City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Seattle Parks and Recreation
Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent

June 17, 2016

To: Councilmember Debora Juarez, Chair, Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries & Waterfront Committee
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Vice Chair, Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries & Waterfront Committee
Council President and Member Bruce Harrell, Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries & Waterfront Committee

From: Jesus Aguirre, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Re: 2014 Statement of Legislative Intent – Dog Off Leash Area Master Plan (69-1-B-1)

The 2014 Adopted Budget included a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) regarding off leash areas (OLAs). Specifically, the SLI requested that the Department work in conjunction with the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) and other stakeholders to create a dog off leash area (OLA) master plan and present the plan to Council by October 1, 2014. The purpose of the OLA master plan is to identify a long term plan for the City's existing OLA's, as well as for maintenance, acquisition and expansion of OLA projects.

In May, 2014, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) submitted a request to wait until the Park District was approved so that funding included in the District (about $100,000 annually) could be used to fund the master plan efforts. Council agreed with that approach and asked the department to provide an interim report in May of 2015 and a final report by November 1, 2015. The interim report was provided on May 15, 2015. In November, the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) asked SPR to request a further delay until June, 2016 to allow more time for research and the Council concurred in that request.

SPR is now submitting the **Draft People, Dogs and Parks Plan** in fulfillment of the original SLI.

The **Draft People, Dog and Parks Plan** (Plan) is a long term plan which will guide the operations of existing OLAs, explore alternative service models and create strategies for development of future OLAs. It provides direction for how to spend Park District funding designated for OLAs over the approved six year Park District spending plan (2016-2020).

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As the Plan was developed, SPR consulted with COLA, dog walkers and other interested parties through direct consultation, surveys of dog owners, focus groups of OLA supporters and Seattle residents, and a Board of Park Commissioner's public hearing. The 2015 Recreation Demand Study included specific questions related to dog owners and reported on both current and projected participation rates. COLA prepared a **Best Practices Report** which is referenced in the Plan and appended, and the COLA Biennial Report (appended) recounts the twenty year history of COLA's involvement with OLA development along with recommendations for improving existing OLAs and fundraising to help with their support and development.

SPR submits the **Dogs, People and Parks Plan** in draft form to allow for more public review and comment which will occur this summer.

Next Steps:

July – September: Public review and input
July 28: Board of Park Commissioners' Briefing and Public Hearing
September 8: Board of Park Commissioner's Recommendations
October1: Finalize Dogs, People and Parks Plan

I look forward to working with Council on its review of this plan.

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
PEOPLE, DOGS & PARKS PLAN

DRAFT: RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW, JUNE 2016

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE & PARKS

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

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SMITH COVE AS SEEN FROM KINNEAR PARK

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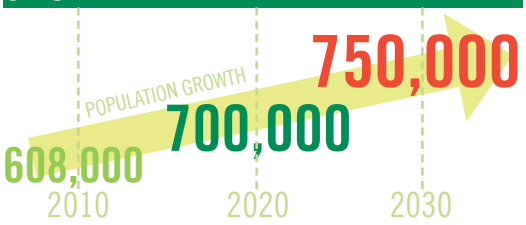
DOGS PLAYING AT WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Seattle welcomes dogs on leash in all of its parks. With the exception of beaches, children's play areas and ballfields, dogs and their caretakers are free to roam throughout the system. This approach adheres to a long, historical tradition of "multiple use" in Seattle's parks which, simply stated, encourages the development of spaces that accommodate diverse activities over the course of a day, a week or a year.

GROWTH:



The City of Seattle anticipates reaching a population of more than 700,000 residents by 2020, up from 608,000 in 2010, and is projected to add another 50,000 in population by 2030. The Seattle park system is comprised of 6,200 acres of land. Because of the water-locked nature of our city, the system is not likely to grow significantly. As a city, we will face increasing demand for many uses of the park system.

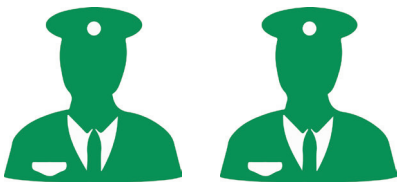
CURRENT PROGRAM:

The OLA program has grown steadily since the first off-leash area (OLA) in 1997. Seattle's current 14 fenced OLAs total 28 acres and range in size from 9 acres to 0.1 acre; eight of them are one acre or less in size. Except for two small areas in northern West Seattle and southeast Southeast Seattle, there is an OLA within 2 ½ miles of all residents. Maintenance of these facilities has been shared by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) and the Magnuson Off-Leash Group (MOLG).

A 2016 estimate of possible improvements at each off-leash area is in the range of $718,000 -$1,363,000 (please see Section 7). The Seattle Park District will provide $106,000 annually through 2020 for maintenance of the OLAs and will be used to address some of these projects.

ENFORCEMENT:

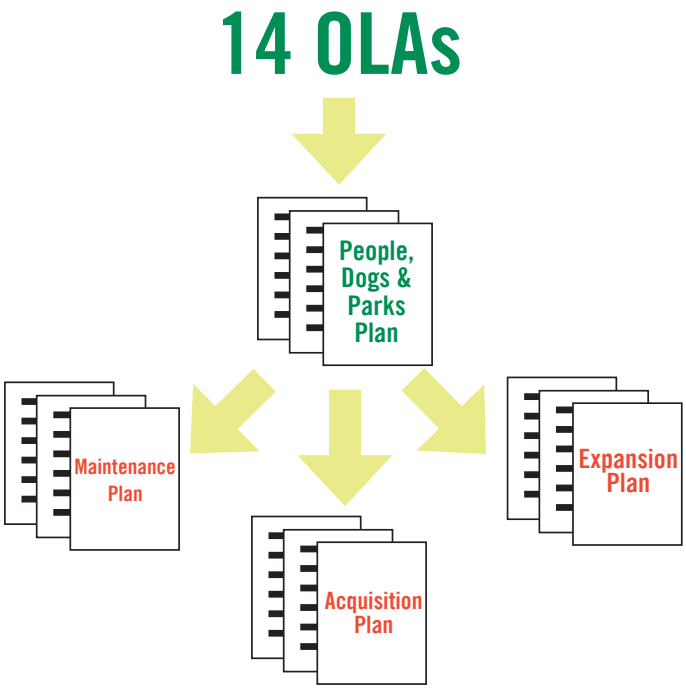
2-Person Dog Park Patrol Team



In 2015, according to SAS data and SPR correspondence data, complaints about off-leash dogs exceeded all other complaints received by SPR and the Seattle Animal Shelter. The Seattle Park District provides funding for a new two-person team dedicated to enforcing the Animal Code in Seattle's parks. This is the first time since the mid-1990s the City has had staff dedicated to enforcing the Animal Code in parks. The number of citations has increased dramatically since they began their patrols in late March, 2016. Enforcing animal regulations should help decrease instances of off-leash violations and conflicts in parks.

IMPETUS FOR THE PEOPLE, DOGS & PARKS PLAN

The City of Seattle's 2014 Adopted Budget included a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI 69-1-B-1) regarding OLAs. Specifically, the SLI requested that SPR work in conjunction with COLA and other stakeholders to create a dog off-leash master plan. **The purpose of the master plan is to identify a long-term plan for the City's existing 14 OLAs, as well as for maintenance, acquisition and expansion of OLA projects.** In May, 2014, SPR submitted a request to wait until the Park District was approved so that funding included in the District ($106,000 annually) could be used to fund the master plan efforts.



SUMMARY OF PLAN RESEARCH PROCESS

The People, Dogs, and Parks Plan is built on research, best practices reviews and outreach information and includes:

- 2015 survey of dog owners conducted in collaboration with COLA
- Citizens for Off-Leash Areas 2014-2015 Biennial Report
- COLA's report on North American Dog Off- Leash Areas Best Practices
- 2015 Focus Groups
- Recreation Demand Study survey of owners of licensed dogs
- Site visits to Portland, San Francisco and Vancouver, B.C.
- Review of other city, county and organization off-leash plans
- Discussions with animal behaviorists from the University of Washington
- Literature review of the impacts of dogs on wildlife and water quality
- Multiple Board Of Park Commissioners' briefings, discussion and public testimony
- Livability Night Out public input
- Two more Board of Park Commissioners meetings to be held on this topic

DOGS AT GENESEE PARK

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Faced with limited resources, SPR recommends using the Seattle Park District funding to improve existing OLAs. SPR is also proposing several processes for the gradual addition of new OLAs. These are described below.

ADDING NEW OLAS

For each proposed OLA, except those involving private developers, SPR will convene a committee including dog advocates, environmental advocates, a veterinarian or animal behaviorist, community members, and SPR staff to recommend to the Superintendent whether the proposed OLA should move forward.

1. Adding OLAs through **new park/redevelopment processes.** SPR will specifically include OLAs as an element for consideration in the planning process when SPR embarks on the development or redevelopment process for new and existing parks, along with any other suggested use that arises during the process.
2. As SPR develops land-banked park sites, SPR will examine their use for new OLAs as part of the park development process.
3. **SPR will continue to consider adding new OLAs by request of the community**, whether through Neighborhood Matching Fund processes or other community processes.
4. **Support groups such as COLA in developing OLAs on non-park public land** suitable for OLAs, by convening the committee described above and assisting with design.
5. **Encourage groups like COLA to work with private property owners** to provide OLAs on unused property.
6. **Encourage private developers,** through the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, to include OLAs as part of prospective developments.

There will still remain the issue of development costs for any of these alternatives, but those can be addressed on a case-by-case basis. SPR developed a cost estimate for development of a one-acre OLA as anticipated by SPR development standards, the desire of OLA patrons as described in focus groups and surveys conducted for this plan, and best practices for healthy environments for dogs. This planning estimate unit cost, estimated at $950,000 per one-acre OLA, can be a starting point for planning (see *Appendix 10*). Obviously a multi-acre OLA would not cost a multiple of this amount because there would be economies of scale. Magnolia Manor, the most recently developed OLA, is one-third acre in size and cost $472,000. Other issues and recommendations are described below. SPR recommends a path forward that, while not meeting all of the needs/demands of OLA advocates, still provides a way to make measured progress toward adding new OLAs while addressing the multiple major maintenance needs at SPR's current facilities and operating within existing resources.

UNFENCED OFF-LEASH AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Based on the potential for conflict between leashed and unleashed dogs and between dogs and other park activities, limited enforcement resources, and feedback from other jurisdictions, **SPR recommends continuing to offer fenced OLAs only.**

8. Based on the potential for conflict between leashed and unleashed dogs and between dogs and other trail users, the associated need for more maintenance and enforcement and the potential for disturbing animal and bird habitat, **SPR does not recommend designated leash-optional trails.**

9. Based on the protection of many of Seattle's beaches by the Marine Reserves Rule and the potential for disturbing animal, marine and bird habitat, **SPR recommends against establishing any more OLAs with beach access.**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OFF-LEASH AREA CONDITIONS AND THE USER EXPERIENCE

10. SPR will use the new Seattle Park District funds to improve existing OLA's based on the facility assessment (see *Appendix 7*).

11. SPR will explore potential partnerships and sponsorships.

12. SPR recommends dog walkers be required to obtain a business license from the City of Seattle and a $100 dog walker license from FAS. From the time of enactment of this requirement, for a duration of two years, dog walkers will be allowed to bring up to 10 licensed dogs (unlicensed dogs are NOT allowed in off-leash areas) and to walk 10 licensed dogs on leash in Seattle's parks, except for those areas designated as non-dog areas. At the conclusion of the two-year period, dog walkers who have obtained the three-course certification in animal behavior from the University of Washington, or another equivalent program as authorized by the Superintendent, will be allowed to continue to walk up to 10 licensed dogs. Dog walkers who have not obtained the certificate will be limited to three licensed dogs, although animal behaviorists recommended limiting uncertified dog walkers to three dogs. Once they have received certification, they can increase the number of licensed dogs they walk to 10.

13. As a deterrent to off-leash activity, SPR recommends working with Seattle Animal Shelter to identify repeat violators of leash laws and to consider raising fines for repeat violators.

SECTION 2: ABOUT THE PLAN

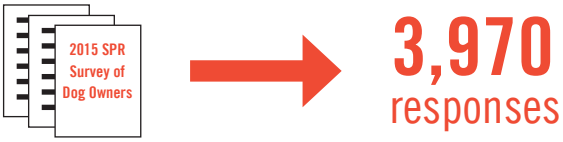
Goals for the People, Dogs and Parks Master Plan:

1. The plan will serve as a long term tool for use in maintaining and improving existing off-leash areas and in establishing new ones.
2. The plan will examine alternative service models.
3. The plan will include recommendations on how to spend the $106,000 allocated in the Seattle Park District Six-Year Financial Plan through 2020.
4. The plan will reflect the results of a public involvement process.
5. The report will include results of a 2015 survey of dog owners in Seattle and an assessment of service delivery through SPR's partnership with Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA).
6. The plan will identify alternative revenue sources for support of the operations and maintenance of off-leash areas.
7. The plan will include an assessment of each off-leash area, criteria for prioritizing improvements, and recommendations on funding.
8. The plan will define a strategy for developing and managing new off-leash areas.
9. The plan will include, in cooperation with Seattle Animal Shelter, enforcement strategy options to help reduce illegal off-leash activity.

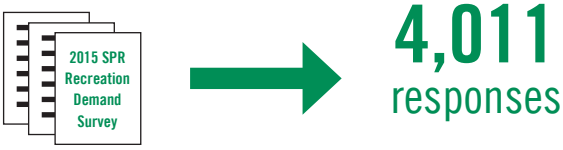
DOGS SWIMMING AT WARREN G. MAGNUSON DOG PARK

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- **2015 SPR survey of dog owners** resulted in some 3,970 responses. SPR staff sent it to Seattle Animal Shelter, to COLA and to off-leash area stewards, and it was announced during a KIRO interview of COLA president Ellen Escarcega. Please see *Appendix 1*.



- **2015 SPR Recreation Demand Survey** included a set of questions sent to all owners of licensed dogs that garnered 4,011 responses. Please see *Appendix 2*.



**It is important to note that both of the above survey efforts focused on dog owners and that the results do not reflect the input of non-dog owners.*

- **2015 Focus Groups:** SPR, with the facilitation assistance of EnviroIssues, conducted seven focus groups, on in each City Council district. Each group comprised a diverse balance of dog owners and non-dog owners, a spread of ages, parents of children younger than 12, people interested in wildlife and habitat and athletic field users. Please see *Appendix 3*.
- **Racial Equity Toolkit:** Please see *Appendix 4*.
- **COLA Best Practices Report:** Please see *Appendix 5*.
- **COLA Biennial Report:** Please see *Appendix 6*.
- **Visits to other jurisdictions:** SPR staff and COLA members visited off-leash areas in Portland, OR, Vancouver, BC and San Francisco, CA.

- **Board of Park Commissioners Preliminary Discussion** and public testimony on off-leash areas.
- **Board of Park Commissioners Briefing**, public testimony and distribution of Superintendent's preliminary recommendations.
- SPR attended the **Livability Night Out** at the Museum of History and Industry on April 19. 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to hear informally from community members about the Superintendent's preliminary recommendations on the draft People, Dogs and Parks Plan. It included an opportunity to submit comments in writing and to ask questions of SPR staff.
- **Board of Park Commissioners briefing and public hearing** to be scheduled.

HISTORY

SPR's mission is to provide welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and to promote responsible stewardship of the land. SPR works toward these outcomes: healthy people, healthy environment, strong communities and financial sustainability.

Dogs play a unique role in Seattle residents' lives and hearts. The American Veterinary Association found that 66 percent of dog owners consider their pets to be family members, more so as children grow and move and families shrink. Dogs provide love and companionship and break down social barriers.

Seattle was rated the 3rd most dog-friendly city in the US by the real estate company Estately in 2013. Here dogs are welcome on Seattle's buses, ferries, light rail and local seaplanes. While 49 percent of Seattle's land is zoned for single family homes (63 percent including parks, open space and cemeteries), a recent Craigslist search of apartments for rent showed that 2/3 of apartment owners allow dogs. Some employers, notably Amazon and REI, welcome dogs in the workplace. Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) estimates there are 150,000 dogs in Seattle.

Recognizing the demand for places where people could exercise their dogs off-leash, Seattle's off-leash areas program began in 1997 with an 18-month pilot project at seven sites in Seattle parks and one on Seattle Public Utilities property. We owe a debt of gratitude to Citizens for Off-Leash Areas for coming up with an initial list of parks in which they thought off-leash areas could work.

Seattle was among the first U.S. cities to establish off-leash areas, so at the time there was not a lot to learn from other cities about site selection, design, materials, or rules. SPR developed some of these during the pilot period. One site, on the west side of Volunteer Park, was closed during that period because of its proximity to private homes.

Following evaluation of the success of the pilot sites, SPR recommended to the City Council a set of siting criteria which the Council approved in 1997. These criteria have served us well over the years:

- Avoid interference with other established uses or department sponsored activities
- Avoid directly abutting residences
- Assure the availability of close parking
- Avoid locating near children's play areas
- Locate where there are minimal impacts upon the total visual character of a park
- Locate where there is low potential for spillover into areas not designated for off leash use
- Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes

Following the pilot, the City Council approved the following sites:

- Blue Dog Pond
- Genesee
- Golden Gardens
- Magnuson
- Northacres
- Westcrest
- Woodland
- Dr. Jose Rizal
- Volunteer

The OLA in Volunteer Park east of the Seattle Asian Art Museum was problematic from the start. Complaints from neighbors across 15th Ave. E about noise, dog feces in their yards and smells from un-picked-up feces in the OLA began almost immediately. In efforts to make it work, SPR met with OLA users, tried establishing hours for use of the OLA that were ignored, and finally moved the site slightly to the south. The new site included part of the original site, but most of the new site was an area that had not previously been in the OLA. SPR moved the fence to the new area. SPR did not conduct a SEPA review on the new OLA site, and a complaint resulted in the court order to close the OLA.

Two of the original areas, in Westcrest and Magnuson parks, were later improved and expanded with levy dollars. Since the late 1990s, Parks has added to those eight sites the following six:

I-5 Colonnade Park in 2005. This park is on US Highway Administration right-of way managed by the Washington Department of Transportation, was created pursuant to the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan as a pedestrian and bicycle link between Eastlake and Capitol Hill. It includes an off-leash area, art, and a mountain bike park. In 2015, the Eastlake Community Council received a Small and Simple award from the Neighborhood Matching Fund to hire a consultant to design improvements to the park, and in 2016 are planning to submit another Small and Simple application for an award to do additional planning work.

Plymouth Pillars Park in 2005. Plymouth Pillars off-leash area is located just east of downtown.

Regrade Park in 2005. This 0.3-acre off leash area is located in the heart of downtown, at 3rd Ave. and Bell St. The park is home to the 1979 sculpture "Gyrojack" by Lloyd Hamrol.

Denny Park in 2012. This off-leash area of .105 acres is located at 100 Dexter Ave. N. The park, the city's oldest, has large trees and is carefully landscaped with grass and an assortment of plantings. The off-leash area is temporary until a permanent site is established at a former City Light substation site in the neighborhood.

Magnolia Manor Park in 2012. Magnolia Manor Park off-leash area offers spectacular views. The property is part of a larger site owned by Seattle Public Utilities. In 1995, the Magnolia Reservoir was replaced with an underground structure as part of the Seattle Public Utilities Reservoir Covering Program. This OLA was identified in a planning process in 2006 that addressed the fact there were no OLAs in Queen Anne or Magnolia.

Kinnear Park in 2013. Kinnear is a permanent off-leash area located in lower Kinnear Park. The off-leash area is surrounded by a four-foot fence and has a double gate entrance with a This OLA was identified in a planning process in 2006 that addressed the fact there were no OLAs in Queen Anne or Magnolia.

DISTRIBUTION OF OFF-LEASH PARKS IN SEATTLE

There are several ways to look at the distribution of off-leash areas:

City quadrants. SPR's 2011 Development Plan, which followed an extensive public involvement process that included the input of dog owners, recommended that there be an off-leash area in each quadrant of the city (NE, SE, SW, NW). Quadrant dividers used in the plan are I-5 and I-90. Today there are two in northeast Seattle (Magnuson, the largest, and Plymouth Pillars); one in southwest Seattle (Westcrest, the second largest); three in southeast Seattle (Blue Dog Pond, Genesee and Dr. Jose Rizal); and seven in northwest Seattle (Denny, Golden Gardens, I-5 Colonnade, Kinnear, Northacres, Regrade, Woodland and Magnolia Manor.

It states further that "such areas should be contained by fencing. Possible improvements include pathways, benches, kiosks, drinking fountains and other park furniture appropriate to the site. Other public properties besides parklands will be considered for future off-leash areas to avoid conversion of existing park spaces to dog off-leash areas."

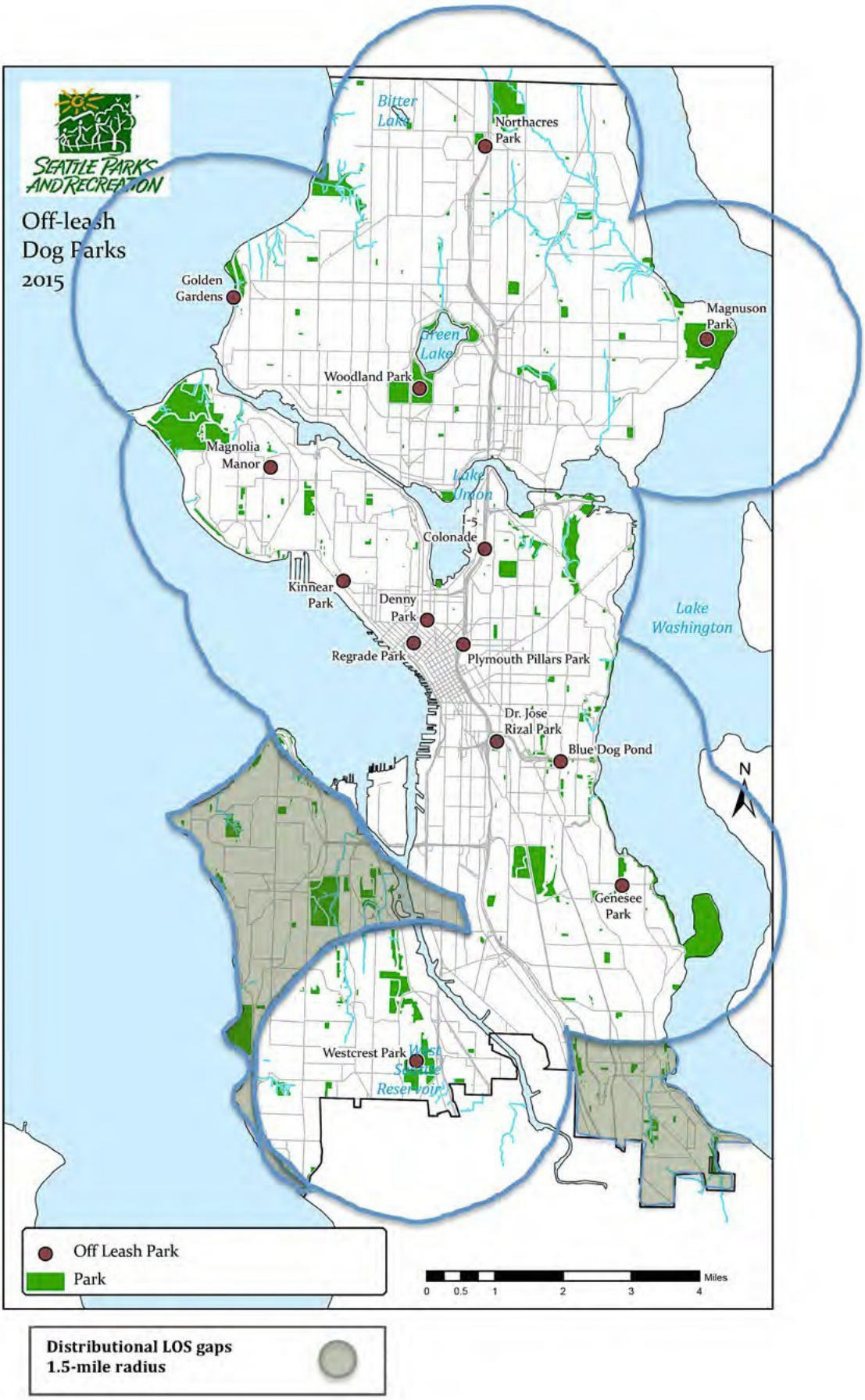
City Council Districts. There is at least one OLA in each City Council District.

District 1: Westcrest
District 2: Dr. Jose Rizal, Genesee
District 3: Plymouth Pillars, Blue Dog Pond
District 4: I-5 Colonnade, Magnuson
District 5: Northacres
District 6: Golden Gardens, Woodland
District 7: Denny, Kinnear Magnolia Manor, Regrade

Distance from Seattle homes. The Recreation Demand Study revealed that there is an off-leash area within 2.5 miles of everyone in Seattle, in many cases much closer, with the exception of the north part of West Seattle and the southeast corner of Southeast Seattle.

Please see the following maps illustrating distribution.

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
Dog Off-Leash Areas
Northacres Park
Golden Gardens Park
Puget Sound
Warren G. Magnuson Park
Woodland Park
Magnolia Manor Park
I-5 Colonnade
Kinnear Park
Denny Park
Regrade Park
Plymouth Pillars Park
Lake Washington
Elliott Bay
Dr. Jose Rizal Park
I-90 Lid (Blue Dog Pond)
Genesee Park & Playfield
Westcrest Park
Legend
Dog Off-Leash Area Acreage
0.0 - 0.3
0.3 - 0.5
0.5 - 1.7
1.7 - 2.7
2.7 - 9.0
N


SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
Off-leash
Dog Parks
2015
Bitter Lake
Northacres Park
Golden Gardens
Magnuson Park
Green Lake
Woodland Park
Magnolia Manor
Lake Union
I-5
Colonade
Kinnear Park
Denny Park
Regrade Park
Plymouth Pillars Park
Lake Washington
Dr. Jose Rizal Park
Blue Dog Pond
N
Genesee Park
Westcrest Park
West Seattle Reservoir
Off Leash Park
Park
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles
Distributional LOS gaps
1.5-mile radius

CHALLENGES WITH OFF-LEASH PARKS

It was the hope of city officials that violations of the leash, license and scoop laws would drop with the advent of off-leash areas, but that was not the case. About 26 percent of Seattle dog owners admit to exercising their dogs illegally in non-off leash areas in ballfields, tennis courts, play areas, turf areas, shorelines, beaches and trails. This can result in environmental degradation, children coming in contact with dog feces and confrontations over use of park space. Animal enforcement staff have never been able to keep up with the level of violations. Any discussion of off-leash areas leads to a discussion of off-leash dogs and inadequate enforcement.

Not everyone supports off-leash areas. People oppose them for reasons that include competition for already scarce green space in dense urban environments, incompatibility with wildlife and habitat, concern for children, neighborhood noise, water quality, turf destruction, tree health, smells and other issues.

One of the original pilot sites, an off-leash area in Volunteer Park, was later closed. Following community disagreements and damage to trees and turf and other issues in the off-leash area, in an effort to keep it open, SPR moved most of the site slightly to the south. SPR did not conduct a SEPA review on the new OLA site, and a complaint resulted in the court order to close the OLA.

The evolution of the off-leash areas program in Seattle reflects how difficult it is to identify sites that are appropriate as OLAs and the complexity of the steps that lead up to opening one.

DOGS AT WARREN G. MAGNUSON DOG PARK

SECTION 3: WHAT WE LEARNED

SURVEY OF DOG OWNERS

This 2015 survey focused on the dog-owning population in Seattle and their use of OLAs. SPR sent it to a listserv of interested dog owners and to the Seattle Animal Shelter, COLA and OLA stewards. 3,970 people responded. Its key findings:

- **71 percent of dogs are medium- or large-sized.**
- **66 percent of respondents prefer off-leash exercise for their dogs.**
- **87 percent of respondents believe the current number of off-leash areas will not be sufficient by 2035.**
- **Magnuson, Westcrest, Woodland and Golden Gardens Parks off-leash areas are the most frequently used.**
- **Dog owners are willing to drive across the city to use a preferred off-leash area. 94 percent drive to off-leash areas up to 30 minutes away.**

The survey revealed that people in Seattle tend to like large dogs, and 2/3 of those reporting like to exercise their dogs off-leash. The majority of dog owners are Caucasian and female. Most believe the city will need more off-leash areas to meet the demand that comes with population growth. About 26 percent admit to exercising dogs illegally in areas other than off-leash areas, about a third on park trails. Almost half use Magnuson Park's OLA.

Dog owners want OLAs that are close to home and that have an open exercise area. The main reasons people do not use OLAs are they do not find them convenient and many find too many unruly dogs in them. Most important features for OLA users are trash cans, water for dogs, a walkable area, adequate size, water play, off-street free parking, an open grass area and shade.

COLA BIENNIAL REPORT 2014-2015

This report summarizes COLA's conscientious and considerable efforts over the last 20 years; signals a new, multi-phased approach to fund raising that includes individual giving, establishing a major giving program and creating a corporate partner program; and presents its priorities for expenditure of the Seattle Park District Spending Plan funds: fencing, surface, lighting, shade and trees, garbage and recycling cans, parking and small/shy dog areas. Please see *Appendix 6*.

COLA BEST PRACTICES REPORT

This 2015 COLA report examined the off-leash practices of a number of cities, many of which have unfenced off-leash areas with designated hours and/or seasons. It emphasized that dog owners are one of the most highly active users of park land, and made the case that unfenced off-leash areas minimize environmental impacts, provide flexibility, provide community-building opportunities and serve growing populations of dog owners. It also examined such issues as surfacing options and the pros/cons of each, optimal sizes and design standards for off-leash areas, and made the case for more off leash areas based on population growth projections.

The report included a table of the types and number off-leash areas in 16 North American high and medium-high density cities: New York, Los Angeles,

Chicago, San Diego, Calgary AB, Austin, San Francisco, Seattle, Denver, Washington, D.C., Boston, Portland, OR, Vancouver BC, Long Beach, CA, Minneapolis and Miami. Of these, five have no unfenced off-leash areas. It looked at the off-leash offerings of each, ranging from:

- Fenced OLAs: Two (Austin) to 40 (New York) fenced off-leash areas;
- Unfenced OLAs: 0 (Chicago, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Miami and Los Angeles) to 24 (Portland) unfenced off-leash areas; and
- Acres of OLAs: 12 (Chicago) to 672 (Austin, TX, including trails) acres of off-leash areas.

Seattle sits generally in the middle in terms of its number of off-leash areas and the acreage of fenced off-leash areas, and is in the company of Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Miami in allowing no unfenced off-leash areas.

