q20 Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you have about the location, placement and design of future off-leash dog parks.**

Answered: 592   Skipped: 564

## ***APPENDIX E: DOG PARK SITING MATRICIES***

# SITING MATRIX SPREADSHEET

District 1

Potential Site	Tier 2: General Location Scoring						Weighted Avg Subtotal	Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring											Weighted Avg Subtotal	Grand Total		
	Total Site Acreage	Available Acreage	Surrounding Uses	Quality Habitat	Street Access	Existing Uses Displaced		Terrain	Accessibility to Facility	Import Required	Residential Buffers Needed	Activity Buffers Needed	Mitigation Buffers Needed	Street Parking Available	Off-Street Parking	Tree Canopy	Utilities	Lighting			Restrooms	
		Enter number of acres as (#.#)	Add points for each adjacency: Multi-family Residential - RTF, RMF, RHD (3 pt) Center and Corridor Zones - CC1-CC4 (2 pt) Commercial - O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC (1 pt) Industrial - LI, HI, PI (1 pt)	yes (0 pt) no (1 pt)	Direct access to arterial (2 pt) Local access roads only (1 pt) Street improvements needed (-1 pt)	None (0 pt) Minimal/Flexible (-1 pt) Significant Impact (-3 pt)		Flat (4 pt) Rolling (2 pt) Steep (0 pt)	Easily capable of being ADA compliant (2 pt) Challenging to add ADA accessibility (0 pt)	None anticipated (2 pt) Some anticipated (1 pt) Significant anticipated (0 pt)	None (2 pt) Street buffer only (1 pt) Adjacent (0 pt)	None (2 pt) Sports/playgrounds (0 pt)	None (2 pt) Required (0 pt)	Yes (3 pt) No (0 pt)	Existing (3 pt) Possible (1 pt) Not possible (0 pt)	Heavy (3 pt) Some (1 pt) Nothing on-site (-1 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt) Nearby (1 pt) Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt) Nearby (1 pt) Nothing nearby (-1 pt)			Exist on-site (2 pt) Nearby (1 pt) Nothing nearby (0 pt)	
	Name																					
	Weight		35%	25%	10%	10%		20%	100%	10%	15%	5%	10%	15%	5%	8%	8%	15%			4%	3%
Site Name	Total Size	Avail Size	Surrounding Use	Habitat	Streets	Uses	Subtotal	Terrain	Accessibility	Import	Residential	Activity	Mitigation	Street Park.	Offstreet Parking	Trees	Utilities	Lighting	Restrooms	Subtotal2	Total	
Upriver Park	37	13	0	0	2	0	4.75	4	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	3	-1	-1	1	1.88	6.63	
North Hill Reservoir	16	8.2	1	0	-1	-1	2.82	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	3	-1	-1	0	1.66	4.48	
Hilll N'Dale Park	4	1.8	4	0	1	0	1.73	4	2	2	0	2	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	2.12	3.85	
Harmon Park	11	1.0	6	1	2	-3	1.55	4	2	2	2	0	2	3	3	1	1	2	0	1.83	3.38	
Mission Park	19	1.0	3	1	2	-3	0.80	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	2	2.38	3.18	
Hays Park	9	1.5	0	1	2	0	0.83	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	2.25	3.08	
Minnehaha Park	38	3.0	0	1	1	0	1.25	2	2	1	0	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	0	1.56	2.81	
Wildhorse Park	3	1.2	1	1	1	-1	0.67	4	2	2	2	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	1.64	2.31	
Kehoe Park	2	1.0	3	1	1	-3	0.70	4	2	2	0	0	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1.55	2.25	
Friendship Park	12	1.0	0	1	1	-1	0.35	4	2	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	1.62	1.97	

