

Off-Leash Dog Task Force

Report



February 17, 2005

Executive Summary	iii
Introduction	1
Section 1: Design Standards	4
Section 2: Maintenance Standards	12
Section 3: Funding Sources	13
Section 4: Locations	18
Section 5: Other Ideas	21
Appendix A: ADA accessible gate entry diagram	23
Appendix B: Additional Off-Leash Dog Recreation Area Rules	24
Appendix C: Toxic Plants	25
Appendix D: Sunrise Recreation and Park District Maintenance Standards	29

Executive Summary

The Off-Leash Dog Task Force (OLDTF) first convened on January 15, 2004 and has met consistently throughout the remainder of the year. It was comprised of community stakeholders who support off-leash dog recreation areas as well as representatives from various park districts. This mix of park professionals and members of the community was preferred to ensure that the needs of stakeholders as well as the constraints of park municipalities were taken into consideration.

The objectives of the OLDTF were to:

- ❖ develop design standards,
- ❖ develop maintenance standards,
- ❖ identify funding sources,
- ❖ and identify locations.

This report details the recommendations of the Off-Leash Dog Task Force. These recommendations are provided as guidelines to the local municipalities, park districts and local jurisdictions within Sacramento County. *These are tools to be used at the discretion of the respective park districts when assessing the need for, designing and building off-leash dog recreation areas.*

Off-leash dog recreation areas are becoming more and more common in suburban areas across the country. Off-leash recreation areas benefit both human and canine, by providing safe and fun places for dogs to exercise and for dog-owners to socialize. Large regional and open space dog off-leash areas are also attractive to non-dog owners as places to recreate in a naturalistic setting.

Recreational facilities are now a common feature in land use planning and in residential development especially. Local jurisdictions typically have recreational development standards based on the population. Many of these standards are taken from those established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). For example, the NRPA suggests that there should be one swimming pool per 20,000 residents. However, a national standard for off-leash recreation areas has not been developed by a national park agency or association.

The NRPA standards for recreation types were compared to the local jurisdictional “park” requirements within Sacramento County. The discussions of recreational use, population numbers that are supported by different forms of recreation, land availability, and carrying capacity

issues provided the basis for the task force analysis. Based on the 2000 census and population growth projections, the human and associated dog populations were calculated and delineated for each community area within Sacramento County. The current and projected 2025 human population figures were then placed into a matrix that included the number of existing and proposed dog parks in each community area.

Based upon the discussions and the assessment of the Task Force, it is recommended that the off-leash recreation dog park standard be one acre of off-leash recreation per 25,000 residents. This standard is not compulsory, but provides a reference point for the measure of unmet needs on a community-wide basis.

There are five different types of governmental entities in Sacramento County that provide recreation services: dependent park districts, independent park districts, county service areas, cities and the County. These entities are listed below:

- ❖ Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Arden Manor Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Arden Park Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Carmichael Recreation and Park District
- ❖ City of Galt Department of Parks and Recreation
- ❖ City of Folsom Department of Parks and Recreation
- ❖ City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation
- ❖ Cordova Recreation and Park District
- ❖ County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- ❖ County Service Area 4
- ❖ Elk Grove Community Services District, Department of Parks and Recreation
- ❖ Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District
- ❖ North Highlands Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Orangevale Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Rio Linda- Elverta Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Southgate Recreation and Park District
- ❖ Sunrise Recreation and Park District

There are fourteen park districts, one County service area, three City Park Departments and one County Regional Parks Department. There are discrete service boundaries for each of these entities, and these entities can serve more than one community within the County of Sacramento.

Since these entities have differing policy-making governing bodies, this report does not include specific recommendations for the location of off-leash dog recreation areas, but rather applies the standard of one acre of off-leash recreation per 25,000 residents to the populations of the communities within the County of Sacramento.

Introduction

Background

On August 12, 2003, the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors directed County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space (County Parks) staff to work with interested cities, park and recreation districts, community service districts, the Sacramento Dog Owners Group, and other interested and appropriate stakeholder groups to form a regional task force to develop conceptual design standards, identify potential funding sources, and identify possible locations for off-leash dog recreation areas within the incorporated and/or unincorporated areas of the County of Sacramento.

County Parks staff sent a letter of introduction and participation survey to representatives from City park departments, park and recreation districts, community service districts, and the Sacramento Dog Owners Group, informing them of the formation of the Off-Leash Dog Task Force (OLDTF). Of the 28 letters sent out, the Department received 14 responses indicating an interest in attending an introductory meeting.

The final membership of the OLDTF included representatives from the following:

- ❖ City of Sacramento
- ❖ Cordova Recreation & Park District
- ❖ County of Sacramento
- ❖ Elk Grove Community Services District
- ❖ Patrons for Howe About Dogs Park
- ❖ FIDO, Inc.
- ❖ Rio Linda-Elverta Recreation & Park District
- ❖ Sacramento Dog Owners Group
- ❖ Sunrise Recreation & Park District

Objectives

At the first OLDTF meeting, the objectives of the task force were defined, and at the recommendation of the task force members, were expanded to include maintenance standards. These final objectives were:

1. Develop conceptual design standards
2. Develop maintenance standards
3. Identify potential funding sources for:
 - a. Development of Off-leash Dog Recreation Areas
 - b. Maintenance and Operations of Off-Leash Dog Recreation Areas
4. Identify possible locations

To further define these objectives, the members of the OLDTF met as a large group once a month for five months. Subsequently, the group split into sub-committees to draft recommendations for each of the objectives. These finalized recommendations make up the OLDTF final report.

Why are Off-Leash Dog Recreation Areas important?

