MAY 13 MEETING

Potential Study

April 2010

Wenatchee Parks and Recreation
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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

During the past several years, Wenatchee Parks and Recreation staff, City Council and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) have received requests to create an off-leash dog area in Wenatchee. This need was confirmed through the public information gathering process used to create the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. There appears to be growing interest in these types of facilities, with off-leash dog areas springing up in cities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Dog off leash areas provide social, physical and recreational experiences for dog owners as well as their canine companions. Dog off leash areas create a hub in the community, promote responsible pet ownership and often reduce other pet related issues. Many people currently ignore the existing leash laws and allow their dogs to run off leash in Wenatchee's parks and trails. With these issues in mind, one of the PRAB's work plan items was the completion of an off leash dog park study. Staff, the PRAB and Off Leash Area Committee have worked together to create this Off-Leash Area Study. While there currently is not money budgeted for implementation, it was felt that this would be a good way to begin a dialog with the community on this issue and achieve a Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan goal. It should be noted that this is not a development plan that is cast in stone. Rather, it is a snapshot of what could potentially be done given Wenatchee's current park system and budget constraints. It is expected that this will be an evolving document that will change as new opportunities present themselves.

Current Practices

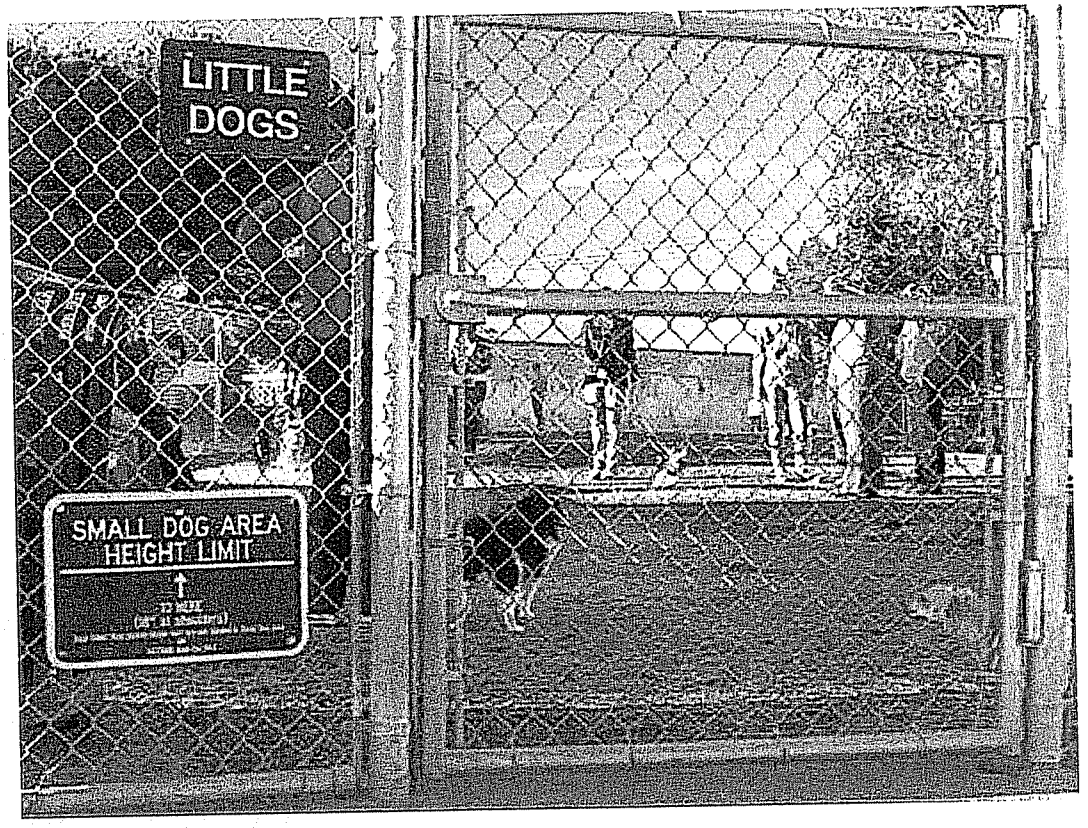
Dogs are allowed in all Wenatchee City owned parks on a leash during park hours with the exception of Memorial Park during the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival and on specific park amenities such as children's play areas.

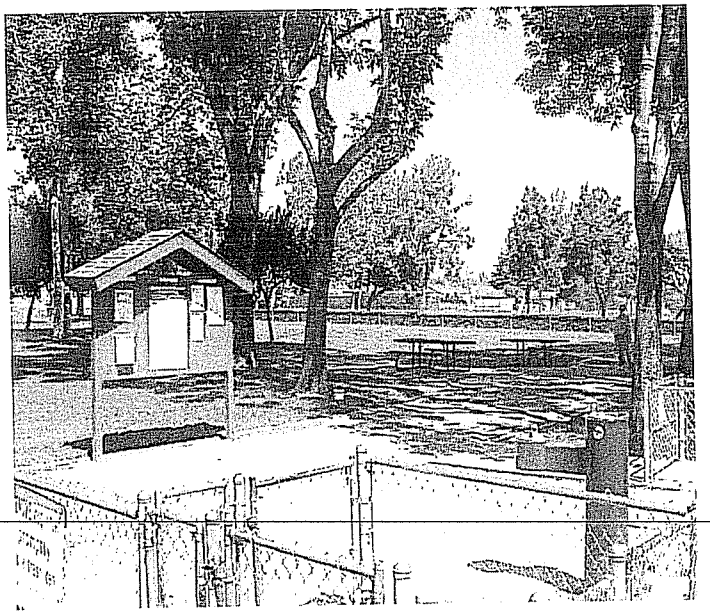
ADVOCACY GROUPS

Advocacy Groups

Off-leash advocacy groups exist throughout Washington. Many advocacy groups promote off-leash activities and lobby governmental agencies for new off-leash opportunities or facility improvements. The role of advocacy groups like Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (C.O.L.A.), Free Exercise Time for Canines and Humans (FETCH), Fidalgo Islanders for Dog Off-leash (FIDO), Serve Our Dog Area (S.O.D.A.) and others has evolved into necessary operational relationships for cities. C.O.L.A. provides maintenance and management for Seattle's off-leash areas, and S.O.D.A. is steward for facilities at King County's Marymoor and Grandview Parks. The stewardship role for S.O.D.A. and C.O.L.A. holds the advocacy group accountable for the condition of their respective facilities. In ten years of managing off-leash facilities, the City of Seattle has had good working relationships with their advocacy groups as well as challenging experiences. Seattle indicated that it can be difficult keeping advocacy volunteers active at some locations, which has lead to a lapse in facility maintenance.

In Wenatchee, the formation of a community organization is in its infancy. Interested individuals are meeting and working toward the formation of a registered non-profit organization.