District 2

Potential Site	Tier 2: General Location Scoring						Weighted Avg Subtotal	Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring											Weighted Avg Subtotal	Grand Total	
	Total Site Acreage	Available Acreage	Surrounding Uses	Quality Habitat	Street Access	Existing Uses Displaced		Terrain	Accessibility to Facility	Import Needed	Residential Buffers Needed	Activity Buffers Needed	Mitigation Buffers Needed	Street Parking Available	Off-Street Parking	Tree Canopy	Utilities	Lighting			Restrooms
			Add points for each adjacency:	yes (0 pt)	Direct access to arterial (2 pt)	None (0 pt)		Flat (4 pt)	Easily capable of being ADA compliant (2 pt)	None anticipated (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	Yes (3 pt)	Existing (3 pt)	Heavy (3 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)			Exist on-site (2 pt)
	Enter number of acres as (#.#)	Multi-family Residential - RTF, RMF, RHD (3 pt) Center and Corridor Zones - CC1-CC4 (2 pt) Commercial - O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC (1 pt) Industrial - LI, HI, PI (1 pt)	no (1 pt)	Local access roads only (1 pt)	Minimal/Flexible (-1 pt)	Rolling (2 pt)		Challenging to add ADA accessibility (0 pt)	Some anticipated (1 pt)	Street buffer only (1 pt)	Sports/playgrounds (0 pt)	Required (0 pt)	No (0 pt)	Possible (1 pt)	Some (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)			
Name					Street improvements needed (-1 pt)	Significant Impact (-3 pt)	Steep (0 pt)		Significant anticipated (0 pt)	Adjacent (0 pt)			Not possible (0 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (0 pt)				
Weight		35%	25%	10%	10%	20%	100%	10%	15%	5%	10%	15%	5%	8%	8%	15%	4%	3%	2%	100%	
Site Name	Total Size	Avail Size	Surrounding Use	Habitat	Streets	Uses	Subtotal	Terrain	Accessibility	Import	Residential	Activity	Mitigation	Street Park.	Offstreet Parking	Trees	Utilities	Lighting	Restrooms	Subtotal2	Total
Underhill Park	26	7.2	3	0	1	0	3.37	0	2	2	0	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1.82	5.19
Lincoln Park	58	7.5	3	0	2	0	3.58	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	-1	-1	0	0.82	4.40
Hazel's Creek	19	7.1	0	0	1	-1	2.39	2	2	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	2	1	0	1.53	3.92
Thornton Murphy Park	19	1.2	6	1	2	0	2.22	2	2	2	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1.61	3.83
Manito Park Option 3 (North Option)	85	1.2	3	1	2	0	1.47	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	2.32	3.79
Grant Park	12	1.4	2	1	1	-1	0.99	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2.41	3.40
Manito Park Option 1 (West Option)	85	2.8	0	0	2	0	1.18	2	0	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1.82	3.00
Manito Park Option 2 (East Option)	85	2.8	0	1	2	-1	1.08	2	2	2	2	0	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1.92	3.00
Comstock Park	26	2.3	0	1	2	-1	0.91	4	2	2	1	0	2	3	3	3	2	1	2	2.08	2.99
Fire Station 5	9.8	5.0	0	0	-1	-1	1.45	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	3	3	1	1	0	1.46	2.91
Thorpe Road Reservoir	4.3	1.6	0	0	2	-1	0.56	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	0	2.27	2.83
Fish Lake Trail Property	1.7	1.7	0	0	1	0	0.70	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	1.94	2.64
37th Ave Stormwater Facility	6	2.8	0	0	2	0	1.18	2	2	2	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	1	0	1.44	2.62
Garden Park Water Tank	2	1.8	3	0	-1	0	1.28	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	3	-1	-1	0	1.28	2.56
Frog Ponds	10.5	3.9	0	0	-1	0	1.27	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	-1	0	1.03	2.30
Liberty Park	32	0.5	3	1	1	0	1.13	2	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	-1	-1	-1	1	1.03	2.16
Polly Judd Park	6	1.0	0	0	1	0	0.45	2	2	2	0	0	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	1.48	1.93
Ben Burr Park	8	1.0	0	1	2	-3	0.05	4	2	2	0	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1.71	1.76