The need for off-leash dog recreation areas is a direct extension of urbanization. Whereas people used to own or have access to large parcels of open space to let their dogs run freely, now Sacramento has turned into an urban setting where open space is at a premium and land use development is striving for higher density housing units. Off-leash dog recreation areas provide opportunities for neighbors to meet one another, help meet social needs for adults and children alike, and foster an increasing sense of community. As urbanization has increased, the ability for individuals to recreate and socialize with their dogs in a safe and open area has decreased. Hence, municipalities are providing a greater role in offering recreation and open space needs to the public—generally as various forms of human recreational parks and now increasingly including dog parks. This creation of a sense of community is a sought after goal in the new “Smart Growth Land Use Planning” of the 21st century.

According to the American Kennel Club, the benefits of off-leash dog recreation areas include:

Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely. Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed¹ play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others...In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well to strangers.

Promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a City to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners with park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside the park.

¹ The Off-Leash Dog Task Force does not solely recommend enclosed off-leash dog recreation areas.

Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize. Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community. Park users also benefit from the opportunity to ask questions of other owners and find solutions to problems they might be having with their pet.

Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively and destroy property. Their presence in the park, along with their owners, also may help deter crime.

Source: *Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community*, the American Kennel Club, www.akc.org

Design Standards

The task force researched and evaluated current design standards used at various off-leash dog recreation areas. The following are the ideal design standards that were developed by the task force members based on this research and evaluation. These design standards are guidelines to be used by each municipality at their discretion in conjunction with their individual planning and maintenance policies.

Type and Size

The size of an off-leash area depends on the type and size of the park it is located within. The following recommendations are guidelines; additional acreage may be allotted within each park type.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ❖ <u>Neighborhood Parks</u> | Off-leash areas should be between one (1) acre up to two (2) acres |
| ❖ <u>Community Parks</u> | Off-leash areas should be between two (2) acres up to five (5) acres |
| ❖ <u>Regional Parks</u> | Off-leash areas should be five (5) acres or larger |
| ❖ <u>Open Spaces</u> | Off-leash areas should be ten (10) acres or larger |

The recommended size standard for off-leash recreation areas is one acre per 25,000 people. Any combination of these park types can be used to meet this standard within a community.

Similar to human parks, dog park size variations will serve different needs. The following definitions are those of the task force, each municipality may have different definitions based on district size and population served.

Typically, park districts and community services districts develop and maintain neighborhood and community parks; cities develop and maintain neighborhood, community and regional parks; and counties develop and maintain regional parks and open spaces.

Neighborhood parks are intended to be able to provide opportunities at a neighborhood level. The smaller park will be able to be provided in greater number since the space requirement is smaller, as well as serving a smaller population of dogs. These parks enable the neighborhood constituency to easily walk to the site, increasing community connectivity and sense of place (or belonging). Such parks would be frequented regularly as people include them in their daily schedule, being easily accessible in terms of travel time and distance.

Example: Howe About Dogs Park, Sacramento, California

Community Parks are slightly larger and support the population at a community level, i.e. a conglomerate of several neighborhoods. These parks provide an expanded level of recreational opportunities. Due to the size increase, dogs and humans are able to engage in more stringent activities, as so desired. People may choose to run with their dogs in this area, or simply provide for the ability for dogs to run, play and exercise at a level suited for their size and abilities. Not excessively large, such parks still fit into local land use planning developments.

Example: Partner Park, Sacramento, California

Regional Parks provide an even greater opportunity for recreational play. Such parks may include walking paths, natural features, and educational features that appeal to dogs and humans. These parks will even appeal to the non-dog owner. Regional parks should be planned as part of a larger development and include a variety of recreational and environmental features.

Example: Chimney Park, Portland Oregon

Open spaces are the largest of the park designations. These are the least developed, providing an environmentally natural setting. Undeveloped trails may be created and other minimal facilities would be provided. These areas would be comparable to a hiking trail. A trailhead would exist at the onset of the park, likely providing minimal facilities such as a restroom, garbage disposal area and potable water. This would differ from other parks as lighting and developed recreational facilities would not be necessary. There are fewer of these areas due to size, albeit they are able to support a greater population. Unlike the neighborhood and community parks, these areas would be more frequented on the weekends due to travel time and distance. The draw to these parks is the “reprieve” that is provided here compared to other parks.

Example: Marymoor, Redmond, Washington

It is not the intent to isolate all dog parks from other uses. Demarcation, proper siting and design are crucial for a successful dog park, especially as uses are combined. Neighborhood dog parks can easily be designed into other parks,

even those that already exist. Proper fencing, park rules and safety designs will enable a variety of recreational uses within the same park.

Fencing and/or Demarcation

The fencing and/or demarcation of an off-leash dog recreation area depend upon the location and the risk management policy of the agency.

- a. Developed areas may require fencing
- b. Undeveloped areas may require fencing, partial fencing, or no fencing depending on the natural boundaries and uses of the park
- c. Unfenced areas should have signs posted (along boundaries) identifying the area as an off-leash recreational location, for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike
- d. Cross fencing—allows for closure for maintenance while leaving other areas of the park still open, and allows for separation for groups
- e. Fence height should be between 4' and 6' feet high
- f. Fencing should not have more than a 3" inch gap

Entrances/Exits

Closed/Fenced Parks

Entrances and exits of fenced parks should be located in corners or other areas of the off-leash dog recreation area where there are no amenities, and planned in relation to amenities and social areas. A separate service entrance and/or emergency vehicle entrance should be included per the maintenance policies of the municipality. The following standards should be considered:

- a. Durable (closure and latching system should conform with municipality maintenance requirements)
- b. Double-gated (Sally Port) (See Appendix A)
- c. One entrance per every three (3) acres is recommended
- d. If there is more than one entrance, it is highly recommended these entrances be in different, strategically placed locations (i.e. on opposite sides of the park)
- e. Effort should be made to ensure Sally Ports are wheelchair accessible with a dog in tow (see Appendix A for specification illustration)
- f. Path of travel should be wheelchair accessible from parking lot, through gated entrance, into the park, and to a sitting area (if applicable)

Open Spaces

In open spaces which do not require fencing or which only have partial fencing, a trail head should be created with posted rules, boundary information, poop bag dispensers, etc.