FACILITY TYPES

Facility Types

There are three basic off-leash use types found in the Pacific Northwest: Dedicated off-leash facilities referred to as Off-Leash Areas (OLA), shared use facilities, and off-leash trails. Off-leash facilities vary in type, size, shape, amenities, and methods of management. Some off-leash facilities are big, some small, some wooded, some operated by advocacy groups, some are operated by governmental agencies, and some are a combination. Some jurisdictions also separate dog behavior within their off-leash facilities.

Off-Leash Areas (OLA)

OLA's are land areas dedicated for off-leash use that are typically fenced. Amenities can vary greatly from one location to another, but often include waste receptacles, waste disposal bags, water for pets to drink, surface improvements such as mulch or sand, double gated entries, benches, and an information board or kiosk for posting notices and regulations.

OLA Benefits and Drawbacks

Benefits

- Contains off-leash use
- Operational advantages
- Peer pressure aids policing
- Reduced conflicts between general park users and dogs
- No on-site staff supervision required

Drawbacks

- Need a site that does not displace existing uses
- Can be unattractive if not maintained

Shared Use Areas

This type of use designates a portion of a park for off-leash use during specific periods. Shared use areas are typically unfenced with limited or no improvements and have set seasonal or daily operation hours. For example, Mt. Tabor Park in Portland allows off-leash use in a designated area daily from 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Portland uses this method in 27 of their 31 off-leash facilities with mixed results. The City of Medina is one of the few Washington municipalities that uses this method. Certain areas of Medina Park are designated for year-round off-leash use and other areas are seasonal, or restricted. The existing park dog policy in Wenatchee allows for this type of use through formal designation of certain park areas. Two existing city park areas are recommended for consideration for this type of use.

Shared Use Benefits and Drawbacks

Benefits

- Shares park with other uses
- Lower development cost

- Lower turf impact

Drawbacks

- Difficult to enforce hours
- Entire park essentially becomes an off-leash facility
- Frequent conflicts with other park users

Off-Leash Trails

Trails sanctioned for off-leash use are not common, however many communities including Wenatchee, allow dogs on trails on a leash. Bellingham has several trails that were viewed as underutilized. In these areas off-leash use is allowed. "Public lands managers have found that even where dogs on leash are permitted on trails, owners often allow their dogs to run free. In a survey conducted at Angeles National Forest, where dogs are allowed on trails as long as they are on a leash, 90 percent of the dogs observed on trails were off leash" (National Park Service, Chester, 2003). The Chelan County Public Utility Department faces similar challenges along the Apple Capital Recreational Loop Trail.

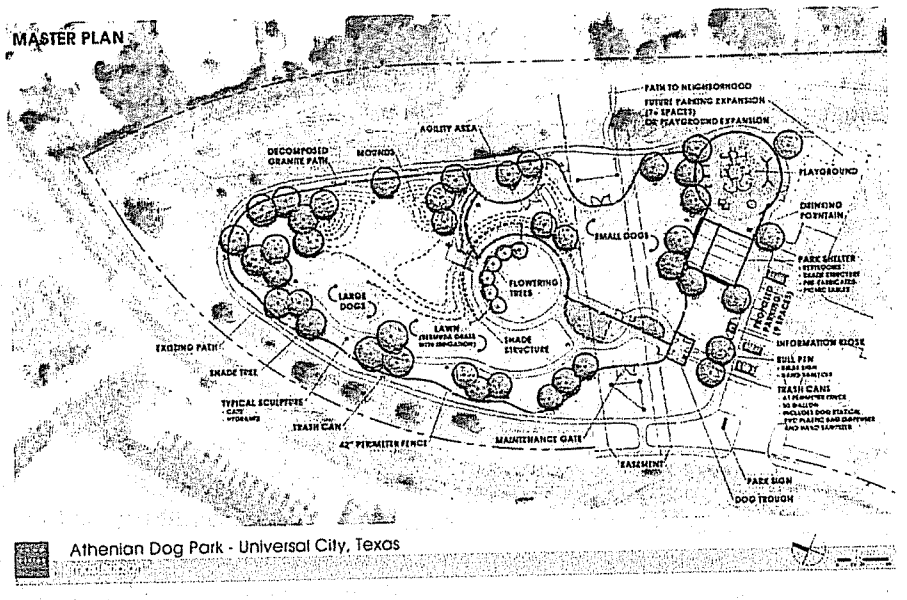
Use Influences

Not all dog owners use off-leash facilities. Reasons for this vary. Some dog owners indicate that there is undesired, aggressive dog behavior at off-leash facilities, owners don't control their pets, pets get dirty, and locations are not convenient. Some dog owners are content using their yards.

For dog owners that do use off-leash facilities, facility size, terrain, surface materials, and amenities are some of the influences that determine how far someone is willing to travel for a particular off-leash experience. Research indicates that people tend to travel farther for desired experiences not available closer to them. Features that draw users from greater distances tend to be large tracts of land, water, and accessibility. Facilities more than a few miles from a major arterial, tend to serve localized areas.

The Luther Burbank off-leash facility on Mercer Island is an example of how key features influence use. The Luther Burbank off-leash facility is an average size site (1.5 acre), that has Lake Washington water access, available parking, and nearby highway access (I-90). These key components make the off-leash area at the park function more like a community or regional facility rather than a local facility normally associated with a 1.5 acre off-leash area.

The Marymoor Park off-leash area has a regional user draw due to the sheer size of the facility (40 acres) and the variety off-leash experiences afforded to a large site. The Marymoor off-leash area has nearby highway access, parking, water access, trails, and open play areas, with ample space between activity areas. Users can experience the sense of romping around in the country at the Marymoor off-leash area, which is something most communities cannot offer simply because large tracts of land are not available for dedicated off-leash use.



FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Area Facilities

Currently, there are no designated public off-leash facilities in the greater Wenatchee service area. There are over 35 communities with public dog off leash areas in Washington. Communities with established off leash areas or are at various stages of study, planning, and implementation that are of a similar size to Wenatchee include: Anacortes, Bremerton, Longview, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor, Port Angeles, Pullman and Walla Walla. Additional off leash areas in Eastern Washington include Yakima, Ellensburg and Richland. Moses Lake is the only community other than Wenatchee in the list of comparable cities that does not currently have an off leash area.

Level of Service

For the purposes of this study, Level of Service (LOS) refers to quantities of off-leash facilities, not condition or amenity quality.

It is recommended that an appropriate level of service for Wenatchee would be in the 1/30,000 to 1/60,000 residents range, or 1 to 2 off-leash facilities. This level of service would put Wenatchee is the middle to upper range of level of service for similarly sized communities.

Risk

Agencies with dog off leash areas contacted as part of this report implement a variation of the following recommendations made by the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) and Association of Washington Cities (AWC). WCIA and AWC are insurance pools for multiple Washington municipal agencies:

Park Layout

- Locate the off-leash facility away from children's playgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, sports fields, and horse or bicycle/motorcycle tracks (unless on a time-sharing basis).
- Clearly define where on the grounds the dogs must be leashed and where they may be unleashed. This is particularly important in a multi-use park, and can be accomplished with a combination of landscaping, fencing, and appropriate signage at each entry point to the park.
- Consideration should be given to the adequate land spacing between different parts of the park to minimize any spillover effects of one area on another.