District 3

Potential Site	Tier 2: General Location Scoring						Weighted Avg Subtotal	Tier 3: Site Specific Scoring											Weighted Avg Subtotal	Grand Total	
	Total Site Acreage	Available Acreage	Surrounding Uses	Quality Habitat	Street Access	Existing Uses Displaced		Terrain	Accessibility to Facility	Import Needed	Residential Buffers Needed	Activity Buffers Needed	Mitigation Buffers Needed	Street Parking Available	Off-Street Parking	Tree Canopy	Utilities	Lighting			Restrooms
			Add points for each adjacency:	yes (0 pt)	Direct access to arterial (2 pt)	None (0 pt)		Flat (4 pt)	Easily capable of being ADA compliant (2 pt)	None anticipated (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	None (2 pt)	Yes (3 pt)	Existing (3 pt)	Heavy (3 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)	Exist on-site (2 pt)			Exist on-site (2 pt)
	Enter number of acres as (#.#)	Multi-family Residential - RTF, RMF, RHD (3 pt) Center and Corridor Zones - CC1-CC4 (2 pt) Commercial - O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC (1 pt) Industrial - LI, HI, PI (1 pt)	no (1 pt)	Local access roads only (1 pt)	Minimal/Flexible (-1 pt)	Rolling (2 pt)		Challenging to add ADA accessibility (0 pt)	Some anticipated (1 pt)	Street buffer only (1 pt)	Sports/playgrounds (0 pt)	Required (0 pt)	No (0 pt)	Possible (1 pt)	Some (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)	Nearby (1 pt)			
Name			Commercial - O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC (1 pt) Industrial - LI, HI, PI (1 pt)		Street improvements needed (-1 pt)	Significant Impact (-3 pt)	Steep (0 pt)		Significant anticipated (0 pt)	Adjacent (0 pt)			Not possible (0 pt)	Nothing on-site (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (-1 pt)	Nothing nearby (0 pt)				
Weight		35%	25%	10%	10%	20%	100%	10%	15%	5%	10%	15%	5%	8%	8%	15%	4%	3%	2%	100%	
Site Name	Total Size	Avail Size	Surrounding Use	Habitat	Streets	Uses	Subtotal	Terrain	Accessibility	Import	Residential	Activity	Mitigation	Street Park.	Offstreet Parking	Trees	Utilities	Lighting	Restrooms	Subtotal2	Total
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Large)	273	21.2	3	0	-1	0	8.07	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	-1	0	1.16	9.23
Five Mile Reservoir	20	9.3	3	0	1	0	4.11	2	2	2	0	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	1.84	5.95
Franklin Park	42	1.5	3	1	2	-1	1.38	4	2	2	1	0	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2.11	3.49
A.M. Cannon Park	8	1.0	4	1	2	-1	1.45	4	2	2	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1.81	3.26
Meadowglen Park	29	1.1	3	0	2	0	1.34	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	1.84	3.18
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	75	1.6	3	1	2	0	1.61	4	2	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	2	2	1.47	3.08
Pacific Park	5	1.6	5	1	1	-1	1.81	2	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	1.24	3.05
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Small)	273	3.4	3	0	-1	0	1.84	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	-1	0	1.16	3.00
Corbin Park	13	2.4	0	1	1	-1	0.84	4	2	2	1	2	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	2.14	2.98
Five Mile & Strong Rd Property	5.1	4.0	0	1	2	0	1.70	4	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	-1	2	1	0	1.24	2.94
Westgate Park	5	1.3	3	0	1	0	1.31	2	2	2	0	0	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	1.62	2.93
Sky Prairie Park	26	4.6	0	0	1	-3	1.11	2	2	2	0	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1.51	2.62
Downriver Stormwater Facility	6	2.8	0	0	1	0	1.08	2	2	1	0	2	2	3	0	1	1	1	0	1.41	2.49
Audubon Park	27	1.0	0	1	2	0	0.65	2	2	2	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	1.58	2.23