Signage

Signs should be posted at the entrance and at various points within the park.

Rules are necessary for off-leash dog recreation areas. There are “universal” rules and each site could have site-specific rules, to be determined by the risk management policy of the agency. The following “universal” rules are suggested:

- a. Pick up after your dog (cite City/County code)
- b. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and closely supervised
- c. Dog-handlers must leash their dogs when outside the dog park
- d. All dogs must be licensed and vaccinated
- e. All dogs must be spayed or neutered
- f. Dogs must be supervised at all times by handlers
- g. No aggressive behavior from dogs or handlers
- h. Use park at own risk
- i. No food inside park
- j. No smoking inside park
- k. Telephone numbers for reporting maintenance issues and or park related problems should be posted

(See Appendix B for more suggestions.)

In addition to posting *required* rules (i.e. children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult, etc.), general guidelines should be developed and displayed outlining appropriate behavior for children in the park

Example:

- a. Children should be quiet and calm and should not play while in the dog park area
- b. Children should not run toward or chase, scream, or yell, hit, pinch, pull, poke, hug, or choke a dog, ride or stare a dog down

Water Source (i.e. drinking fountain, water spigot)

- a. Potable water source is needed
- b. Not at point of ingress/egress
- c. Both human and dog drinking water sources are needed
- d. Must have proper drainage
- e. ADA accessible
- f. Include hose bib/ quick coupler (per maintenance requirements of the municipality)

Benches/Seating

Benches should not be made of wood. Consider metal with PVC [poly(vinyl chloride)] coating or another type of non-wood material.

- a. Benches should not be located near garbage cans or points of entry
- b. Place in both sunny and shaded areas
- c. Locate in various areas around the off-leash dog recreation area
- d. Consider activity flow when placing benches
- e. Consider structure and location of benches (i.e. don't place benches too close to fencing as dogs may use the bench to jump over the fence)

Trees/Shrubs

Trees and vegetation will enhance a dog park. Proper design and maintenance of the vegetation and tree planting will provide numerous benefits, depending upon the species planted. Things to consider: shade cover from the heat, deciduous trees will not block the limited winter sun, screening from adjacent land uses, recreational corridors, potential wildlife corridor/connection given the adjacent land uses, water dependency and availability, maintenance needs, and a more natural setting for all to enjoy. In general, trees and shrubs should be:

- a. Non-poisonous "dog-friendly" (See Appendix C)
- b. Native plantings, or non-invasive non-natives
- c. Used to create paths and corridors for dogs and people to explore, and
- d. Numerous shade trees should be provided and planted as appropriate to the recreational features and site design of the park

Ground Covering/Surface Materials

Dogs and handlers appreciate different types of sensations, which can be achieved by utilizing different ground coverings and surface materials. Look

and feel of the landscape should be considered when choosing surface materials.

Materials used should be as hearty as possible to withstand high traffic from both dogs and people, without hurting or damaging dog paws.. Maintenance issues , such as regeneration of the surface material, weed growth, and ease of waste pick up should be addressed .

- a. Grass
- b. Decomposed granite
- c. Duff (a layer of partially & fully decomposed organic matter)
- d. Bare soil

Kiosk

The informational display board (kiosk) should be placed outside the park at the entrance.

- a. Needs to be covered or enclosed
- b. If advertising is allowed, it should be placed on locked side
- c. Public side unlocked
- d. Structure should preferably be metal, or similar durable material due to maintenance issues
- e. Kiosks which necessitate the use of thumbtacks to post signs should be discouraged, as they can be dangerous to dog's paws
- f. Consider using magnetic board and magnets to post

Doggie Waste-bag Dispensers

- a. Dispensers should be standardized within a park district
- b. Dispensers should be able to hold large quantities of bags, be able to be secured into place, and be made of durable material
- c. Dispensers should be located at the entrance or trail head and throughout the park. Consider size and design layout to ensure maximum accessibility
- d. Dispensers should be located near trash receptacles (note: trash receptacles should not be located directly at the entry point, except at a trail head, but a poop-bag dispenser should be)
- e. Do not use perfumed bags- Biodegradable bags are preferred. Work with local maintenance staff to select bags.
- f. Team up with local utility departments to provide bags
- g. Encourage users to bring their own bags

Trash Receptacles

- a. Reasonable size (i.e. 20-35 gallon)
- b. Work with local maintenance municipality to determine type and locations of receptacles
- c. Double lined
- d. Correct quantity/location—depends on size of park
- e. Do not put by entrance (unless a trail head), benches and rest spots
- f. Receptacles should be placed near poop-bag dispensers where applicable
- g. Receptacles should be close to service roads

Drainage

Correct grading to provide positive drainage to prevent standing water and consistently moist or wet areas

Optional Amenities

The following items may be desirable additions in an off-leash recreational area. They are not required and their inclusion will depend upon location and identification of funding sources. Please note this list is not meant to be all-inclusive but rather an illustration of some of the key elements user groups tend to ask for in off-leash areas.

- a. WATER FEATURES
 - i. Pools with drainage
 - ii. Dog wash area. Ideally, the dog-wash area should be located outside of off-leash dog recreation area. It should provide the following:
 - 1. A safe area to tie up dog
 - 2. Access to on/off water mechanism and hose
 - 3. Proper drainage
 - iii. Swimming area (existing, river, stream, lake, or man- made)
 - iv. Spray park
- b. HAND TOOL CLOSET
- c. LIGHTING
- d. AGILITY/POINTS OF INTEREST

Natural items can be used such as berms, boulders and logs as well as introducing various textures and smells (i.e. ground covers, bushes, and trees) are encouraged.