Signage

- Signage designating where dogs must be leashed and where they may be unleashed should be specific, clear and consistent throughout the park.

- Rules particular to the off-leash area should be posted.
- Reference to RCW 16.08.040 may be appropriate.

Waste Removal

Rules should specify that dog owners are responsible to clean up after their pets. However, it should be recognized that additional costs for maintenance staff, time and equipment may be needed to repair fencing, fill holes dug by dogs, and to clean up dog waste left by irresponsible dog owners. Documentation should be kept and maintained as for any other park maintenance activity.

Most agencies have additional risk and liability regulations however the above recommendations are a common thread for area off-leash facility stewards.

Facility Considerations

Size

In general, larger facilities tend to attract users from greater distances and small facilities tend to serve localized areas. While some communities establish a minimum size for off-leash facilities, it important to first consider the target needs and available land, which will affects the size and location of an off-leash facility. As exemplified by facilities in and around Washington State, off-leash areas vary greatly in size from 288 square feet at a private facility to 40 acres at Marymoor Park in Redmond. The 288 square foot facility is essentially a dog relief area in an urban center, whereas the 40 acre Marymoor facility is the largest off-leash facility in the Northwest. It attracts users from the entire region.

Portland's 1999 Task Force on Off-leash Dogs recommended 5,000 square feet (.11 acre) as a minimum size. San Francisco has set a minimum of 10,000 square feet as a minimum with 30,000 (.70 acres) square feet desirable when possible. The preferred minimum off-leash area size as recommended by the American Kennel Club is one (1) acre, however in Wenatchee a larger off-leash area may be necessary as it will serve a broader service area. Similarly, additional off leash areas could add to the overall inventory. Areas of less than 500 square feet can be effective dog relief areas and have merit, but should not be considered off-leash areas because the limited size doesn't foster dog play and social interaction. This type of facility is commonly seen at highway rest areas or camp grounds.

Spill-Over

In talking with jurisdictions with off-leash dog parks, some report issues with people allowing their dogs off-leash in nearby parking areas or other parts of the park not designated as off-leash. A common problem, for example, seems to be people not leashing their dogs for the

walk from the car to the off-leash area. With this in mind, an ideal site would be located in an area in which there are not potential conflicts if this happens (not adjacent to a playground or environmentally sensitive areas for instance).

Parking

Agencies we talked to state that off-leash facilities should have adequate, nearby parking. Locations with existing parking facilities are preferred.

ADA Accessibility

Sites with Americans with Disabilities Act accessible parking and pedestrian routes are preferred.

Noise

Off-leash areas can generate considerable noise. It is recommended that a generous buffer be provided when located in residential areas. Experienced off-leash stewards recommend a minimum of a 100' buffer from residences and other use areas where noise generated in the off-leash area could create conflicts. Natural terrain, berms, and vegetation can affect how sound carries and in these cases, a 100' sound buffer may not be necessary. Sound barrier walls or fencing could be considered if a suitable site is located within 100' from residential living areas and if natural sound barriers are not adequate. Urban centers like downtown Wenatchee typically experience regular higher noise levels than single family residential areas. It is recommended that noise levels be considered when locating off-leash areas.

Environmental Impact

Off-leash area stewards contacted for this study stated that fenced off-leash areas generally have less waste than the rest of their parks. Research concurs with the following statement regarding waste in off-leash areas, "People seem to police themselves fairly well in these facilities. Dogs will of course produce waste whether they are in an off-leash dog area or another part of the park. The fact that people apparently are more consciously picking up their pet's waste in an off-leash area indicates that the net amount of waste entering the environment may actually be less in a park with an off-leash dog area." That being said, off-leash dog parks should be sited in such a way to minimize impact to environmentally sensitive areas such as streams, steep slopes, wetlands or areas with high wildlife habitat value.

Several communities expressed success filtering runoff water when creating 25' minimum width vegetative buffer strips near environmentally sensitive areas. While vegetative buffer strips may work filtering run-off water from off-leash areas, it is preferred that off-leash areas avoid environmentally sensitive areas if possible.

Criteria

The following is recommended criteria for considering new off-leash sites and is based on the experiences and information received from the other agencies listed in the Acknowledgement section of this report.

Seek sites for Off-Leash Area development that:

- Are without established recreational uses;
- Consider previous community-based planning processes;
- Provide generous residential buffers;
- Assure close-by parking;
- Are compatible with other uses (not near children's play areas);
- Complement visual park character;
- Can address sensitive environmental concerns;
- Consider transit and bus routes; and
- Geographically dispersed.

Park Classification

Wenatchee's parks are classified in several categories: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Use Areas, and Natural Areas. Neighborhood Parks are designed to serve the immediate neighborhood, while the other categories of parks are designed to serve the entire community. Since it is reasonable to assume that people would be willing to travel beyond their neighborhood to utilize an off-leash dog park, a neighborhood park would not be an ideal site. Similarly, Natural Areas are defined in the Comprehensive Plan as "Undeveloped land that is set aside to protect the special natural character or habitat." They are designed for passive recreation such as hiking and nature observation. Since an off-leash dog park would be a fairly "active" rather than "passive" use and would be disruptive to wildlife and their habitat, Natural Areas would not be appropriate for an off-leash dog park. Special Use Areas may include specific facility types such as a recreation center or community gateway.

Conclusion

The ideal site would be in excess of one acre in size, would not be in an environmentally sensitive area, would be at least 100 feet away from the nearest residences (or would have sound-proof fencing installed), would not require road frontage improvements, would be in an area free of "spillover" conflicts and compatible with other adjacent uses, and would have adequate parking.

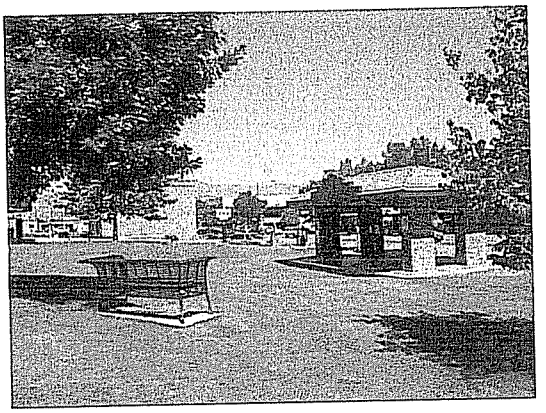
REVIEW OF CANDIDATE SITES

Candidate Sites

The following is a listing of potential city of Wenatchee owned sites with analysis as to their advantages and disadvantages and overall suitability for an off leash area based on the previously listed criteria. This analysis does not include non-city areas or facilities. Due to city budget limitations, should new property be acquired for an off-leash area, the property would need to be dedicated to the City at no cost and include an ongoing funding source for maintenance.

Neighborhood Parks

Centennial Park
130 South Wenatchee Avenue
Centennial Park was acquired in 1992. It is the former site of the Columbia Hotel. The one acre park features a stage, benches and restrooms.