In general, the report advocates for more off-leash areas and unfenced off-leash areas with designated hours. It also makes the case that this model solves human problems such as reducing crime and increasing use of underused parks, and that small, fenced areas lead to dog waste, aggression and human conflicts. Please see *Appendix 5*.

SPR 2011 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In the survey conducted for SPR's 2011 Development Plan, OLAs ranked 14th in what parks amenities Seattle residents would like to see more of; first was walking trails (63 percent of respondents). Ten percent of respondents want more OLAs. Among the other amenities people want more of, priorities were trails, neighborhood parks, spaces for gardens and urban farms, athletic fields and another indoor pool.

FOCUS GROUPS

In October 2015, SPR, through the consultant EnviroIssues, conducted seven focus groups, one in each City Council district. Each group comprised a diverse balance of dog owners and non-dog owners, a spread of ages, parents of children younger than 12, people interested in wildlife and habitat, and athletic field users. Please see *Appendix 3*. It is important to note that only the focus groups reflect the participation of non-dog owners.

Key findings are:

- **Many people use parks to connect with the natural environment.**
- **Many people have general concerns about the impact of off-leash dogs on the natural environment: bird habitat, fragile ecosystems, beach habitat.**
- **Most people recognize the need for more enforcement of off-leash dog regulations and more education about proper etiquette for on- and off-leash dog management.**
- **Most people accept dogs on-leash in parks.**
- **Most people have concerns about unfenced off-leash areas because of lack of enforcement, sanitation, safety and habitat destruction.**
- **Many people believe dogs, both on- and off- leash, should not be allowed on or near children's play areas, ballfields or beaches. Language in the Park Code prohibits dogs in these areas.**
- **Many people want expanded off-leash areas, both in size and number and with better geographic distribution.**

- **Some people want more amenities at dog off-leash areas, such as small dog areas, dog-washing stations, natural habitat, water, and areas to throw and fetch balls.**
- **Many people recognize that the dog population is growing and there is a need for more off-leash areas.**
- **Most people want better maintenance and management of dog feces.**
- **Most people want more than signage separating off-leash dogs from other park users.**

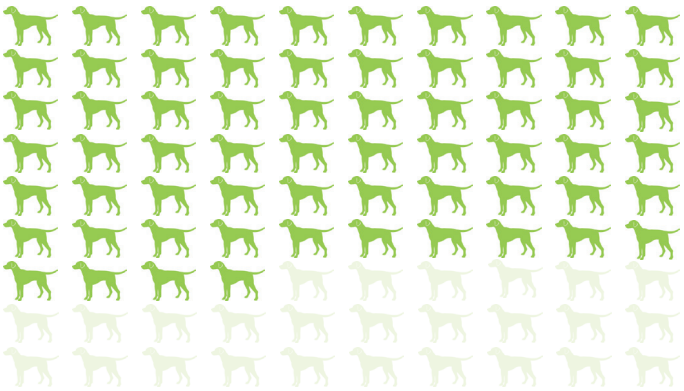
The focus groups revealed that many people use parks to connect with the natural environment and have concerns about the impacts of OLAs on the bird habitat, fragile ecosystems and beach habitat. While most people accept OLAs, most have concerns about the lack of enforcement of leash laws outside the OLAs and the need for education of dog owners. Most believe there is too much dog feces in our parks and that better maintenance is needed at OLAs. Most want OLAs to be fenced. Many want more OLAs and better distribution.
Recreation Demand Study survey of owners of licensed dogs

RECREATION DEMAND SURVEY OF OWNERS OF LICENSED DOGS

SPR, through Beckwith Consulting, conducted this survey in 2015 to assess the increase in demand for various types of recreation based on population growth projections between now and 2040. It included a question of all respondents about what activities they would like to do. 25 percent said they walk with a pet. For other responses, please see *Appendix 2*.

The survey included a set of questions sent to owners of licensed dogs in Seattle. 4,011 people responded. Key findings are below and on subsequent pages:

DOG SIZES

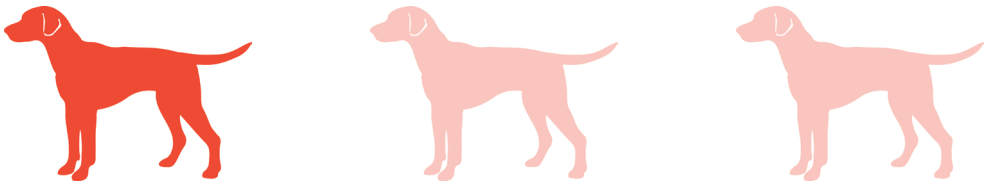


71%

own medium-to-large sized dogs

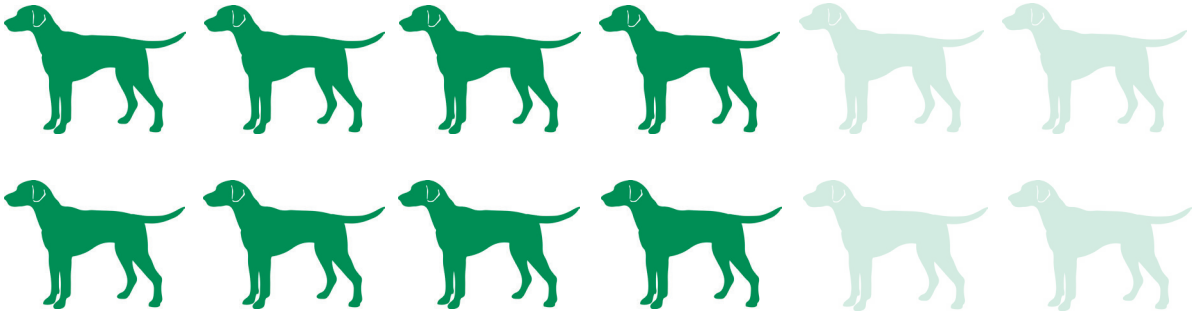
DOG ORIGIN

1/3 of dogs are rescues



EXERCISE HABITS

66% prefer to exercise OFF-LEASH



OFF-LEASH PRACTICES

67% use off-leash areas weekly to monthly

46% use the Mangunson Park off-leash area weekly to monthly

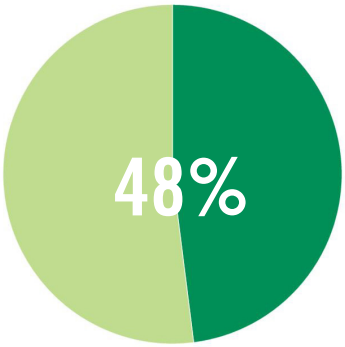
39% illegally use local parks weekly to monthly

38% illegaly use large parks weekly to monthly

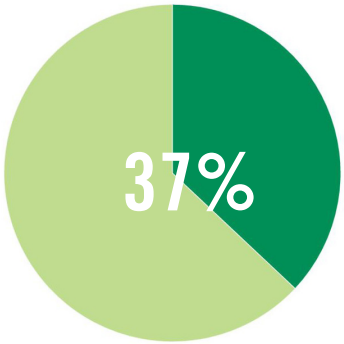
38% illegally use park trails

OFF-LEASH AREA USAGE FACTORS

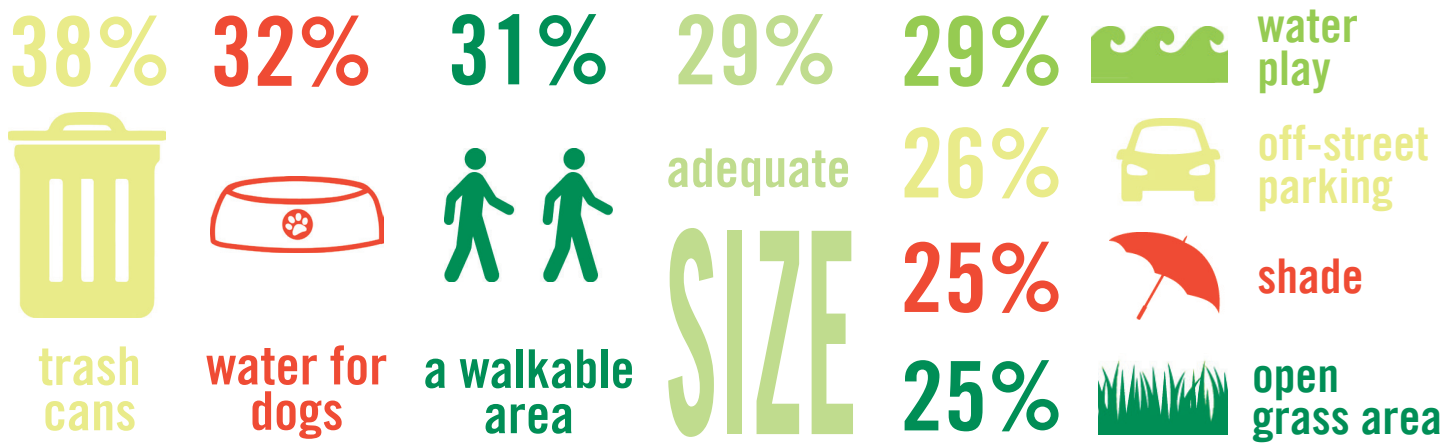
For 48 percent of respondents, having an off-leash area close to home is the most important factor determining whether they would use it.



For 37 percent of respondents, having an open exercise area is the most important factor determining whether they would use it.



MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES



TIME TRAVELING TO AN OFF-LEASH AREA

REASONS TO NOT USE OFF-LEASH AREAS

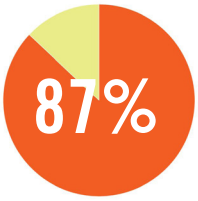
21%
There is no available water

38%
Not convenient

37%
Think there are unruly dogs there

ADEQUACY OF OFF-LEASH AREAS

+120,000 people =



of people believe that existing off-leash areas will be inadequate by 2035.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF DOG OWNERS

99%

speak English

93%

homeowners

86%

are white

73%

are female

OTHER CITY/ ORGANIZATION PLANS/ POLICIES REVIEWED

This planning process included evaluation of other cities' off-leash dog areas. COLA staff participated in visits to several cities, and their findings are summarized in the COLA report on Best Practices. Many cities are struggling with the same issues confronting Seattle: a rising population of dogs, few enforcement staff, strong partnership groups, potential user conflicts and strongly held opinions and beliefs by park users and dog owners. Analyzing the pros and cons in other municipal strategies and policies helped shape solutions that best fit Seattle.

SPR staff and COLA members traveled to Portland, OR, Vancouver BC and San Francisco to observe off-leash areas.

Portland, Oregon has 33 OLAS, nine of them fenced, and 24 designated off-leash areas called Seasonal Hours at Reserved Sites (SHARED sites). The SHARED sites are designated areas in parks where dogs can run off-leash during seasonal hours in the early morning and in the early evening (exact times vary depending on daylight available in the summer and winter seasons).

According to Portland, unless the boundaries are very clear, off-leash dogs are found using the entire park. Wear and tear on grassy areas is still higher than on regular turf areas. Various sets of hours and seasons are confusing for users. Portland is looking to fence more areas to reduce user conflicts and will not approve any new unfenced OLAs.

New York City, New York has four different designations of parkland: no dogs allowed, dogs on leash at all times, dog runs (fenced dog parks), and designated off-leash areas (certain areas allow off-leash from park opening until 9 a.m. and from 9 p.m. until park closing). New York City has 400 enforcement staff who work exclusively in parks to help make these designations function. People using the spaces have further activated the area and have helped cut down on crime.

San Francisco, California has 17 off-leash sites and the size of the area dictates the use and type of barriers. The San Francisco Dog Owners Group is a very organized and active group supporting off-leash areas and dog owner education. Concerns about environmental degradation and impact on wildlife have led the City and County of San Francisco to consider changes in OLA management. The National Park Service is evaluating off-leash dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Vancouver, BC, Canada has 31 parks with off-leash locations. Use times and descriptions vary. There is a strong education and training program on responsible dog ownership. Like Portland, Vancouver is looking to fence more areas to reduce user conflicts.

Denver, Colorado has nine dog park facilities and has developed strong design criteria, including a minimum size of one-acre with preference given to two or three-acre sites. Denver has two Animal Control Officers and two Park Rangers and has experienced many complaints related to enforcement of rules and regulations. They project a need for one more Animal Control Officer and two more Park Rangers.

American Kennel Club has published a document, "Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community." It identifies the features of an "ideal dog park," including many features SPR's OLAs include, such as fencing, cleaning supplies, signage, tables and benches, and

nearby parking. It also identifies some that SPR aspires to, including shade and water at every site, adequate drainage at every site and separate areas for small dogs at every site. It recommends rules that match SPR's. It also includes a useful primer called "Don't Have a Dog Park Yet? Start Your Own!" It provides guidance on how to cultivate community support, develop a budget, create a proposal, demonstrate need and show support.

The Animal Legal and Historical Center at Michigan State University is a repository of information about animal law and has published a document, Designing a Model Dog Park Law. It includes information on authority, zoning and budget, and recommends a Dog Park Review Committee much like the one proposed in this plan. It also recommends site design guidelines that align with those of the American Kennel Club. It includes recommended rules that are similar to SPR's a section on enforcement that contemplates a card swipe system for entry into an OLA.

The Impacts of Dogs on Wildlife and Water Quality: A Literature Review written by Oregon Metro, a regional governance structure in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, including Portland. It cites 77 sources that support its contention that dogs along trails significantly change wildlife behavior and that the disturbance effects of off-leash dogs are stronger than those of on-leash dogs. The review found that stresses on wildlife from the presence of dogs can have negative health impacts but that most people don't believe their actions have significant impacts.

Animal Behaviorists: Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D. and Dan Estep, Ph.D., Animal Behavior Associates.com. based in Denver; James C. Ha, Ph.D., CAAB (Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist), retired professor at the University of Washington Department of Psychology. Drs. Hetts and Estep believe off-leash dogs create problems for leashed dogs and cite the premise, shared by Dr. Ha, that unleashed and leashed dogs should not share a space. They also believe fines for off-leash offenses should grow higher with each offense. Dr. Ha also feels strongly that large and small dogs should not share a space.

DOGS PLAYING AT KINNEAR PARK

SECTION 4: ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES

SPR is involved in an enforcement strategy with Seattle Animal Shelter to help reduce illegal off-leash activity.

One element of the Park District Spending Plan is an element is entitled Make Parks Safer: *Add one maintenance worker and one Humane Animal Control Officer to educate the public and enforce dog leash and scoop laws at "hot spot" parks – locations with complaints, violations and impacts to users and/or natural resources; one of the top complaints received by SPR is unleashed dogs disrupting community use and enjoyment of parks and open spaces.*

There are an estimated 150,000 dogs in Seattle. During the recession, staffing levels both in SPR and at Seattle Animal Shelter dropped to a point where citations for leash and scoop violations dropped by 75 percent between 2009 and 2014.

During that same period, Seattle Animal Shelter received 4,425 complaints about off-leash activity, 53 percent of the total complaints.

The Parks Maintenance Worker and Humane Animal Control Officer have been recruited, hired and trained, and are now on the job, especially in hot spots for off-leash activity such as Volunteer Park, Golden Gardens Park beach, Lincoln Park the Washington Park Arboretum and Discovery Park. The paired staff began work on March 2, 2016. In March they issued 63 citations, and in April they issued 112. In two months they issued more citations than were issued in all of 2014.

DOG AT WESTCREST PARK

SECTION 5: COST OF SERVICES AND FUNDING SOURCES

The 2014 Statement of Legislative Intent also called for the following information:

1. **Provide a detailed accounting of annual operations and maintenance costs** for OLAs as well as an assessment of facility capital costs for preservation and rehabilitation, including donated time and materials from Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) and other supporters. Council also requests that DPR identify any efficiencies that can be achieved to reduce OLAs cost. COLA has provided stewards who provide basic maintenance in OLAs and SPR will seek to maintain that relationship. SPR has not in the past received new facilities funding for OLAs. SPR intends to designate a staff person to oversee the OLA program and partnerships with COLA and MOLG. This person would track costs and work with COLA to identify new ideas for partnerships and sponsorships.
2. **Funding Source:** Provide a comprehensive analysis of the establishment of a stable funding source for the expansion of OLAs, other than a general use fee. DPR should assess possible sources including, but not limited to, use fees or business license surcharges for dog walkers, sponsorships and donations.

Cost of Services. Since the approval by voters of the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, SPR has spent approximately $161,000 per year (in today's dollars) maintaining off-leash areas. OLAs require more intensive work than general park areas. Parks has also completed an assessment of the work needed to improve the 14 OLAs; costs are in the range of $718,000 -$1,363,000. The Seattle Park District will provide $106,000 annually through 2020 for maintenance of the OLAs and will be used to address some of these projects. Please see *Appendix 7*.

City	Dogs/DWs	Annual Fee	Notes
Vancouver, BC	4-8	$136	
Toronto, ON	4-6	$200	
San Francisco, CA	4-8	$240, 1st year	$100 renewal, Require $1m CGL
Chicago, IL	6	$275, 2 years	
Marin County, CA	6	Must buy and wear $50 red vest	
King County, WA	Up to 10	$98 adjusted up based on #days/week, # dogs, hours/day	KC has rules of conduct, require CGL and workers' comp if dog walker has employees

COLA has not provided SPR with accounting of their expenditures over time. In 2014, 739 COLA volunteers put in 8,134 hours; in 2015, 611 volunteers put in 5,825 hours. SPR has not in the past received new facilities funding for OLAs. SPR intends to designate a staff person to oversee the OLA program and partnerships with COLA and MOLG. This person would track costs and work with COLA to identify new ideas for partnerships and sponsorships.

Acquisition and Development. SPR has spent about $5.6 million developing and improving off-leash areas. Funding has come primarily from the Pro Parks Levy and the Parks and Green Spaces Levy. Please see *Appendix 8*.

Funding Source for the Expansion of OLAs. Currently there are two Seattle Park District sources for acquisition and development of parks. The Park District provides $2 million per year through 2020 for general parks acquisition. The Major Projects Challenge Fund provides $1.6 million annually. There will likely be multiple projects competing for this funding but new or expanded OLAs would be eligible to compete for these funds.

Proposed Dog Walker License Fee. A common complaint from OLA users is about professional dog walkers who use our off-leash areas to exercise large numbers of dogs (reportedly some bring up to 20 or more). These ratios of human to dog make it impossible to keep all dogs under voice control, or to track and pick up all their feces. It also makes other users feel intimidated. Seattle dog owners pay dog walkers up to $30 per hour per dog to walk their dogs during the day, and our off-leash areas are popular places to take them. The following table shows what some other cities do with regard to dog walkers.

SPR recommends charging dog walkers an annual fee of $100. It is difficult to estimate how much revenue this fee will generate at this time as we are unable to get an estimate of the number of professional dog walkers. King County collected $4,116 in 2014.

General Use Fees. Like most park agencies, SPR charges fees that provide financial support for the operation of programs, facilities and park grounds. Revenues from these fees directly support park operations and maintenance. SPR charges fees for many forms of recreation, among them golf, swimming at indoor pools, entry to sites such as the Japanese Garden and the Volunteer Park Conservatory, and use of athletic fields, gymnasiums and boat ramps. Revenues from fees do not come close to covering costs. In the Recreation Division, fees cover about 35 percent of operating costs, excluding Park District funding. SPR's fee policy, established in 2009, is to charge slightly higher fees for activities that provide mostly personal benefit, and slightly lower fees for activities the provide mostly community benefit.

Agencies that charge fees for entry to off-leash areas include Colorado State Parks, Marymoor Park (for parking only), Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Madison, WI, Cedar Rapids, IA and Mountain View, CA. Fees range from $30 to $35 annually, more for out-of-city residents in some cases. Some charge daily fees of $2 to $5. Revenues are used to support maintenance of off-leash areas. Consistent with the SLI, SPR does not recommend establishing a fee for general use of off-leash areas.

SECTION 6: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

SPR has developed maintenance standards for off-leash areas designed to ensure safe use by both humans and canine participants.

Routine Maintenance includes regular inspections, working with and supporting COLA stewards and volunteers, litter pickup, emptying of garbage cans and dumpsters, turf maintenance, weed and invasive plant control, tree maintenance and watering, and maintenance of any other planted areas within the site.

Surface Material Replacement is the pickup, delivery and dumping of gravel, sand or mulch at the site for use within the off-leash area, currently spread by COLA volunteers.

Equipment and Supplies include trucks, riding mowers, push mowers, weed eaters, back pack blowers, fuel, oil, mixed gas, litter sticks, bucket, bags, weeding tools, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, irrigation supplies, safety equipment (first aid kit, eye and ear protection, cones, barricades, tape, etc.)

DOGS AT WOODLAND PARK

Desired Work Standard is that off-leash areas are free of glass, litter and canine waste and checked for other hazards. Dispensers and waste bags should be readily available (volunteers currently supply them). Gates and fencing should be inspected regularly for ease of use and fabric integrity. The depth of surface material should be 2" for gravel and 4-6" for sand or mulch. Surface material should remain in designated areas, be raked as needed and checked regularly for major drainage problems. Drinking water for dogs should be accessible and safe for consumption. Faucets and fountains should be functioning and leak-free. Informational signs and regulations should be clearly visible. Lighting, if available, should be functional.

PROCEDURES

SPR staff regularly:

- Inspect all equipment, check fluid levels and start.
- Thoroughly inspect gates, fencing fabric, benches, picnic tables, water sources for wear, stability, loose connections and cleanliness.
- Regularly inspect surface materials to ensure the desired depth. Add new materials at least once a year or as needed. Maintain a desired edge around various areas--hard surface, turf, gravel, etc.
- Remove all litter, glass, canine waste, noxious weeds and other undesirable plants.
- Maintain, and water as needed--trees, turf areas and other planted areas per department standards.
- Regularly empty garbage cans and dumpsters. Modifications of dumpsters and/or regular washing is necessary to prevent odor build-up.
- Blow adjacent hard surface areas regularly.
- Work with COLA stewards and volunteers to oversee the use of the site, share rules, conduct special events/work parties, post appropriate items on kiosk, and have dispensers available for waste bags.
- Staff entering site on foot or with a vehicle should follow strict off-leash protocol on gate opening/closing. If entering site with a vehicle there should be two staff members on hand to open/close gates and keep dogs/owners away from the path of the vehicle. When working in the site, properly cordon off the work area. Mowing schedules and other regularly scheduled work should follow a posted time schedule.
- Clean and service equipment and report all malfunctions.
- Immediately remove, or have removed anything that presents a safety hazard. Post unsafe area with appropriate signage, cones, barricades, tape, etc.
- Notify COLA stewards of any work that needs to be done and its schedule.
- Report any incidents that necessitate supervisory attention or require any work orders; vandalism, graffiti, safety concerns, misuse of the area.

Schedule: Routine Maintenance- 2-3 days per week year round; more frequent visits at larger sites with heavy usage during peak season to empty cans/dumpsters. Surface Material Replacement-Once a year, additional as needed.

Time Allocation: Routine Maintenance .5 hour/acre; Surface Replacement: 1.5 hr.

AGREEMENT WITH COLA

Following the 1996-1997 pilot period that led to the establishment of the first OLAs, the process for establishing them included application of the site selection criteria approved by City Council Resolution 29628, completion of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and conduct of a public involvement process. To date, the City Council has approved legislation to create new off-leash areas and has included them in the Park Code, SMC 18.12.080. In 1998, SPR, COLA and Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) entered an umbrella agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of each entity. SPR is the manager, COLA is the steward, and SAS enforces license, scoop and leash laws. Please see *Appendix 9*.

The agreement addresses maintenance, enforcement, rules, site features, new sites, site closures and notification of meetings, and calls for a site-specific agreement for each OLA signed by COLA and SPR. It states that COLA may provide education and training for dog owners on responsible dog ownership, compliance with dog-related ordinances, dog obedience and behavior classes, pet licensing and health care and other topics.

The agreement calls on COLA to provide general cleanup and maintenance of the OLAs and for SPR to provide supplies, materials, kiosks, bulletin boards and trash cans. These responsibilities have evolved over time and vary from site to site.

The original OLAs were created without funding for their creation or maintenance, so the help of volunteers has been very important to SPR. Overall the arrangement has worked well; SPR provides materials and removes trash, and COLA volunteers spread surface materials, provide waste bags, pick up feces, maintain kiosks, report damage and help out with improvements.

COLA has recently sent SPR amendments they propose to the umbrella agreement. They recommend:

- Preserving the intention behind the original agreement
- Changing their responsibility from "maintenance labor" to "maintenance advisor"
- Assignment by SPR of a full-time staff member to OLA issues over a long period of time
- Assessing the demand for OLAs along with every other form of recreation (note SPR's consultant for a recreation demand study included a section on OLAs)
- That SPR "share budget for OLA program annually."
- Getting the Magnuson Park OLA, which has its own stewardship organization, under the umbrella of COLA.

During the implementation phase, SPR will work with COLA to respond to each recommendation in their proposal, and to explore options for supporting development of COLA-sponsored OLAs on non-park public land and private land.

SPR has a similar agreement with Magnuson Off-Leash Group. Please see *Appendix 5*.

SECTION 7: ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SITES AND PARK DISTRICT FUNDING

In 2011, an SPR team composed of a Manager, a Senior Gardener, a Maintenance Senior Lead and a Senior Landscape Architect, undertook a study of the 11 off-leash areas in existence at the time (Denny Park, Kinnear Park and Magnolia Manor were added after the study).

In assessing conditions at each off-leash area, the group surveyed COLA members and users, SPR maintenance staff, and other cities with off-leash areas (Redmond, WA and Portland, OR). They visited each site and documented its conditions, analyzed the data from the surveys and created a list of needed improvements at each site for when funding might become available.

Some funding became available with the creation of the Seattle Park District. In 2016, SPR Planning and Development staff examined the Park District funding for improvement of off-leash areas, and identified three recurring needs in OLAs:

- **ADA accessibility** and **drainage issues** are the most common themes throughout.
- **Vegetation restoration** and **play features** come in second thematically.
- **Small/shy dog space** and **gates/shelters** come in third.

There are many projects on the list that could potentially be funded by other sources, such as ADA projects, road paving, and benches and picnic tables. Where possible, SPR will strive to accomplish these independently of the Priority Ranking.

DOGS AT GOLDEN GARDENS

PRIORITY RANKING

SPR staff developed a set of criteria by which to rank the proposed projects. Items that could pose a public safety issue are ranked number one and are regarded as independent, standalone projects. The second tier of criteria is the age of the facility or the date of the last major capital improvement. The third tier of criteria is based upon overall extent of need of the OLA as a whole, so as to leverage economies of scale during project implementation. OLAs were scored and then divided into High Priority, Medium Priority and Low Priority, fully realizing that unexpected situations arise and that this ranking may change over time.

SPR anticipates that it can accomplish one to two sites a year between 2016 and 2020. A full list of the proposed capital improvement projects with priorities and cost estimates, can be found in *Appendix 9*.

HIGH PRIORITY

1. Golden Gardens
2. Lower Woodland Park
3. Genesee Park

MEDIUM PRIORITY

4. Westcrest
5. Dr. Jose Rizal
6. Northacres
7. Regrade Park

LOW PRIORITY

8. Plymouth Pillars
9. Blue Dog Pond
10. Warren G. Magnuson
11. I-5 Colonnade
12. Denny Park
13. Kinnear Park
14. Magnolia Manor

Note: there may be one or two minor elements of a park which are high priority and will be fixed more quickly.

*** Priority Ranking Notes**

Public Safety Issues: automatically ranked as the individual highest priority.

Age: Facilities are ranked by age or the last major capital improvement date. These are listed in () next to the name of the facility.

Overall Priority: High Priority = 0-4 points, Medium Priority = 5-9 points, Low Priority = 10-18 points

Planning Level Construction Cost Estimates (CCA): Need to have 62% added to cover the costs of taxes, construction contingency, Public Process costs, Planning and Design costs, Project Management, Permits, Surveys and Construction Management costs.