Site Name	District	Available Acreage	Tier 2 Subtotal	Tier 3 Subtotal2	Grand Total
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Large)	3	21.2	8.07	1.16	9.23
Upriver Park	1	13	4.75	1.88	6.63
Five Mile Reservoir	3	9.3	4.11	1.84	5.95
Underhill Park	2	7.2	3.37	1.82	5.19
North Hill Reservoir	1	8.2	2.82	1.66	4.48
Lincoln Park	2	7.5	3.58	0.82	4.40
Hazel's Creek	2	7.1	2.39	1.53	3.92
Hill N'Dale Park	1	1.8	1.73	2.12	3.85
Thornton Murphy Park	2	1.2	2.22	1.61	3.83
Manito Park Option 3 (North Option)	2	1.2	1.47	2.32	3.79
Franklin Park	3	1.5	1.38	2.11	3.49
Grant Park	2	1.4	0.99	2.41	3.40
Harmon Park	1	1	1.55	1.83	3.38
A.M. Cannon Park	3	1	1.45	1.81	3.26
Mission Park	1	1	0.80	2.38	3.18
Meadowglen Park	3	1.1	1.34	1.84	3.18
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	3	1.6	1.61	1.47	3.08
Hays Park	1	1.5	0.83	2.25	3.08
Pacific Park	3	1.6	1.81	1.24	3.05
Manito Park Option 1(West Option)	2	2.8	1.18	1.82	3.00
Manito Park Option 2 (East Option)	2	2.8	1.08	1.92	3.00
Northside Sanitary Landfill (Small)	3	3.4	1.84	1.16	3.00
Comstock Park	2	2.3	0.91	2.08	2.99
Corbin Park	3	2.4	0.84	2.14	2.98
Five Mile & Strong Rd Property	3	4	1.70	1.24	2.94
Westgate Park	3	1.3	1.31	1.62	2.93
Fire Station 5	2	5	1.45	1.46	2.91
Thorpe Road Reservoir	2	1.6	0.56	2.27	2.83
Minnehaha Park	1	3	1.25	1.56	2.81
Fish Lake Trail Property	2	1.7	0.70	1.94	2.64
Sky Prairie Park	3	4.6	1.11	1.51	2.62
37th Ave Stormwater Facility	2	2.8	1.18	1.44	2.62
Garden Park Water Tank	2	1.8	1.28	1.28	2.56
Downriver Stormwater Facility	3	2.8	1.08	1.41	2.49
Wildhorse Park	1	1.2	0.67	1.64	2.31
Frog Ponds	2	3.9	1.27	1.03	2.30
Kehoe Park	1	1	0.70	1.55	2.25
Audubon Park	3	1	0.65	1.58	2.23
Liberty Park	2	0.5	1.13	1.03	2.16
Friendship Park	1	1	0.35	1.62	1.97
Polly Judd Park	2	1	0.45	1.48	1.93
Ben Burr Park	2	1	0.05	1.71	1.76