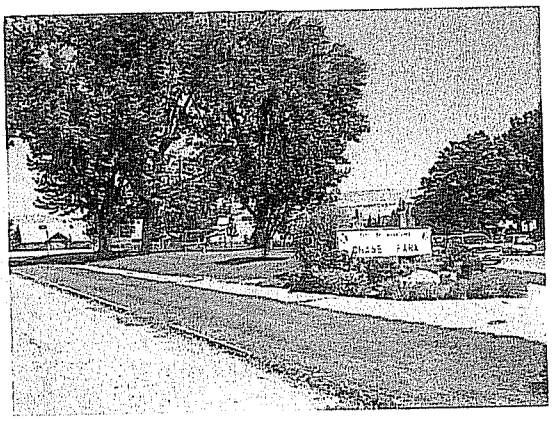


Advantages
- Central Downtown location
- Parking and restrooms available

Disadvantages
- Limited size
- Existing programmed uses
- Proximity of businesses

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the parks current developed uses and size.

Chase Park
145 South Delaware Street
Mable Chase donated her former home site for the .52 acre park in 1909. The park features a picnic area and children's play equipment.



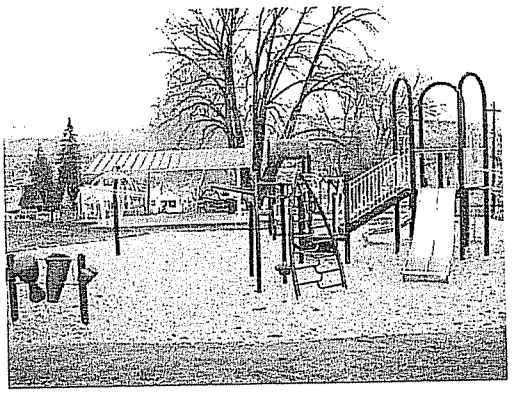
Advantages
- None identified

Disadvantages
- Limited size
- Existing programmed uses

- Proximity of residences
- No parking other than on street
- No restrooms

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the parks current developed uses, adjacent residential uses and size.

Methow Park
420 Methow Street
Methow Park is a 1.26 acre neighborhood park that features a wading pool, picnic shelter, play equipment and basketball court.

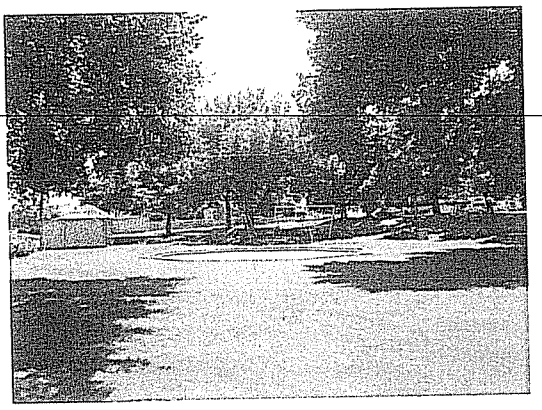


Advantages
- Water available
- Parking available at the Community Center

Disadvantages
- Limited size
- Existing programmed uses
- Proximity of residences

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the parks current developed uses, adjacent residences and limited size.

Pennsylvania Park
219 Pennsylvania Avenue
Pennsylvania Park was acquired in 1924. It is a 1.02 acre park that features a multi-use field, wading pool and play equipment.

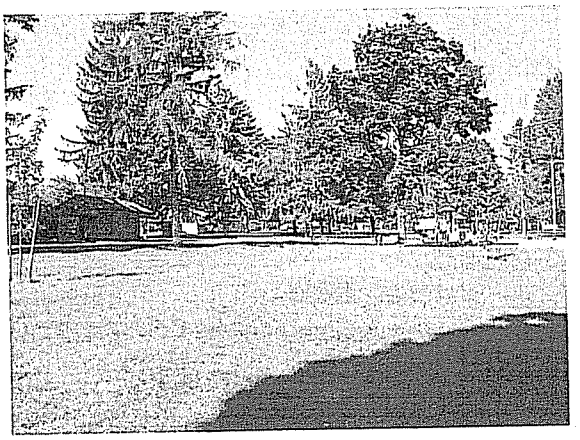


Advantages
- Water available
- Limited function restrooms available

Disadvantages
- Limited size
- Existing programmed uses
- Proximity of residences
- Minimal on street parking available

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the current developed uses, proximity of residences and size.

Washington Park
110 South Miller
Washington Park was acquired in 1946. The 4.12 acre park features a picnic shelter, wading pool grassy areas and play equipment.

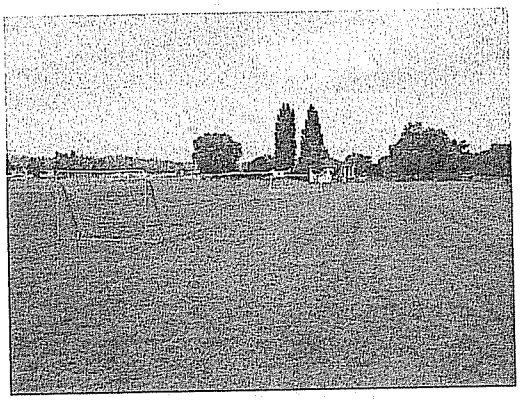


Advantages
- Central location
- Restrooms available
- Open un-programmed space which resulted from a windstorm
- Minimum size available

Disadvantages
- Existing adjacent uses
- Proximity of residences
- Limited on street parking available

Suitability
This site is not recommended for an off leash area. An off leash area in this park would encompass almost one half of the park on the Miller Street side if a minimal area and buffers are used. Locating an off leash area in this area would displace many picnickers. Careful consideration would need to be given to this site as adjacent park and residential uses would likely create park user conflicts and noise issues. Parking is limited to on street only and would also be an issue. Development costs would be high at this location due to the need for sound attenuation. The site was not highly rated or desired by the off leash area committee.

Wenatchi Park
1401 McKittrick Street
Wenatchi Park was acquired in 1993. The 10 acre park is adjacent to Foothills Middle School. It is used primarily for field sports and open play.



Advantages
- Adjacent parking available City Public Services Center
- Size

Disadvantages

- Existing heavily programmed uses – Soccer, Football, Baseball, Physical Education and other athletic programs
- Proximity of residences and school
- No shade or water
- Other planned future uses

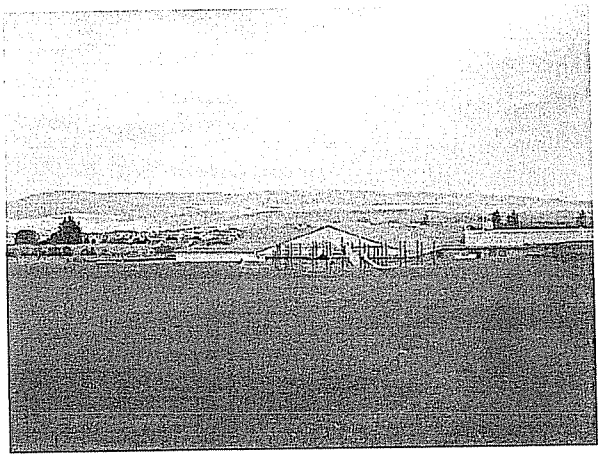
Suitability

This site is not recommended for consideration as a developed off leash area due to the programmed uses, proximity of residences and school. Specific dog use hours could be designated for the site that take into consideration existing programmed uses such as soccer, football, baseball, school and physical education purposes.