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
1	**BLUE DOG POND (1999/2015)**				**13**	**2**	**15**	**LOW**
1.1	Add a second gate to single entry gate areas.	Fencing	$2,000					
1.2	Continue to control invasive blackberry bushes and poisonous hemlock on the slopes (goats have been used in the past).	Landscape	$6,000-$11,000					
1.3	Reduce erosion through renovation of landscape and shrub beds.	Landscape	$23,000-$68,000					
1.4	Install doggie drinking fountain.	Water	$8,000-$32,000					
1.5	Install logs or rocks to deter shortcuts along trail and hydro-seed eroded slope.	Landscape	$32,000					
1.6	Consider ADA access way from Observation platform to playfield.	ADA	$32,000-$57,000					
1.7	Need for dog features, under/over structures.	Play	$26,000					
	BLUE DOG POND SUBTOTAL		**$130,000-$228,000**					
2	**DENNY PARK (2012)**				**11**	**4**	**15**	**LOW**
2.1	This site is to be relocated to the South Lake Union Substation site within the next two years.		$0					
	DENNY PARK SUBTOTAL		**$0**					

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
3	**DR. JOSE RIZAL PARK (2001)**				**6**	**2**	**8**	**MEDIUM**
3.1	Replace split-rail fence at north boundary.	Fencing	$11,000-$23,000					
3.2	Add and expand crushed rock surfacing to existing pathways to improve drainage.	Drainage	$11,000-$23,000					
3.3	Use goats or sheep to cut down on bushes on hill side.	Landscape	$6,000-$11,000					
3.4	Install new benches and picnic tables to lower park area along new bike trail.	Furniture	$11,000-$16,000					
3.5	Water access is located on the outside of the OLA, would be nice to locate the water source in a better area inside the OLA.	Water	$8,000-$32,000					
3.6	Have requested in the past to place a pedestrian entrance at the truck entrance gates on the south west side of the OLA.	Fencing	$6,000					
3.7	Study feasibility of adding ADA access pathway from either the street level or from the new bike trail.	ADA	-					
3.8	Install under/over structures for play.	Play	$26,000					
3.9	Fix poor drainage around the gathering area.	Drainage	$23,000-$49,000					
	DR. JOSE RIZAL PARK SUBTOTAL		**$102,000-$186,000**					

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
4	**GENESEE PARK (1999)**				**3**	**1**	**4**	**HIGH**
4.1	Service road needs regrading and resurfacing.	Road Work	$6,000-$15,000					
4.2	Repair/replace exercise course as needed including logs and structure for play.	Play	$26,000-$32,000					
4.3	Improve drainage throughout, replace or restore fence drain.	Drainage	$44,000-$109,000					
4.4	Cap off sprinkler heads or raise sprinkler heads/irrigation. The current hose bib leaks.	Water	$11,000-$16,000					
4.5	Add picnic tables/benches.	Furniture	$11,000					
4.6	Water upgrade for dogs – install dog wash area by the entrance/exit.	Water	$6,000-$11,000					
4.7	Need for small & shy dog area with an external gate.	Play	$44,000-$65,000					
4.8	Install shelter for rain protection and shade comfort.	Furniture	$23,000-$32,000					
	GENESEE PARK SUBTOTAL		**$171,000-$301,000**					
5	**GOLDEN GARDENS (1996)**				**1**	**1**	**2**	**HIGH**
5.1	Provide ADA accessible route to OLA.	ADA	$44,000-$87,000					
5.2	Add dog washing station with hose-bib and associated drainage.	Water	$11,000-$32,000					
5.3	Need for extensive vegetation restoration and within and outside of OLA; expand and fence existing rain garden.	Landscape	$68,000-$115,000					

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
5.4	Solve drainage problem from the southeast gate. Tiered grading perhaps.	Drainage	$44,000-$87,000					
5.5	Replace surface material and remove material that is built up along the southwest corner.	Surface	$32,000-$65,000					
5.6	Add dog play apparatus.	Play	$44,000-$109,000					
	GOLDEN GARDEN SUBTOTAL		**$243,000-$495,000**					
6	**I-5 COLONNADE (2005)**				**10**	**3**	**13**	**LOW**
6.1	Improve surface material while maintaining its drainage function.	Surface	$65,000-$109,000					
6.2	Remove interior fencing within OLA, allowing for more free-romp space.	Fencing	$8,000					
	I-5 COLONNADE SUBTOTAL		**$73,000-$117,000**					
7	**KINNEAR PARK (2013)**				**9**	**4**	**13**	**LOW**
7.1	Additional seating.	Furniture	$6,000-$11,000					
	KINNEAR PARK SUBTOTAL		**$6,000-$11,000**					
8	**MAGNOLIA MANOR (2012/2016)**				**14**	**4**	**18**	**LOW**
8.1	The overall footprint of the site is being reduced in size to accommodate a pedestrian pathway. Construction is slated for 2016.		$0					
	MAGNOLIA MANOR SUBTOTAL		**$0**					

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
9	**NORTHACRES PARK (1997/2000)**				**5**	**3**	**8**	**MEDIUM**
9.1	Add second double-gate entrance at the north end off of NE 130th Street.	Fencing	$6,000					
9.2	Remove invasive plants and restore with native plants.	Landscape	$6,000-$23,000					
9.3	Add dog washing station with hose-bib and associated drainage.	Water	$11,000-$32,000					
	NORTHACRES PARK SUBTOTAL		**$23,000-$61,000**					
10	**PLYMOUTH PILLARS PARK (2005)**				**8**	**3**	**11**	**LOW**
	No projects are currently listed.		$0					
	PLYMOUTH PILLARS PARK SUBTOTAL		**$0**					
11	**REGRADE PARK (2005)**				**9**	**4**	**13**	**LOW**
11.1	Repair latches on gate.	Fencing	< $2,000					
11.2	Improve safety and provide better secure access to area behind mural.	Safety	$11,000-$23,000					
11.3	Mulch around trees/tree protection.	Landscape	< $2,000					
11.4	Add plastic bag dispensers.	Fencing	$5,000-$8,000					
11.5	**Replace wood curbing with concrete along Bell St.**	**Furniture**	**$6,000-$11,000**	**1**				**INDIVIDUAL HIGH PRIORITY**

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
11.6	Install benches.	Furniture	$6,000-$11,000					
	REGRADE PARK SUBTOTAL		**$28,000-$48,000**					
12	**WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK (1999/2005)**				**10**	**3**	**13**	**LOW**
12.1	Add berms for dog play.	Play	$11,000-$32,000					
12.2	Add seating.	Furniture	$11,000-$23,000					
12.3	Improve surface at parking lot – fill ruts and grade.	Road	$23,000-$44,000					
12.4	Install shelter.	Shelter	$32,000-$57,000					
12.5	Install lighting - depending on available electrical source and scale of project.	Electrical	$40,000-$109,000					
12.6	Finish planting of swale along northern edge of playfield.	Landscape	$6,000-$21,000					
	WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK SUBTOTAL		**$123,000-$286,000**					
13	**WESTCREST PARK (1999)**				**4**	**2**	**6**	**MEDIUM**
13.1	Reinstall ADA parking sign and ADA path in small and shy dog area.	ADA	$26,000					
13.2	Upgrade fencing to protect natural areas.	Fencing	$8,000-$15,000					
13.3	Replace woodchips with other surfacing and fill in ruts.	Surfacing	$11,000-$23,000					
13.4	Restore eroded slope.	Landscape	$16,000-$65,000					

#	Off-Leash Area (OLA) Capital Project List	Category	Planning Level Total Cost Estimate (2016 dollars)	Priority Ranking*				
				Public Safety Issue	*Age of facility or last major capital improve. (1-14)*	*Extent of Need (1-4)*	*Total Points (1-18)*	*Overall Priority List*
13..5	Pave service road from the north lot entrance to the inside dumpster.	Road Work	$15,000					
	WESTCREST PARK SUBTOTAL		**$76,000-$144,000**					
14	**WOODLAND PARK (1998)**				**2**	**1**	**3**	**HIGH**
14.1	Replace wood fence that protects wooded area.	Fencing	$8,000-$15,000					
14.2	Add small and shy dog area.	Play	$11,000-$23,000					
14.3	Fill in ruts.	Road Work	$5,000-$6,000					
14.4	Needs intensive landscape and understory restoration.	Landscape	$68,000-$115,000					
14.5	Fix drainage problem moving water away from bottom of slope.	Drainage	$44,000-$109,000					
14.6	Install a covered shelter area.	Shelter	$32,000-$57,000					
14.7	Repair or replace fencing around tool area, add a shed.	Fencing	$8,000-$15,000					
	WOODLAND PARK SUBTOTAL		**$176,000-$340,000**					
	TOTAL PLANNING LEVEL COST RANGE (2016 DOLLARS)		**$1,150,000-$2,220,000**					

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SECTION 8: RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW OLAS

SPR recognizes and understands the desire for more off-leash areas. The fact is that with the end of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy at the end of 2014, there is very little funding available for the planning and construction of any new off-leash areas (or any new parks in general). There is $2 million per year in Seattle Park District funding through 2020 for park acquisition. Also available is a $1.6 million Park District Major Challenge Fund through 2020. The Major Challenge Fund provides a match to leverage community-generated funding for significant park improvements. The first round of proposals submitted in 2016 did not include any proposal for an OLA.

Going forward, SPR welcomes proposals for new OLAs through these channels. For each proposed OLA, except those involving private developers, SPR will convene a committee including dog advocates, environmental advocates, a veterinarian or animal behaviorist, community members, and SPR staff to recommend to the Superintendent whether the proposed OLA should move forward.

1. Adding OLAs through **new park/redevelopment processes.** SPR will specifically include OLAs as an element for consideration in the planning process when SPR embarks on the development or redevelopment process for new and existing parks, along with any other suggested use that arises during the process.
2. **Apply siting criteria to landbanked undeveloped parks to look for OLA opportunities.** For these 14 sites, acquired with Parks and Green Spaces funds and other leveraged funds between 2008 and 2015, development was put off until funding became available through the Park District. They total 3.92 acres and range in size from 0.1 acre to 0.83 ace. SPR will apply siting criteria to see if any is appropriate for an OLA. If so, SPR would then complete a SEPA checklist, design a public involvement process, conduct a pilot period, evaluate the pilot experience, work with COLA to create a steward group and submit legislation to make the site(s) permanent. Many of these sites are in high density areas or are additions to existing parks.
3. SPR will continue to consider adding new OLAs by **request of the community**, whether through the Neighborhood Matching Fund process or other community processes.
4. **Non-park public land.** The 2011 Park Development Plan states: "Other public properties besides park lands will be considered for future off-leash areas to avoid conversion of existing park spaces to dog off-leash areas." The OPCD community planning processes would lend themselves to the identification of City-owned properties potentially appropriate as OLAs, and groups like COLA could potentially lease and manage them.
5. **Privately owned property.** City Council Resolution 29628, which adopted the permanent off-leash areas program, included language about looking for appropriate off-leash sites on property other than park land. The 1997 resolution states in part: ". . . it is the City Council's intent that additional non-park areas be established and that through the Neighborhood Matching Fund and the Neighborhood Planning Process (which took

place in 1998 and 1999) neighborhoods be empowered to identify and establish additional off-leash areas . . ." Groups like COLA can use their authority as nonprofit organizations to raise funds, negotiate leases and manage off-leash areas. To date COLA has applied for and received matching fund awards for improvements at Golden Gardens, Magnolia Manor and Woodland Park. The Eastlake Community Council received a Small and Simple grant to do a plan to renovate I-5 Colonnade, and have applied for a Large Projects Fund grant.

6 **Encourage private developers,** through the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, to include OLAs in their developments.

UNFENCED OLA RECOMMENDATIONS

7 Based on the potential for conflict between leashed and unleashed dogs and between dogs and other park activities, limited enforcement resources, and feedback from other jurisdictions, **SPR recommends continuing to offer fenced OLAs only.**

SPR has had some experience allowing use during designated hours. During and after the pilot period in 1997 and beyond, the fenced OLA in Volunteer Park generated many complaints from neighbors about dog feces in their yards and the parking, noise and odor issues associated with the OLA. In an effort to compromise, SPR tried establishing limited morning and afternoon hours at the OLA and the grounds crew unlocked and locked the gate to observe those hours. However, unhappy dog owners climbed over the fence, broke the locks and posted distasteful signage on the fence, spoiling the experience both for OLA users and other park users.

Twenty-six percent of dog owners admit to illegal off-leash activity in parks and on trails, which raises some doubt about how well people would follow the rules. A prominent animal behaviorist believes large and small dogs should never mix, which would be inevitable at an unfenced OLA.

Although New York has unfenced OLAs it also has an enforcement staff of 400. In contrast, Seattle only has one team dedicated to enforcement of leash laws in its parks. It would be much more difficult for SPR to enforce regulations at unfenced leash areas.

Portland features off-leash areas and reports complaints and problems with dogs outside the boundaries and at the wrong times. Portland has in some cases fenced its unfenced sites.

8 **Do not allow off-leash activity on designated trails.** SPR's Trails Program is an ongoing, purposeful effort by our staff and 20,000 volunteers to keep our trails walkable for our residents and visitors. Many are in poor condition. The recent pilot program to allow mountain bikes in Cheasty Greenspace has highlighted the intensity of park users' feelings about specific uses, and there are challenges relating to maintenance, the potential for conflict and the need for education and enforcement. Allowing unleashed dogs on trails would increase wear and tear on the trails. As mentioned above, a prominent animal behaviorist believes large and small dogs should never mix, which would be inevitable at an OLA on a trail. In addition, an Oregon Metro

literature review found significant impacts on wildlife along park trails when unleashed dogs were allowed on trails.

9. **Do not create more OLAs with beach access.** The only OLA with beach access is at Magnuson Park, where a 145-foot stretch is available where dogs can swim. King County regularly tests the water there and at the swimming beach under its Major Lakes Monitoring Program and reports irregularities to SPR and Public Health – Seattle & King County.

   Six Seattle parks (Carkeek, Golden Gardens, South Alki/Richey Viewpoint, Lincoln, Schmitz Viewpoint and Discovery) are designated Marine Reserves, which means the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City recognize them as sensitive inter-tidal and marine areas that provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife and an important educational and scientific resource for our city. The rule specifically states that dogs, except service or law enforcement dogs, are prohibited in Marine Reserves.

   An Oregon Metro literature review found that dog waste is a significant contributor to the pollution of the region's water, particularly with E. coli bacteria. Any proposal to establish additional water access sites would require environmental review and would likely draw opposition from environmental groups. Because it is long-established and heavily used, the OLA at Magnuson Park should stay open but SPR does not recommend creating any more OLAs with beach access.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OLA CONDITIONS AND THE USER EXPERIENCE

10. SPR will use the new Park District funding to improve OLAs based on the facility assessment (please see Section 8).
11. SPR will explore potential partnerships and sponsorships.
12. SPR recommends dog walkers be required to obtain a business license from the City of Seattle and a $100 dog walker license from FAS. From the time of enactment of this requirement, for a duration of two years, dog walkers will be allowed to bring up to 10 licensed dogs (unlicensed dogs are NOT allowed in off-leash areas) and to walk 10 licensed dogs on leash in Seattle's parks, except for those areas designated as non-dog areas. At the conclusion of the two-year period, dog walkers who have obtained the three-course certification in animal behavior from the University of Washington, or another equivalent program as authorized by the Superintendent, will be allowed to continue to walk up to 10 licensed dogs. Dog walkers who have not obtained the certificate will be limited to three licensed dogs. Once they have received certification, they can increase the number of licensed dogs they walk to 10.
13. As a deterrent to off-leash activity, SPR recommends working with Seattle Animal Shelter to identify repeat violators of leash laws and to consider raising fines for repeat violators.

RESOURCES

Ordinance 118099, 1996 *Establishing Off-Leash Area Pilot program*

Resolution 2926, 1997 *Principles for Developing and Managing OLA*

Parks Legacy Plan; http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy/

Seattle Park District; http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/ParkDistrict/default.htm

People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan; http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash/default.htm

Off-Leash Areas webpage; http://www.seattle.gov/parks/offleash.asp

DOGS AT BLUE DOG POND

SECTION 9: PEOPLE, DOGS AND PARKS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- **9/1/16-11/1/16:** Review COLA Agreement with COLA.
- **9/1/16-11/1/16:** Review MOLG Agreement with MOLG.
- **9/1/16-10/1/16:** Schedule quarterly meetings with COLA and MOLG.
- **9/1/16-11/1/16:** Develop protocols for new OLA review committee.
- **1/1/17:** Develop protocol for SPR involvement in OPCD planning process.
- **11/1/16 – 2/1/17:** Develop protocols and standards for OLA sponsorships in collaboration with COLA and MOLG.
- New OLA development:
  - Publish schedule for planning for land-banked sites as available on website.
  - **11/1/16 – 3/1/17:** In collaboration with COLA, develop informational materials for developers who are interested in developing OLAs.
  - **1/2/17 – 7/1/17:** Work with FAS, SDOT, City Light and SPU to develop list of potential new OLA sites.
- **Ongoing:** Coordinate with FAS regarding Animal Code enforcement in Parks, development of new Animal Code and implementation of Dog Walker license.
- **Bimonthly:** Report Animal Code enforcement data for Seattle Parks. Meet regularly with FAS/SPR enforcement team.
- **As available:** Develop list and schedule for OPCD community planning processes.
- Share with COLA and MOLG, WOLF and environmental advocates.

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APPENDIX 1: OLA STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

In July 2015, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) invited Seattle dog owners to complete an online survey to understand their behaviors and needs. A link to the survey was made available through the Off-Leash Area (OLA) Strategic Plan page of the SPR website and publicized by local organizations, such as Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA), and various local media outlets. Survey responses were not random as respondents self-selected to complete the survey. Findings are only representative of a subset of dog owners and do not signify the entirety of behaviors and needs in Seattle. The following summary is from the 3,922 responses received between July 21, 2015 and September 1, 2015.

ALL RESPONDENTS

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The geographical distribution of survey respondents is spread throughout the city in each of the seven Council Districts. Of the 95% of respondents who answered this question, the percent of respondents from each district ranges between 9% and 23%, with an average of 14%. The most highly represented districts are Districts 1 and 7, at 23% and 17% respectively. The distribution of survey respondents is similar to the April 2014 license data from the Seattle Animal Shelter. The data suggests dog owners are most prevalent in the West Seattle, Downtown, Queen Anne, South Lake Union, and Magnolia neighborhoods.

TABLE 1. Survey Responses by Council District

Council District	Number of People	% of Total
1	816	23%
2	312	9%
3	512	15%
4	345	10%
5	340	10%
6	571	16%
7	610	17%
Total	3,506	

DOG CHARACTERISTICS

The survey data suggests that of those who responded, nearly three-fourths of dogs in Seattle are either medium sized (39%) or large sized (32%), with one-quarter of dogs classified as small (24%) and only 5% classified as tiny sized. The most popular breed groups, as classified by the American Kennel Club, are the Sporting (25%) and Herding (18%) groups, which include highly active dogs such as Retrievers, Pointers, Shepherds, and Collies. Furthermore, half of dogs are under the age of five (48%), which require higher levels of exercise than older dogs.

EXERCISE PREFERENCES

Roughly two-thirds of respondents (66%) prefer to exercise their dog(s) off-leash, while 23% prefer to exercise on-leash and 11% have no preference. 59% of respondents frequent OLAs either daily or weekly, while 25% visit OLAs on a monthly basis.

OLA USERS

CHARACTERISTICS

OLA users are defined as respondents who frequent an OLA either daily or monthly. This group represents 59% of respondents, nearly 2,000 dog owners. OLA users are distributed throughout the city in a similar fashion to all respondents, with the highest representation in Council Districts 1 and 7. 67% of OLA users always or frequently leave their dog(s) at home in their house or apartment with no access to the yard. 14% leave their dog(s) at home with access to the yard and only 5% leave their dog in a pen or dog run. As a result, the majority of these dogs are not exercised during the day while their owners are away. In addition to visiting an OLA, 48% of dog owners exercise their dogs in their backyard daily.

OLA FREQUENCY

71% of OLAs receive only 10-50 daily visits (20-80 weekly visits) and 21% of OLAs receive 51-170 daily visits (140-530 weekly visits). The most popular OLA is Warren G. Magnuson Park (9-acres) with 170 daily users and 530 weekly users. Westcrest Park is the second most popular OLA (4-acres), with 135 daily users and 340 weekly users. After these top two parks, daily visits drop to daily visits in the 50s range. It is important to note that Seattle OLA users frequent OLAs outside Seattle with 90 daily visits and 400 weekly visits. The most popular OLA outside Seattle is the 40-acre dog park within Marymoor Park in Redmond, a twenty-minute drive from downtown Seattle.

IMPORTANCE OF OLA FEATURES

The survey asked respondents to rank how important certain factors are in their decision to frequent an OLA. The data suggests that for OLA users, the most important factors are designated and/or open space for exercise and close proximity to home. 85% of OLA users ranked “designated and/or open space for exercise” as high or highest importance, which is expected given the high proportion of Sporting and Herding breed groups among OLA users.

The data suggests proximity to home is more important than proximity to work for OLA users. 81% ranked “OLA close to home” as high or highest importance, but only 19% ranked “OLA close to work” as high or highest importance. This finding suggests that convenience is an important factor for OLA users.

OLAs are frequently touted for their ability to facilitate community building and socialization, but the data does not suggest this as a key reason for frequenting an OLA. In fact, only 9% of OLA users report “going there to meet people” as high or highest importance. That being said, 58% ranked “liking other dogs or people in OLA” as high or highest importance. This suggests that while meeting people is not the most important factor for visiting an OLA, the friendliness and etiquette of other owners and dogs is important in regular attendance.

OLA NON-USERS

CHARACTERISTICS

OLA non-users are defined as respondents who frequent an OLA yearly or never. The geographic distribution of non-users is similar to all respondents and OLA users, with roughly 20% from District 1 and 16% from District 7. Despite being a non-user, 47% prefer exercising their dog off-leash while 39% prefer on-leash exercise and 14% have no preference. However, when asked how they exercise their dog(s) on a daily or weekly basis, 27% exercise their dog(s) at home in the backyard, 49% exercise on-leash, and 21% exercise off-leash illegally. Despite their preference for off-leash exercise, the 76% of non-users exercise their dog(s) at home or on-leash.

OLA FREQUENCY

As expected, the weekly and daily visits for OLAs are very low among non-users. However, the most visited parks, albeit minimally, are similar to OLA users. Magnuson, Woodland, Westcrest, and Golden Gardens parks are most frequented, but with less than 3 daily visits and 10 weekly visits. Notably, non-users visit an OLA outside Seattle than inside the city. An OLA outside Seattle, most likely Marymoor Park, receives 7 daily visits and 33 weekly visits. Non-users are willing to drive at least 20 minutes to Redmond to visit this OLA.

IMPORTANCE OF OLA FEATURES

The preferences of non-users are very similar to those of OLA users, with proximity to home and designated and/or open exercise space as the most important factors in their decision to frequent an OLA. 64% of non-users rank "being close to home" as high or highest importance and 54% ranked "designated and/or open exercise space" as high or highest importance. Proximity to work and going to an OLA to meet people are ranked as low importance, with only 10% and 5% of non-users ranking them as high or highest importance, respectively.

When asked how important certain reasons were for not using an OLA, the top reason for non-users is that the OLAs are not conveniently located (61%). Roughly half of non-users also listed too many other/unruly dogs and no access to water as important reasons. This data suggests that there are not enough conveniently located OLAs, existing OLAs are crowded, and dog owners are not practicing proper OLA etiquette. Furthermore, when given the option to write in their first priority for exercising their dog, the majority of non-users either listed exercising at home or walking on-leash around their neighborhood.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

76% of OLA users prefer off-leash exercise compared with only 47% of non-users. However, outside of the main difference of exercise preferences, the opinions and demographics of OLA users and non-users are fairly similar.

In terms of important factors for OLA usage, the convenience of location and sufficient space for their dog(s) to exercise are the top most important factors for OLA users and non-users alike. Magnuson Park is the most popular OLA in Seattle for both groups and is by far the largest OLA in Seattle.

In terms of demographics, respondents from both groups are similarly distributed throughout the city. The top two Council Districts are 1 and 7 for both groups, with roughly 20% of respondents from both groups being from West Seattle, where there is only one OLA. A slightly larger percentage of OLA users are White (83%) than non-users (79%), but both groups have the same percentage of people who speak English as their primary language (96%). This may suggest cultural barrier in OLA usage. However, a higher percentage of non-users are homeowners (77%) compared to OLA users (63%). This suggests that non-users may have more access to backyard exercise and do not rely on OLAs for exercise space.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of this survey are not representative of the entire Seattle dog owner population as respondents self-selected to take the survey. Most respondents live in either Council District 1 or 7 and are majority White, English-speaking, homeowners, between the ages of 25 and 44.

While off-leash exercise preferences between OLA users and non-users differ, it is notable that for even non-users, convenience and designated and/or open exercise space is the most important factor when visiting an OLA. Magnuson Park is the most frequented Seattle OLA for both groups. Additionally, non-users are willing to drive outside Seattle to visit an OLA, over frequenting Seattle OLAs. The OLA outside Seattle is most likely Marymoor Park, which may have characteristics non-users find valuable enough to make the 20-minute plus drive. The size of the Marymoor OLA is 40 acres, roughly four times as large as Magnuson OLA, Seattle's largest OLA at 9 acres. It may be that the size of Seattle OLAs are not large enough for non-users to prefer their use over their backyard or going off-leash illegally. Further research should be conducted to determine the reasons why non-users are willing to frequent an OLA outside Seattle more than OLAs within the city.

APPENDIX 2: OLA RECREATION DEMAND

DOG OWNER SURVEY

Email invitations were sent to all Animal Control licensed owners, and postcards and flyers were distributed to all dog clubs encouraging dog owners to complete an on-line survey. Following are major findings from the survey that was completed by 4,011 dog owners.

Survey respondents were asked their zip code.

- 98101 1%
- 98102 2%
- 98103 8%
- 98104 2%
- 98105 2%
- 98106 5%
- 98107 4%
- 98108 2%
- 98109 5%
- 98110 0%
- 98112 4%
- 98115 8%
- 98116 6%
- 98117 4%
- 98118 6%
- 98119 5%
- 98121 2%
- 98122 6%
- 98124 0%
- 98125 5%
- 98126 5%
- 98127 0%
- 98131 0%
- 98133 4%
- 98134 0%
- 98136 5%
- 98144 3%
- 98146 2%
- 98154 0%
- 98160 0%
- 98164 0%
- 98174 0%
- 98177 1%
- 98178 1%
- 98191 0%
- 98195 0%
- 98199 2%

Zip codes with the greatest number of respondents included **98103** (8%), and **98115** (8%) – 11 out of 37 zip codes had no respondents.

Survey respondents were asked how many years they had lived in Seattle.

Age Range	Percentage
0-1	6%
2-5	17%
6-10	17%
11-20	22%
21+	35%
Don't know	3%

Survey respondents were asked about what type of housing they lived in – boat or houseboat (Bt), mobile home (Mh), single-family home (Sf), duplex or townhouse (Dx), condo or apartment under 5 floors (Co) or apartment over 5 floors (Hr).

Housing Type	Own	Rent
Bt	93%	7%
Mh	100%	0%
Sf	84%	16%
Dx	59%	41%
Co	27%	83%
Hr	27%	73%

Survey respondents were asked what their primary language (is) or the language they spoke at home.

Language	Percentage
Amhario	0%
Chinese	0%
English	99%
Oromo	0%
Spanish	0%
Somali	0%
Tagalog	1%
Tigrina	0%
Vietnamese	0%
Japanese	0%

Survey respondents were asked their race.

Race	Percentage
White	86%
Black	1%
Indian	1%
Asian	4%
Hawaiian	1%
Hispanic	2%
Other	1%
Multiple	5%

Survey respondents were asked their age group.

Age Group	Percentage
Under 18	3%
19-24	31%
25-34	27%
35-39	20%
50-64	14%
Over 65	5%

Survey respondents were asked their gender.

Gender	Percentage
Male	26%
Female	73%
Other	1%

Generally, survey respondents were from throughout the city, new-to-longtime residents, reflected a wide variety of housing tenures, spoke English exclusively, 14% nonwhite, of all age groups, and predominately female.

DOG SIZE

Survey respondents were asked how many dogs they owned in various sizes.

	1	2	3
Tiny	5%	4%	4%
Small	24%	24%	22%
Medium	41%	38%	22%
Large	30%	34%	51%
Total Dogs Owned	98%	27%	4%

Of the respondents who owed a dog(s), the majority of the first dog's size was medium (41%), second dog medium to large (38% to 34%), and third dog large (51%). Of all owners, 98% owned one dog, 27% owned 2 dogs, and 4% owned 3 dogs.

DOG AGE

Survey respondents were asked the age of the dog(s) they owned.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
0-1 year	9%	6%	7%	9%
1-5 years	50%	41%	36%	48%
6-10 years	31%	40%	36%	32%
11+ years	10%	13%	27%	11%

Of the respondents who owned a dog(s) – the majority of the first dog's age was 1-5 years (50%), second dog age 1-5 and 6-10 years (36%). Of all dogs, 48% were 1-5 years of age, 32% 6-10 years, 11% over 11 + years, and 9% 0-1 year.

DOG GENDER

Survey respondents were asked the gender of the dog(s) they owned.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
Female Breeding	1%	3%	3%	2%
Female Spayed	48%	42%	40%	46%
Male Breeding	2%	4%	4%	3%
Male Neutered	48%	52%	53%	49%

Of the respondents who owned a dog(s), the majority of the first dog's gender was female and male spayed (48%), second dog male spayed (52%), and third dog male spayed (53%). Of all dogs, 49% were male spayed, 46 female spayed, 3% male breeding, and 2% female breeding.

DOG BREED GROUP

Respondents were asked the breed group that best described the dog(s) they owned.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
Sporting Group	26%	20%	16%	26%
Terrier Group	14%	13%	12%	14%
Working Group	10%	13%	17%	11%
Hound Group	7%	8%	10%	8%
Herding Group	18%	20%	18%	18%
Non-Sporting Group	10%	10%	11%	10%
Toy Group	8%	20%	12%	9%
None of the Above	5%	5%	4%	5%

Of the respondents who owned a dog(s), - the majority of the first dog's breed was sporting group (pointers, retrievers, setters, spaniels 26%), second dog breed sporting and herding group (collies, shepherds, corgis, sheepdogs 20%), and third dog breed herding (18%). Of all dogs, 26% were sporting group.

SOURCE OF DOG

Survey respondent were asked how their dog(s) were obtained.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
Veterinarian	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Pet Store	1%	1%	0.5%	1%
Breeder	30%	27%	24%	28%
Shelter	20%	19%	20%	20%
Rescue Group	29%	33%	35%	30%
Friend/Relative	7%	7%	9%	8%
Stray	2%	3%	4%	3%
Newspaper Ad	6%	5%	2%	6%
Own Dog Litter	0.2%	1%	1%	0.4%
Gift	0.3%	1%	0%	0.5%
Don't Know	0%	0%	1%	0.1%
Other	3%	2%	3%	3%

Of the respondents who owned a dog(s) – most of the first dogs were obtained from a professional breeder or rescue group (30% and 29%), second dog from a rescue group (33%), and third dog from a rescue group (3535%). Of all dogs, 30% were obtained from a rescue group and 28% from a professional breeder.

DOG LICENSE

Survey respondents were asked if the dog(s) they owned were licensed.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
Yes	86%	85%	85%	86%
No	14%	15%	15%	14%

Of the respondents who owned a dog(s) – the majority of the first dogs were licensed (86%), second dogs (85%), and third dog (85%). Of all dogs, 86% were licensed.

REASONS FOR NOT LICENSED

Survey respondents were asked if their dog(s) was not licensed the reason why on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the heist priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Not Online	24%	4%	11%	18%	44%
License/Shot Cost	24%	16%	18%	21%	21%
Don't Have Time	27%	15%	21%	24%	14%
Not Necessary	45%	19%	15%	9%	12%
Animal Control Location	32%	19%	20%	21%	8%
Animal Control Hours	32%	19%	23%	18%	8%
Don't Have Transport	65%	18%	8%	5%	4%

The highest percentage of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – for reasons for not licensing were because it could not be done on-line (18% high, 44% highest) and the cost of the license and shots (21% high, 21% higher).

DOG SKILLS

Survey respondents were asked whether their dog(s) had any certified skills training.

	1	2	3	All Dogs
Seeing Eye Dog	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%
Seizure/Disease Smelling Aid	0.5%	0.5%	2.6%	0.7%
Stress Therapy	5.3%	5.4%	7.8%	6.2%
None of the Above	94%	94%	89%	93%

Of all dogs, 0.1% had seeing eye certification, 0.7% seizure and disease smelling aid, 6.2% stress therapy.

DOG TRAINING

Survey respondents were asked what level of training their dog(s) had on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the highest priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Socializes with People	1%	3%	27%	42%	28%
Socializes with Other Dogs	2%	7%	34%	37%	20%
Obeys Voice Command	1%	6%	50%	34%	9%

The highest percentages of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – were for socialization with people (42% high, 28% highest) and with other dogs (37% high, 20% highest).

DOG DAYCARE

Survey respondents were asked where they keep their dog(s) while at work or at school or away for the day – never (Nvr), sometimes (some), frequently (Freq), or always (All). The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the factor was the reason.