## ***APPENDIX F: EVALUATED POTENTIAL DOG PARK LOCATIONS***



# CITY-OWNED PROPERTY INVENTORY

## District 1



Friendship Park  
1.0 acres



Harmon Park  
1.0 acres



Hayes Park  
1.5 acres



Hill N'Dale Park  
1.8 acres

## District 1



Kehoe Park  
1.0 acres



Minnehaha Park  
3.0 acres



Mission Park  
1.0 acres



North Hill Reservoir  
8.2 acres



## District 1



Upriver Park  
13.0 acres

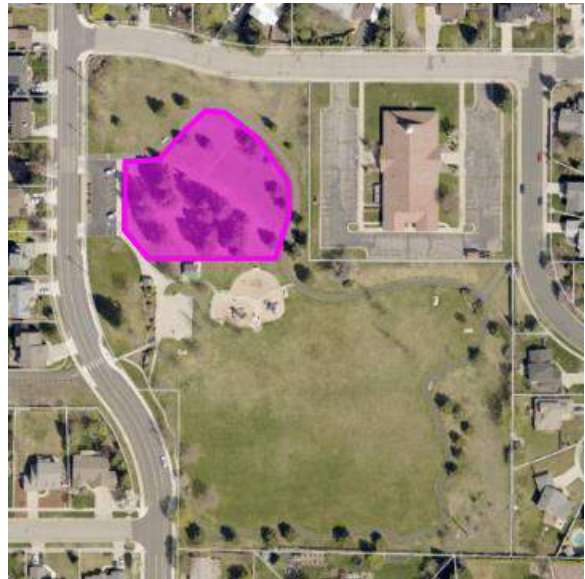


Wildhorse Park  
1.2 acres

## District 2



37th Ave Stormwater Facility  
2.8 acres



Ben Burr Park  
1.0 acres



Comstock Park  