Western Hills Park

900 Woodward Drive

Western Hills Park is a 5 acre park that was acquired in 1992. It features a multiple use soccer and softball field and play equipment.



Advantages

- Size
- Central location

Disadvantages

- Existing seasonal programmed uses – school
- Proximity of residences and school
- Limited shade and water
- Somewhat difficult to get to
- Other planned future uses

Suitability

This site was recommended for use by the Off Leash Committee for designated dog use hours. Specific dog use hours could be designated for the site that take into consideration existing programmed uses such as soccer, football, baseball, school and physical education purposes. It is not recommended for consideration for a formal designated off leash area due to the adjacent programmed uses, lack of existing developed parking and proximity of residences and school.

Community Parks

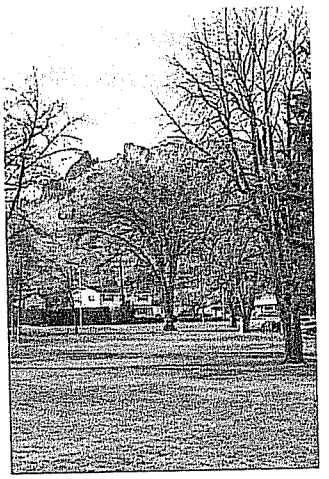
Lincoln Park
1410 Mission Street
Lincoln Park was acquired by the City in 1958. The 22 acre park features athletic fields, picnic shelter, children's play equipment and stage.

Advantages
- Minimum size available
- Restrooms available on site
- Parking available on site
- Accessibility

Disadvantages
- Existing adjacent uses (play areas, athletic fields) and programmed uses may limit use.
- Proximity of residences may require buffering

Suitability
This site could be considered as a site for an off leash area. The area could range in size from one to almost two acres. If located on the Mission Street side, the park would need to be smaller. If located on the Methow Street side, the park could be slightly larger, however would require a future planned soccer and multi-use field to be eliminated. Careful consideration would need to be given as adjacent park and residential uses would likely create park user conflicts and noise issues. An off lease area in this park would impact and be impacted by community events such as Fiestas Mexicanas.

Pioneer Park
220 Fuller Street
Pioneer Park is a 7 acre park that was acquired between 1908 and 1919. It features a skate court, picnic area, play equipment, outdoor fifty meter pool, wading pool, and mature landscaping.

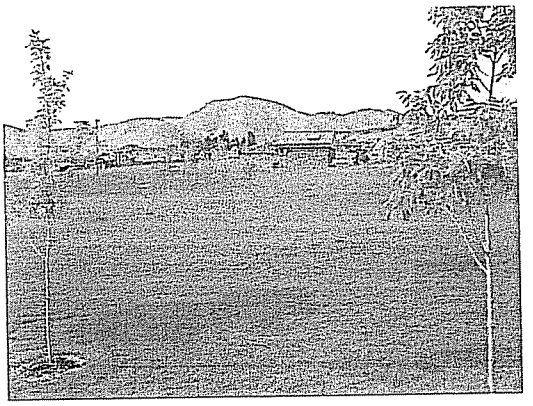


Advantages
- Size
- Shade and water available
- Restrooms available
- On street parking and parking in Pioneer Middle School lot during summer available.

Disadvantages
- Proximity of residences, school and other programmed uses such as skate court
- Recently completed mater plan would need to be changed

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the programmed uses, proximity of residences planned improvements.

Rotary Park
1810 Maple Street
Rotary Park is an 8 acre parcel acquired in 1997. It has been developed through a partnership with the Rotary Club. The park features a disc golf course, picnic shelter, walking trail, play equipment and splash pad.

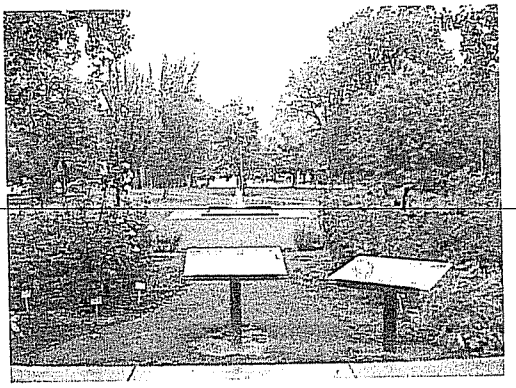


Advantages
- Restrooms and parking available
- Water available
- Size

Disadvantages
- Existing programmed uses
- Proximity of residences
- Existing development/incompatible uses

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the existing developed uses.

Memorial Park
2 South Chelan Avenue
Memorial Park is the oldest park in the community. It was acquired during the years 1892, 1922 and 1929. The 3.8 acre park contains historical displays, rose garden, fountain and picnic tables. The park is the site of several community events throughout the year including the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival.



Advantages
- Adjacent parking available at Library and Courthouse
- Size
- Shade
- Central downtown location

Disadvantages

- Existing programmed uses – Apple Blossom Festival etc.
- Existing developed uses – Memorials, Fountain

Suitability

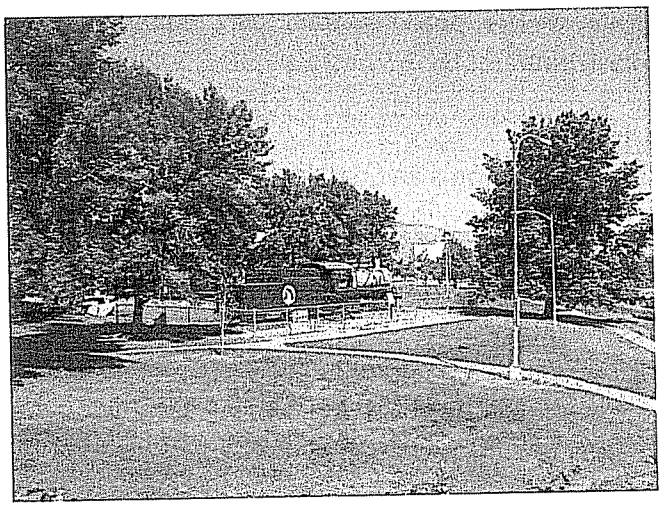
This site is not recommended for consideration due to the programmed and existing developed uses. A minimally sized off leash area would require over one half of the park to be used.

Gateways

Locomotive Park

1100 S. Wenatchee Avenue

Locomotive Park is a 15 acre parcel acquired by the City and the State in 1951. It features landscaped areas and a historical locomotive display.