Note: Traditional agility equipment is discouraged. Without proper training and supervision, dogs can be hurt by the use of the equipment. Additionally, agility structures need diligent maintenance, repair and/ or replacement and can therefore be a quite expensive choice.

e. SMALL DOG AREA

An area specifically for dogs under 25 lbs. is highly desirable. Inclusion is dependent on park size, boundaries and input from user groups.

f. POOPER SCOOPER

h. CONCESSION STAND

i. DOG-WASH FACILITY/STORE

Maintenance Standards

Following are the recommended maintenance standards for off-leash dog recreation areas. These are guidelines only, and each municipality should develop its own maintenance standards.

Minimal Maintenance Standards

- a. Dog waste picked up daily (as per Sacramento County Ordinance)
- b. Waste containers emptied when bin is half-full
- c. If there is a path/trail provided then periodic weed control is necessary using mechanical or pet-safe chemical means
- d. If water or hose down area is provided then periodic maintenance is required to control drainage issues
- e. Window of time [set day(s) and hour(s)] allowed for turf maintenance
- f. If unscheduled maintenance will occur, a notice should be posted
- g. Maintain bag supply, restock as needed
- h. Shrubs and trees to be maintained in a safe condition
- i. Fences and other apparatus visually inspected annually, repair as needed

Optimal Maintenance Standards (includes the maintenance standards listed above, with the following modifications)

- a. Turf areas should be established before park is opened to public
- b. Turf irrigated regularly depending on field conditions [i.e. time of year, turf type(s)]
- c. Spray odor control enzyme near entrance of park weekly
- d. Turf mowed regularly to promote healthy turf conditions
- e. Holes dug by dogs filled in weekly—immediately by park users, if possible
- f. Fences and other apparatus visually inspected monthly, repair as needed

Exceptional Maintenance Standards (includes the maintenance standards listed above, with the following modifications)

- a. Turf areas should be well established (1-2 years before park is opened to public)
- b. Holes dug by dogs filled in daily—immediately by park users, if possible
- c. Fences and other apparatus visually inspected daily, repair as needed (See APPENDIX D)

Funding Sources

The cost for funding an off-leash dog recreation area, including planning, development, and on-going maintenance and operation, is determined by the property utilized and the amenities planned. Off-leash dog recreation areas can be added to existing parks, included in the master planning of a new park, or a purchasable/leasable lot of private land. Funding and construction costs vary tremendously due to size, location, amenities and support services. Funding options are limited solely by the persistence and creativity of the dog owners it serves. A variety of funding options are available through grants and various fees as well as other sources. The key is an active, organized, dedicated, creative and persistent off-leash dog recreation area association which will explore and seek out a variety of funding options to supplement resources available through the local municipality.

Types of funding and the amount of funding vary between limited term, one time funding and on-going funding. Utilizing local resources, grant opportunities, creative fee collecting and fundraisers can be very beneficial in raising funds to build and support off-leash dog recreation areas. The following ideas and funding methods can be combined in various ways; each municipality should determine what options are available and best suited for their dog park.

Volunteers and Local Dog Associations

Local dog associations can be the driving forces behind gathering public support, petitioning a governing body and planning the specifics of a proposed off-leash dog recreation area. Partnerships between local dog associations and parks departments are mutually beneficial. These groups can perform the majority of planning and organization, while park departments offer legitimization of their cause, parkland and a liability policy.

Volunteers are an excellent resource for labor intense projects that can save time and money. Volunteer efforts work especially well in tasks such as planting trees and shrubs, spreading woodchips, placing slates in fencing, painting, general upkeep, maintenance and overall monitoring of park conditions. Volunteers and local dog associations can be helpful to fund equipment; as well as taking responsibility in providing dog park literature and planning related special events and fundraisers.

Tree and/or Woodchip Resources

The following are resources for trees and woodchips:

- a. Woodchips from City/County tree trimming and removal operations
- b. Shade Tree programs

- c. California Releaf
- d. California Department of Forestry
- e. SMUD

Donations and Sponsors

Organizations, businesses or individuals can receive positive publicity for helping to initiate or be involved in a community park. In return for a donation or sponsorship, they can get their name printed on a sign or other creative means of advertising their company or agency. Following is a list of possible companies to seek as sponsors and/or donors.

- a. Concrete Companies
- b. Contractors or Developers
- c. Corporate Sponsors
- d. Fencing Companies
- e. Groomers / Trainers
- f. Local Pet Stores
- g. Landscaping Businesses
- h. Non-profit Groups
- i. Pet Food Companies
- j. Pet Product Companies
- k. Pet Sitters
- l. Private Individuals
- m. Veterinarian Clinics
- n. Local Municipality

Grants

There are grant monies available, including “matching funds” grants, through a variety of dog-related corporations.

These funding opportunities require an application process specifying the requested funds’ purpose and the purpose/objectives of the organization requesting the funds. A dog park organization applying for such funds typically has to provide a federal tax-exempt determination letter or identification number proving the group is a non-profit, charitable organization. The application process is different with each business so an interested dog park organization would be best served by contacting said businesses and others individually.

- a. Petsmart

- b. Petco
- c. Companion Animal Recovery
- d. American Kennel Club

Additional grants can be applied for through other businesses, for example companies that have supported parks and recreation in past are:

- a. Mervyn's
- b. Walmart
- c. Non-profit organizations
- d. Canine Companions for Independence
- e. Loving Paws Assistance Dogs

Funding grants are also available through the United States Government via the General Services Administration (GSA). An interested dog park organization should contact the GSA directly and ask for assistance/guidance in requesting grant monies and completing the application process. The GSA's website is www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call and has a phone number available as well, 1-800-FED-INFO.

Potential grant monies can also be available through the State of California. Interested dog park organizations should contact the State Capitol Operator for directory assistance/guidance and can also visit www.parks.ca.gov for additional information.