	Nvr	Some	Freq	All
At Home - Inside	3%	14%	29%	53%
At Home - Has Access Outside	57%	13%	12%	17%
With Me	38%	30%	22%	10%
At Home - In Dog Pen	80%	8%	7%	5%
Dog Kennel/Daycare	45%	37%	13%	4%
In My Vehicle	84%	12%	3%	0%

The highest percentages of respondents – indicated they keep their dog(s) home inside while away at work, school, or other purpose (97% sometimes to always).

DOG EXERCISE PREFERENCE

Survey respondents were asked where they preferred to exercise their dog(s).

	1	2	3	All Dogs
On-Leash	23%	22%	23%	23%
Off-Leash	66%	68%	69%	67%
No Preference	11%	10%	8%	11%

The highest percentage of respondents) – prefer to exercise their dog(s) off-leash (67% of all dogs).

FREQUENCY OF EXERCISING IN CERTAIN AREAS

Survey respondents were asked how often they exercise their dog(s) in a variety of areas on never (Nvr), yearly (Yr), monthly (Mo), weekly (Wk), or daily (Day) basis. The following results are ranked by the lowest percentages for never using.

	Nvr	Yr	Mo	Wk	Day
Off-Leash Dog Park	8%	8%	25%	42%	18%
On-Leash Local Park	13%	4%	18%	39%	25%
On-Leash Trail	16%	16%	35%	37%	7%
On-Leash Large Park	17%	10%	30%	34%	9%
In Backyard	29%	1%	3%	12%	55%
Off-Leash Local Park	44%	6%	16%	23%	11%
Off-Leash Large Park	47%	9%	19%	19%	5%
Off-Leash Trail	49%	12%	21%	15%	3%
On-Leash at School	68%	5%	10%	13%	4%
Off-Leash at School	69%	7%	10%	11%	4%
At Work	89%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Apt/Condo Roof	94%	0%	1%	2%	2%

The highest percentages of respondents who exercise their dog(s) – is off-leash in a dog park (92% more than once a year), on-leash in their local neighborhood park (87% more than once a year), on-leash on a multipurpose trail (84% more than once a year), and on-leash in a community or regional park (83% more than once a year).

USE OF SPECIFIC PARKS

Survey respondents were asked how often they exercise their dog(s) in a list of Seattle parks on a never (Nvr), yearly (Yr), monthly (Mo), weekly (Wk), or daily (Day) basis. The following results are ranked by the lowest percentages for never using.

	Nvr	Yr	Mo	Wk	Day
Magnuson Park	26%	22%	28%	18%	5%
Off-Leash Park Outside of Seattle	31%	22%	28%	15%	4%
Golden Gardens Park	57%	25%	12%	5%	1%
Woodland Park	63%	14%	13%	8%	2%
Westcrest Park	68%	7%	9%	12%	4%
Genesee Park	73%	12%	8%	5%	2%
Northacres Park	81%	9%	6%	3%	1%
Dr. Jose Rizal Park	84%	9%	4%	2%	1%
Magnolia Manor	85%	7%	4%	3%	1%
Blue Dog Pond	87%	6%	4%	2%	1%
Denny Park	88%	7%	3%	1%	0%
I-5 Colonnade	90%	7%	2%	1%	1%
Lower Kinnear Park	91%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Regrade Park	93%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Plymouth Pillars Park	94%	3%	1%	1%	1%

The highest percentages of respondents who exercise their dog(s) – is in Warren G Magnuson Park (74% more than once a year) and off-leash in a park located outside of Seattle (69% more than once a year).

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN USING OFF-LEASH AREAS

Survey respondents were asked how important a list of factors was in deciding to use a designated off-leash area on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the highest priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Close to home	4%	4%	13%	32%	48%
Like open exercise area	3%	4%	15%	42%	37%
Like park environment	3%	5%	22%	43%	26%
Walk to park	24%	13%	16%	21%	26%
Like trails	6%	10%	23%	38%	23%
Like people and dogs	7%	12%	28%	34%	19%
Like dog size separated areas	41%	21%	16%	12%	10%
Close to work	49%	21%	13%	9%	8%
Bike to park	71%	16%	6%	4%	3%
Meet people	37%	33%	22%	7%	1%

The highest percentage of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – were for close to home (32% high, 48% highest) and the open exercise area (42% high, 37% highest).

TRANSPORT TO AN OFF-LEASH AREA

Survey respondents were asked what methods they used to transport their dog(s) to an off-leash area and how long it took in minutes. The following results are ranked by the lowest percentages for never using.

Minutes	Walk	Bike	Drive	Transit
Don't do	48%	94%	6%	91%
0-5	8%	1%	14%	0%
6-10	12%	2%	25%	1%
11-20	16%	2%	33%	3%
21-30	9%	1%	16%	2%
31-45	4%	0%	4%	2%
45+	2%	0%	1%	1%

The highest percentages of respondents – don't bike (94%), use transit (91%), walk (48%) or drive (6%) to use an off-leash area. Generally, those that walk or drive spend between 6-20 minutes walking or 5-30 minutes driving to an off-leash area.

REASONS FOR NOT USING OFF-LEASH AREA

Survey respondents were asked how important a list of factors was in deciding not to use a designated off-leash area on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the highest priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Risk disease	20%	23%	20%	17%	19%
Park not large enough	30%	19%	15%	17%	19%
No/limited parking	25%	16%	21%	23%	16%
Too many users at park	20%	24%	22%	20%	14%
No outdoor lighting	30%	21%	19%	16%	14%
Not separated by size	42%	23%	13%	11%	12%
No rain/sun shelter	30%	21%	22%	17%	10%
No benches or seating	36%	24%	20%	12%	7%
Don't know about	51%	15%	16%	11%	7%

The highest percentage of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – were for the location was not convenient (24% high, 38% highest) and there were unruly dogs at the off- leash park (21% high, 27% highest).

ENCOUNTERED ISSUES AT OFF-LEASH AREAS

Survey respondents were asked whether they had encountered any issues at off-leash designated areas – never (Nvr), sometimes (some), frequently (Freq), or always (All). The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the factor was the reason.

	Nvr	Some	Freq	All
Cited by Animal Control	95%	4%	1%	1%
Park users upset	72%	24%	4%	1%
Children interfere	59%	30%	9%	2%
Pooper scooper cans overflowing	55%	33%	10%	2%
Overly friendly dogs	48%	41%	9%	2%
No dog watering	47%	35%	14%	4%
Not enough pooper scooper cans	47%	34%	14%	5%
Aggressive dogs	17%	71%	10%	2%
Don't cleanup dogs	16%	55%	22%	7%

The highest percentages of respondents – indicated never having been cited by Animal Control (95%) and park users were not upset with their having their dog(s) in the off-lease designated area (72%).

PRIORITIES FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS

Survey respondents were asked how important a list of factors was in off-leash area or dog park on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the highest priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Trash cans	1%	3%	16%	42%	38%
Dog watering	3%	6%	21%	38%	32%
Walkable location	8%	12%	23%	27%	31%
Area/park size	1%	3%	22%	46%	29%
Water play	6%	13%	22%	30%	29%
Off-street free parking	5%	7%	24%	38%	26%
Open grass area	2%	7%	26%	40%	25%
Shade	1%	5%	23%	47%	23%
Natural features	2%	6%	25%	44%	23%
Security lights	8%	17%	28%	30%	17%
Rain/sun shaded	7%	15%	29%	33%	16%
Restrooms	11%	21%	31%	23%	15%
Varied terrain	7%	19%	33%	28%	13%
Benches	12%	19%	31%	26%	12%
Pathways	7%	19%	33%	29%	11%

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Fenced area within a larger park	12%	21%	31%	25%	11%
Dog wash-off	12%	25%	30%	23%	11%
Fenced area	12%	24%	31%	22%	11%
Separate areas by size dog	25%	27%	23%	15%	11%
Obstacles or agility play	14%	28%	31%	20%	7%
Landscaping	14%	28%	35%	16%	7%
Water fountain	23%	30%	27%	14%	6%
Community building	34%	31%	23%	9%	2%

The highest percentage of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – were for providing trash cans (42% high, 38% highest), dog water fountains (38% high, 32% highest), and off-leash designated areas within walkable distance (27% high, 31% highest).

QUANTITY AND QUALITY RATINGS

Survey respondents were asked to rate the quantity and quality of designated off-leash areas and trails on a lowest to highest scale. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who indicated the highest priority.

	Lowest	Low	Medium	High	Highest
Quality of maintenance	4%	17%	47%	27%	5%
Quality of dog areas	4%	19%	48%	25%	4%
Quantity off- leash areas	10%	28%	41%	17%	4%
Quality of people areas	5%	26%	49%	17%	2%

The highest percentages of respondents that indicated high and highest ratings – were for the maintenance of off-lease designated areas (27% high, 5% highest).

2035 POPULATION GROWTH IMPACTS

Survey respondents were advised that the Seattle population would increase by at least another 120,000 people or by 18% by the year 2035 and asked if existing facilities would be sufficient.

	Sufficient	Neutral	Not Sufficient
Existing off-leash areas	2%	11%	87%
Existing off-leash trails	2%	23%	76%
Existing on-leash trails	15%	31%	54%

The highest percentages of respondents that indicated existing facilities would not be sufficient – were for off-leash areas (87%), off- leash trails (76%), and on-leash trails (54%).

PREFER TO BE KEPT INFORMED

Survey respondents were asked how they would like to be kept informed of dog programs. The following results are ranked by the highest percentages of respondents who selected from the multiple options available.

Method	Percentage
Website	52%
Kiosk at off-leash area	46%
Email	42%
Facebook posting	33%
Utility bill insert	32%
Word of mouth	20%
Newsletter	15%
Mobile application	14%
Newspaper	13%
Brochure or flyer	11%
Twitter	9%

The highest percentages of respondents – indicated a preference to be notified by website (52%), a kiosk at an off-leash area (46%), and email (42%).

APPENDIX 3: PEOPLE, DOGS & PARKS STRATEGY FOCUS GROUP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2015, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) conducted seven focus groups, one in each council district, to better understand the behaviors and perceptions of 56 residents recruited to discuss their use of Seattle parks with and without dogs. The People, Dogs and Parks Strategy is the response to a Statement of Legislative Intent 69-1-B-1 to create an Off-leash Master Plan. Given early community feedback, SPR expanded the Off-leash Area Master Plan to include education and enforcement and changed the name to People, Dogs and Parks Strategy to make the strategy more holistic and inclusive of all park users who might be affected by a change to off-leash area policy.

The goals of the focus groups were to:

- Learn how different members of the public perceive off-leash issues
- Explore acceptability of potential alternative off-leash designs used in other cities (e.g., hours, off-leash without a fence, using the corner of a regional park, fenced areas, etc)
- Discover solutions with broad community support
- Inform development of a set of guiding principles to inform Seattle Parks and Recreation decisions
- Understand priorities for funding

Focus groups are valuable because unlike survey or other individual-oriented methods, a focus group allows participants to react to each other's ideas and opinions. This approach often generates additional ideas and conclusions that would not be generated by individuals alone. Enviroissues worked with SPR to develop a process that would bring a diversity of voices together to think through potential solutions to challenging issues while maintaining a respectful conversation.

The recruitment targets were set to have an equal number of dog owners and non-dog owners, a spread of ages, dog owners who prefer on-leash, off-leash or both, parents of children under 12, interest in habitat and wildlife, athletic field users and racial diversity. These goals were basically satisfied with the exception of equal men and women. Off-leash areas is a female dominated issue and we ended up with 66% females to 33% male and 0.3% other participating in focus groups. Interestingly, of those who originally applied to participate in the focus groups, the age distribution differed greatly depending on the presence of a dog in their household. 68% who had no dog in their household were above the age 55, whereas 70% of those who had a dog in their household were between ages 25-54.

Key Findings:

- 5/7 groups said that 'nothing' would be the worst thing we could do.
- All groups discussed the interconnected issues of a growing high energy dog population, limited space, etiquette of fellow park visitors, enforcement and communication issues, impacts to wildlife and habitat and improvements that could be made to the existing program.
- 81% of participants wanted more than signage only to separate off-leash dogs.
- Poor etiquette and non-compliance dominated most focus group conversations.

- Existing rules create user conflicts and environmental damage. The top ideas for how to mitigate this:
    - Enforcement resources should be focused on parks
    - Enhanced communication and education
    - Licensing program should
- Given the single-use nature of off-leash land, SPR will have to determine how much of the demand should be satisfied by parkland.
- Some people would like a dog-free experience in the parks
- Off-leash area design should be improved to be more inviting
- There was interest in alternative revenue structures

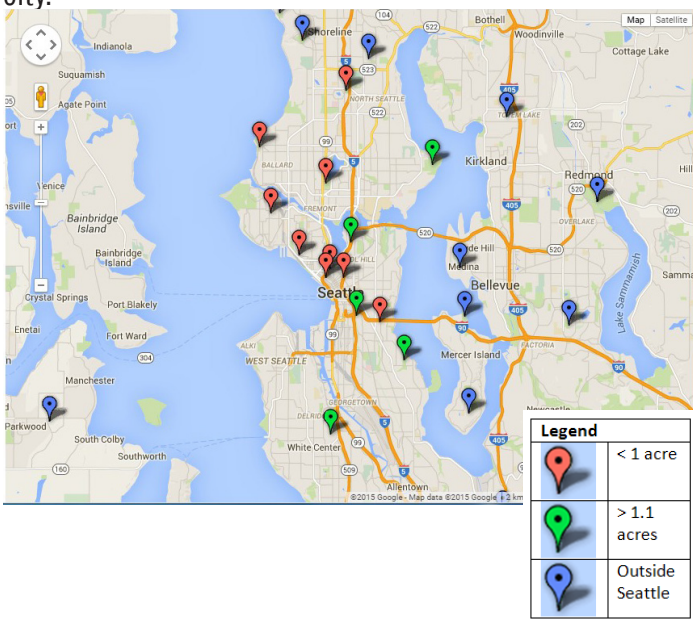
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Seattle Animal Shelter estimates t**here are 150,000 dogs in Seattle**, based on this estimate, the number of people per household and the number of dogs per owner 35% of households have a dog. Seattle Municipal Code requires dogs on-leash and scooping in all 465 parks. There are 14 off-leash areas (OLAs) operated by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) that are exempt from this leash rule.

In SPR's 2011 Development Plan, it is written that 'a dog off-leash area is desirable in each sector of the city (northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest). Such areas should be contained by fencing. Possible improvements include pathways, benches, kiosks, drinking fountains and other park furniture appropriate at the site. Other public lands will be considered for future off-leash areas to avoid conversion of existing park spaces to dog off-leash areas.

Based on this criteria, SPR has met 2011 Development Plan goals and there is an off-leash area in every sector. These areas total 25 acres of land. In the map below, red points are less than 1 acre, green points are more than 1.1 acres and blue points are outside the city.



In July 2015, SPR released a survey as part of the Recreation Demand Study to better understand dog owner behaviors and characteristics. Although the survey was not statistically significant, there were 4,011 respondents who had very similar geography and dog breeds as the active license holders kept by the Seattle Animal Shelter. In this study, at least 26% of respondents admitted to running their dog off-leash illegally in a park near their home. Many people were not visiting OLAs because they were not attractive, not convenient, had too many or unruly/aggressive dogs.

The Demand Study estimates that approximately 112,088 people will use OLAs in 2015, the equivalent of 2 million are visiting OLAs every year. This demand

is projected to grow commensurately with Seattle's population growth.

Additionally, Seattle is ranked the 3rd most dog friendly city by Estately (2013). Unlike in many other cities, dogs are welcome on Seattle's bus lines, ferries, light rail, and local seaplanes. Additionally, you do not need to own a home with a yard to have a dog. Out of 6,522 apartments for rent listed on Craigslist, 4,428 or two-thirds are flagged as 'dogs ok' (Craigslist search 10-26-2015). Ben Kakimoto from Seattle Condos and Lofts inventoried 208 condos that allow dogs (SeattleCondosAndLofts.com). Large companies, like REI and Amazon, have policies that allow dogs at work. Seattle Business Magazine along with the Associated Press and Forbes cites that the pet industry is recession proof and growing. Seattle region's pet companies have attracted an estimated $250 million in third party investment since 2007 Seattle Business Magazine. Mellissa Haliburton, founder of Bring Fido, reports that Seattle has 45 pet-friendly hotels, 38 pet-friendly attractions—including the dog-friendly Fremont Sunday Ice Cream Cruise—and 150 pet-friendly[1] restaurants , like Bark Espresso and the Green Lake Bar and Grill, where you can eat outside with your dog (2011, Seattle Magazine). Yelp lists 1,701 businesses in Seattle under the categories of Pet Boarding/Pet Sitting, Pets and Pet Groomers; 378 under Dog Walking; and 274 under Veterinarians (Yelp, 10-26-2015). The iconic Chuckit! brand of pet play products was founded and owned by Seattle-based Canine Hardware until 2012.

Despite the popularity of dogs in Seattle, SPR receives many complaints each year regarding dogs off-leash.

1 WAC 246-215-06570 prohibits all live animals on the premises of a food establishment. However this rule has been difficult for King County Public Health to enforce since it is difficult to distinguish a service dog from a pet during inspections. Restaurants will not be shut down due to the presence of a dog.

In a review of the past 5 years of emails received by the Superintendent's office complaints fell into these categories: Owners who walk their dog on-leash frustrated by off-leash dogs because it is their only option for exercising their dog legally (e.g., dog doesn't get along well with other dogs), Adults and parents of children feeling threatened by dogs, Feces create public health concern (e.g., feces in athletic fields, in sand on beaches, playgrounds, etc.), Health of natural areas and wildlife (e.g., plant damage, endangered seals on beaches), and Asset damage (e.g., turf damage on sport fields, run patterns on grass, holes from digging).

As Seattle grows and becomes denser, user conflicts will rise unless there is some way to change behavior of dog owners. Focus groups were brought together to discuss what it would take to change behavior.

The City conducted seven focus group with EnviroIssues moderating each 2-hour session:

- Tuesday, 10/13, 6-8 p.m., Green Lake Community Center
- Thursday, 10/15, 6-8 p.m., Camp Long
- Saturday, 10/17, 10-12 p.m., Jefferson Golf Clubhouse
- Saturday, 10/17, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Garfield Community Center
- Tuesday, 10/20, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Magnuson Campus
- Wednesday, 10/21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bitter Lake Community Center
- Tuesday, 10/27, 6-8 p.m., Magnolia Community Center

This report summarizes the results of the focus group and captures key comments and issues.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the focus groups was to:

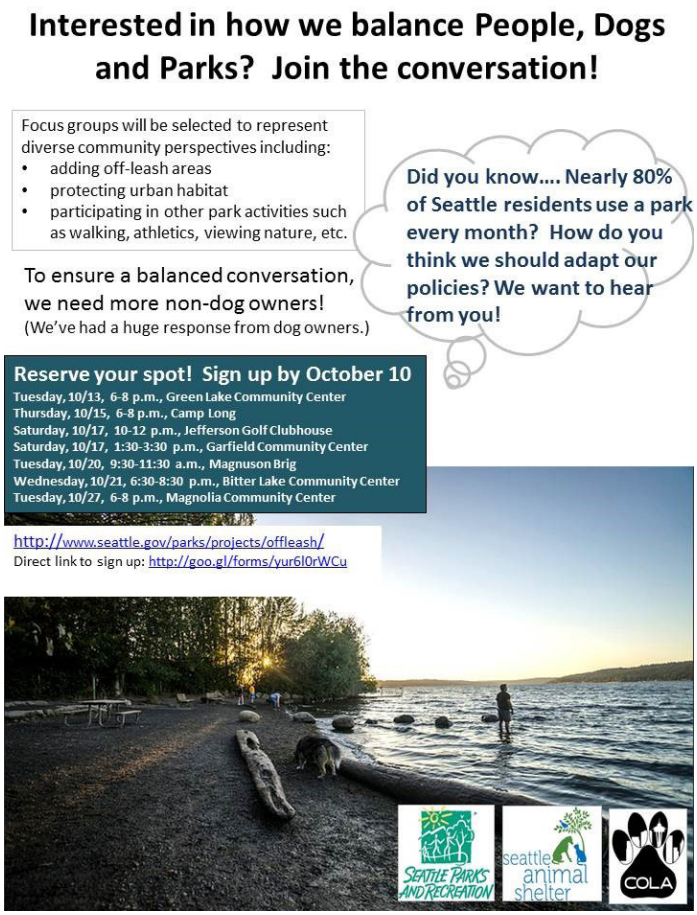
- Learn how members of the public perceive off-leash issues
- Explore acceptability of potential alternative designs used in other cities (e.g., hours, off-leash without a fence, using the corner of a regional park, whether we need more fenced areas)
- Discover any solutions/options with broad community support
- Inform development of a set of guiding principles to inform Seattle Parks and Recreation decisions
- Understand priorities for park district funding (maintenance versus acquisition – "fix it first")

Focus groups are valuable because unlike survey or other individually-oriented methods, a focus group allows participants to react to each other's ideas and opinions. This approach often generates additional ideas and conclusions that would not be generated by individuals.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

OUTREACH

Focus group participants were recruited by emailing the OFFLEASHAREAS listserv of 1,200 people who had elected to stay with the process after the survey, sending out a Seattle Parks and Recreation Twitter and Facebook post, contacting Forterra and the Green Seattle Partnership forest stewards, Beacon Hill Blog, Central District News, Explore Nature Listserv (Discovery Park), Seward Audubon, Magnuson Park Advisory Council and emails were sent to individuals who have worked on projects in the past at Discovery, Magnuson, Woodland, Lincoln, Volunteer, Carkeek, Seward, Golden Gardens.



A flyer was posted on the Facebook pages of Garfield Community Center, Green Lake Community Center, Bitter Lake Community Center and Magnolia Community Center.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

From this outreach 340 people filled out the application. The application had a number of questions that we used to determine the focus groups including gender, age, presence of dog in household, presence of a child younger than 12 and environmental concern. There were 222 people who had a dog in their household and 109 people with no dog in their household. The average score (on a 5 point scale) for how safe, welcome or happy non-dog owners felt around dogs off-leash outside of designated areas was a 2.0 and for dog owners it was a 3.5.

- F 25-34, DO- on-leash
- M 35-44, DO-off-leash
- F 45-54, DO-on-leash
- M 55-64, DO-off-leash
- F 65+, DO-on-leash

The pilot area included neighborhoods east and north of Kissel Park (3000 West Mead Avenue). Each house in the project area was provided with a 32-gallon garbage cart, a 96-gallon yard waste cart, and a 96-gallon recycling cart. Participants in the focus group were selected to match the demographics of the City of Yakima in terms of age and gender and included members who participated in the pilot program by placing recycling or yard waste out for collection during the pilot. The focus group included some participants who indicated that they already paid for yard waste collection service prior to the pilot. Additionally, participants were not selected if they were employed by the City of Yakima or Yakima Waste Services.

A total of 8 people participated in the focus group – four men and four women. Their ages ranged from 20 to over 65 years of age. Age ranges were used to ensure a representative sample; however, to ensure enough participants would attend the focus group, more participants between 55 and 64 years of age were recruited.

WHAT DID WE ASK?

BACKGROUND

Participants were given minimal information about the topic of the focus group before arriving at the session. At the beginning of the session, the moderator introduced herself and shared the purpose of the focus group with the participants. They were informed that Seattle Parks and Recreation was sponsoring the focus group and the purpose was to talk about City of Seattle parks.

1. ***How do you use city parks? What experience are you seeking when you use the parks?***

Part 1: Dogs in Parks Discussion – 35 minutes

The moderator share a bit of information about what the Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) is working on including that there is a strategy being developed called the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy. This strategy came about from a request from the City Council to assess the city's off-leash areas. The department broadened the mandate to include an overarching strategy based on public feedback. The strategy is about finding balanced solutions and the Parks department is assessing the needs of both dog owners and non-dog owners. The Department is partnering with the Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) and the Seattle Animal Shelter to develop this strategy. The Department is in the formative stage of the plan, and the results of these focus groups will help inform how to develop the strategy. She read:

> *"The Seattle Animal Shelter estimates there are close to 150,000 dogs currently in the City of Seattle. There are about 40,000 licensed dogs in the city, and the shelter estimates about a 30% compliance rate, so that's how that estimate came about. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department is looking for sustainable solutions to help accommodate dogs in a city growing in density.*

The purpose of the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy is to identify a long term plan for improving the experience of people with and without dogs in the parks. Recommendations could include improving the City's existing 14 OLAs, as well as if and how we should expand space for OLAs..
The plan will also provide direction on how to spend Park District funding designated for OLAs in the '2.5 Improve Dog Off-Leash Areas' and '2.4 Make Parks Safer' funding initiatives described in the six year Park District spending plan (2015-2020). The total funding for improving Off-leash areas is about $100K per year."

The moderator passed out a handout with the timeline for the plan process. She summarized the information presented on the timeline and pointed out where the focus groups fit into the process.

2. ***How familiar are you with Seattle's off-leash dog areas?***

3. ***What thoughts do you have about dogs in city parks?***

The moderator passes out Handout 1: Seattle Overview and explained that it contained information about Seattle's population, dog population, and Seattle's off-leash areas. She read each point in the handout aloud:

Regulatory Framework:

- Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) requires dogs on-leash and scooping in all 465 parks.
    - Violations result in fines
    - 14 off-leash areas (OLas) are exempt from on-leash rules
- No dogs are allowed in athletic fields, beaches or children's play areas in Seattle parks.

Seattle dogs:

- Seattle ranked 3rd Best US City for Dogs in 2013 by Estately[2], an online real estate company
- The Seattle Animal Shelter estimates 150,000 dogs based on 40,000 licenses and 20-30% compliance rate
- Approximately 35% of residents have dog(s) in their household

Exercising off-leash:

- Survey participants report 67% prefer to exercise dogs off-leash
    - Of people who indicated they did not use OLAs, 45% prefer off-leash exercise
- Parks is an early adopter of OLAs. The first 7 OLAs were piloted in 1996.
- Seattle ranks high in number of OLAs with 2.1 OLAs per 100,000 people located in each geographic sector of the city.
    - Approximately 112,088 people will use OLAs at least once in 2015
    - Approximately 2 million visits to OLAs every year

2 The reason why we included this fact was to point out that Seattle is more dog friendly than most other cities. Estately (2013) found that Seattle unlike many other cities allowed dogs on Seattle's bus lines, ferries, light rail, and local seaplanes. Additionally, you do not need to own a home with a yard to have a dog when two-thirds of apartments listed on craigslist and at least 208 condos are dog friendly. Large companies, like REI and Amazon, have policies that allow dogs at work. Yelp lists 1701 businesses in Seattle under the categories of Pet Boarding/Pet Sitting, Pets and Pet Groomers; 378 under Dog Walking; and 274 under Veterinarians (Yelp, 10-26-2015).

State of OLAs:

- 14 fenced off-leash areas: red is less than 1 acre, green is more than 1.1 acre, blue is outside Seattle
- 25 acres in total
- The program is a partnership between:
    - COLA
    - Animal Shelter
    - SPR

4. ***What surprised you?***

5. ***What do you wonder about?***

6. ***Does this change any of your thoughts about dogs in parks?***

Next, the moderator spent time talking about your ideal experience in a city park. Answer whichever of the next few questions apply to you:

7. ***As a walker/runner without a dog?***

8. ***As a walker/runner with a dog on a leash outside an off-leash area?***
   With a dog in an off-leash area?

9. ***With a dog off leash in a park outside an off-leash area. That is, imagine it was legal to have a dog off-leash somehow outside the 14 fenced off-leash areas?***

Part 2: Behaviors, Education – 20 minutes

Moderator introduced the next section to be about behaviors and education. The Parks Department recently did a survey of dog owners and got some interesting results. I'd like to share some of those with you. Handout 2: Behaviors and characteristics of dog owners.

How often are Seattle OLAs Used?

- 54% of survey respondents report exercising dog(s) in OLA on a daily or weekly basis
- Only 4 OLAs receive at least moderate traffic on a daily, weekly or monthly basis[3]
    - Magnuson, Westcrest, Woodland, Golden Gardens
- 81-94% of respondents report never using other 10 OLAs
    - Not conveniently located, too many unruly dogs, too many other dogs, risk of disease or unsanitary conditions

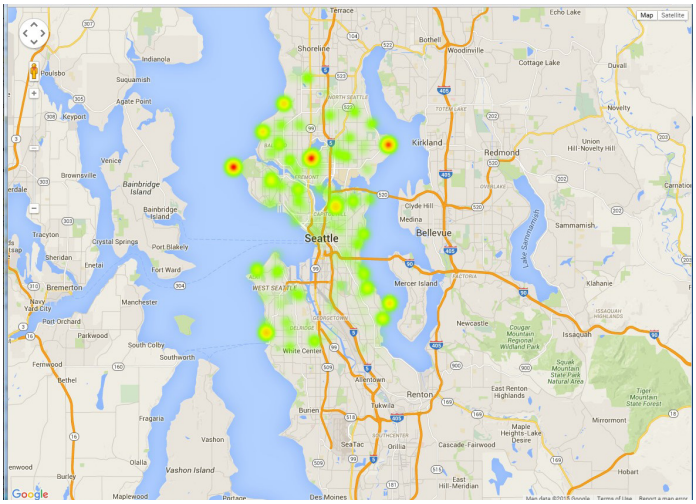
Demand for off-leash areas:

- SPR Dog Owner Survey Participants:
    - 24% of dogs belong to sporting breed group
    - 71% of dogs are either medium or large
    - 48% of dogs are under the age of 5
    - "A tired dog is a happy dog"
    - Top priorities: Close to home, designated/open exercise areas, environmental features

3 This statistic was taken from survey responses to Q14: How often do you use the following designated off-leash areas in Seattle Parks? Use was defined as moderate if more than 32% of survey respondents reported visiting.

Leash and scoop law violations:

- 26% of respondents exercise off-leash in local park (outside of legal area)
- 4,562 off-leash/scoop violations (Animal enforcement data between 2009-2014)
- Top 8 parks with violations: Discovery, Magnuson*, Woodland*, Lincoln, Volunteer, Carkeek, Seward, Golden Gardens*
    - *Indicates presence of OLA in park
- Complaints fall into 5 themes
- Owners who walk their dog on-leash frustrated by off-leash dogs because it is their only option for exercising their dog legally (e.g., dog doesn't get along well with other dogs)
- Adults and parents of children feeling threatened by dogs
- Feces create public health concern (e.g., feces in athletic fields, in sand on beaches, playgrounds, etc.)
- Health of natural areas and wildlife (e.g., plant damage, endangered seals on beaches)
- Asset damage (e.g., turf damage on sport fields, run patterns on grass, holes from digging)



10. Why do you think people don't follow the rules?

Moderator read:

- The Department, COLA and the Animal Shelter are doing a number of things to educate people and try to get them to change those behaviors.
- Each off-leash area is assigned a volunteer steward to care for the park, work with visitors to create a safe environment, notify Parks and Recreation when something needs repair and organize volunteer work parties. Each kiosk at the off-leash area displays the rules and etiquette for the park including what to do in the case of a dog fight, requirements to use the park such as voice/sight control, up-to-date shots and a license, and the steward's contact information.
- In terms of enforcement 'Leash and Scoop' signage has been placed at the majority of the parks. Newer signs have a phone number to report violations to animal shelter as well as a QR code that directs the visitor to designated off-leash areas.
- Animal Shelter has placed 'Are you harboring a fugitive' posters around town to improve awareness of licenses.