Advantages

- Adjacent parking available
- Size
- No adjacent residential uses
- Convenient access
- May displace current uses

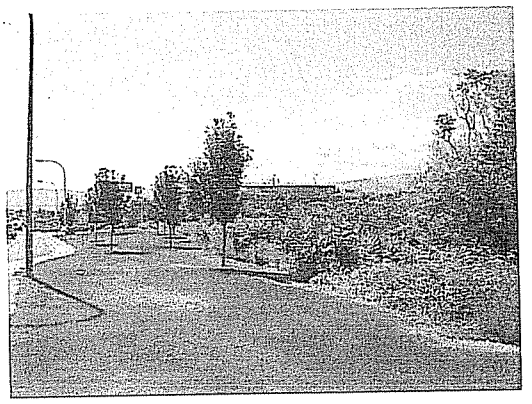
Disadvantages

- Traffic
- Visibility if not maintained
- No restrooms, portable restrooms have been vandalized in the past

Suitability

This site is recommended as a site for an off leash area by the Off Leash Committee as it would meet the minimum size requirements and have minimal negative impacts to existing or adjacent uses. An off leash area at this site could bring the added benefit of additional activity at the park, helping to limit negative uses.

Rainbow Park
1411 N. Wenatchee Avenue
Rainbow Park was acquired in 1999. It is a small grassy area adjacent to Wenatchee Avenue near Maiden Lane.



Advantages
- North Wenatchee location

Disadvantages
- Size
- No parking
- No shade or water
- Difficult to reach, despite being adjacent to highway

Suitability
This site is not recommended for consideration due to size restrictions.

Additional Areas
Two additional areas ranked high as potential sites for development for future off leash areas. Walla Walla Point Park was desired by the off leash area committee because of its size, central location and proximity to water. As the property isn't city owned, Chelan County Public Utility District approval for the project would be required and an off leash area non-profit organization would need to be established to manage the area. Use agreements between the City and Chelan County Public Utility District and also the City and the off leash area non-profit would need to be established prior to work commencing. Development and maintenance funding and insurance would need to be provided by the off leash organization.

Another area desirable for an off leash site is Confluence State Park. Similar conditions would apply to this park area as to Walla Walla Point Park. Washington State Parks would also need to be included in development and management agreements as they are the managing entity of the park.

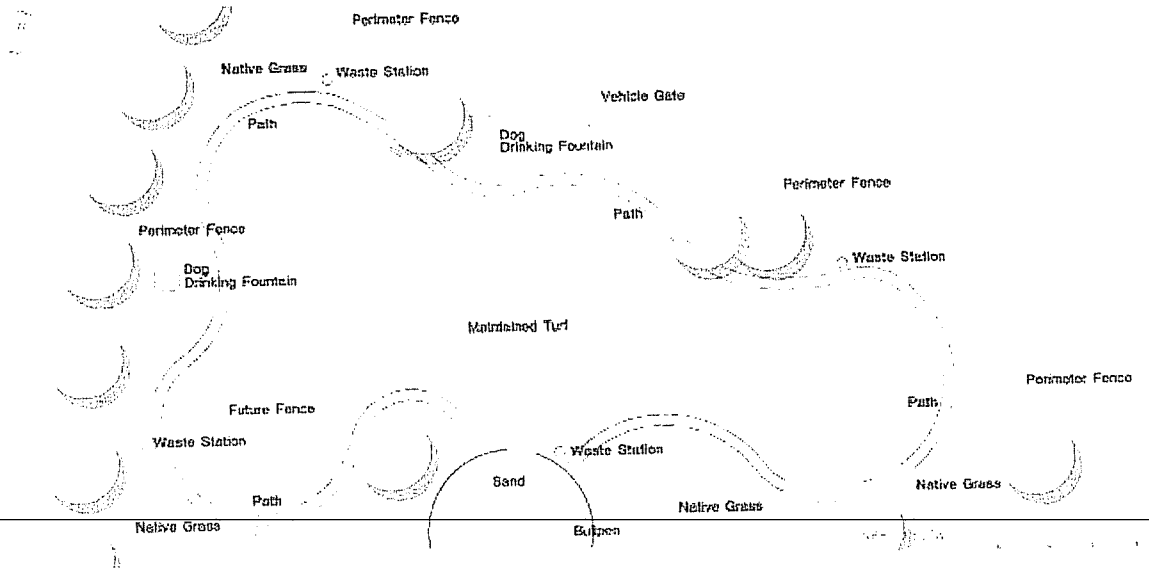
FEATURES AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Features and Development Costs

Development costs for a fully improved off-leash area vary depending on site conditions, amenities, surface materials, and water availability. Features can be divided into two categories, those that must be completed for a basic area and those that are nice to have but not required. The committee discussed the features and voted for the items that they would most like to see in an off leash area. Those items are described here and contained in the development cost section.

Surfacing

After talking with several jurisdictions with off-leash dog areas, it appears that it is difficult to maintain turf in an off-leash dog area. Seattle reports that when they tried turf in their off-leash areas it only lasted a month or so. They have now switched to crushed rock or cedar chips. Many of the parks located in Eastern Washington however, are turf. Many have a wood chip, crushed rock or concrete transition area near the entrance to the area to reduce wear. The dog owners apparently prefer wood chips as it's easier on the dogs' paws. Several communities recommended providing two separate areas within the off leash area and alternate opening of the area to allow for the turf to recover. Pathways should be composed of an ADA approved surfacing. Pre-engineered wood fiber used in play area surface applications makes a suitable surface as it is both ADA accessible and easy on dog's paws.



Shy Dog and Active Dog Areas

Dogs come in different shapes, sizes, and behaviors. There are small dogs that are passive and some active. The same is true of larger dogs, with some being passive and others being more active. In order to reduce conflicts and accommodate varying dog behaviors some off-leash facilities separate small and shy dogs and large or active dogs. Active off-leash areas require more land area than small or shy dogs areas due to the inherent nature of the activity patterns of each facility. For example, games of fetch are a predominant activity in many off-leash areas.

The very nature of throwing a ball requires significant area. When several games of fetch are taking place at one time, dog behavior can escalate. This can be intimidating for some small or shy dogs.

Fencing

In order to minimize conflicts with other park or non-park users, and provide a safe environment it is recommended that off-leash dog areas are fully fenced. This is the most requested feature. A six foot, 9 gauge, black vinyl-coated chain link fence with a concrete mow strip beneath is the preferred alternative to provide safety and durability while allowing for efficient maintenance and visually blending into the environment. If necessary, sound proof fencing should be used. This is a costly option however and would not only create a visual separation of the area but also an increased opportunity for vandalism and graffiti.

Water Source

This was a feature most commonly requested by users of other dog off leash areas. A dual water fountain for both humans and dogs should be provided.

Double-Gated Entrance

In order to prevent other dogs from escaping when entering or exiting, a double-gated entrance (vestibule) should be installed. The entry should be screened from the interior of the area to prevent dogs from seeing when a new visitor has entered the area.