Fees

Another potential funding source for individual off-leash dog recreation areas and their support organizations is a variety of fees, which can be applied to dog owners using the Dog Park regularly.

- a. Entrance fees
- b. Monthly or annual membership fees
- c. License fees (working with the municipality collecting the fees)

The key criterion is enforcement feasibility. If entrance or membership fees are charged, how are they collected and enforced? How is a dog park "member" differentiated from a non-dog park "member"? This issue applies to park accessibility and other benefits. If a dog park organization is seeking to use these fees, it needs to determine how these issues will be resolved prior to implementing said fees.

Fundraisers

Fundraising events or projects can be time consuming depending on the type of fundraiser and resources available for planning and implementation, will determine the amount of profit. Partnerships between local municipalities and local dog associations can be extremely effective in tackling any or all of the following ideas and suggestions.

Special Events

- a. Bake Sales
- b. Bark In the Park
- c. Crab Feed
- d. Dog Birthday Party Rentals
- e. Doggie Dip Day (Swim Pool)
- f. Dogtober Fest
- g. Dog-O-Ween Costume Contest
- h. Kids Dog Show
- i. Pet/Dog Expo
- j. Photos – Santa
- k. Raffles / Silent Auctions
- l. Run or Walk 5K
- m. Walk Pledges

Selling Items

- a. Benches
- b. Bricks
- c. Dog related items
- d. Dog treats
- e. Tiles
- f. Trees
- g. T-shirts

Advertising Space

- a. Billboards
- b. Fence Sections
- c. Kiosks
- d. Newsletter Ads

Miscellaneous Other Funding Sources

Following are other miscellaneous funding sources that may or may not be available and/or useful for individual municipalities.

- a. Donation Boxes
- b. Local Municipality Operating and Capital Funds
- c. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds
- d. Proposition 12
- e. Proposition 40
- f. Quimby Act Funds
- g. Vending Machines

Locations

One of the primary challenges for the task force was to develop a methodology and structure for assessing dog park needs, and the community areas where they should be located. The American Veterinary Medical Association has developed a methodology to correlate human population, with household numbers and then an associated dog population. To date, however, there is not a uniform methodology to assess the NEED for dog parks, density requirements or usage demands for use in land use planning.

Methodology for Determining Need

Comparison to Current Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a variety of standards for park facilities. For example, NRPA suggests that there should be one football field per 20,000 residents, one swimming pool per 20,000 residents, and one community center per 20,000 residents. A national standard for off-leash dog parks has not been developed by a national park agency or association.

An off-leash dog park facility aligns best with facilities with broad support which can be enjoyed by many, such as the examples listed above. These facilities can accommodate a large number of participants over a given period of time. Based upon these similarities, a standard of one acre of off-leash recreation area per population of 25,000 residents is recommended. This is a recommended standard only, and further research (i.e. surveys, current off-leash recreation area usage levels) may be needed to determine if this standard is adequate or if it should be modified.

Methodology

The chart on the following page describes the following:

- a. 2005 population and estimated 2025 population for communities in the Sacramento County region, based on information from Census 2000
- b. A community was noted as a growth area if the growth in population between 2005 - 2025 was more than 30%.
- c. The number of current and proposed dog parks and park acreage. Calculations were developed for the number of people per total acreage, and whether or not the community met the standard of one acre of off-leash dog recreation area per 25,000 residents in 2005 and 2025

Population Projections, Off-Leash Dog Recreation Area Facilities and Standards

Community	Population		Growth		Off-Leash Dog Recreation Areas				Number of acres needed to meet standard		
	2005 Population	2025 population	Growth area?*	% growth	current	proposed	total	Total acreage	2005	2025	Meet standard?
Antelope	34,585	40,364	No	14%	0	0	0	0	1.38	1.61	No
Arden-Arcade	95,768	96,413	No	1%	1	0	1	0.75	3.83	3.86	No
Carmichael	50,550	51,584	No	2%	1	0	1	1	2.02	2.06	No
Citrus Heights	91,350	91,125	No	0%	1	0	1	2	3.65	3.65	No
Cosumnes	6,453	52,844	Yes	88%	0	0	0	0	0.26	2.11	No
Delta	6,109	7,250	No	16%	0	0	0	0	0.24	0.29	No★
Elk Grove	98,110	168,465	Yes	42%	2	0	2	1.7	3.92	6.74	No
Fair Oaks	33,413	34,377	No	3%	1	0	1	0.25	1.34	1.35	No
Folsom	62,900	76,333	No	18%	0	1	1	N/A	2.52	3.05	No◆
Galt	23,450	33,790	Yes	31%	0	0	0	0	0.94	1.35	No
Isleton	1,010	1,360	No	26%	0	0	0	0	0.04	0.05	No★
Laguna-Franklin	65,284	115,224	Yes	43%	0	0	0	0	2.61	4.61	No
N. Highlands / Foothills	75,065	75,829	No	1%	0	0	0	0	3.00	3.03	No
N. Natomas	14,770	44,252	Yes	67%	0	0	0	0	0.59	1.77	No
Orangevale	29,929	31,786	No	6%	0	0	0	0	1.20	1.27	No
Rancho Cordova	55,060	156,999	Yes	65%	0	3	3	N/A	2.20	6.28	No◆
Rancho Murieta	4,803	12,094	Yes	60%	0	0	0	0	0.19	0.48	No★
Rio Linda / Elverta	21,135	29,538	No	28%	1	1	2	1	0.85	1.18	Yes
Sacramento	446,960	528,880	No	15%	3	3	6	N/A	17.88	21.16	No◆
Southeast	5,532	6,520	No	15%	0	0	0	0	0.22	0.26	No★
S. Natomas	49,802	61,827	No	19%	0	0	0	0	1.90	2.47	No
S. Sacramento	162,706	177,442	No	8%	0	0	0	0	6.51	7.10	No
Vineyard	24,045	66,090	Yes	64%	0	0	0	0	0.96	2.64	No
Sacramento County	1,458,789	1,960,386	No	26%	0	1	1	75	58.35	78.42	No◆
TOTAL PARKS/ACREAGE					10	9	19	81.7	116.6	156.8	