She then said, you've heard and talked a lot about what dog owners want and options for ways to balance the use of parks for people and dogs. Keeping all those in mind along with what the Parks Department, COLA and the Animal Shelter are already doing.

11. What else do you think would be effective in getting dog owners to change their behaviors with their dogs in parks?

Part 3: People and Dogs Together in Parks – 20 minutes

Looking forward, and thinking about things from your perspective, think about this:

12. ***Please write down the answer to this question, what do you see as a balanced way for people with dogs and people without dogs to use the city's parks?***
13. ***What would be the worst thing that could be done to change the way things are now with people and dogs in the city's parks?***

I'm going to share a number of options being used around the country for sharing parks with people and dogs. I'd like your opinion on each one. These options were selected from cities of similar park quality, population, and population density. Each one is categorized based on what Parks and Recreation heard as needs from the dog community during the first survey.

Passed out Handout 3: Nationwide Practices and reviewed each option[4].

Nationwide Research:

- We are considering ideas from small and big cities
- Cities of similar park quality, population, and population density tend to have more relevant models

Dog Restrictions

- Can I bring my dog when I watch the kids at the play area or ballfield?
- Cities generally agree on the following rules:
    - Dogs are not permitted (on or off-leash) in playgrounds, zoos, fountains, ballfields, gardens, on basketball/handball/tennis courts, in swimming pools/facilities, bathing areas and public beaches.[5]

Off-Leash Dog Parks per 100,000 Residents and 0.1 square mile

City	TPL Rank	Population	Density	Dog Parks	Per 100,000	Per 0.1 square mile
New York	5	8,405,837	27,779	136	1.6	4.5
San Francisco	4	837,442	17,856	29	3.5	6.2
Vancouver, BC	n/a	603,500	13,595	30	0.2	6.8
Boston	8	645,966	13,374	5	0.8	1.0
Chicago	12	2,718,782	11,945	21	0.8	0.9
Philadelphia	19	1,553,165	11,582	5	0.3	0.4
Washington, D.C.	3	646,449	10,598	11	1.7	1.8
Long Beach	18	469,428	9,333	6	1.3	1.2
Seattle	9	652,405	7,776	14	2.1	1.7
Minneapolis	1	400,070	7,409	7	1.7	1.3
Oakland	11	406,253	6,909	3	0.7	0.5
Milwaukee	22	599,164	6,235	3	0.5	0.3
St. Paul	1	294,873	5,671	2	0.7	0.4
Pittsburgh	24	305,841	5,521	6	2.0	1.1
Sacramento	13	479,686	4,900	10	2.1	1.0
Portland	5	609,456	4,569	33	5.4	2.5
Denver	16	649,495	4,245	11	1.7	0.7
San Diego	9	1,355,896	4,169	15	1.1	0.5
Calgary, AB	n/a	1,230,915	3,864	150	12.2	4.7
Cincinnati	7	297,517	3,819	4	1.3	0.5
Austin	31	885,400	2,972	12	1.4	0.4
Albuquerque	13	556,495	2,965	12	2.2	0.6

Option 1: Convenience and space- Hours model (see Appendix 3-A for handout)

- New York City has 140 dog zones:
    - 40 Fenced dog runs: Dog runs are large, fenced-in areas for dogs to exercise unleashed during park hours.
    - 100 Unfenced designated off-leash areas: Some parks allow dogs to be off-leash from the time the park opens

4 The options were intended to test reactions. We noted where people did not like the options, accepted an option with caveats, confusion, or if they did not want to add off-leash space altogether. However, in response to feedback, we added an additional question in the script for participants to add their own option(s) to prevent inadvertently discouraging feedback, other ideas or participation.

5 Playgrounds and ballfields are defined as the perimeter of the asset itself. For example, a dog cannot be on-leash on the fibar in a playground on the surface of a ballfield. Beaches are defined as all salt or freshwater shoreline. Magnuson OLA is the only exception to the beach rule. Dogs are not allowed at the water's edge.

until 9am and from 9pm until the park closes.

14. What was notable about this option?

15. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

Option 2: Convenience and space- Multi-use with bounds

- San Francisco, Duboce Multi-use Play Field and Dog Play Area
- Area is designate with a loose fence that serves as a boundary.
- The boundary does not contain the dogs and does not continue all around the area where there are other natural boundaries.

16. What was notable about this option?

17. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

Option 3: Convenience and space- Multi-use with only signage

- Two parks were described including Mission Dolores Park in San Francisco and Hadden Park in Vancouver BC.
- These parks have no physical boundary around the area and the hours are the same as the park hours.
- There is only signage sometimes with a map on the sign that describes where the area is located
- If muli-use with no fence, cities have found space needs to be greater than one acre to prevent user conflicts
- There is a map on the handout of the newly renovated Mission Dolores Park. The off-leash area is colored yellow and if you notice the topographic lines, it is at the bottom of a hill, which helps separate it from the train tracks and children's play area.

18. What was notable about this option?

19. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

Option 4: Access to regional parks: Hours model

- Two parks were described including Boston Commons and NYC Central Park.
- Boston Commons off-leash hours include 6am to 9am and 4pm to 8pm.
- Central Park off-leash hours include 6am to 9am and 9pm to 1am.
- This option differs from Option 1 because in Option 1 we are describing neighborhood parks and in this option we are describing destination parks.
- The two photos show large grassy areas, trees and a density of people using the parks.

20. What was notable about this option?

21. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

Option 5: Leash-optional trails

- This option described Pacific Spirit Park in Vancouver BC that has 50 miles of maintained

trails with 80% of them being leash optional.[6]

22. What was notable about this option?

23. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

Option 6: Beach Access

- This option described Vancouver's beach program in general and had a photo of Hadden Park.
- There are eight places in Vancouver that allow dogs access to water.[7]
- Dogs are not allowed at Vancouver's other beaches. Vancouver has 18 km of beach access for people including nine oceanside beaches and one freshwater lake beach.

24. What was notable about this option?

25. Did anything concern you? Surprise you? Sound promising?

26. We're interested in what you think about these options. Looking at all the options, which would you support? (Using options list on flip chart, make check marks for each vote of support)

27. Based on what we've discussed so far, are there other options the parks department should consider?

6 Pacific Spirit Park was selected because we wanted to have an option that had people running or walking in the woods with a dog off-leash. Focus groups were pre-occupied by the size of the park and could not imagine where in Seattle it could go.

7 Dog beaches are on both salt and freshwater including a small lake.

Think back to what you said was a balanced way for people with dogs and people without dogs to use the city's parks.

28. Do you remember what you said?

29. Do you see any of these options contributing to that ideal mix?

Part 4: Planning for the Future – Principles, Priorities – 20 minutes

Ok. Let's get back to talking about the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy. Here's some more information I've been asked to share with you. Passed out handout: Who is Seattle Parks and Recreation?

- Seattle Parks and Recreation's Mission is: Seattle Parks and Recreation provides welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and promotes responsible stewardship of the land.
- Seattle Parks and Recreation's Values are: access, opportunity, sustainability, responsiveness, race and social justice.
- And, lastly, Seattle Parks and Recreation's Outcomes are: Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Financial Sustainability, and Strong communities.

With the Parks Department's mission and values in mind, what should drive the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy? Think about this in terms of, no matter what gets put in the strategy, it should be in alignment with these statements or principles. For example: There should always be physical barriers around off-leash areas. Or: Running a dog in a park is a valid use of a park.

30. ***Are there guiding principles the strategy should build on? (A guiding principle is something you always try to follow so you know things are done right.) (Flip chart responses)***

One more question about the People, Dogs, and Parks Strategy. Thinking about funding, the department needs to decide how to prioritize their funding.

31. ***Should the department dedicate more funds to maintaining existing off-leash areas or should they put more funding towards acquiring more off-leash areas?***

We are close to wrapping up. I have one last question for you.

32. ***If you were addressing the Parks Board or the Mayor, what would your #1 piece of advice be for them for the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy?***

Wrap-up – 10 minutes

Participants were thanked for coming to the focus groups. The observers were introduced and answers were provided that came up throughout the focus group.

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

GENERAL PERSPECTIVES

Below is an overview of responses from the focus group. Please note that the statements below are not verbatim, but are paraphrased to help present a general idea of the input from the participants. The bullets are listed with the number of responses for each idea. The questions listed below are those that were listed in the previous section of this document describing the focus group process.

1. How do you use city parks?
    - To enjoy a natural experience (29)
    - Use open space, fields and trails for running, active play and sports (19)
    - Walk dogs on leash in parks or on trails (15)
    - Use off-leash areas (9)
    - Volunteer as a naturalist or teacher (8)
    - To go swimming (2)
2. What experience are you seeking in a city park?
    - Exercise and fun (9)
    - Taking dog to water, walk and play (7)
    - Connect with nature (7)
    - Looking for peace (5)
    - Enjoy a safe experience (3)
    - Volunteer (2)
    - Educate children (1)
    - There is not enough maintenance (1)

Part 1: Dogs in Parks Discussion

3. How familiar are you with off-leash areas? What are your thoughts about dogs in city parks?
    - Don't mind off-leash dogs in non-off-leash areas (13)
    - Off-leash dogs disrupt natural habitat (12)
    - Too many off-leash dogs; too many

dogs in city (10)

- Off-leash areas are fine as long as people follow on-leash/off-leash rules (10)
- Need to expand number of off-leash areas (8)
- Too much dog feces in parks (8)
- Afraid of dogs (7)
- Dogs should not be allowed on sports fields, play areas or near children (5)
- Limit dog walkers; too many out-of-control dogs (5)
- Need more education (4)
- Not enough enforcement (4)
- Don't like off-leash areas (3)
- Object to SPR's partnership with COLA (2)
- Off-leash area stewards are doing a good job (1)
- People need some non-dog areas (1)
- Don't like dog licenses (1)

Current State of Off-Leash Areas

4. What surprised you? What do you wonder about? Does this change your thoughts about dogs in parks?
    - Need more dog parks with better geographic distribution (18)
    - Need more enforcement and education (12)
    - Off-leash areas are too small (7)
    - Need more variety of off-leash areas with grass and beaches (5)
    - Need to protect environment, keep dogs off beaches due to environmental concerns (4)
    - Existing off-leash areas are nice (2)
    - There is too much dog poop (2)
    - Dog safety concerns (1)
    - Surprised we have so many off-leash areas (1)
    - Too many aggressive, misbehaving dogs (1)
    - Too many off-leash dogs (1)
    - Need to allow unfenced off-leash areas at certain times (1)
    - There is confusion about rules (1)

5. What is your ideal experience in a city park as a walker/runner without a dog?
    - Peaceful experience; quiet; experience in nature; solitude (15)
    - More safety, enforcement and signage (12)
    - Dogs under control (7)
    - No dog poop; clean parks (7)
    - Separate trails for people with and without dogs (4)
    - Sense of community; being around people (3)
    - No off-leash dogs (3)
    - Better lighting (2)
    - Restrict extended leashes (1)
    - Better-educated people (1)
    - Water (1)

6. What is your ideal experience in a city park as a walker/runner with a dog on a leash outside an

off-leash area?

- No off-leash dogs or aggressive dogs (14)
- Separate paths for dogs with wider trails (9)
- Educate people on proper dog/people etiquette (9)
- Plenty of bags for dog poop; more trash cans (8)
- Water for dogs (4)
- Natural setting; peaceful (4)
- Scared of dogs (3)
- Toilets for people (2)
- Dogs must be separated from children's play areas (2)
- More enforcement (2)
- No bikes, skateboards (1)
- Designated dog potty areas (1)
- No extended leashes (1)

7. What is your ideal experience in a city park with a dog in an off-leash area?

- Features of the natural environment (14)
- Safety, enforcement, lighting (9)
- Shy dog area (7)
- Long running, throwing areas in more and bigger spaces (6)
- Responsible owners (6)
- Limit numbers of dogs/dog walkers; no big packs of dogs (6)
- Protect the natural environment (4)
- Area is clear of dog poop (4)
- Fences and gates (4)
- Swimming areas for dogs (4)
- Seating (2)
- Soft surface (2)
- Area to clean dog (2)
- Water (2)
- Signage (1)
- Shelter during rain (1)
- No children (1)
- ADA accessible (1)

8. What is your ideal experience with a dog in a park outside of an off-leash area? That is, imagine it was legal to have a dog off-leash somehow outside the 14 fenced off-leash areas?

    - Dogs are under control with responsible owners (15)
    - Specific areas are designated (6)
    - Strong enforcement for safety and those afraid of dogs (5)
    - Specific hours are designated (3)
    - Don't allow (2)
    - Dog-owner education and training (2)
    - No dog walkers (1)
    - Far from children's play area (1)
    - Fence it (1)
    - No other people around (1)
    - Have to register your dog (1)

Part Two: Behaviors, Education

9. Why don't people follow the rules?

    - People in Seattle are entitled; don't follow rules; think rules don't apply to them; personify dogs and are rude (25)
    - Not enough enforcement (17)

- Not enough off-leash areas; need more, larger off-leash areas (9)
- Convenience (7)
- Need better education about rules, licenses; apply peer pressure (5)
- No concern for their impact on the natural world (4)
- People want to take care of their dogs and dogs are part of the public (4)
- Off-leash areas are ugly, dirty (2)
- There is confusion about beach rules (1)
- Let all dogs go off-leash (1)
- Charge people for off- and on-leash use of parks for dogs and use revenue to build more off-leash areas (1)
- Let all dogs go off-leash (1)
- Too many big dogs for dense city (1)
- Reward good behavior (1)

10. What would be effective in getting people to change their behavior? How could technology help?
    - Need more enforcement (27)
    - Require more education for dog walkers and users of off-leash areas about scooping poop, leash laws, and impacts on the natural world. Add signage. (22)
    - More volunteers, peer enforcement, more community working together (14)
    - Need more enforcement (10)
    - More and larger off-leash areas (6)
    - Require community service; attach incentives to licensing process (5)
    - Develop an app for reporting off-leash dogs (5)
    - Make people go through some process to use off-leash areas; charge a fee to use (4)
    - Put phone number for off-leash enforcement on every park sign (4)
    - Put chip reader at each off leash area gate. Users would require a chip to get in. (3)
    - Take photographs of violators (2)
    - Off-leash park users don't scoop poop (2)
    - Not enough resources for maintenance; off-leash areas need to be cleaner (2)
    - Encourage development of private off-leash areas (1)

Part Three: People and Dogs Together in Parks

11. What would be the worst thing that could be done to change the way things are now with people and dogs in the city's parks?
    - Eliminating or decreasing the current off-leash areas (7)
    - Converting more parkland to off-leash areas (6)
    - Putting off-leash areas in natural areas (5)
    - Creating more off-leash areas without a maintenance plan and dollars to support it (4)
    - Doing nothing (4)
    - Over-enforcement (3)
    - Expanding the number of off-leash areas without increasing their size (3)
    - Not improving existing off-leash areas

before adding new ones (2)

- Not increasing enforcement (2)
- Not letting dogs go on beaches (1)

12. What do you think of an option that would allow unfenced off-leash areas during certain hours?
    - Nice, it opens up more space (6)
    - Only morning hours; dark hours are no good (6)
    - Would be difficult to enforce (3)
    - Who would clean the poop? (3)
    - It's not safe (3)
    - Worried about bleeding over time limits (3)
    - Parks will be off-limits to others during these hours (2)
    - Don't allow in natural areas (2)
    - Sunrise to sunset would be better (2)
    - Doesn't fit with Seattle culture. People are not aware enough of personal space in Seattle (1)
    - Don't allow near or on children's play areas (1)
    - Only in non-park areas (1)
    - Worried about deterring non-white people (1)
    - Don't allow (1)

13. What do you think of multiple use of space for dog and people with minimal fencing and using natural boundaries?
    - This will not work for all dogs (4)
    - I prefer a boundary to protect larger spaces (3)
    - Would require a huge increase in education and enforcement (3)
    - I would not go there even though it is technically multiple-use (3)
    - Need large areas (2)
    - Need to fence off natural areas (2)
    - It will denude the space (2)
    - Like it. Dogs and people will self-regulate. (2)

14. What about allowing dogs off-leash on regional trails during certain hours?
    - There is not enough space (4)
    - Should also have on-leash only trails (3)
    - Can't run in dark hours; won't work (3)
    - Love it (3)
    - Could work during certain hours (2)
    - Too much poop (2)
    - Trails would have to be fenced (1)
    - No way to protect natural areas (2)
    - Should have parks with no dogs allowed (1)
    - I would never use such a trail (1)
    - Needs to be outside of the city (1)
    - Only if bikes are allowed also (1)

15. What about expanding the number of beaches where unleashed dogs have access?
    - Big concerns about impacts on wildlife, salmon habitat and seals (5)
    - Public health concerns (fecal coliform) (3)
    - Only in winter (2)
    - Concerns about availability of beaches

(2)

- Like it (1)
- Would have to be completely fenced (1)

16. Based on what we have discussed so far, are there other options the parks department should consider?
    - More education and use of stewards (9)
    - More off-leash areas and more off-leash trails (6)
    - Unfenced off-leash areas restricted to certain hours (5)
    - More enforcement (4)
    - More dog-free zones (3)
    - Encourage more licensing (3)
    - Consider partnerships on public and private land (3)
    - Seek additional funding to improve, expand and enforce off-leash areas (2)
    - Decrease the number of dogs allowed in off-leash areas; use a chip system for entry (1)
    - Need environmental solution to dog poop (1)

Part Four: Planning for the Future – Principles, Priorities

17. What guiding principles should drive the People, Dogs and parks strategy?
    - Balance demand and equitable access (7)
    - More public responsibility; help with training and more dogs should be licensed (7)
    - Protect the natural environment (6)
    - Financial sustainability; pay to play (5)
    - Communication with park users at the neighborhood level (4)
    - Be agile with strategy; change if it is not working (3)
    - Safety (3)
    - Provide dog-free areas (2)
    - Build community (2)
    - Research driven; effective (1)
    - As much off-leash area as possible (1)
    - Maintain off-leash areas well (1)
    - Put people before pets (1)
    - Use under-utilized areas for off-leash areas (1)

18. If you were addressing the Board of Park Commissioners or the Mayor, what would be your number one piece of advice for them?
    - Fairness, balance (5)
    - Enforce existing rules (2)
    - Create a dog tax (2)
    - Do not expand off-leash areas at the expense of open space areas (2)
    - The system is broken (2)
    - Innovate (2)
    - No change (1)
    - More space for dogs (1)
    - Plan for more people and more dogs (1)
    - Pay for expansion of off-leash areas (1)

Results from the Yakima focus group will help the City identify the future of a curbside recycling program and inform other solid waste decisions. Participants' responses and suggestions will help the City make decisions about future solid waste planning.

Key Findings:

The following key findings summarize the main ideas heard from the focus group participants:

- Many participants said they were excited about the curbside recycling program and indicated that it was generally easy to participate in after initially learning how to participate in the program. Additionally, those who participated in yard waste collection noted that it was easy to do so.
- Most participants were more aware of their waste during and after the pilot and indicated that their thinking had changed during the pilot.
- Most participants indicated that the materials distributed during the pilot were generally helpful but suggested that fewer words and more images/diagrams be used.
- Most participants were generally supportive of the City using curbside recycling as a tool to maintain rates, reduce the amount of garbage hauled to the landfill, and reduce the environmental impact the city has and felt these are the right steps to be taking to plan for the closing of the Terrace Heights Landfill.
- Some participants indicated that they would sign up for curbside recycling if it was reasonably priced and noted that convenience is a key benefit.
- Most residents felt that 50% of the citizens would sign up for the curbside recycling program based on their perceptions of their own neighborhoods during the pilot.
- Many participants were supportive of bundling services and providing a “basic service package” of recycling and garbage collection.
- All participants indicated that they would advise the City Council to proceed with curbside recycling if asked.

APPENDIX 4: PARKS CUSTOMIZED RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Type of Proposal: Off-leash Area Strategic Plan
Description: Evaluate the off-leash area program and make recommendations.
Department: Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)
Contact Name: Leah Tivoli

1. ***Impact statement: Who will this impact? Is the impact external focus or internal? Both? If external, will underserve and underrepresented communities be impacted? If internal, will underrepresented staff be impacted? How will they be impacted?***

The Animal Shelter estimates there are 150,000 dogs in Seattle. Given, there are 662,400 people, it follows that about 25% of the population owns a dog on average. According to the Parks Legacy Plan statistically significant survey, 11% of the general population uses off-leash areas daily or weekly, 3% of historically underrepresented communities use weekly or more, and 19% of teens use weekly or more.

If these numbers are accurate, this indicates that 72,864 people use the 14 OLAs weekly or daily. Based on the RCO diaries done on a statewide basis, 112,088 people participate in an off-leash areas. As the population is expected to grow, by 2030 we expect the population using the off-leash areas to grow to 131,167 and the number of visits to grow from 2 million to 2.3 million.

Currently, the city does not allow dogs to run off-leash in any public area with the exception of Seattle Parks and Recreation's 14 off-leash areas (OLAs). Any change we make to grow the off-leash areas positively impacts some dog owners (60% of dog owners prefer to exercise dogs off-leash) and often negatively impacts OLA neighbors and other user groups who use the park area for other types of recreation. Unfortunately off-leash dog activities tend to dominate a park space and are at the expense of other recreational activities in the park. The growing demand for OLAs is at odds with the higher and growing demand for other types of recreational activities. For example, we estimate 256,841 people recreate by walking without a pet in our parks and trail, 517,524 enjoy nature activities, 368,288 enjoy gardening, etc.

2. ***What are your desire outcomes for this issue/ proposal?***

We desire to create a report that provides a sustainable path forward for off-leash areas. Dogs in parks create a great deal of conflict, asset destruction, pollution, and environmental degradation. Fenced off-leash areas earmark land for a single user group. However, people tend to bring their dog to the closest park to exercise it and many do so off-leash regardless of the presence of an off-leash area.

In order for this report to be successful, we must bring together various perspectives to figure out the path forward.

2a. Do your desired outcomes include a racially equitable outcome that has been developed with the approval of department leadership in consultation with the RSJI Change Team and RSJI Executive Sponsor?

Yes. We are assessing access and condition of the OLAs as well as preferences/ characteristics/ demand for OLAs of different

2b. Which racial equity opportunity area(s) will the issue primarily impact?

Education	Healthy Environment	Jobs	Workforce Equity
Strong Community Development	Financial Sustainability	Housing	Immigrant and Refugee Access to Services
Healthy People	Criminal Justice	Contracting Equity	Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement

demographics. Because OLAs are single use areas, we need to make sure that they meet the needs of the community.

3. Stakeholders Analyses. Who are most directly impacted by this proposal? Who have you gathered input from?

So far, our recent survey was completed by about 3,700 people and 86% was white (3,012), 1% black or African American (25), 1% American Indian or Alaska Native (23), 4% Asian (145), 17 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, 39 other, 183 multiple races, 61 Latino/Hispanic. In terms of language, English-speaking was 99% (3,533), 2 Chinese, 3 Oromo, 14 Spanish, 4 Somali, 2 Tagalog, 3 Tigragna, 5 Vietnamese, 0 Amharic.

The top 5 reasons why people did not use the OLAs include location is not convenient, too many dogs in the off-leash area, too many unruly dogs, location is not safe, no access to water, no or limited parking.
The next piece of the outreach strategy is focus groups to develop recommendations that will build on best practices, survey results, historical public feedback and research presented in the Draft Report. To get an unbiased perspective we would like to reach out to District Councils, Community Councils, non-profits and Friend's of groups around Seattle. The feedback from focus groups will be used to draft the report.

Neighborhood Districts and District Councils

South Region Team
Southwest - Kerry Wade
Southeast - Jenny Frankl
Delridge - Kerry Wade
Greater Duwamish - Jake Hellenkamp

Central Region Team
Central & Downtown - Yun Pitre/Laurie Ames
Queen Anne/Magnolia - Laurie Ames
Lake Union - Tim Durkan
East District - Tim Durkan

North Region Team
Ballard & Northwest - Thomas Whittemore
Northeast - Karen Ko
North - Christa Dumpys

The Draft Report will then be open to public comment. We may have an online open house to walk through the policy recommendations. Depending on the type of recommendations, we may way to have specific policy-related discussions. For example, there is some discussion around enforcement of leash and scoop laws and we want to make sure our policies are fair.

3a. Are there impacts on geographic areas? State neighborhood areas that are impacted.

The 2011 development plan states, 'A dog off-leash area is desirable in each sector of the city (northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest). Such areas should be contained by fencing… Other public properties besides parklands will be considered for future off-leash areas to avoid conversation of existing park spaces to dog off-leash areas.'

We have met our 2011 development plan goal and currently have 14 OLAs distributed geographically across the city:

OFF-LEASH AREAS

- Denny Park
  100 Dexter Ave N (Map It)
- Dr. Jose Rizal Park
  1007 12th Ave S (Map It)
- Genesee Park and Playfield
  4316 S Genesee St (Map It)
- Golden Gardens Park
  8498 Seaview Pl NW (Map It)
- I-5 Colonnade
  1701 Lakeview Blvd E (Map It)
- Kinnear Park
  899 W Olympic Pl (Map It)
- Northacres Park
  12718 1st Ave NE (Map It)
- Plymouth Pillars Park
  1050 Pike St (Map It)
- Regrade Park
  2251 3rd Ave (Map It)
- Warren G. Magnuson Park
  7400 Sand Point Way NE (Map It)
- Westcrest Park
  9000 8th Ave SW (Map It)
- Woodland Park
  1000 N 50th St (Map It)
- Blue Dog Pond
  1520 26th Ave S (Map It)
- Magnolia Manor Park
  3500 28th Ave W (Map It)

3b. If outside city limits, please describe:

N/A

3c. what are the racial demographics of those living in the area or impacted by the issue?

Citywide demographics. See survey results above.

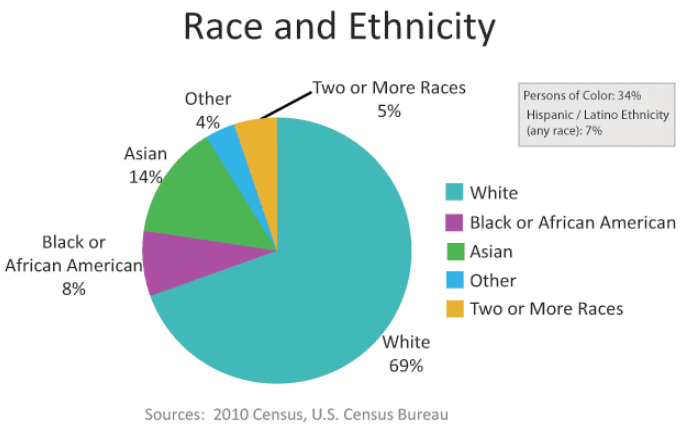
Please check racial demographics based on the 2010 census data. SE Seattle, the Central District, and areas in West Seattle have been identifies as significant underrepresented populations and areas of opportunities for equity development and focus.
We can include a racial demographic analysis as part of the report.

3d. How have you involved community members and stakeholders? See attached A for set of questions to ask. See King County Opportunity Map.

So far we have conducted a survey that was widely distributed. Next, we will have some focus groups or listening sessions to better understand the interests of different stakeholders including specifically historically underserved communities.

3e. What does data and your conversations with stakeholders tell you about existing racial inequities that influence people's lives and should be taken into consideration?

The data currently demonstrates that 34% of Seattle's overall population are people of color. However, 14% of survey respondents identified with a race/ethnic group other than white. It is not possible to say whether this difference is due to the level of dog ownership between white people and persons of color or whether the people that heard about the survey tended to be white. In any case, we should try to understand whether the interest in dog parks is shared evenly across different races and ethnicities in order to make sure we are creating policy that is equitable.



3f. What do you think are the root causes or factors creating these racial inequities?

Unknown. We need to do some additional outreach to Black and Asian groups to better understand the level of dog ownership and current behaviors/characteristics.

4. Determine Benefit and/or Burden, given ***what you have learned from data and from stakeholder involvement…***

4a. How will the policy, initiative, program, or budget issue increase or decrease racial equity?

The implementation of the OLA Strategic Plan should not affect racial equity. OLAs should be placed where there is a need in the community and it is up to us to figure out what communities like dog parks.

What are potential unintended consequences? What benefits may result? Are the impacts aligned with your department's community outcomes that were defined in Step 2?

A potential unintended consequence is creating policy that increase OLAs at the expense of other park uses based on the preferences of a single user group. Considering that our survey data is at 14% people of color and there are actually 34% people of color in Seattle there is the possibility of one group imposes their preferences on another. In order to mitigate this risk, we need to make sure to increase the participation of people of color in the survey to get a more balanced perspective.

5. Advance Opportunity or Minimize Harm.

5a. How will you address the impacts (including unintended consequences) on racial equity?

Focused outreach and engagement.

5b. What strategies address immediate impacts? What strategies address root causes of inequity?

1. Racial Equity Toolkit
2. Inclusive Engagement and Public Outreach

Program Strategies?

N/A

Policy Strategies?

By integrating the program and policy recommendations into the outreach process, we will hopefully mitigate impacts on racial equity.

Partnership Strategies?

Focus groups will be organized by a group leader who pulls together 6-8 people to discuss policy and program strategies from different angles. Does the Change Team have relationships with individuals that might be interested in helping organize a focus group?

6. ***Evaluate. Raise Racial Awareness. Be Accountable.***

6a. How will you evaluate and be accountable? How will you evaluate and report impacts on racial equity over time? What is your goal and timeline for eliminating racial inequity? How will you retain stakeholder participation and ensure internal and public accountability? How will you raise awareness about racial inequity related to this issue?

The ideal outcome is having there be fewer dog-related conflicts in the parks. We will evaluate whether we are achieving this outcome based on the phone calls, emails and user requests we receive. As it is challenging to capture the attendance in parks, we will have the same challenges capturing attendance and demographics in the dog parks. However, if we are creative and integrate racial counts when we are doing work parties, events and other discrete tasks, we could better understand how off-leash areas are being used by our various communities.

6b. What is unresolved? What resources/ partnerships do you still need to make changes?

Developing relationships and setting up the focus groups is going to be key in make our outreach strategy effective.