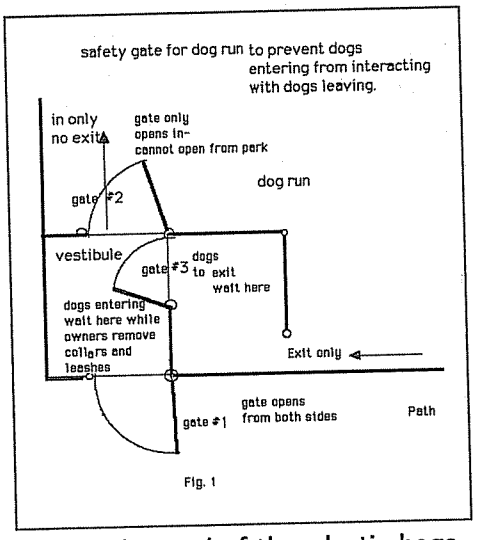


Fig. 1

Dog waste

Standard pet waste bag stations should be provided. If hauling away pet waste becomes a maintenance problem, portable restrooms for pet waste should be considered. Many dog parks now have topless portable restrooms (which they refer to as "portable restroom on the halfshell"). A trash can is placed beside the portable restroom for disposal of the plastic bags and the portable restroom company empties the restroom.

Rules sign

A regulation and welcome sign must be provided at the off leash area entrance.

Benches and shelter

As the park is used by people for social interaction, benches and covered area (for people) is an amenity that could be added inside or outside the area in the future to provide additional service.

Development and maintenance costs

The following are some planning level cost estimates for specific features. Some cost items may not be required depending upon the existing site conditions.

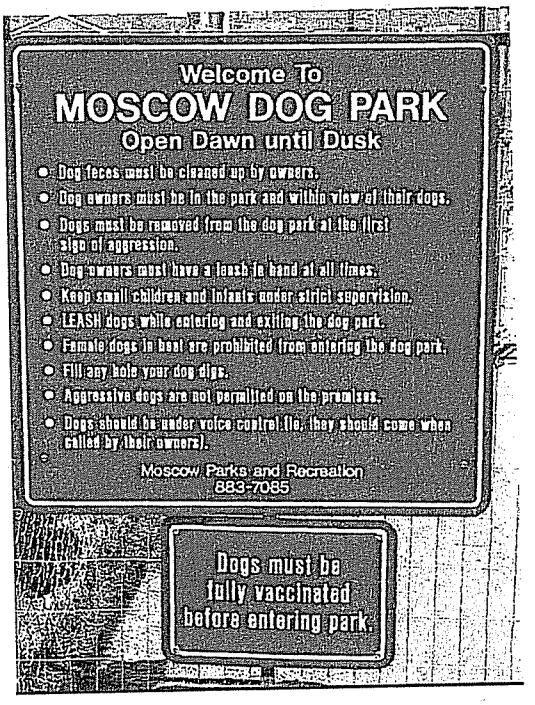
MINIMAL OFF LEASH AREA AMENITIES

Item	Unit cost	Total	Notes
Fence	$32,480	$32,480	$28 per lineal foot (1,160 feet)=84,506 sq ft
Mow Strip	$17,400	$17,400	$15 per lineal foot
Water station	$3,700	$7,400	Plus water service installation if applicable
Trash Can	$1,090	$4,360	Includes concrete pad
Weclome/Rules Sign	$250	$250	Includes hardware, concrete, sign and post
Irrigation modifications	$4,800	$4,800	If needed
Waste Station	$900	$2,700	Bags dependent upon use – $80 per year
Movable cross fence	$2,000	$2,000	$40 per lineal foot (50)
Water service	$5,000	$5,000	Hook up costs
Clearing grubbing	$2,500	$2,500	
Seeding	$2,800	$2,800	
Entry Plaza	$4,000	$4,000	$10/ sq ft concrete vestibule, double gates
Path surfacing	$9,820	$9,820	Edging, wood chips 4" x 5' wide – ADA, weed barrier
SUB TOTAL		$95,510	

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES FOR CONSIDERATION

Bench	$1,280	$5,120	Includes concrete pad
Small shelter	$8,000	$9,000	With concrete floor, 1 table
Message Center sign	$500	$500	
Restrooms	$108,000	$108,000	
Lighting	$75,000	$75,000	
Play Water	TBD	TBD	Fountain, pond, river access
Picnic Table	$1,800	$1,800	Accessible table and concrete pad
Training Features	$6,000	$6,000	Ramps, hoops, walls etc – Cost depends upon scale
SUB TOTAL		$205,420	
GRAND TOTAL		$300,930	

The annual maintenance costs for a fully developed off-leash facility of 1-2 acres is approximately $12,000. This includes mowing, repairs, litter and waste removal and supplies. This cost does not include any deductions for work already being completed in existing park areas.



OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Operational Policies

The following use policies are suggested to apply to all users of Off Leash Areas. These policies should be refined by an advocacy group and if located on City property, reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, City Attorney, Insurance Agency and adopted by the City Council prior to the project being implemented. Policies may be difficult to enforce, but by posting them at the area entrance, guests could be easily reminded.

1. Every dog must be under the supervision and full control of an adult. Dogs may not be left unattended in the Off-Leash Area.

2. Dog owners are responsible to clean up after their pets and failure to do so may result in a fine.

3. All dogs must have a current dog license and shall be up to date on all vaccinations and shots.

4. No dogs "in heat" allowed in the Dog Off Leash Area.

5. All dogs must be kept on a leash and the owner must have physical control of the leashed dog until inside the Off-Leash Area.

6. All dogs which are off-leash in the area must be within sight of their owner and under voice control at all times.

7. The owner shall promptly leash their dog if confrontation with humans or other dogs arise in the off-leash area.

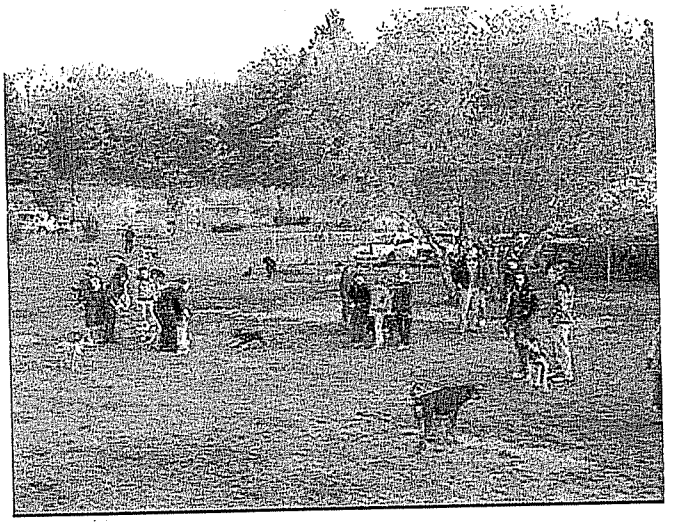
8. All users are advised to closely supervise children within the Off-Leash Area.