- * Areas are defined as growth areas if the population increase from 2005 to 2025 is $\geq 30\%$
- ★ May not have enough need
- ◆ Standard could be met, depending on size of proposed parks at completion

Other Ideas

In the course of the task force meetings, other ideas were expressed require additional consideration and research:

- ❖ *Utilizing dog license fees as a source of revenue for the construction, maintenance and operation of off-leash recreation areas*

A potentially lucrative funding source is dog license fees. All dogs within Sacramento County are required to be licensed through City/County government. As with the previously stated fees, the key issue is enforceability. One potential solution is to hold a “dog licensing” event when a new off-leash dog recreation area opens (i.e. dog park “grand opening”.) A dog park organization, working with the local park district and/or the City/County, could help sponsor and organize said event for the purpose of raising awareness of the dog licensing issue, and helping fellow community dog owners license their dogs on the spot. A portion of the dog licensing fees could then be utilized to help support on-going maintenance and operation costs of the new off-leash dog recreation area or fund a particular feature or improvement. The “grand opening” could serve three functions. First, to open the dog park officially; second, to raise awareness of the dog park and its dog owner organization; and third, raise funds through the dog licensing fair and other activities.

- ❖ *Incorporate an off-leash dog recreation area into the planning of the joint SSPCA/County facility*

Locate an off-leash dog recreation area next to the proposed joint SSPCA/County animal care shelter. The purpose of this is twofold: first to incorporate an off-leash recreation exercise area for the shelter, and second, to bring additional dog-oriented people to the shelter as they bring their pets to the off-leash recreation area.

- ❖ *Continue the Off-Leash Dog Task Force*

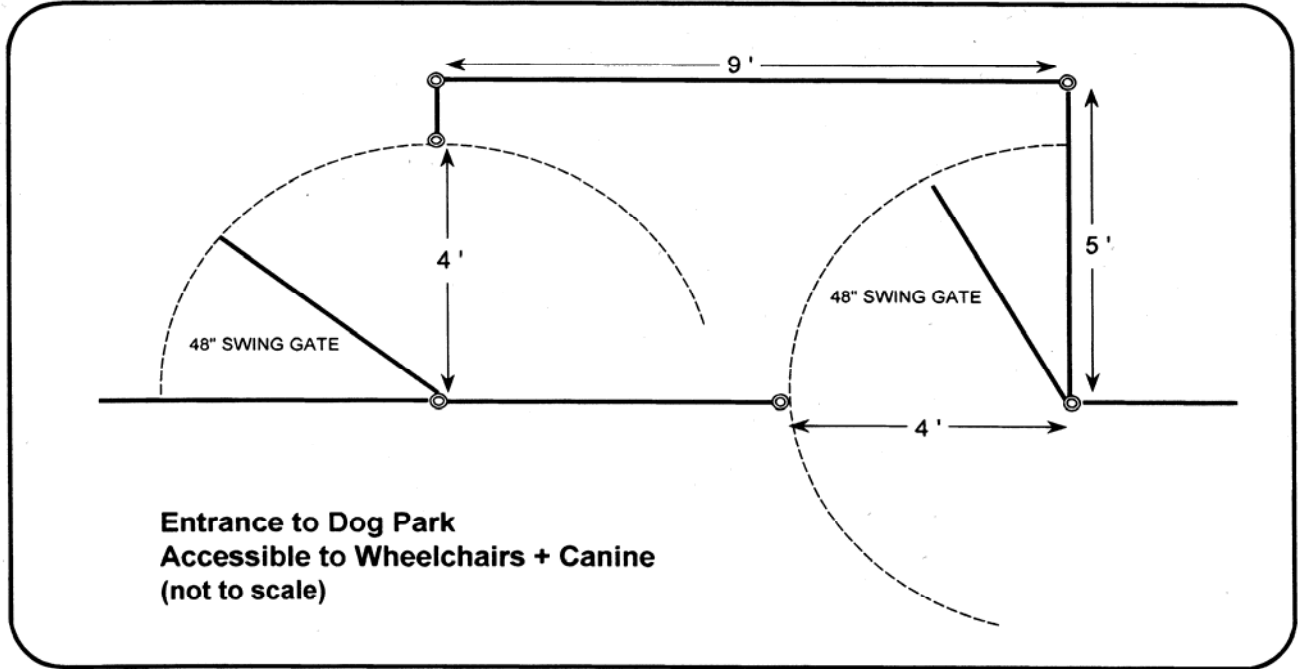
The task force could be continued to ensure that there is guidance available to community groups and local municipalities as they plan, develop, and maintain off-leash dog recreation areas in their communities.



Point Isabel off-leash dog recreation area, Richmond, CA



Off-leash dogs enjoying a romp in the grass



Additional Off-Leash Dog Recreation Area Rules

The following list of rules was located during research for design standards and signage and is included here for reference.

Dog Park Rules

- Dogs must display current license and rabies vaccination tags.
- Dogs must be over 4 months old.
- Dog-handlers must leash their dogs when outside the dog park.
- Dog handlers must be in control of and in visual contact with their dogs at all times.
- No pet handlers under age 13.
- Parents must be in control of their children.
- No more than 3 dogs per handler.
- Dog handlers must pick up after their dogs.
- No smoking or eating by dog handlers.
- No aggressive dog behavior.
- No female dogs in heat.
- Hours of dog exercise area are the same as hours for the remainder of the park.
- Dog owners are liable for any injuries or damage caused by their dogs.
- No professional dog training unless approved by the Park Managers.
- No glass or metal containers.
- Users of dog exercise areas do so at their own risk.
- Additional rules or amendments may be jointly developed, as needed, and approved by the Dog Owners Group and the Superintendent of Parks.