2.3 acres



Fire Station 5  
5.0 acres



## District 2



Fish Lake Trail Property  
1.7 acres



Frog Ponds  
3.9 acres



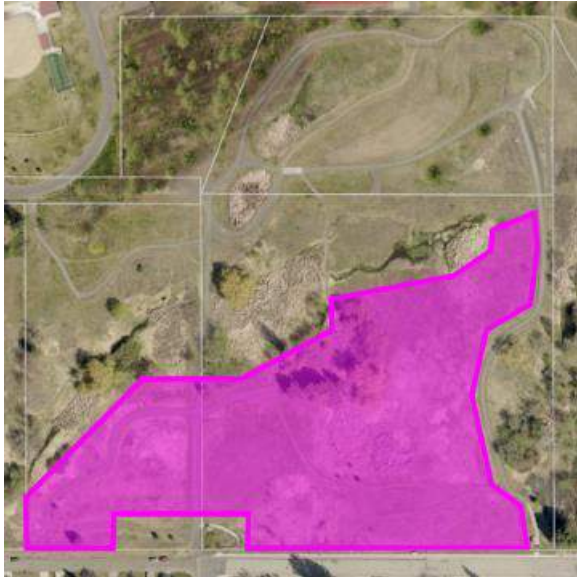
Garden Park Water Tank  
1.8 acres



Grant Park  
1.4 acres



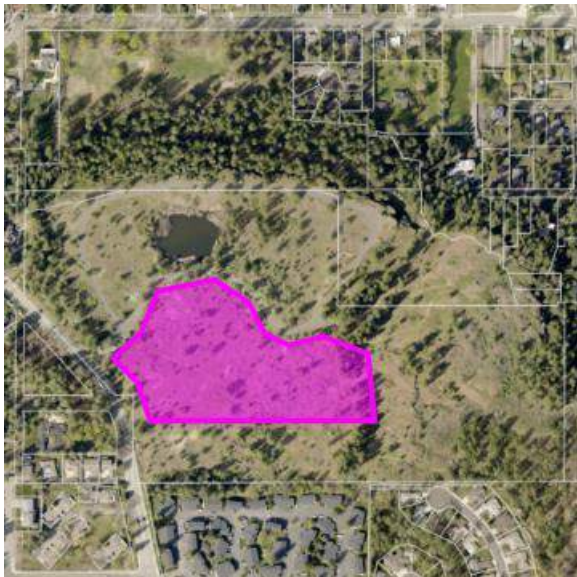
## District 2



Hazel's Creek  
7.1 acres



Liberty Park  
0.5 acres



Lincoln Park  
7.5 acres



Polly Judd Park  
1.0 acres



## District 2



Thornton Murphy Park  
1.2 acres



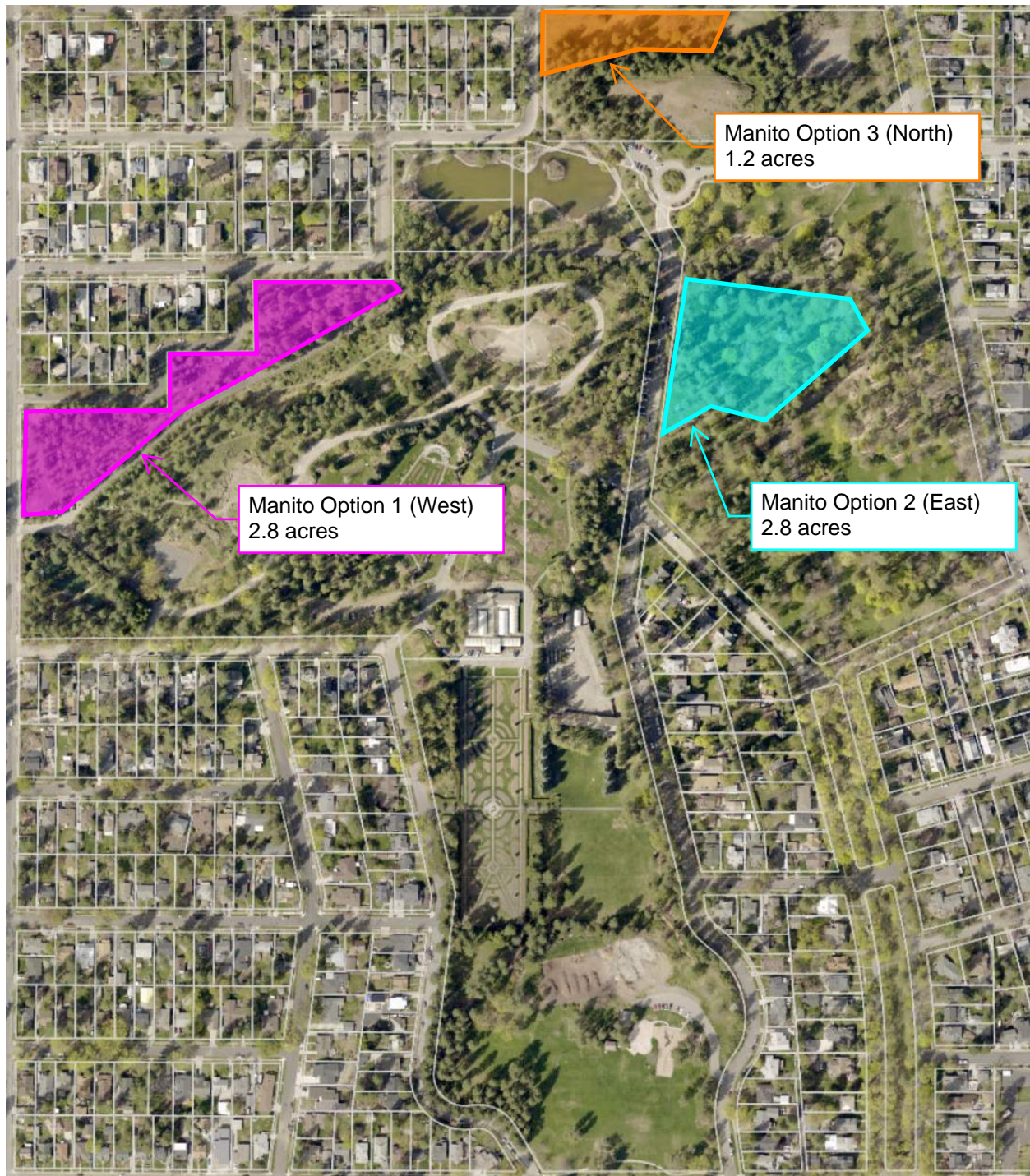
Thorpe Road Reservoir  
1.6 acres



Underhill Park  
7.2 acres