7. ***Report Back.***

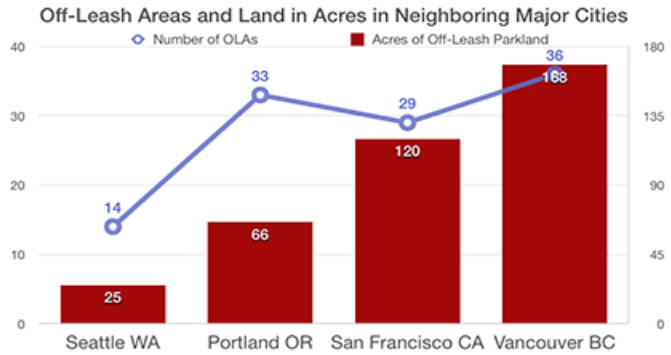
7a. Share analysis and report responses with Department Leadership and Change Team Leads and members involved in Step 2.

In process.

APPENDIX 5: NORTH AMERICAN DOG OFF-LEASH AREA BEST PRACTICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The explosion in both population density and dog ownership is driving increased demand nationwide for community recreational space available to both human and canine populations. The Trust for Public Land's led their 2015 City Park Facts press release with the headline that "Dog Parks Lead Growth in U.S. City Parks,"[8]up 6% in the last year and 20% in the last five years.



Seattle, once a leader in urban dog park space and public-private partnerships, has opened only 2.3 acres of dog park land in the last 14 years, more than half of which is in one park[9] and the remaining one acre is divided among five others.[10] Seattle's current dog owners are urging the city to add more, closer, larger, and better dog exercise opportunities. At the same time Seattle is becoming more and more dense, making single-use land for a dog park even more scarce and the battle for single-use land more controversial. In addition, many employers are allowing dogs to come to work, when well behaved, requiring additional exercise opportunities before and after work. Without enough dog parks, many citizens are choosing to ignore park leash rules, creating enforcement problems. This has led to systemwide difficulties between citizens and an unreasonable demand on enforcement.

Meanwhile, across North America, a shift in off-leash policy in dense urban environments has occurred. Parks and Recreation Departments in many dense cities are utilizing multi-use approaches to allowing dogs off-leash, having concluded that "recreating with a dog is a legitimate park use,"[11] [12]and that even further "allowing responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs is good for the community, [as] dog owners are community members who regularly visit parks and have a vested interest in keeping parks clean and safe."[13] In dedicated strips of Long Beach, California, Golden Gate National Park, New York's Central Park,[14] and Boston Commons,[15] voice and sight controlled dogs are now allowed off-leash in dense urban environments, within limits.

8 Dog Parks Lead Growth in U.S. City Parks, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land, 2015.

9 I-5 Colonnade, an expensive but extremely underutilized gravel and rock dog park under I-5 in Eastlake.

10 The smallest and most recent of which (Lower Kinnear) cost more than $70,000 and is nearly unused due to its location, and the second most recent of which (Magnolia Manor) is under a proposal to shrink by 15% this year.

11 "With public support for off-leash use of parks split virtually down the middle, the recommendations included in this report are focused on finding a balance that is fair for all park users and consistent with the primary management objectives for each park. The recommendations are based on the fundamental assumption that recreating with a dog is a legitimate park use." – Off Leash Program Evaluation and Recommendations, Portland Parks and Recreation, December 2004.

12 Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Best Management Practices for Dogs, MetroVancouver.org, 2011.

13 Parks Barks Official Off-leash Hours Policy, New York City Parks and Recreation, 2007.

14 Dog Owner's Guide to Central Park, Central Park Conservancy, 2015

15 Commission Approves Plan For Dog Recreation Space On Boston Common, City of Boston, 2013.

Even in the Pacific Northwest, a broader off-leash policy has been in use for over 10 years in Portland, OR and Vancouver, BC, yielding lessons from which we can learn. Using a combination of Seattle's single-use fenced system[16] and a multi-use approach to current parkland, this paper explores North American cities such as New York, NY; Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC; Boston, MA; San Francisco, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Diego, CA; Austin, TX; Long Beach, CA; Calgary, AB; many lower density cities in California and Virginia; and even in Washington State in Bellingham, Mercer Island, Shoreline, and Kirkland (proposed). Also covered are cities which are utilizing an alternate route to fund and/or limit use of their dog park systems by requiring dog owners to acquire a permit or attend classes, such as Boulder, CO; Washington, DC; Minneapolis, MN; Madison WI; and Chicago, IL.

New approaches in Parks and Recreation dog policy beyond the traditional small, chain-link fenced gravel areas has allowed citizens to use city parks as a public commons, for hiking on trails, to run on paths, as a swimming option, and even to explore whole parks on a walk with a dog. The human benefits have been widely noted as both supporting community building and a healthy citizenry, as well as a deterrent for crime, decline, and dog aggression.

In North America, three basic approaches exist to allowing dogs off-leash in urban parks in combination with Seattle's traditional fenced single-use dog park:

Multi-Use Off-Leash Designated Hours Under Voice/ Sight Control (Hours)

In current parks, during designated hours, dogs are allowed off-leash in existing specified parkland. The hours are designed to avoid other incompatible park uses and bring a population to underutilized times and parks. New York, NY; Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC; Boston, MA; Bellingham, WA; Shoreline, WA; and Kirkland, WA (proposed 2015) have approached regular park usage by dogs under this policy. New York City's policy began over 20 years ago and allows dogs off-leash from 9 pm to 9 am in well over 100 parks across all five boroughs. Successive commissioners have repeatedly credited this policy with reducing crime, reclaiming parks from decline, and dramatically driving down incidents of dog aggression.[17] Portland, OR and Vancouver, BC have used a seasonal designated hours approach for a decade, specifically designed for the Northwest's use patterns. Both cities are currently assessing ways to improve the site criteria, demarcation, and signage.

Multi-use Off-Leash Year Round Zones Under Voice/ Sight Control (Zones)

Off-leash areas in existing parkland for all day year-round use in specific areas of existing parks, usually with the requirement that dogs be "under voice control." Cities like San Francisco, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Diego, CA; Detroit, MI; Austin, TX; Calgary, AB; Mercer Island, WA; Salem, OR; and Alexandria, VA have developed systems where unfenced off-leash areas are available for all day use, usually by choosing larger park areas or partial natural boundaries to site the unfenced off-leash areas. Some of these cities have published minimum sizes for the entire park when considering whether a single-use dog park or multi-use unfenced dog friendly zones will be allowed. Many specify voice control as a requirement for unleashing a dog.

16 Also used in Los Angeles, Miami, and Atlanta (among others), though none of these seem to have done published re-evaluation or master plan for their system of late. Atlanta only has 2 off-leash areas total.

17 From 40,000 dog bites to 4,000 dog bites annually, FAQ about Off-Leash in New York City, NYC Offleash, 2008.

Qualifications on Off-Leash Use Under Voice/Sight Control (Qualifications)

Using a variety of qualifications, from behavioral testing to required classes for voice and sight control, cities like Boulder, CO; Minneapolis, MN; Madison, WI; Washington, DC; and Chicago, IL have mitigated the impact of dogs and their owners by adding a layer of permitting between a dog owner and use of off-leash park areas, attempting to increase responsible dog ownership and compliance, and in some cases funding off-leash amenities. Boulder[18] requires Voice and Sight classes provided by the city in order to allow off-leash trail and parkland use; passing the class provides a special green tag. Madison, WI;[19] Minneapolis, MN;[20] Washington, DC;[21] and Chicago, IL[22] also require all citizens using off-leash areas to get a permit for use. Vancouver, BC and Mercer Island, WA provide free education as a public offering to go along with their off-leash unfenced voice control policies, but don't require it.

The balancing of the needs of dogs and their owners and the concerns of non-dog owners is challenging but attainable. A review of best practices from high density cities, and a few medium and low density cities, as well as neighboring municipalities has identified the following key findings. Complete details are available in the body of the report.

18 Voice and Sight Tags, Boulder Parks and Recreation, 2015.
19 Madison Parks Dog Park Permit, City of Madison, 2015.
20 Minneapolis Dog Park Permits, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, 2015.
21 Dog Park Registration Tag Application, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, 2010.
22 Chicago Dog-Friendly Areas, Chicago Park District, 2015.

Key Findings

Dog owners are indisputably one of the most highly active users of parkland, second perhaps only to organized sports activities, and provide relatively inexpensive public health, community, and recreational benefits.[23]

There is no "one fits all" dog park design and implementation approach used for adding off-leash recreation to parks systems nationwide, but overall an industry trend is occurring in which a combination of fenced single-use and unfenced multi-use areas. This policy has provided a cost-effective way to serve ever-increasing urban residents with dogs. Examples include but are not limited to New York, NY; San Francisco, CA; Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC; Long Beach, CA; Calgary, AB; Denver, CO; Boulder, CO; Boston, MA; Alexandria, VA; Shoreline, WA; Mercer Island, WA; and Kirkland, WA (proposed 2015).

Different dog types and dog owners need different types of dog off-leash exercise and interaction spaces:
Many dogs need time with dogs near their age for proper socialization.

Some dogs can be easily voice/sight controlled and can be good citizens in multi-use parks whereas fences are necessary for others.

Small/shy dogs may need separation from large, highly social and interactive dogs.
While dogs generally behave well in parks, there are occasions when safety dictates a time out, preferably in a separate fenced area.

Many dogs benefit from swimming opportunities, from young energetic dogs to elderly/injured dogs for whom swimming is a physical therapy.

23 Creating Successful Dog Parks in Your Community, Dog Goes, 2010.

Some dogs and their owners require exercise together on running paths and hiking trails.
Human interaction in off-leash areas is a key component of citizen usage, as dog owners find these spaces useful as a new public commons, encouraging community building.

Notably, as compared to the average single-use dog off-leash area,[24] multi-use off-leash areas provide equal access to taxpaying dog owners at a much lower cost without the loss of access resulting from designation of a single-use site for dogs and their owners. (Portland, OR; New York, NY)

Allowing off-leash use in existing parkland provides a variety of benefits for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike, including community building, a healthier human population, proper socialization of dogs in an urban environment, and a deterrent for criminal activity and general decline. (New York, NY)

Designation of off-leash areas as multi-use parkland must be based on thoughtfully developed guidelines that take into consideration a park's design, population, neighborhood, other uses, topographic features including natural boundaries, etc. (New York, NY; San Francisco, CA; Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC; and Kirkland, WA)

Demarcation and signage for multi-use land is key to successful implementation of the program. Multi-use off-leash dog zones with defined boundaries marked by bollards or natural boundaries has been found to not overly disrupt other uses of the parks. (Alexandria, VA; Kirkland, WA)[25]

24 Responsible Off-leash Recreation in New York City, NYC Offleash, 2006.

25 City of Alexandria Plan for Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas, City of Alexandria, Winter 2011.

Urban dog owners most need space in early morning and evening hours, before and after work hours, which avoids other incompatible populations of parks, such that the addition of multi-use hours benefits non-dog owners who prefer to avoid dogs when using a park.

Multi-use parkland policies increase park usage overall and enhances the value of the park system to all residents,[26] especially when combined with a noted reduction in crime and incidents of dog aggression after instituting the policy.[27]

Dispersing off-leash opportunities across all neighborhoods lessens road traffic, builds community by encouraging neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, and decreases the likelihood that an individual park in the community may suffer from overuse.[28]

More off-leash areas citywide lessens the impact on single-use dog parks' land, and decreases overpopulation issues which cause dog aggression.

Lack of adequate and distributed land for allowed off-leash activity causes more human disagreements, either within overpopulated dog parks or outside them in between citizens who are illegally off-leash and citizens who do not wish to encounter uncontrolled dogs. Regulation of off-leash use, voice control requirements, and larger availability of land drives down difficulties, and improves community building.

26 Frequently Asked Questions about Off-Leash in New York City, NYC Offleash, 2008.

27 "Introducing a new activity to a park can bring out the kind of people you want in parks, which can help control some of the undesirable activity that may be taking place (in the park)." – John Etter, Parks Planning, Public Works Maintenance, Eugene, Oregon – NYC Offleash Studies, 2008.

28 "More locations are better than fewer. Providing opportunities across all neighborhoods lessens traffic, encourages neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, and lessens the likelihood that a particular park in the community may be overused. " – from Kirkland Pilot Proposal, 2015.

Increased sanctioned areas helps park enforcement efforts by allowing targeted enforcement resources rather than attempting citywide park coverage. Public grading of scoop compliance at each off-leash area has been used to increase citizen peer pressure toward successful growth of responsible dog ownership. (Denver CO)[29]

Many cities, in their efforts to expand off leash areas, have noted the critical benefits of working with regional/neighborhood/friends of groups as citizen ambassadors for proper dog park use and responsible behavior are a vital component to successful shared park use.[30] Citizen peer-pressure has been noted repeatedly as a required addition to improving leash/scoop compliance. (New York, NY; Calgary, AB)

Many cities have a transparent policy and web qualifications for submitting a new off-leash area for review by Parks and Recreation. (Washington, DC; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA, Norfolk, VA) Include off-leash dog areas as a program element for public consideration as part of all future park master planning projects. (Denver, CO, Kirkland, WA; Portland, OR)

Many cities provide swimming beaches for dogs either year-round or just in winter months when the population of other uses decreases dramatically.

A study of California off-leash allowed beaches reported that scientific evidence does not exist proving environmental detriment from off-leash dogs.[31] (New York, NY; San Francisco, CA; Long Beach, CA; San Diego, CA; Vancouver, BC; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Shoreline, WA) Heal the Bay's study of dog use of beachland did not find reason to be concerned, but made these recommendations:

- The dog park must be located above the highest high tide line.
- The dog park should be fully enclosed by fencing or other means to ensure dogs stay within the designated area.
- The area should be clearly marked as a dog park so that tourists and other visitors will understand the area is a dog park.
- Rules requiring the immediate cleanup of dog feces should be strictly enforced.
- A routine maintenance program should be implemented to keep the designated area clean of dog feces and trash.

Multi-use off-leash areas do not require a separate surfacing approach, as they can be periodically rotated to allow grass to return. (Portland, OR; Boston, MA)

Surfacing options in single use fenced areas include:

- **Turf (Grass)** – Grass surface areas are the most difficult and costly surfaces to maintain, but are also the most desired.[32] The larger the grass area is, the easier it is to maintain. This ground cover typically does better when there are opportunities for the surface to self repair, such as rotating/alternate areas. High use

29 "All dog parks are monitored by Parks staff and signage indicating status of condition is located at the entry to the dog park. This rating system is determined and monitored by Parks staff, and if the designated off-leash area is not kept to the standard expected in the dog off-leash area, a warning sign will appear. If the area continues to be in poor condition then the off-leash area can be closed by Parks staff. Signs indicate the rating status of the offleash area. Red indicates the off-leash area is in poor condition and is closed until further notice. Yellow indicates a warning that the off-leash area is in need of attention. If the area is not cleaned up, the off-leash area will be closed. Green indicates that the off-leash area is in good condition." – Denver Dog Park Master Plan, Denver Parks and Recreation, 2010.

30 Creating Successful Dog Parks in Your Community, Dog Goes, 2010.

31 Dogs on the Beach, California State Library, Lisa K. Foster, requested by Assemblymember Ted W. Lieu, 2006.

32 [25] Salt Lake City Dog Off-Leash Master Plan, Salt Lake City, 2008.

without a long break degrades the surface and muddy areas develop where it is difficult to reconstitute grass. Urine also over saturates portions of the park with nitrogen, killing the grass and making the land difficult to reconstitute.

- **Decomposed Granite/Gravel** – This ground cover has been widely in fenced dog parks across the United States. The composite is not preferred by dogs, but is the most inexpensive and long-term solution. Running often creates a cloud of dust that covers dogs and people alike, and there are issues with the smell of urine. Finally, when feces are removed, large amounts of gravel go with it, increasing the price of hauling away the waste and a constant need to haul in more yards of replacement gravel.
- **Pea Gravel** – Used in many dog parks as a less sharp cousin of gravel, this surface is a good option. Insects have been a problem with is surfacing, but drainage is excellent. Again this surface does add to cost of waste removal.
- **Wood Chips** – Preferred by dogs over gravel, this surfacing can make it deceptively difficult to find dog feces, depending on the size of the chips. Like gravel, removing the feces also requires dog guardians to remove a percentage of the wood chips. In addition, there is an issue with the urine smell. Finally, replacing periodically becomes necessary unless left on site and continually covered with additional chips, and disposing of used chips is costly as it must be removed using the same policies as human waste.
- **Fake Turf** – This type of ground cover comes at a high cost, and requires drainage and maintenance which is additionally costly. Environmental aspects have been much debated without enough scientific research. Communities such as Philadelphia, San Jose, Chicago, and Rapid City have had good luck with this type of ground cover.[33]
- **Sand** – An expensive but preferred option, sometimes used in combination with other surfaces to provide relief for sensitive or small dog paws. Low maintenance and easy to rake out, dogs like it and only small amounts of it are removed with feces, thus lowering the weight of hauling.
- **Dirt** – Dirt requires the lowest amount of maintenance, but the spaces become almost unusable with any inclement weather.

Design standards for fenced dog parks enhance overall park use and create a safer, more positive space for dogs and their people:[34]

- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high fence. Preferably, the fence should be equipped with at least one double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access, plus a gate that provides access for maintenance equipment and emergencies.
- Ample hygiene supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooperscooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- If space allows, a safe separate area for small/

33 Dog Park Artificial Turf, Parks and Recreation Magazine, 2012.
34 Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community, American Kennel Club.

shy dogs, an area that may alternatively be used to give space to dogs that need some. This allows larger, more rambunctious dogs to exercise more freely, while protecting smaller dogs who may not be suited to the enthusiastic play of larger breeds.

- Lighting when possible.
- Signs that specify park hours and rules.
- Ample free parking close to the site.

Maintenance trends for dog parks vary widely, though weekly closures by Parks and Recreation teams were found in several cities. (Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA)

Background & Need

Nationwide, dog parks are growing faster than any other type of park in America's largest cities.[35] With 80 million pet dogs in the United States, and 47% of U.S. households owning at least one dog,[36] United States and Canadian cities are grappling with the need to increase off-leash recreation and exercise areas, as well as socialization opportunities for dogs and their owners. The United States now has more households with dogs than with children (43 to 38 million).[37] Nine out of ten dog owners see their pets as members of their family.[38]

The concept of off-leash dog parks within city park systems began in the 1970s as urban leash laws became much more restrictive.[39] Only a few existed by the early 1990s, and Seattle was one of the earliest cities to open them, with our 1997 ordinance creating eight sites that provided nineteen acres of off-leash fenced land for the city's dog owners and dogs. In 1998, Volunteer Park pilot site was shut down, and in 2001 Dr. Jose Rizal on Beacon Hill opened providing five additional acres.

However, from 2001-2015, though Seattle opened another six off-leash areas, these six OLAs total just over two acres (half of which is in one), due in combination to the urban density driving costs so high for single-use parkland and the controversy over dogs.

Each park took years to move through public comment periods and gain permanency, even though these are mere pocket parks allowing small relief for daily exercise needs and access to neighborhoods which had previously had no dog park. In addition, the cost for even the smallest of these dog parks was nearly $70,000, averaging much more.

Interestingly, since Seattle's pioneering dog park program began, scientific research has progressed significantly on domesticated dogs, showing that both large and small dogs need off-leash time outdoors daily for proper socialization. Most aggression is not genetic but caused through lack of exercise and time with other dogs, as well as proper training. These studies show that "dog behavior when a dog is on-leash tends to be more aggressive, more territorial, and more anti-social towards people and other dogs. When dogs are allowed time off-leash, studies show that they are far more social towards people and other dogs, considerably less aggressive, bark less, bite less, and tend to have far less neurotic behavior than dogs who get no off-leash exercise."[40]

35 Dog Parks Lead Growth in U.S. City Parks, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land, April 15, 2015.
36 Pets by the Numbers, Humane Society of the United States, January 30, 2014.
37 Census reveals plummeting U.S. birthrates, USA Today, June 24, 2011.
38 Pets Really Are Members of the Family, Harris Interactive, June 10, 2011.
39 Table of State Leash Laws, Michigan State University, 2015.
40 Frequently Asked Questions about Off-Leash in New York City, NYC Offleash, 2008.

Over 600 dog parks are now open nationwide. The majority are owned and operated by local park agencies, while a small amount are still assisted and monitored by sponsoring resident groups. North American dog parks vary widely in size and terrains: from small neighborhood parks to portions of large regional parks to natural wilderness areas, trails and portions of swimming beaches, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Neighboring cities such as Portland, Vancouver, BC, and San Francisco, CA have responded to increasing population growth and density and demand by opening multi-use off-leash areas in addition to their traditional fenced single-use dog parks over 10 years ago, barriered in a variety of ways from other park users. Over 20 years ago, New York City opened a program that is unparallelled, which provides more parkland than any other American city for dogs to run off-leash, using a unique and successful designated hours approach, as evidenced by successive Commissioners' praise for the program and by its continued usage. New York City even won a NY Supreme Court case to determine the Parks Department's right to change this policy in 2006.[41]

City evaluation of their programs discovered several surprising facts: allowing voice and sight controlled dogs to be off-leash solves a great variety of human problems, including reducing crime in parks that lack a dominant population/use profile, or in parks that are well used but have underutilized hours. Further, many cities have found that dog parks, like community centers[42] or p-patches, are very successfully providing once again in America a new public commons where community building occurs,[43] making the urban environment much more pleasant. More official off-leash zones/hours are also found to be helpful to non-users, since they draw many dogs away from other park facility areas and their users.

Not true in unofficial dog gatherings, as we are seeing more and more in Seattle – often with the best trained dogs departing the off-leash areas as they are able to be voice controlled in unfenced land, though beyond current legal use of parkland. Further, the impact of overpopulating our small fenced OLAs cannot be understated, from the land, waste, aggression, and human conflicts that arise. In Seattle, the best census and Animal Shelter estimates have the number of dogs in Seattle as 150,000, as compared widely to our less than 100,000 children. Though far fewer than 100,000 are of playground age, Seattle has 150 children's playgrounds in the Parks system, not including schoolyard playgrounds. While not at all intending to compare children and dogs, the comparison of the adult humans involved in this sort of recreation is apt, as each are tax paying users of the Parks system. Dog parks are indisputably one of the most highly used parts of the Seattle Parks system, even without large off-leash areas, walking/running paths, hiking trails, swimming opportunities, or other human amenities or programming.

41 State Supreme Court ruling from Judge Peter J. Kelly denying the Juniper Park Civic Association's lawsuit to compel the Parks Department and the City of New York to end the successful 20-year Off-leash policy, New York, NY, November 30, 2006.

42 "Testimonials include the fact that people have moved into a neighborhood because of their existence, and that people derive enjoyment in sharing this activity with others; it is as if these locations are community centers for people as well as canines." – John Etter, Parks Planning, Public Works Maintenance, Eugene, Oregon – NYC Offleash Studies, 2008.

43 Managing contested greenspace: neighborhood commons and the rise of dog parks, International Journal of the Commons, Vol 6, Number 1, 2012.

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Best Practices in the North America

In order to focus our efforts on cities that would most inform an ever more dense city like Seattle, this report focuses first on high and medium-high density cities.[44] A few lower density cities will be covered, including several in Virginia, Colorado, Utah, and California. Finally, to round out the Northwest profile for dog off-leash area approaches, we will also look at several neighboring smaller cities in Washington: Shoreline, Mercer Island, and Kirkland.

Table of Dog Parks in North American High and Medium-High Density Cities

City	Policy	Population	Land Area	Density (People / Acre)	Acres of Parkland	Parkland (Per 1000 People)	# of Dog Zones	# of Fenced Single-Use	# of Unfenced Multi-Use	Dog Area Acreage
New York, NY	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	8,336,697	193,692	44.7	39,006	4.6	>138	40	>100	>120
Los Angeles, CA	Single-Use Only	3,884,307	299,949	13.2	36,177	9.3	9	9	0	108.95
Chicago, IL	Single-Use Qualifications	2,718,782	145,686	19.9	12,485	4.6	27	27	0	~12
San Diego, CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	1,355,896	208,120	35.7	48,405	35.7	19	13	6	~20 + 4 beaches
Calgary, AB	Multi-Use Zones	1,097,000	203,904	5.38	52,496	47.85	150	0	150	3088
Austin, TX	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	885,400	190,653	4.7	27,096	30.6	13	2	11	672, incl trails
San Francisco, CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	837,442	29,999	27.9	5,693	23.2	29	10	19	120
Seattle, WA	Single-Use Only	652,406	53,723	12.4	6,541	10	14	14	0	26.5
Denver, CO	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	649,495	97,920	8.7	5,884	9.1	11	9	2	>13.6
Washington, DC	Single-Use Qualifications	646,449	39,071	16.6	8,513	13.2	13	13	0	pending
Boston, MA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	645,966	30,897	22.1	4,919	7.6				pending
Portland, OR	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	609,456	85,393	7.5	14,442	23.7	33	9	27	66.73
Vancouver, BC	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	603,502	28,170	21.4	14,000	23.2	36	6	30	168, incl trails
Long Beach, CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	469,428	32,188	15.1	3,125	6.7	8	7	1	pending
Minneapolis, MN	Single-Use Qualifications	400,070	34,543	11.78	5,056	12.6	7	6	1	21.61 + 1.5 trail miles
Miami, FL	Single-Use Only	417,650	22,957	18.2	1,442	3.5	7	7	0	pending

44 2015 City Park Facts, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land, April 15, 2015.

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APPENDIX 6: COLA BIENNIAL REPORT 2014-2015

Citizens for Off-Leash Areas
2014-2015 Biennial Report

Introduction by Ellen Escarcega, Chair of COLA

Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) was formed in 1995 somewhat organically, as dog owners protested a crackdown on 1990s leash laws without anywhere to recreate legally with their dogs off-leash. Over the last 20 years, COLA has fought for dog owners as taxpayers who consider their use of parkland with their canine companions as valid a use as soccer players, skateboarders, bicyclists, and other better supported recreation programs.

Mission: 1996 – 2014
To obtain and maintain Seattle's first dog parks.

Mission: 2015
To work with Seattle City Officials to create a long-term strategy and funding for the off-leash dog recreation program.

Mission: 2016+
To be the Seattle non-profit for dog owners, providing education and community building programs citywide.

Toward this end, we have diligently worked as an all-volunteer organization for nearly two decades to obtain and maintain off-leash areas above and beyond the minimal maintenance Seattle Parks and Recreation has been able to provide with ever changing levy-based funding. Puddles, erosion, and basic safety and cleanliness of our dog park system has been the primary focus of our work, alongside an active advocacy program. However, even with COLA's diligent volunteer advocacy efforts, it has taken two and a half years on average for each new dog park to be created.

Having accomplished our original mission of getting dog parks to be accepted in Seattle parkland, and having stewarded and supplemented the funding for them since 1998, we are thrilled to see this year that the Seattle Parks and Recreation department now has some much needed funding in the

Metropolitan Park District recommendations, by appropriating the first designated funding for the off-leash program. With approximately $600,000 allocated for the first six years (2015 – 2021), this first year (2015) has been all about a study of the OLA system of support and provision of opportunities in order to create a document called the "People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan." This document will be released for public comment later this year by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

With this draft plan underway throughout 2015, COLA continues to advocate for dogs and their owners in Seattle. Whereas a SPD 2011 study yielded a dog park usage number of 11% of Seattle citizens, this year's targeted and extensive survey data from an incredible nearly 4,000 dog owners showed that only four dog parks are in regular use, and there is a significantly high demand for better off-leash recreation. The contrast between these two surveys leads to the conclusion that the 2011 low usage statistic was not due to low demand, but to the poor state of most of our dog parks themselves.

Thus, a major focus of our advocacy has been on broadening Seattle officials' understanding of dogs, dog owners, and the overall community benefits of dog parks, moving the concept from gravel/chain-link prison camps kept hidden from other park users toward adopting a plan for more park-like grassy areas for dogs and their people of which Seattle can be proud. COLA leadership has been working large numbers of hours to advocate for and provide research on ways to facilitate more off-leash land, while simultaneously improving existing off-leash areas (OLAs for short). Much of the past year has included researching and analyzing data of other high density cities in the U.S. and Canada, including a comprehensive report for use by the Seattle Parks Department and investigative trips to Portland and Vancouver BC to assess their programs. This research has indicated Seattle's off-leash program lags far behind nationwide dog off-leash efforts, which are undergoing a boom unlike any since children's playgrounds 100 years ago. Trust for Public Land's 2015 report indicated that that off-leash areas are the fastest growing use of parkland nationwide, growing by 20% over the last five (5) years.

Our research report, entitled "North American Dog Off-Leash Area Best Practices," provided Seattle Parks a true overview of Seattle's program as compared to other high density cities. In the final column below, note the number of off-leash acres provided by these cities, as compared to Seattle's 25 acres:

Table of Dog Parks in North American High and Medium-High Density Cities

City	Policy	Population (sorted by)	Land Area	Density (People / Acre)	Acres of Total Parkland	Parkland Per 1000 People	Num of Dog Areas	Dog Area Acreage
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Chicago IL	Single-Use Qualifications	2,718,782	145,686	19.9	12,485	4.6	27	~12 including multiple Lakeside dog beaches
San Diego, CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	1,355,896	208,120	35.7	48,405	35.7	19	~20 + 4 beaches
Calgary AB	Multi-Use Zones	1,097,000	203,904	5.38	52,496	47.85	150	3088
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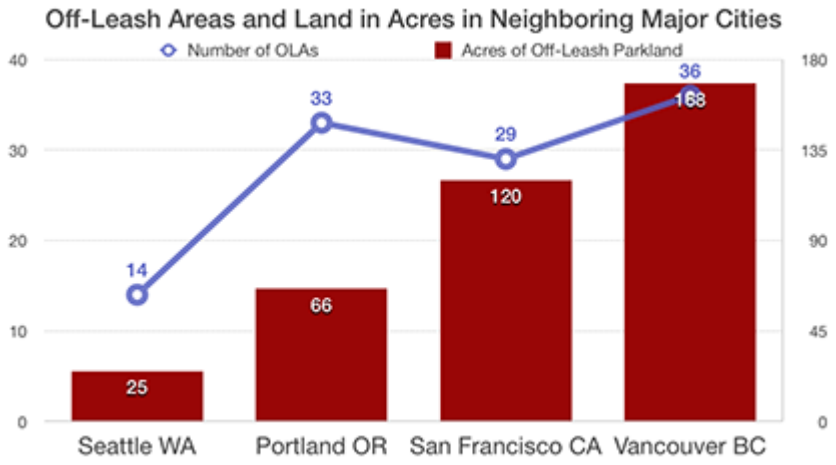
Seattle WA	Single-Use Only	652,406	53,723	12.4	6,541	10	14	25
Denver CO	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	649,495	97,920	8.7	5,884	9.1	11	>13.6 including grading system for scoop compliance
Portland OR	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	609,456	85,393	7.5	14,442	23.7	33	66.73
Vancouver BC	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	603,502	28,170	21.4	14,000	23.2	36	168 incl trails
Minneapolis MN	Single-Use Qualifications	400,070	34,543	11.78	5,056	12.6	7	21.61 + 1.5 trail miles

While Chicago, Minneapolis and Denver above seem to be in similar situations as Seattle, the industry trend shown above is clearly moving toward allowing more off-leash access in order to control the spaces where dogs cannot be off-leash because of incompatible populations/uses or natural habitats and restoration efforts. Off-leash areas in medium-high to high density cities include some of the most desired parkland in the country, such as Central Park, Boston Common, Lake Michigan beaches, and Golden Gate National Park, further underscoring the gap in approach between Seattle and the nation's leaders.