Source: Montgomery County Park and Planning Department
http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/dog_park/dog_parks.shtm

Toxic Plants

The following lists of plants and/or flowers are poisonous to dogs. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. Before choosing to introduce a particular plant or flower for an off-leash area, the toxicity level should be researched.

Source: ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center

<http://www.dogpack.com/health/poisonplants.htm>

- a. **Bulbs:** Amaryllis, Autumn Crocus, Daffodil, Day Lily, Elephant Ears, Gladiolas, Hyacinth, Iris, Lily of the Valley, Narcissus, Orange Day Lily, Tulip
- b. **Ferns:** Aparagus Fern, Australian Nut, Emerald Feather (aka Emerald Fern), Emerald Fern (aka Emerald Feather), Lace Fern, Plumosa Fern
- c. **Flowering Plants:** Cyclamen, Hydrangea, Kalanchoe, Poinsettia
- d. **Garden Perennials:** Charming Diefenbachia, Christmas Rose, Flamingo Plant, Foxglove, Marijuana, Morning Glory, Nightshade, Onion, Tomato Plant, Tropic Snow Dumbcane
- e. **House Plants:** Ceriman (aka Cutleaf Philodendron), Chinese Evergreen, Cordatum, Corn Plant (aka Cornstalk Plant), Cutleaf Philodendron (aka Ceriman), Devil's Ivy, Dumb Cane, Golden Pothos, Green Gold Nephthysis, Marble Queen, Mauna Loa Peace Lily, Nephthytis, Peace Lily, Red-Margined Dracaena, Striped Dracaena, Taro Vine, Warnecke Dracaena
- f. **Lillies:** Asian Lily (liliaceae), Easter Lily, Glory Lily, Japanese Show Lily, Red Lily, Rubrum Lily, Stargazer Lily, Tiger Lily, Wood Lily
- g. **Shrubs:** Cycads, Heavenly Bamboo, Holly, Jerusalem Cherry, Mistletoe "American", Oleander, Precatory Bean, Rhododendron, Saddle Leaf Philodendron, Sago Palm, Tree Philodendron, Yucca
- h. **Succulents:** Aloe (Aloe Vera)
- i. **Trees:** Avocado, Buddist Pine, Chinaberry Tree, Japanese Yew (aka Yew), Lacy Tree, Macadamia Nut, Madagascar Dragon Tree, Queensland Nut, Schefflera, Yew (aka Japanese Yew)
- j. **Vines:** Branching Ivy, English Ivy, European Bittersweet, Glacier Ivy, Hahn's self branching English Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy
- k. **Misc/Uncategorized:** American Bittersweet, Andromeda Japonica, Azalea, Bird of Paradise, Buckeye, Caladium hortulanum, Calla Lily, Castor Bean, Clematis, Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron, Florida Beauty, Fruit Salad Plant, Golden Dieffenbachia, Gold Dust Dracaena, Heartleaf Philodendron, Horsehead Philodendron, Hurricane Plant, Mexican Breadfruit, Mother-in-law, Panda, Philodendron Pertusum, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Ribbon Plant, Satin Pothos, Spotted Dumb Cane, Sweetheart Ivy, Swiss Cheese Plant, Variable Dieffenbachia, Variegated Philodendron, Yesterday/Today/Tomorrow

Source: Cornell University

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/comlist.html>

- 1 *Abrus precatorius* - Rosary Pea
- 2 *Aconitum* spp. - Monkshood, Aconite, or Wolfsbane
- 3 *Actaea* spp. - Baneberry, Dolls Eyes, White Cohosh, Snakeberry
- 4 *Aesculus* spp. - Horse Chestnut, Buckeye
- 5 *Agrostemma githago* - Corn Cockle
- 6 *Aleurites fordii* - Tung Oil Tree
- 7 *Allium* spp. - Commercial Onions, Wild Onions, Swamp Onions, and Chives
- 8 *Amanita* spp. - Monkey Agaric, Panther Cap, Death Cap, and Death Angel Mushrooms
- 9 *A. muscaria* - Fly Agaric
- 10 *A. pantherina* - Panther
- 11 *A. verna* - Destroying Angels
- 12 *Amaranthus* spp. - Pigweed
- 13 *Amsinckia intermedia* - Fiddleneck
- 14 *Apocynum* spp. - Dogbane
- 15 *Argemone mexicana* - Prickly Poppy or Mexican Poppy
- 16 *Arisaema* spp. - Jack in the Pulpit
- 17 *Asclepias* spp. - Milkweed
- 18 *Astragalus and Oxytropis* spp. - Locoweed
- 19 *Atropa belladonna* - Belladonna or Deadly Nightshade
- 20 *Brassica* spp. - Rape, Cabbage, Turnips, Broccoli, Mustard
- 21 *Caltha palustris* - Marsh Marigold or Cowslip
- 22 *Cannabis sativa* - Marijuana
- 23 *Centaurea solstitialis* - Yellow Star Thistle
- 24 *Chelidonium majus* - Celandine
- 25 *Chenopodium album* - Lamb's Quarters
- 26 *Cicuta* spp. - Water Hemlock or Cowbane
- 27 *Claviceps* spp. - Ergot
- 28 *Conium maculatum* - Poison Hemlock
- 29 *Coronilla varia* - Crown Vetch
- 30 *Convallaria majalis* - Lily of the Valley
- 31 *Daphne* spp. - Daphne
- 32 *Datura* spp. - Jimsonweed, Downy Thornapple, Devil's Trumpet, Angel's Trumpet
- 33 *Delphinium* spp. - Delphiniums and Larkspurs
- 34 *Dicentra* spp. - Bleeding Heart, Squirrel Corn, Dutchman's Breeches