## District 2





## District 3



A.M. Cannon Park  
1.0 acres



Audubon Park  
1.0 acres



Corbin Park  
2.4 acres



Downriver Stormwater Facility  
2.8 acres



## District 3



Dwight Merkel Sports Complex  
1.6 acres



Five Mile & Strong Rd Property  
4.0 acres



Five Mile Reservoir  
9.3 acres



Franklin Park  
1.5 acres

## District 3



Meadowglen Park  
1.1 acres



Pacific Park  
1.6 acres



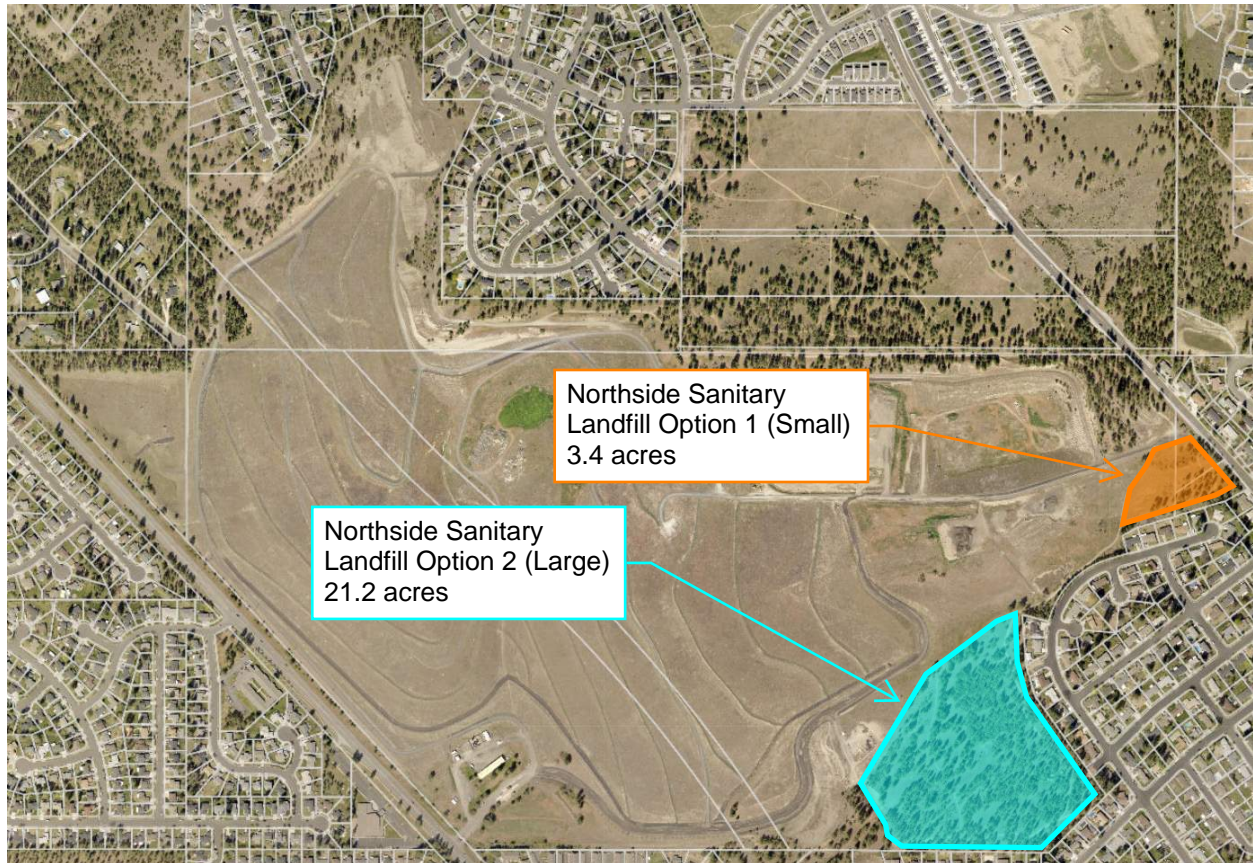
Sky Prairie Park  
4.6 acres



Westgate Park  
1.3 acres



## District 3







Prepared By:



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