9. All users are encouraged to spay or neuter their dogs if using the Off-Leash Area.

10. All users must respect these rules within the off-leash area or they will not be permitted to use the site.

11. Vicious dogs are not permitted to be in the off leash area.

12. The City is not responsible for the actions of owners or dogs. Use of the area is at your own risk.



IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation Recommendations

The principle recommendations for a dog off leash area are:

1. Capital Construction Funding
   Currently there is no funding for off-leash area construction. It is recommended that sites be considered that could score high in a grant program. The Recreation and Conservation Office and private foundation grant resources should be reviewed to determine eligibility and application criteria. It is also recommended that a local fundraising campaign be implemented to support a grant match as well as ongoing operational costs.

2. Adopted Level of Service
   It is recommended an overall Level of Service for off-leash areas in Wenatchee be approximately 1 facility / 30,000 residents, which is similar to other cities of similar size. One (1) off-leash facilities would be needed to meet this service level in the City of Wenatchee. Two would be required when viewing the valley in its entirety.

3. Geographic Dispersion
   It is recommended that new facilities be located in South and North Wenatchee with South Wenatchee as the priority for development.

4. Criteria for off-leash area location
   Seek sites for Off-Leash Area development that:

   - Are without established recreational uses;
   - Consider previous community-based planning processes;
   - Provide generous residential buffers;
   - Assure close-by parking;
   - Are compatible with other uses;
   - Complement visual park character;
   - Can address sensitive environmental concerns; and

   The following are candidate off-leash sites that best meet the above principles in Wenatchee:

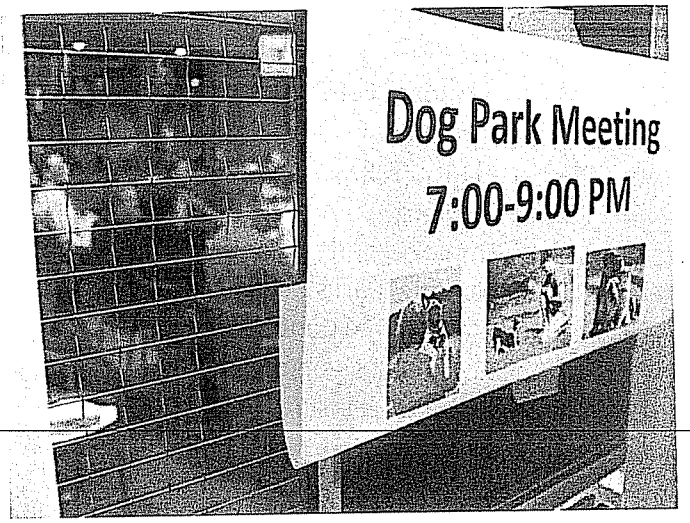
   - Lincoln Park
   - Locomotive Park
   - Walla Walla Point Park
   - Confluence State Park

   In the event any of the above candidate sites cannot be developed it is recommended that other sites be considered according to the principles shown above.

5. Advocacy Group
Formalize a dog off leash area advocacy group to assist in developing use policies, policing and maintaining the area, fundraising and providing support.

6. Develop, adopt, post and publish off leash area policies.

7. Designate off leash hours within existing City Park Areas. Western Hills Park and Wenatchi Park are recommended for this purpose. These two park areas could be used as a trial for a future formal dog off leash area. Hours, days and dates should be explored by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board after consultation with Parks Maintenance staff, Foothills Middle School, John Newberry School, and the Wenatchee School District Athletic Department. At a minimum signing, trash and dog waste disposal should be provided.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RESOURCES

Acknowledgements and Resources

The following resources provided valuable information for this study:

- People for Off-Leash Recreation (POLR)
- Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA)
- Serve Our Dog Area (SODA)
- City of Lake Oswego, Oregon
- City of Seattle
- City of Ellensburg
- City of Richland
- Tri Cities Dog Park Society
- American Kennel Club
- City of Walla Walla
- City of Pullman
- City of Moscow, Idaho
- Whitman County Humane Society
- City of Port Angeles
- Free Exercise Time for Canines and Humans! (FETCH)
- City of Oak Harbor
- Mount Vernon Dog Park Advisory Committee
- City of Marysville
- City of Longview
- City of Bremerton
- City of Anacortes
- Fidalgo Islanders For Dogs Off-leash (FIDO)
- City of Yakima
- Universal City, Texas
- City of Portland
- City of Mercer Island
- City of Olympia, Parks
- King County Animal Control
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington Cities Insurance Authority
- Douglas County Parks and Trails Division, Castle Rock, CO
- Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA)
- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)
- Wenatchee Off Leash Area Petition On-line comments

Internet Resources:

- http://www.nps.gov/jotr/parkmgmt/dogs.htm
  National Park Service

- http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/OffLeash.aspx
  Municipal Research Service Center

- http://www.olae.org/
  Off-Leash Area Edmonds (OLAE)

- http://home.earthlink.net/~ejlmp/dpd.html
  Off-leash area design site

- http://www.tpl.org/content_documents/ccpe_Dog_Park_Report.pdf
  Trust for Public Lands

- http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=1022
  National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

- http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/dogruns
  New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

- http://www.dogplay.com/Activities/dogpark.html
  Dog Play, dog park links and resources

- http://www.explorerdog.com/
  Off-leash links and locations

- www.sfgov.org/recpark_page.asp?id=2184;
  San Francisco Parks and Recreation

- Dogwise.com

Printed Resources:

- "No Bark and No Bite - Establishing the ground rules for a successful dog park." Parks and Recreation Business magazine, August 2009.

- "Going to the Dogs, Create a community Dog Park" Parks and Recreation Business Magazine, October 2007.

- An Inquiry into Portland's Canine Quandary, Portland State University, 2003.

- Visiting the Dog Park, Cheryl S. Smith, Dogwise Publishing, March 2007.

- "Off-Leash Program Evaluation & Recommendation Report to Council;" Portland Parks and Recreation, December, 2004; p. A-45.

- "Ditch Goes to the Dogs, Turning Nothing Into Something" Parks and Recreation Business Magazine, January 2010.

- "Barking Up the Right Tree: Tips and Trends From Today's Hottest Dog Parks" Recreation Management Magazine, January 2010.

Public Meetings:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings
  9/15/09, 10/20/09, 11/17/09, 12/15/09, 1/19/10, 2/16/10, 3/16/10, 4/20/10

- Dog Off Leash Area Committee Meetings
  11/16/09, 12/14/09, 1/19/10, 2/16/10

Meeting Participants: Amanda Bliggenstorfer, Jay Deason, Sara Deason, Tina Erwert, Willard Fields, Kyla Galloway, Andre Gerspach, DJ Goodell, Karen Headlee, Betty Jackson, Barb Johnson, Maggie Koch, Ken Lindley, Stephanie, Manriquez, Marla Olson, Jerry Paine, Eileen Pearl, Lois Ruggles, Alan Seaton, Brian Snyder, Tami Snyder, Monica Stokes, Matthew Erickson, Michael Erickson, Robin Thompson, Tracey Thompson, Nancie Walsh, Jody White Chris Bleichner, Chuck Moser.