-
- 35 *Digitalis purpurea* - Foxglove
 - 36 *Equisetum arvense* and other spp. - Horsetail
 - 37 *Eupatorium rugosum* - White Snakeroot
 - 38 *Euphorbia* spp. - Poinsettia, Spurges, Snow on the Mountain
 - 39 *Fagopyrum esculentum* - Buckwheat
 - 40 *Festuca arundinacea* - Tall Fescue
 - 41 *Gelsemium sempervirens* - Jessamine
 - 42 *Glechoma* spp. - Ground Ivy, Creeping Charlie, and Gill over the Ground
 - 43 *Halogeton glomeratus* - Halogeton
 - 44 *Helleborus niger* - Christmas Rose
 - 45 *Hyoscyamus niger* - Henbane
 - 46 *Hypericum perforatum* - St. Johns Wort, Klamath Weed
 - 47 *Iris* spp. - Irises
 - 48 *Laburnum anagyroides* - Golden Chain or Laburnum
 - 49 *Lantana camara* - Lantana, Red Sage, Yellow Sage, or West Indian Lantana
 - 50 *Lathyrus* spp. - Sweet Pea, Tangier Pea, Everlasting Pea, Caley Pea and Singletary Pea
 - 51 *Leucothoe axillaris* and *Leucothoe davisiae* - Drooping Leucothoe and Sierra Laurel
 - 52 *Linum usitatissimum* - Flax
 - 53 *Lobelia* spp. - Great Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, and Indian Tobacco
 - 54 *Lotus corniculatus* - Birdsfoot Trefoil
 - 55 *Lupinus* spp. - Lupine
 - 56 *Medicago sativa* - Alfalfa or Lucerne
 - 57 *Metilotus alba* and *Melilotus officinalis* - White and Yellow Sweetclover
 - 58 *Menispermum canadense* - Moonseed
 - 59 *Nerium oleander* - Oleander
 - 60 *Nicotiana* spp. - Tobacco and Tree Tobacco
 - 61 *Onoclea sensibilis* - Sensitive Fern
 - 62 *Ornithogalum umbellatum* - Star of Bethlehem
 - 63 *Papaver* spp. - Various Poppies including Opium Poppy
 - 64 *Phytolacca americana* - Pokeweed
 - 65 *Pieris japonica* and other spp. - Japanese Pieris, Mountain Fetterbrush
 - 66 *Pinus ponderosa* - Ponderosa Pine
 - 67 *Podophyllum peltatum* - Mayapple and Mandrake
 - 68 *Prunus* spp. - Wild Cherries, Black Cherry, Bitter Cherry, Choke Cherry, Pin Cherry
 - 69 *Pteridium aquilinum* - Bracken Fern
 - 70 *Quercus* spp. - Oak Trees
 - 71 *Ranunculus* spp. - Buttercups or Crowfoot

- 72 *Rheum rhaponticum* - Rhubarb
- 73 *Ricinus communis* - Castor Bean
- 74 *Robinia pseudoacacia* - Black Locust
- 75 *Rumex spp.* - Dock
- 76 *Sambucus canadensis* - Elderberry
- 77 *Sanquinaria canadensis* - Bloodroot
- 78 *Saponaria spp.* - Bouncing Bet and Cow Cockle
- 79 *Senecio spp.* - Senecio, Groundsels, and Ragworts
- 80 *Solanum spp.* - Common Nightshade, Black Nightshade, Horse Nettle, Buffalo Bur, Potato
- 81 *Sorghum spp.* - Sorghum or Milo, Sudan Grass, and Johnson Grass
- 82 *Symplocarpus foetidus* - Eastern Skunk Cabbage
- 83 *Taxus cuspidata* - Yew
- 84 *Tetradymia spp.* - Horsebrush
- 85 *Toxicodendron diversiloba* - Poison oak
- 86 *Toxicodendron radicans* - Poison ivy
- 87 *Toxicodendron vernix* - Poison Sumac
- 88 *Trifolium spp.* - Alsike Clover, Red Clover, White Clover
- 89 *Triglochin maritima* - Arrowgrass
- 90 *Urtica spp.* - Stinging Nettle
- 91 *Vicia spp.* - Common Vetch, Hairy Vetch, Narrow leaved Vetch, Purple Vetch and Broad Beans
- 92 *Veratrum californicum* - Corn Lily, False Hellbore
- 93 *Wisteria spp.* - Wisteria
- 94 *Xanthium strumarium* - Cocklebur
- 95 *Zigadenus spp.* - Death Camas
- 96 *Acer rubrum* - Red maple, Swamp maple, Soft maple
- 97 *Acer saccharum* - Sugar maple, Rock maple, Hard maple
- 98 *Acer saccharinum* - Silver maple, Soft maple, White maple

Sunrise Recreation and Park District has been identified as having an excellently maintained off-leash dog recreation area, (POOCH Park, located in C Bar C Ranch on Oak Ave, Citrus Heights).

Below are the maintenance standards for POOCH Park for reference.

Sunrise Dog park Maintenance Standards

Daily by pet owners:

Pick up of Doggie Doodle, deposited in containers
Small bags-purchase and replace bags used for waste control
Holes-fill in holes dug by pets

As needed by pet owners:

Hand maintenance and minor improvements to park

Daily by Park Staff:

Pick up of Doggie Doodle liners in waste cans
Disposal of Doggie Doodle
Purchase and replace can liners
Enzyme (odor control) by entrance as needed

Weekly by Park Staff:

Posted 3 hour weekly maintenance window (Thursday Noon-3 p.m.) for:
Mowing – 3" height
Irrigation check
Fertilization (4 times per year)
Aeration (2 times per year, spring and fall)
Soil Conditioning – palletized gypsum after aeration

As needed by Park Staff:

Over seed- as needed when funds are available
Tree skirts pruned to 7' head clearance
Trees pruned
Chain link fence repaired
Broken plastic furnishings removed