Even in surrounding West Coast cities like Portland OR, Vancouver BC, and San Francisco CA, we find more progressive dog off-leash policy. These cities provide, on average, 120 acres each of off-leash land, using different approaches to recognize off-leash as a fair use of parkland, and to respond to their citizens' high demand. We have advocated strongly for a broadening of our program to move in line with other high density cities across the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, many of Seattle's dog parks are facing large maintenance challenges and deteriorating infrastructure due to their age, lack of funding, and their placement in areas that are undesirable or inappropriate, such as under highways or on heavily eroding slopes. As Seattle has grown, the program has lagged behind demand in terms of acreage available for off-leash exercise. A combination of all of the OLAs opened since 2001 fits easily inside one of our small-medium size 1997 OLAs (Genesee), a reality that conflicts with the conventional wisdom regarding recommendations for dog:space ratios. In addition, location and park size has resulted in creating an equity gap between neighborhoods. For instance, all of Queen Anne is served by 0.1 acres tucked in secluded Lower Kinnear Park, down 150 stairs and without nearby parking, rendering it nearly unused. Similarly, both Ballard and Greenlake (each heavily populated by dog owners) each have only 1 acre on heavily eroding slopes with constant mud issues. Puddles and mud are not only difficult for the human users, but can be disease prone for the pups themselves. These examples are reflective of a lack of City commitment to allocate single use land to dogs in parks during this boom of population in Seattle, and a lack of strategic planning. We hope for a remedy to this situation in 2015's Strategic Plan. It will be the first strategic planning done to address dog owners' needs since 1997 when the first dog parks opened in Seattle.

As a part of this strategic planning, the Master Agreement between Seattle Parks and COLA will be rewritten. We are hopeful this will begin an era of off-leash areas being fully adopted by Seattle Parks and Recreation as an integral recreation program, similar to the City's recognition and support of skate parks, athletic fields, and children's playgrounds. With a true service assessment of the Off-Leash Program, we are confident that actual maintenance and development needs will dictate dedicated funding from the the general fund beyond the initial $100,000 per year now budgeted in the MP.

A properly funded future will present as a true partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation and COLA, where Parks will adopt maintenance of the off-leash areas and COLA will be allowed to invest financially and in terms of volunteer time in its mission to educate dog owners and build community in neighborhoods across the City.

– Ellen Escarcega, October 2015
Chair, Citizens for Off-Leash Areas

Off-Leash Recreation Demand

Unfortunately, despite Seattle's love for dogs, the city's off-leash acreage isn't keeping up with its population growth. Over one-third of the current OLA system is in Warren G. Magnuson Park (not managed by COLA), and that OLA contains the city's only water access, which is regularly above capacity with dog owners hoping to exercise and entertain their pups (*see image right*, Wonderlane Flickr Photo, 2010).

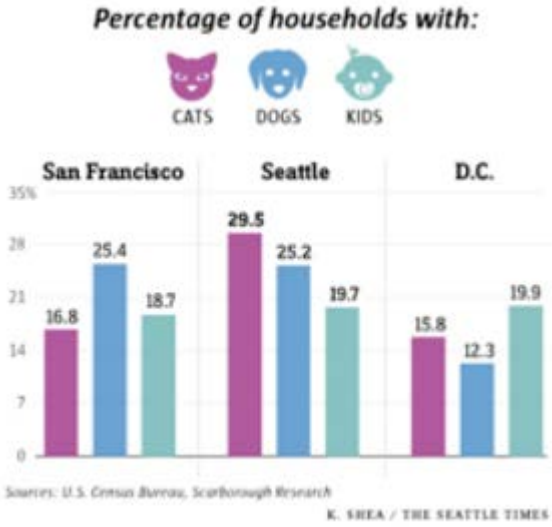
In contrast, only 2.3 acres of off-leash area have been added in the last 14 years and half of this land is found in a single inaccessible, underutilized OLA under I-5, further limiting many Seattle residents' access to off-leash areas in our traffic laden city. The other five pocket parks do not address demand in their neighborhoods sufficiently, let alone provide reasonable options for the many other neighborhoods without a dog park.

This lack of accessible, off-leash recreation and exercise space is a serious problem for Seattle's dog owners and non-owners alike. In the recent survey of dog owners that Parks conducted, over one quarter of respondents admitted to off-leash recreation outside of the designated fenced off-leash areas, with the actual number reasonably assumed to be higher. Survey respondents clearly indicated their reasoning as a desire seen in other researched cities: to walk to a neighborhood off-leash area sufficient in size to properly and safely exercise and socialize their canine companions. Widespread unofficial gatherings, while common, are currently illegal. Seattle Animal Shelter's staffing increase has recently cracked down on enforcement, sparking many active conversations in neighborhood blogs about off-leash dogs illegally using playgrounds, parks, and athletic fields throughout the city, a direct reflection of the fact that there are not enough accessible legal areas to recreate with dogs.

Off-leash Areas Matter

Seattle residents love their dogs! Rated one of the most pet-friendly rental cities, Seattle residents are getting more and more canine companions while residing in housing without yards. This situation is untenable for Seattle, and has been remedied in other cities resulting in drastically reduced dog

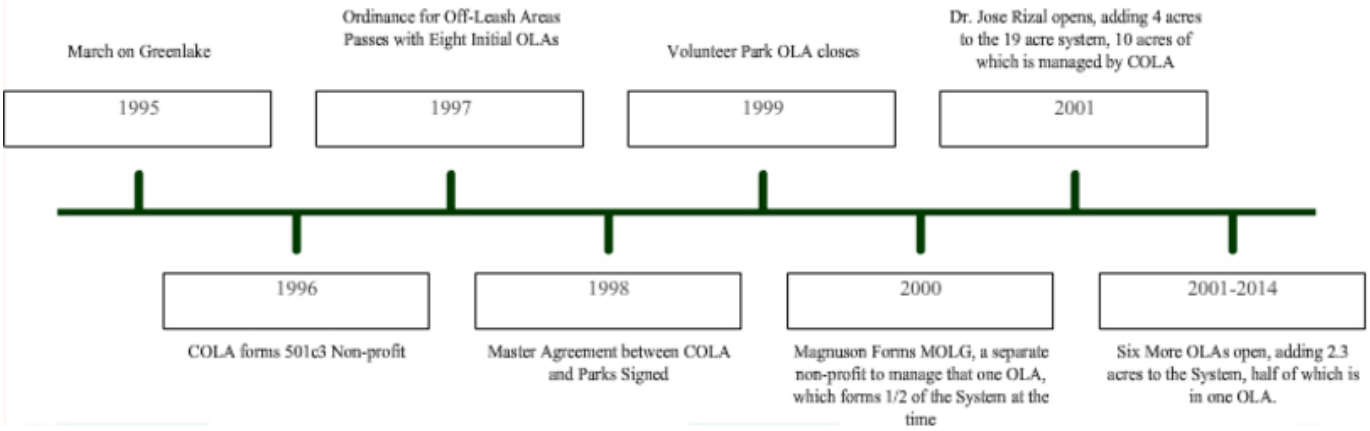
aggression – New York City's Parks Commissioner cites 40,000 dog bites per year before they opened their off-leash program, and 4,000 the next year.



Seattle Animal Shelter reports we have 43,645 dogs licensed in Seattle, putting their estimate of total Seattle dogs above 153,000, using nationwide compliance averages from 20-30%. According to a recent survey of 4,000 dog owners, over seventy percent of these dogs are medium or large, the vast majority are highly active breeds, and over half are under five years old (nearly 89% under 10 years). Nationwide press has compared Seattleites' love for dogs and the dog population and its 14 dog parks to our less than 100,000 children and our 150+ children's playgrounds, not including school playgrounds. At least 1 in 4 households in Seattle own at least one dog (recent estimates put it at 35%), and recent research has indicated that over one sixth of the city already uses off-leash recreation (in its current compromised state). In Seattle Parks' recent survey of nearly 4,000 Seattle dog owners, while two-thirds of dog owners prefer off-leash recreation, only four OLAs were in regular use in Seattle (Magnuson, Westcrest, Golden Gardens, Woodland). The number 1 reason non-OLA users have for not using dog parks is that they are not conveniently located, with number 2 too many unruly dogs. Our dog parks are overpopulated, too small, and too far apart. The need for more and better off-leash areas has never been more obvious and pressing than it is today.

More about COLA's History

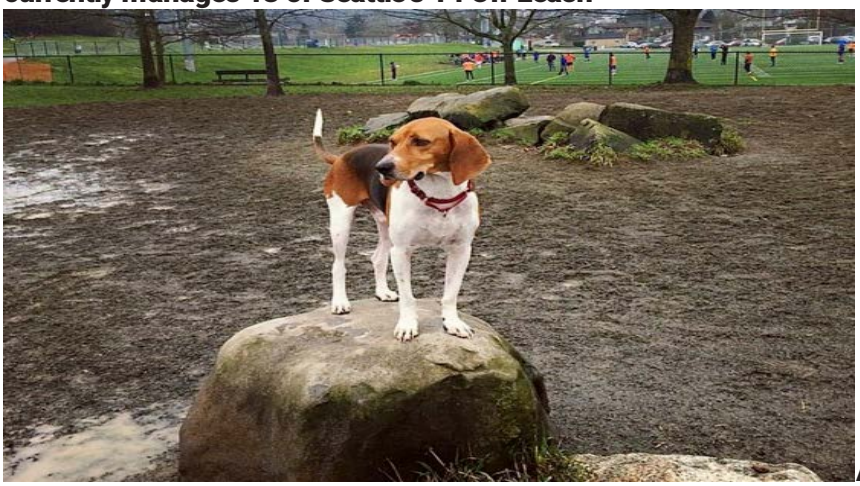
Twenty years ago, COLA was formed as a grassroots organization in response to a sudden increase in enforcement of the 1990s leash laws in a booming Seattle. In a 1995 march around Greenlake, citizens organized to demand legal space for dogs to run and socialize off-leash and the resulting petition began our work as a registered non-profit organization. Formally founded in November of 1996 as an all-volunteer 501c3 organization, COLA worked with the Seattle City Council to pass the 1997 ordinance which established Seattle's first eight off-leash areas. The following year, COLA signed a Master Agreement with Seattle Parks and Recreation to work in close partnership to maintain Seattle's off-leash areas, now seven in total after closing Volunteer Park's OLA, and provide educational opportunities for dog owners.



The remaining seven OLAs provided Seattle 19 acres of off-leash space, nearly half of which was in Warren G. Magnuson Park, which was so large it formed a separate 501c3 in 2000 to manage itself. In 2001, Dr. Jose Rizal was opened adding four more acres of much needed space to Beacon Hill. However, since then, though COLA has advocated for and supported the creation of six more off-leash areas, together they total only 2.3 acres, 1.3 acres of which is in one extremely poorly maintained, inaccessible, underutilized area with design difficulties under I-5. Each OLA required an average of nearly two and half years of COLA volunteer activism to achieve permanency.

Off-Leash Areas in Seattle

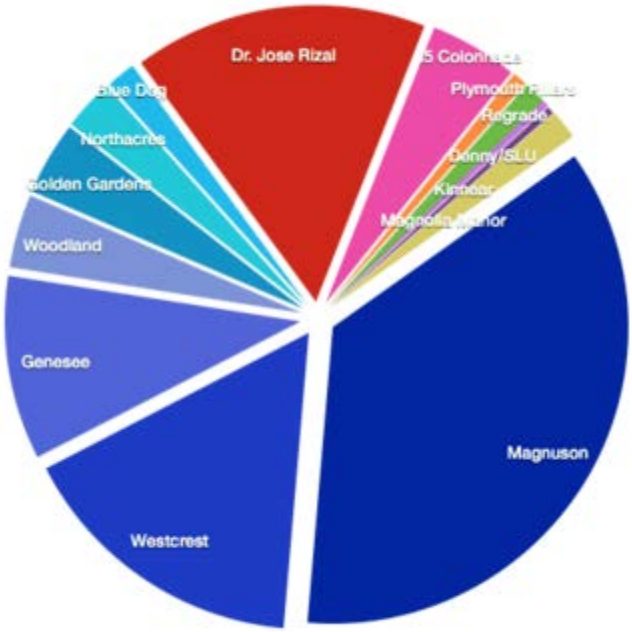
COLA has been a major part of the maintenance and management of Seattle's dog parks. COLA currently manages 13 of Seattle's 14 Off-Leash



Areas which provide 16 acres of off-leash space (25 in total including Magnuson).

- **Several of these OLAs are extremely difficult to use in winter due to *mud and erosion*.**
- **Only three have some *lighting* for late afternoon and evening use in the winter (Plymouth Pillars, Regrade, Golden Gardens).**
- **Only three of the 1997 OLAs have *rain shelters* for the human population to utilize in this rainiest city in the country (Magnuson, Golden Gardens, and Westcrest).**
- **Only four have *small dog areas* (Golden Gardens, Magnuson, Westcrest, and Magnolia Manor).**
- **All of our off-leash areas are *fenced*, and the majority are surfaced in gravel.**

Seattle's current off-leash areas are vastly different in terms of size and proportion of the system, as shown right where all the blue shades are 1997 parks and the others were post 1997. They are as



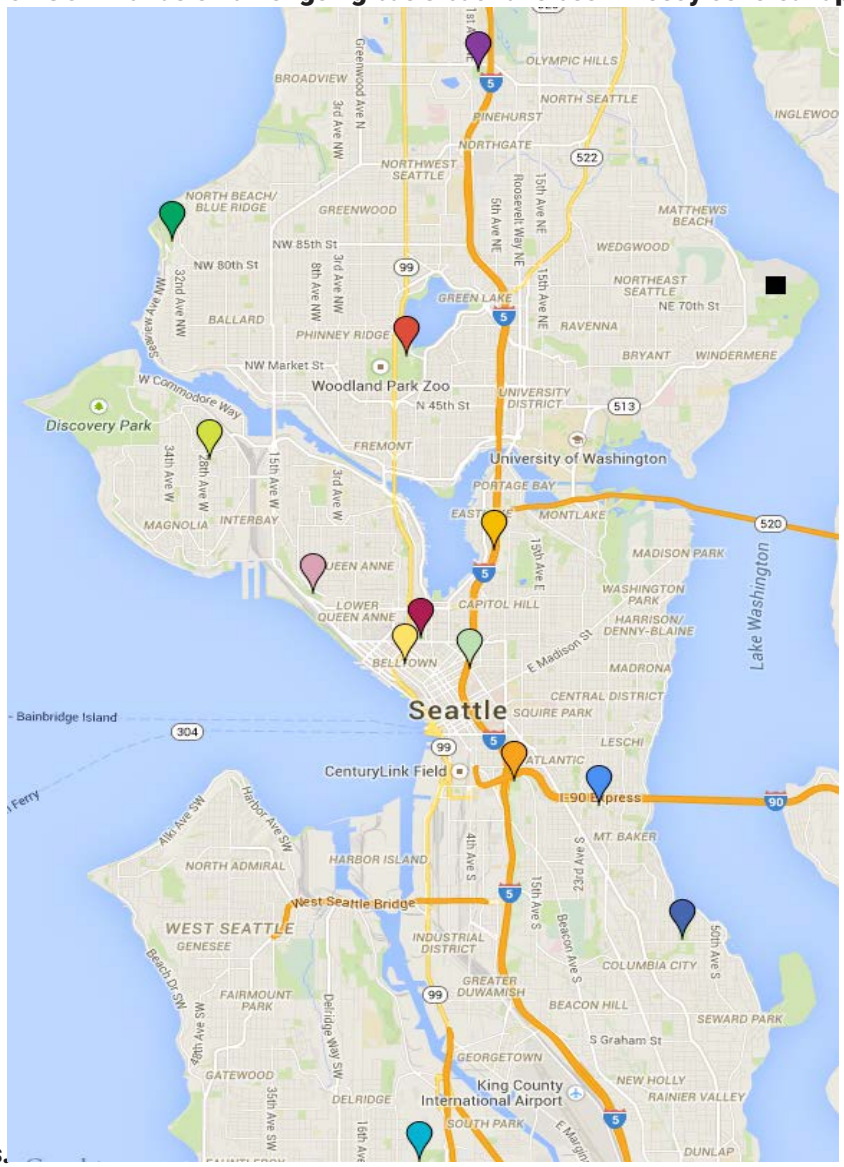
follows:

- *Magnuson* **(9 acres opened in Sand Point in 1997). Not managed by COLA since 2000.**
- *Westcrest* **(4 acres opened in lower West Seattle in 1997). Stewarded for the last 13 years by Steve McElhenney, and for the last 2 years co-stewarded by dog walker Michele Liese, this is the flagship park for COLA in that its design and users are some of the best and most organized in the city. Westcrest has a very active community of dog lovers in the COLA dog parks, and the OLA's four acres are extremely well maintained by our volunteers, led by the stewards. Our largest and longest running dog park, Westcrest has a variety of terrains and sections for all kinds of dogs, including a separate small dog area, a shelter for the rainy season, and a short trail to help keep dogs moving. A few years ago, COLA paid several thousand dollars for a large amount of re-surfacing in this OLA, and for the last two years we've been utilizing a $7500 grant from King County Wastewater Treatment's Rainwise program to explore issues of runoff into Westcrest from the nearby reservoir. This grant is in closeout now, having determined responsibility for the runoff with public agencies who need to work out who will pay to correct it. In the meantime, we used the funds to explore research on sustainability and dog parks and held a sustainability celebration this past summer called Westcrest Doggiefest which was attended by approximately 500 residents. Westcrest has a very active online presence and discussions of all kinds occur between users through social media.**
- *Genesee* **(2.5 acres in SE Seattle opened in 1997): A flat park made up of two acres of quarter minus gravel and half an acre surround of grass, Genesee OLA is a fenced flat park for the most part. Its maintenance challenges are significantly less than many of our OLAs. Stewarded since 2011 by Ellen Escarcega, an active community of regular dog park users has emerged to care for the park on a daily basis. Genesee has a pilot team of COLA ambassadors who divide up the job of managing the park into janitorial, maintenance, amenities, dog walker relations, and peace brokering between users. COLA has paid for gravel, grass, native plants, sand, in addition to chairs, benches, and dog clean-up bags since 1997. We also partnered with non-profit Urban**

brokering between users. COLA has paid for gravel, grass, native plants, sand, in addition to chairs, benches, and dog clean-up bags since 1997. We also partnered with non-profit Urban Artworks to install a dog toy box painted by teenagers in a work program, displaying regular users' dogs, including two who recently passed and are memorialized. Working with the Parks department, we received twenty-three new trees that will one day provide better mud/erosion control and more areas of shade. Genesee has an active online presence and is beginning to discuss issues between users through social media.

- ***Woodland* (1 acre opened near Greenlake in 1997). Stewarded since 2011 by a dog walker named Charlotte Bontrager and an active volunteer named Karen Ritter, Woodland has gone from a muddy hill to a gold standard dog park. With monthly work parties, Karen and Charlotte have sectioned the park and used over $4000 in the past few years to purchase gravel, railroad ties, and more to keep it nearly mud free. This has resulted in much higher usage which in turn increases the maintenance a continual struggle. Woodland is only one acre, but it is not unusual for fifty to a hundred dogs and their people to use it simultaneously, a density that creates a safety issue for both dogs and humans. Both the survey of dog owners and licensed dog records show a huge population of dogs in the vicinity of this park, and its small footprint hardly serves them all. The volunteers have been actively pursuing a small dog area for this park. Woodland has a very active online presence and discussion of OLA community through social media.**
- ***Blue Dog Pond* (0.4 acres opened next to the I-90 lid in 1997). Blue Dog is located at the conjunction of MLK and I-90, Blue Dog is an OLA which receives its heaviest use in the summer months, when it's runoff issues abate. Designed as a gravel coated retention basin, Blue Dog is a fully fenced, original OLA, now stewarded by Shawn McIsaac and dog walker Deb Rubano. This park has received more attention from Parks of late, with a new crew chief working with Shawn, and we are hopeful that several loads of gravel which were delivered and spread by Parks this summer will help with the hygienic and comfort deficits resulting from large puddles which inevitably turn the Blue Dog OLA into a pond. This park also has many issues with slopes, blackberries, and poisonous hemlock. Finally, this OLAs experiences difficulties regularly with rogue dog walkers, due to its secluded terrain and lack of animal enforcement.**
- ***Golden Gardens* (1 acre opened in Ballard in 1997). This fenced off acre includes trees, benches, and wood chip cover with a small dog area. Stewarded by dog walker Nicole Simon, Golden Gardens has had many slope erosion issues, abated only somewhat by supplies provided by COLA and Parks over the past few years. This park also received some small lights in the past**

few years, which COLA funds on an ongoing basis but have been mostly covered rapidly by



growing trees.

- *Northacres* (0.7 acres opened in North Seattle in 1997). Stewarded for nearly 14 years by Pam Masse, Northacres has a thriving community, including eleven regular work parties a year supported by local businesses. Northacres is a small series of trails, with the trees fenced off for their protection. These fences have been lovingly maintained by COLA funding and volunteer teams for over a decade. In fact, recently COLA paid to repair a retaining wall in this OLA. This park is very difficult to throw a ball in due to the fence structure, and is fairly inappropriate for dog walkers due to its layout.
- *Dr. Jose Rizal* (4 acres on Beacon Hill opened in 2001). A grassy four acre OLA on the north end of Beacon Hill, this neighborhood park was created with help from Amazon.com when they were located in the PacMed building nearby. Neighborhood volunteers, orchardists and COLA, successfully stopping decline in this underutilized park with an incredible view of Seattle. It is anticipated that the future will include summer concerts and other programming. The off-leash area in the park was stewarded for years by Jessica Spears (who also acted as COLA's Steward Coordinator), and has of late been taken on by a new energetic steward named Amanda

Dawson who has come up to speed quickly, and is working diligently to control the graffiti and vandalism that still plagues this park.

- *I-5 colonnade* (1.2 acres opened in 2005). This OLA sits under I-5, and without parking and surface repair, is extremely underutilized. It is rare to see two dogs in the area at the same time as it stands now. Intended to be gravel surfaced, somehow many levels of the tiered park (with a full irrigation system built-in) has ended up with large rocks that are difficult for dogs to walk on, let alone run. A ball cannot easily be thrown in the configuration as it stands, without losing the ball outside the chain link fencing. Though COLA has one steward for this park, a vet from Jet City Animal Clinic, we are actively working to recruit more users to foster this park's growth and community. A grant by the Eastlake Community group has been initiated to improve this park, and bring it an active population through design changes. COLA's board member Sharon Levine is an active advisor on the board of that grant process.
- *Plymouth Pillars* (0.2 acres opened in 2005). This OLA is a small gravel filled dog relief area near Capitol Hill, First Hill, and Downtown. Stewarded by a former Chair of COLA for years, this OLA is now stewarded by Lisa Hickey, a caring dog lover who also works for Mud Bay on Capitol Hill. This park has lights and heavy usage. This OLA has quite a few garbage and crime issues which the steward works daily to mitigate.
- *Regrade* (0.3 acres opened in 2005). A cement and gravel dog relief area in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood, this OLA has a strong community and reputation for stabilizing its neighborhood. Formerly stewarded by Microsoft employee Ian Martinez, COLA is actively recruiting for a steward for this park at this time. Of note, this is the dog park that Eclipse, the solo bus riding dog, used on a daily basis when the national media picked up the story about him. This park is lighted for evening use. This park also has utilized COLA funds on seating to memorialize a dog park regular who lost her life at the early age of 24, of note in terms of community building.
- *Denny* (0.1 acres). This is a small gravel and chain link relief area behind Parks and Recreation administrative offices, offered temporarily while a new OLA is designed and opened that will address the needs of the dog community of South Lake Union, the most booming apartment/condo community in Seattle. This area gets sporadic usage due to its small footprint and surface, but would be much more used if larger with a different surface.
- *Kinnear* (0.1 acres in Lower Queen Anne made permanent in 2014). A tiny OLA in the lowest tier of multi-tiered Kinnear Park, down over 150 steps from any form of parking. Measuring only 5,400 sq feet, Kinnear's split rail fencing and wood chip surfacing gets minimal use and experiences ongoing problems with rogue dog walkers (who are not allowed at this park due to its size) and a homeless population. Stewarded by Kris Hocking, the secretary of COLA, the park's minimal use leads to difficulty finding work party volunteers. It is however the only legal space to take your dog off-leash in all of Queen Anne, so expanding it, getting a parking strategy, and locating another off-leash area in that neighborhood is a high priority for COLA.
- *Magnolia Manor* (0.4 acres in Magnolia made permanent in 2015). This is a well loved new OLA with split rail fencing, and a mix of wood chips and gravel as its surface. Located in close proximity to homes and apartments, this OLA took years to complete permanency and was controversial in many ways, and is still under threat of losing over 2000 square feet (13%) of its small footprint. This OLA provides an underutilized small dog area, which badly needs a surfacing change. Stewarded by Toni Imfeld since its inception, it is undergoing growth in the stewarding team including Diane Kennedy and others, who hope to become COLA ambassadors of noise control to foster a successful "good neighbor policy."

COLA Steward Program

COLA's steward program has been run for years with one volunteer per OLA towards the goal of long term management continuity. Though this has demonstrated some success, with several of our stewards on board for over a decade, in 2014 and 2015, our steward coordinator Lee Goldman has

actively expanded our stewarding program at each OLA to create redundancy should a volunteer leave. Because the job requires more than one skillset often not found in one person, bringing additional stewards on board for the same park has proved highly advantageous. Some stewards are primarily focused on maintenance of the land, preventing water-borne diseases such as giardia in pups, while others are interested in community building and education. It takes a village to run a dog park, and toward that end we are growing our stewards into teams!

The job description of a traditional Steward is as follows:

- **Act as the single point-of-contact for COLA and Seattle Parks & Recreation for assigned off-leash area.**
- **Perform routine clean up and restocking tasks in their OLA.**
- **Organize and post signs announcing at least four volunteer work parties a year to help address maintenance issues at their off-leash area.**
- **Maintain kiosks and post signs announcing upcoming COLA events.**
- **Remove any commercial advertising or postings from kiosk, fence, or other areas.**
- **Attend Parks/COLA quarterly maintenance meetings.**
- **Identify and report any OLA problems that need to be addressed by Parks and/or the COLA Board to the COLA Steward Coordinator.**
- **Submit quarterly expense reports for reimbursement by the COLA Treasurer.**
- **Steward will submit written proposal for any major OLA improvement or expense to the COLA Board for approval. For any request that exceed $500 the steward will make an oral presentation to the board.**

Beyond the steward program that creates the backbone of OLA management, COLA maintains a corps of volunteers that assist in maintaining its parks across Seattle. In 2014 COLA volunteers logged 7,305 work hours across the 13 off leash areas and the activities of the all-volunteer COLA board. Over just one year, we facilitated over 620 volunteers, including those who participated in COLA sponsored work parties at OLAS. Some stewards have regular schedules for work parties, while others have them on an as-needed basis. Below is the breakdown of recorded hours citywide, though some OLAs have kept more accurate records than others:

2014 COLA Volunteers	Volunteers	Hours
COLA BOARD	33	3,050
Blue Dog Pond	1	42
Denny	1	185
Dr. Jose Rizal	2	284
Genesee	50	397
Golden Gardens	not recorded	not recorded
I-5 Colonnade	not recorded	not recorded
Kinnear	7	183
Magnolia Manor	163	1,221
Magnuson	not recorded	not recorded
Northacres	143	395
Plymouth Pillars	3	28
Regrade	16	195
Westcrest	26	942
Woodland	175	383
Total	**620**	**7,305**

COLA provides a variety of non-power tools and supplies for each OLA, as well as an annual tools budget for replacements when they inevitably wear out due to heavy use. Stewards put these tools to good use on a regular basis, and supplement with borrowed tools from Seattle Parks and Recreation during work parties. COLA stewards have worked with their crew chiefs on a case-by-case basis to obtain necessary surfacing materials. In the event ground cover material cannot be provided by Parks, COLA stewards coordinate the purchase and delivery of ground cover materials from their COLA annual OLA budget. In the last two years alone, COLA has spent over $8000 of our donations to maintain the Park's surfaces.

Beyond physical park maintenance, COLA provides community resources for its stewards, members, and individual community members to communicate and facilitate discussion. COLA has a website with active discussion forums for everything ranging from ideas for future OLA locations to reporting problems and suggestions for current locations. These bulletin boards are monitored by COLA members and play an important role in enabling communication between OLA users, stewards, and board members. This communication is further underscored by quarterly COLA/Parks meetings where COLA leaders and representatives from Seattle Parks and Recreation meet to discuss clarifications, additions, or amendments to the Off-Leash Areas Agreement between the City of Seattle and COLA. These meetings, are opportunities to meet with crew chiefs, Seattle Animal Control, and other Seattle Parks staff members to provide the opportunity to collaborate and solve problems.

COLA's Leadership

Ellen Escarcega **is computer consultant, primarily contracting these days with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks on database software which manages millions of dollars of projects and contracts. Her specialties are database design, user interface, business intelligence metrics, and graphic/web design. Over the past twenty-three years, seventeen of which have been in Seattle as the owner of her own business, Meserow Consulting, she has built software for government, non-profits, education, publishing, and small businesses. She has managed grants totalling over a million dollars, and budgets ranging from two thousand to two million dollars. As a lifetime dog owner and nearly four-year volunteer steward of Genesee Off-Leash Area, Ellen has seen from all angles the needs and desires of Seattle dog owners, as well as volunteers seeking to improve the lives of Seattle dogs and their people. She is passionate about managing COLA's non-profit efforts toward effective goals on that front. She has served as Chair of COLA since 2014.**

Nicole Eckerman **is currently the Foundation Specialist for Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. Cole earned a Master of Science in Strategic Fundraising and Philanthropy from Bay Path College where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, and received her BA from The Evergreen State College. Heralding from Portland, OR, Cole has worked as a professional fundraiser for 10 years. She moved to Seattle in 2006 to work on the Yes on 1-937 campaign, directing the grassroots fundraising efforts for the initiative. Cole loves working as a fundraiser, because she sees cultivating donations as a way to connect people with issues they care about. She specialized in individual gift fundraising, new media fundraising, and donor cultivation. When she isn't changing the world one donation at a time, Cole can be found in and around her home in Seattle's Madison Valley neighborhood, which she shares with her husband Nathan, and their 6-year-old hound dog, Winchester. She spends her free time going to dog parks, wine tasting, and hiking around Washington's different viticulture regions. She has served at Vice-Chair since 2015.**

Michael Loebe, MSA **is an accountant with 28 years of experience currently working in the Finance department of Seattle Hebrew Academy. Has worked in a variety of industries including broadcasting with 10 years working for KIRO and KING combined. He established and ran his own firm for 7 years. Mike specializes in new business set up and organization. He engages in philanthropic activities at many levels by donating of money and time to a variety of causes and organizations. He has served as Treasurer of COLA since 2012.**

Highlights of Our Programs in Education

COLA has begun the transition to an education and community building organization this year, running several high level pilots toward education, community building, and sustainability. A few highlights of these programs include:

- **COLA has begun piloting an educational program for dog owners in an "Ambassador Program" focused on owners understanding dog body language and behavior in dog parks. This program will be run for the 2nd time this year, and we hope for 4 iterations of it in 2016. This program trains dogs and their owners on off-leash behavior, beginning with the owner herself, then with the dog and owner. Owners are alerted to behaviors to watch out for specifically in an off-leash environment, and is one of the first in the nation to teach such information. The class is based in scientific research on dog behavior, and uses principles taught by a leading specialist in dog off-leash parks, Sue Sternberg. Ms. Sternberg has agreed to come and speak in Seattle at a COLA sponsored town hall event in Fall 2016.**
- **Our education committee is actively planning a 2016 monthly and quarterly messaging campaign to influence thinking about proper dog socialization in an off-leash area.**
- **COLA is piloting a program called WOLF at Woodland Off-Leash Area made up of dog walkers, hoping to financially mitigate heavy-use maintenance needs at the OLA, and bridging the gap between dog walkers and dog owners. This pilot has been a huge success, and is currently in planning to expand citywide to help dog walkers who follow best practices spread the word about their experience and contributions to the off-leash program.**

Events and Community Building

COLA has always had an active event program which includes Dog-O-Ween and Fremont Fair Dog Parade staples, which have been a cornerstone of our educational, community building, and fundraising efforts. In June of 2015, a grant-funded investigation into runoff problems at Westcrest OLA helped spark Westcrest Doggiefest which helped raise over $2,300 in donations as well as generate tremendous positive sentiment toward COLA. Finally, in 2015 COLA had booths at many Seattle events, distributing information about our organization and raising awareness for off leash areas, the strategic

planning effort, upcoming survey, and more. These booths included the Seattle Pet Expo, West Seattle Summerfest, and the Emerald City Pet Rescue Event. In coming years COLA intends to organize smaller, higher impact events in 2016 starting with a dog-themed wine tasting event and a Nepalese dog friendship celebration.

Grants

An active grant investigation of over 70 grants that COLA's mission qualifies for is underway to help fund our organization's progression into a professional, self-sustaining non-profit organization. Grants have proved to be a valuable source of funding both in the past and as COLA moves forward with its expanded mission. We have already received the King County Rainwise and PetSafe grants, and are actively working toward many more this year and next, including Department of Neighborhoods Matching Grants.

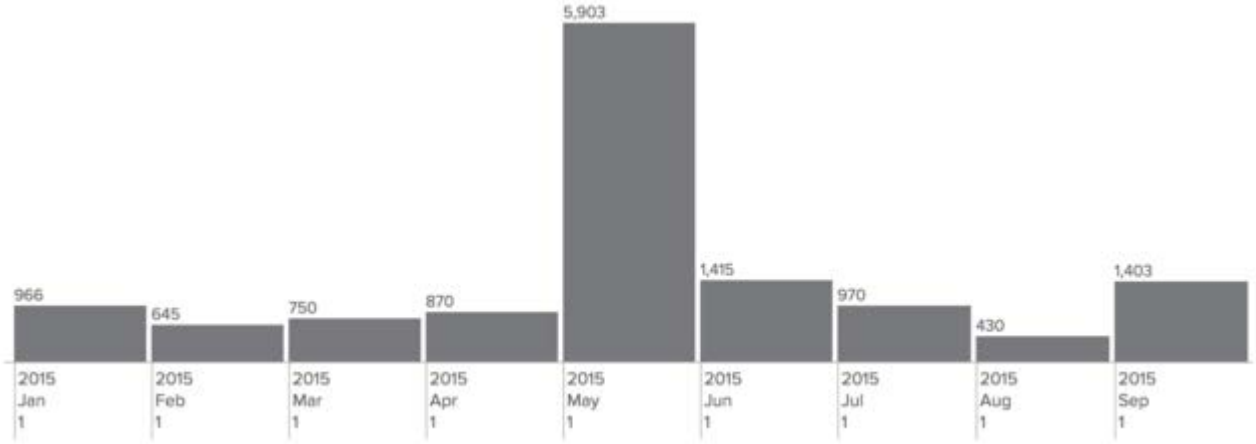
COLA's Donor Base

Given its status as a community driven non-profit organization, COLA's major funding source in 2014 and 2015 has been contributions from concerned individuals, businesses, and community organizations. For most of COLA's history, the primary means of fundraising was through memberships and member fees. $20-$50 memberships were designed to help fund COLA's dog park maintenance activities as well as provide a network of concerned dog owners, park users, and Seattle citizens who wanted to make a difference.

While this was effective for many years to help keep COLA running, the overall goal of transitioning COLA to a professional non-profit organization has required new and innovative sources of fundraising. Recently, COLA has moved from its older membership model to a broader, donation based style of philanthropy. In addition to the tremendous financial benefit of raising over $10,000 in donations to run its programs and activities, this new outreach push has enabled COLA to rapidly grow its communication network. We have reached out to over 3,000 of Seattleites via email and thousands more over social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter. Since 2014 COLA has more than tripled its volunteer roster and gained substantial numbers of individual donors and contributors, both of which continue to grow. A new strategic plan is underway now aimed at stewarding our existing donors, creating a corporate giving strategy, and more.

2015 Income:

COLA's membership and donation income this year has exceeded expectations, including a nearly $6000 day for Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG day on May 5th, 2015:

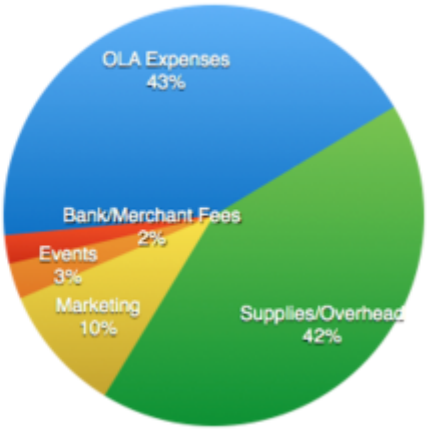


COLA Expenditures

Throughout our history, Seattle Parks and Recreation has operated under severe budget restrictions, and as stated above has had no dedicated funding for Seattle off-leash areas. As an unfunded mandate, supplies and services provided by Parks for the off-leash areas were borrowed from other budgets and were aimed toward basic safety only. COLA provided funding where Parks could not. As a result, over the past eighteen years, COLA has paid for substantial improvements to off-leash areas that would otherwise not be funded, including fencing, ground cover, benches, tools, lights, bags, and more.

As an all-volunteer organization funded exclusively by donations, COLA volunteers have worked tirelessly to be sure Seattle's more than 150,000 pups and their owners play in dry, fenced, safe environments. In 2014 and 2015, COLA dedicated the largest part of its funding to the maintenance and care of Seattle's off-leash areas. Almost all of these OLA resources are spent on basics such as gravel ground cover, tools, scoop bags, and fencing. Because the original agreement between COLA and the City of Seattle included vague assignments of maintenance and care duties, COLA has shouldered a major part of the burden for keeping the parks up to date to the best of its ability. In recent months, as part of a continued commitment to establishing itself as a premier non profit organization for dogs and dog owners and due to the major commitment to a new master plan, COLA has increased its administrative spending. This shift in expenditures does not represent any change in COLA's commitment to continuing to provide the best quality off-leash areas it can but rather a redoubling of the effort and resources to become a professional organization with the capabilities to expand beyond the reach of the all volunteer team COLA has maintained in the past.

Spending Breakdown	
OLA Expenses	8,845.84
Supplies/Overhead	8,731.60
Marketing	2,036.27
Event Expenses	567.17
Bank/Merchant fees	452.80
TOTAL	**$20,633.70**



In addition, beginning in June 2015, COLA has begun hiring part time administrative help managing our ever increasing volunteer base, and attending as many pet events as possible to get the word out during this strategic planning effort. This new program has added over $3000 to our spending this year, and we are hopeful that it is the beginning of our transition to a professional non-profit which can exist for decades to come. Thus far, the program has paid back its own cost significantly in fundraising successes.

Future spending for COLA will include efforts to administer a dog owner education and community building effort in Seattle. These important components of the COLA mission have always taken a backseat due to the fact that maintenance of OLAs has never been a budgeted item for SPD. Covering basic maintenance needs,, e.g. surface materials, supplies, seating, fencing, and tools, has severely limited COLA's ability to address important community needs. We intend to change this in 2016 and beyond.

Future Fundraising

In order for COLA to grow beyond an organization that does more than just provide gravel for dog parks, we are redefining our overall approach to fundraising. COLA's goal is to become a professional non-profit that acts as the go-to education, support, and community building group for Seattle and the Puget Sound region. To that end, COLA has worked to develop a comprehensive fundraising and philanthropy program built around a variety of income sources including strengthening relationships with existing donors, expanding the annual fund program, establishing a major giving program, cultivating corporate partnerships, and developing in-kind contribution opportunities for both individuals and businesses.

We are developing a program to revolutionize our former membership fundraising approach, including the following highlights of our approach:

***A) Individual Giving* is at COLA's core. As Citizens for Off- Leash Areas, we need our citizens to be supporting our work. There are four key steps to be taken to grow and solidify our existing individual gift program.**

1. ***Stewarding existing donors* – Over the next 3 years, we will work on establishing a culture of stewardship. In this culture, donors will grow accustom to hearing how their dollars are having an impact on the OLAs, and they will be receiving 90-day touches in the form of newsletters,**

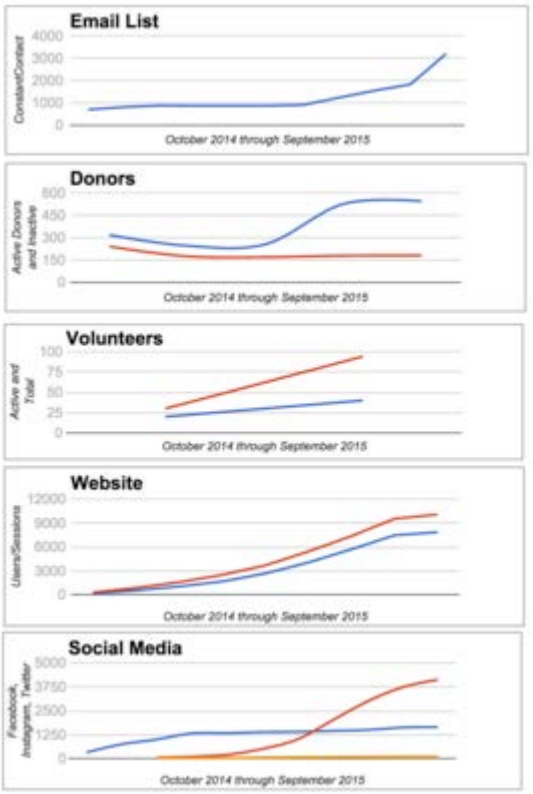
emails, and phone calls from our board and staff thanking them for their support and letting them know how vital they are to the organization and to the dogs of Seattle.

2. ***Growing the existing annual fund program*– The annual fund is where the majority of our donors fall. This base will make up 80% of our supporters. They will also serve as the pipeline for our major giving program. In order to ensure the financial health of COLA, we need to establish a culture of philanthropy. We need people to want to support us, and we need them to know when we will be asking them. This increased reliability will allow us to increase the level of support from our core donors, and will develop the ground for COLA to approach lapsed donors about renewing their support of the organization.**
3. ***Establishing a major giving program*– Seattle has one of the largest philanthropic communities in the United States. We are home to the highest concentration of millionaires and billionaires on the West Coast, and in a city that is home to more dogs than children, there is no reason for our organization to not be major recipients for local philanthropic leaders. In the next three years the fundraising committee will work with the board to establish a portfolio of solid major giving prospects inside and outside of our current donor pool, and in the creation of solicitation strategies and asks for these prospects. These prospects will be the organization's first generation of major donors, and the founding members of COLA's Pals Of Pups Society (or POP Society)- our new giving circle for donors giving $1,000 and above annually.**

***B) Corporate Partner Program*. Seattle is home to a large number of successful, dog-friendly businesses. It is important that we offer the members of our business community to opportunity to support the dogs and the city that they love in way that makes sense for their bottom line. By maximizing our strategic connection with corporate partners, COLA can also capitalize on free publicity as it is in a business's best interest to be overt about their philanthropic support of their community. Because business needs are as diverse as the dogs they welcome into their offices, we need to have a multifaceted approach for corporate philanthropy.**

1. ***Cause related marketing*– Cause related marketing is an opportunity not only for a business to support, but also for that business to ask its customer base to engage in a cause as well. The greatest benefit to COLA in this type of partnership is it broadens our visibility while also gaining contact information for new supports with minimal effort from COLA administration. Cause related marketing is commonly seen in two forms: register round ups, and percentage of sales.**
2. ***Point of interest*– we are currently exploring a cause related marketing opportunity with Mud Bay where they would ask customers for a $1 donation for COLA that would be matched by Mud Bay, up to $5,000. This type of cause related marketing is great for COLA because it also increased the donor's incentive to give more as their donation is effectively being doubled.**
3. ***In Kind giving opportunities*– Increasing the number of in kind gifts COLA receives from corporate partners could help the organization to cut our bottom line while expanding our influence. An example of the type of in kind giving opportunity we would be seeking would be approaching Stella Color (a print house in SODO) to supply 20 reams of letterhead and 20 boxes of envelopes embossed with COLA's logo. This collateral would be a donation for Stella Color, but would also allow COLA to do a fall direct mail appeal without have to invest in the production of paper supply. In kind giving opportunities increase as event opportunities increase as well (see below)**
4. ***Identifying strategic partnerships*– Many companies will prefer to give an outright donation to COLA rather than having to invest staff resources in maintaining a causer related marketing campaign, or supplying capital via an in kind donation. With these companies, strategic partnerships can still be made through philanthropic donations. By increase the amount of corporate donations COLA is receiving, the organization could effectively increase its sphere of influence over groups like the Downtown Seattle Business Association, or the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.**

5. *Developing a Dog Friendly Business Alliance* – **COLA should be a founding member of this Alliance. If you meet with the right people for long enough, and the agree with you for long enough, eventually they will see it is their best interest to support you. The board and the fundraising committee need to work together to identify the right people to bring to the table.**



COLA Infrastructure and Communications

As a part our growth beyond an all volunteer organization, COLA added its first paid staff position in June of 2015 in order to accommodate a growing workload from the master planning process and and to help facilitate farther reaching community impacts in the future. We've fully re-created our technical infrastructure, including:

- **A thriving *email list*, which has more than tripled this year. These are dedicated off-leash advocates, who set records for click-through and open rates compared to other non-profits.**
- **A web-enabled dynamic *donor/volunteer database* attached to our website. We are actively stewarding this former membership into an active quarterly donation effort.**
- **An active *volunteer base* with varied talents growing every day, including stewarding teams at most OLAs, and stewards for all but one off-leash area. At a recent Amazon Employee Event, half of the people who signed up for our mailing list checked YES on volunteering. On boarding these volunteers takes quite a bit of time and professional effort (e.g. the new administrative help), but the payoff is significant.**
- **A user-friendly *website* providing conversation forums and volunteering opportunities at seattlecola.org**
- **An active *social media* community discussing the issues of off-leash areas on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**

Vision for the Future

COLA in the next decade will be the non-profit for dog owners in Seattle. There are hundreds of non-profit organizations and agencies in Seattle, such as the Seattle Animal Shelter, creating new dog owners but none that serve the direct needs of the new urban dog owner, let alone an adopter of a reactive or leash-aggressive dog. The science over the last twenty years has established that dogs can be aggressive genetically, but it is far more likely that aggression and behavioral issues arise from lack of exercise and socialization. COLA is in a unique position to help these new dog owners, and facilitate non-profit education and recreation programs which will improve our city's urban livestock, for all citizens' benefit.

Off-leash areas are functionally comparable to community centers, athletic fields, and children's playgrounds, if you separate the effects of their existence from the reason they were created. It's hard to imagine if you have never joined a dog park public commons, but much like a community center, they act as neighborhood living rooms for those who participate. Neighbors meet, exchange local news and information, trade services, look after their elderly or sick, provide space for events and volunteering, learn about others with different backgrounds, and meet newcomers to the area – all while exercising and socializing their dogs, and reducing crime and decline in the areas where they are placed.

And like a children's playground, dog parks bring together parents of similar ages, ostensibly to entertain/enrich their dogs' lives, but end up part of a community which shares information and forms relationships. Trust for Public Land's Director of the Center for City Park Excellence says, "There was a playground movement 100 years ago. In the last 15 to 20 years, it's these off-leash dog areas. There's a tremendous upsurge in demand and love for them. It's a playground for people without kids."

Toward this goal, COLA will continue into our third decade to work tirelessly toward increasing the quality and availability of open spaces for Seattle's dogs, dog owners, and non-owners, though in a much more strategic way after the completion of Seattle Parks and Recreation's People, Dogs and Parks Strategic Plan. It is our hope that this planning will continue into a formal master plan in coming years, designating a true implementation plan toward our mission: A Dog Park for Every Neighborhood, including swimming beaches and off-leash trails where appropriate. In addition, we are recommending to Seattle Parks and Recreation that in addition to the capital improvements authorized by the MPD funds, a true basic service assessment is done for the first time on the off-leash program to provide maintenance funding for the following priorities, in this order:

1. **Fencing, much of the current fencing is in disrepair or down**
2. **Surfacing Repair/Replacement, including fighting puddles/erosion**
3. **Year-round Water Sources**
4. **Lighting**
5. **Shade Structures and Trees**
6. **Garbage and Recycling Cans**
7. **Parking**
8. **Small/Shy/Separate Dog Fenced Areas**

Meanwhile, COLA intends to grow our mission while staying true to our original mission of fostering a real sense of community within each dog park, while providing owner education and better communication/messaging citywide.

APPENDIX 7: SITE ANALYSIS FOR EACH OLA

This appendix includes information about basic elements in each OLA as well as specific recommendations for each OLA.

BASIC ELEMENTS

Most OLAs include the following elements:

1. **Perimeter Fence and Gate:** 4' or 5' high chain-link perimeter fence, double entry pedestrian gate and vehicle maintenance entry gate.
2. **Interior Fence/Barriers for plants protection:** split fence with meshed wire, lower chain-link fence, cattle wire fence, or orange fencing during temporary restoration.
3. **Entrance Area:** entrance kiosk, signs (leash law, scoop law, good behavior), trash cans/ dumpster, dog solid waste bag dispenser; storage/tool box; wheel barrels/maintenance tool equipment area; dog drinking fountain or bottled water supply in winter provided by volunteers.
4. **Surface Materials:** commonly used surface materials include wood chips, 5/8" minus crushed rock, 1/4" minus crushed rock, granolithic rocks, pea gravel, dirt, sand, and grass areas. Some jurisdictions are experimenting with synthetic turf and irrigations systems to flush feces.
5. **Use Areas:** bigger play field for throwing/ catching game; trails for walking; gather areas for socialization; separated small and shy dog areas.
6. **Green Space:** trees, shrubs, groundcover and grass.
7. **Site Amenities for Dogs:** dog drinking fountain, dog washing station, dog play apparatus, over/ under play;
8. **Site Amenities for Dog Owners:** Kiosk, seating areas of benches, logs and rocks, shelter, picnic tables, trash cans and doggie doo-doo baggies.

SIZE AND INTENSITY OF USE

The high density of dog users at some sites has resulted in negative impacts to the sites and the surrounding environments such as denuded areas, soil compaction, and erosion or deteriorated surface conditions, poor drainage, unpleasant concentrated smells of urine, deteriorated vegetation and sometimes slope instability.

Seattle's 14 OLAs sizes range from 0.105 acres to 8.6 acres and total 28 acres citywide.

DENUDED SITE CONDITIONS AND LACK OF UNDERSTORY AT WOODLAND PARK OLA

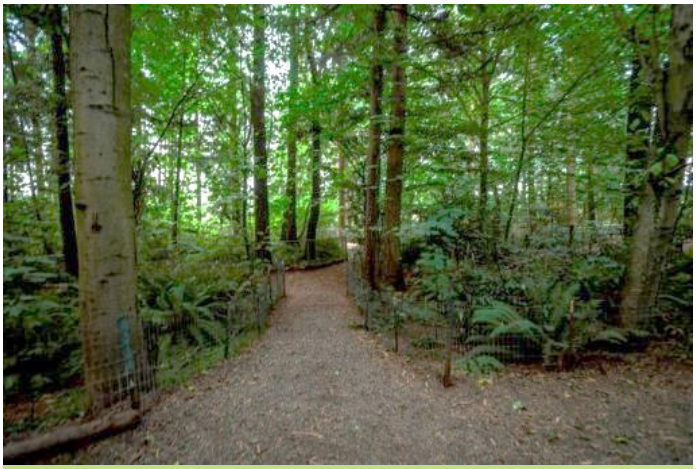
DRAINAGE AND WATER AVAILABILITY

Many of the OLAs have poor drainage, which when combined with high dog traffic and intense use, cause muddy conditions in the winter months and erosion problems during the summer months. Good overall site drainage and water availability for dog drinking stations and/or wash stations is important.

EROSION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

High dog traffic, intense use of a site and dogs running or walking on sloped areas can cause deterioration of the understory and erosion of the topsoil. If there is trail through steep slope or forested area, barriers should be provided to prevent shortcuts through the vegetation.

Vegetation restoration is needed for several OLA such as Golden Gardens, Lower Woodland Park and Dr. Jose Rizal. Conditions could be improved by replanting the understory, introducing suitable barriers, educating users and working with volunteer groups for long term maintenance.



NORTHACRES OLA WITH GOOD UNDERSTORY AND LOW BARRIERS TO PREVENT EROSION

SURFACE MATERIALS

Surface materials at OLAs have to withstand vigorous use, need to drain well and be easily maintained.

Although wood chips are often preferred, SPR has gradually replaced the wood chip surface material due to the associated problems of intense urine smells, rotting and continuing replacement efforts.

SPR's standard trail profile of 5/8" minus crushed rock topped with ¼" minus crushed rock is a good surface material for OLAs. Pea gravel will also work but is difficult to contain. Granolithic rock is the most popular surface material for OLAs. Drainage rock such as type 22 aggregate installed at I-5 Colonnade is not very walkable.

Some jurisdictions are experimenting with synthetic turf, but this requires daily washing down of the surface to remove all traces of feces and to drain directly into sewer lines.

GRANOLITHIC ROCK SURFACING AT DENNY PARK

DOG SOLID WASTE

Dog feces is an endemic problem at all OLA sites and is challenging due to user behavior, volume, weight, and health concerns. Dog feces spread Parvo (a deadly disease to dogs) and other bacterial and parasitic diseases. A multi-pronged-approach would best address this situation. Increasing user education through interpretive signs, handouts, events, and updates on SPR's webpage may help.

In 2012, OLAs generated 4,000 tons of doggie doo-doo. Feces left on the ground can result in very unsanitary conditions and negative impacts to adjacent water bodies. Dog waste is also very heavy. It might be better to switch to a system that provides smaller cans that are serviced more frequently that the large dumpsters and/or the 32 gallon trashcans. Magnuson Park OLA uses about 3,000 doggie doo-doo bags per month. Dumpsters full with dog feces generate unpleasant smells, especially during heavy use in the summer season.

ADA REQUIREMENT

Some existing OLAs do not have ADA accessible routes to the facility. Lower Woodland Park OLA is located on a steep slope, Dr. Jose Rizal Park is located at the bottom of slope, and Kinnear Park OLA is located with the steep wooded hillside. Where possible, it is desirable to have at least one ADA accessible route from a designated parking area to the OLA entrance and ensure some portion of the OLA area is ADA accessible.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND SITE AMENITIES

Some OLAs provide small and shy dog areas for quieter and less vigorous play. Where appropriate, a shelter area is good for providing shade and rain protection. Additional seating opportunities could be provided such as portable chairs.

BLUE DOG POND

Address: 1520 26th Ave S
Size: 1.7 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1999

DESCRIPTION

Located in Southeast Seattle near I-90, the OLA area is a wide, rectangular field perfect for throwing balls with grassy side slopes that your dog can run up and down. There are interesting art sculptures throughout the park that make it unique, including a giant reposing "blue dog" at the entrance. As a catchment area for excess water, it can get muddy during the rainy season. It is fully fenced and has running water.

SITE CHALLENGES

A significant challenge of this site is that it was designed as, and continues to function as, a storm water retention pond. During significant rainfall events, several feet of water may accrue in the low areas, requiring the site to be temporarily closed. This can create a potential health issue for dogs that drink from the water if the ponds have become stagnant.

BLUE DOG POND WITH STANDING WATER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Add a second gate to single entry gate areas.
2. Continue to control invasive blackberry bushes and poisonous hemlock on the slopes (goats have been used in the past).
3. Reduce erosion through renovation of landscape and shrub beds.
4. Install doggie drinking fountain (there is a hose-bib).
5. Install logs or rocks to deter shortcuts along trail and hydro-seed eroded slope.
6. Consider ADA access way from Observation platform to playfield.
7. Need for dog features, under/over structures.

DENNY PARK

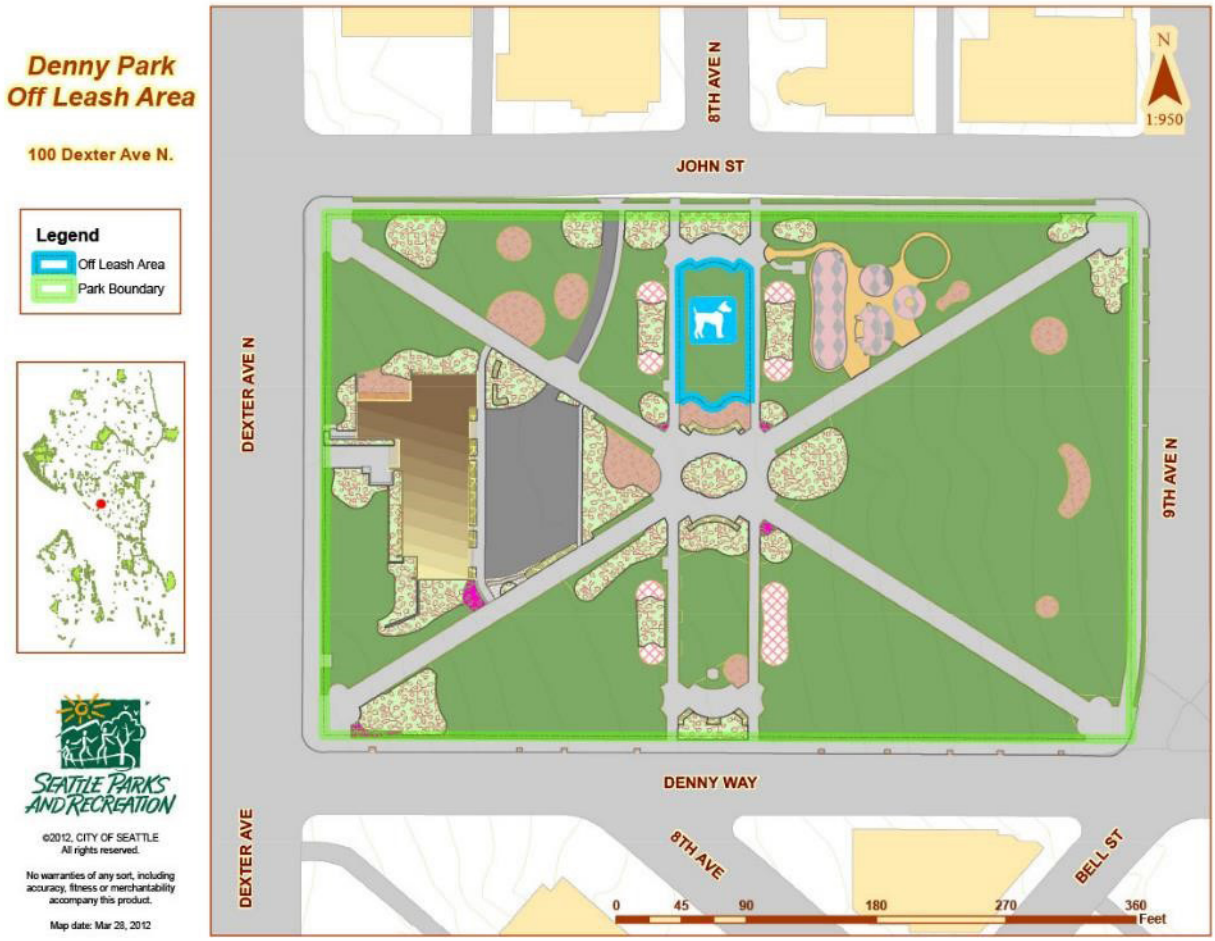
Address: 100 Dexter Ave North
Size: 0.105 acres

HISTORY

Temporary off-leash area created in 2012

DESCRIPTION

The off-leash area is temporary until a permanent site is located in the South Lake Union neighborhood. This park and the off-leash area is wheelchair accessible. There is a 4' tall fence that encloses the off-leash area and double gates at the entrance to ensure your dog's safety. Surfacing in the off-leash area is granolithic gravel.



SITE CHALLENGES

This temporary urban OLA is situated within the oldest park in Seattle; is fairly small in size, has relatively no amenities; surface material is granolithic gravel which has a tendency to spill out through the chain link fencing.

There is no water source directly adjacent to the area, but water is available a few feet away. Overall drainage and sewer in the park is poor and often non-functioning.

The OLA will be closed temporarily for few months in July-August 2016 for park improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. This site is to be relocated to the South Lake Union Substation site within the next two years. No capital improvement recommendations are made at this time.

GRANOLITHIC GRAVEL SURFACING SPILLING THROUGH THE CHAIN LINK FENCING AT DENNY PARK

DR. JOSE RIZAL PARK

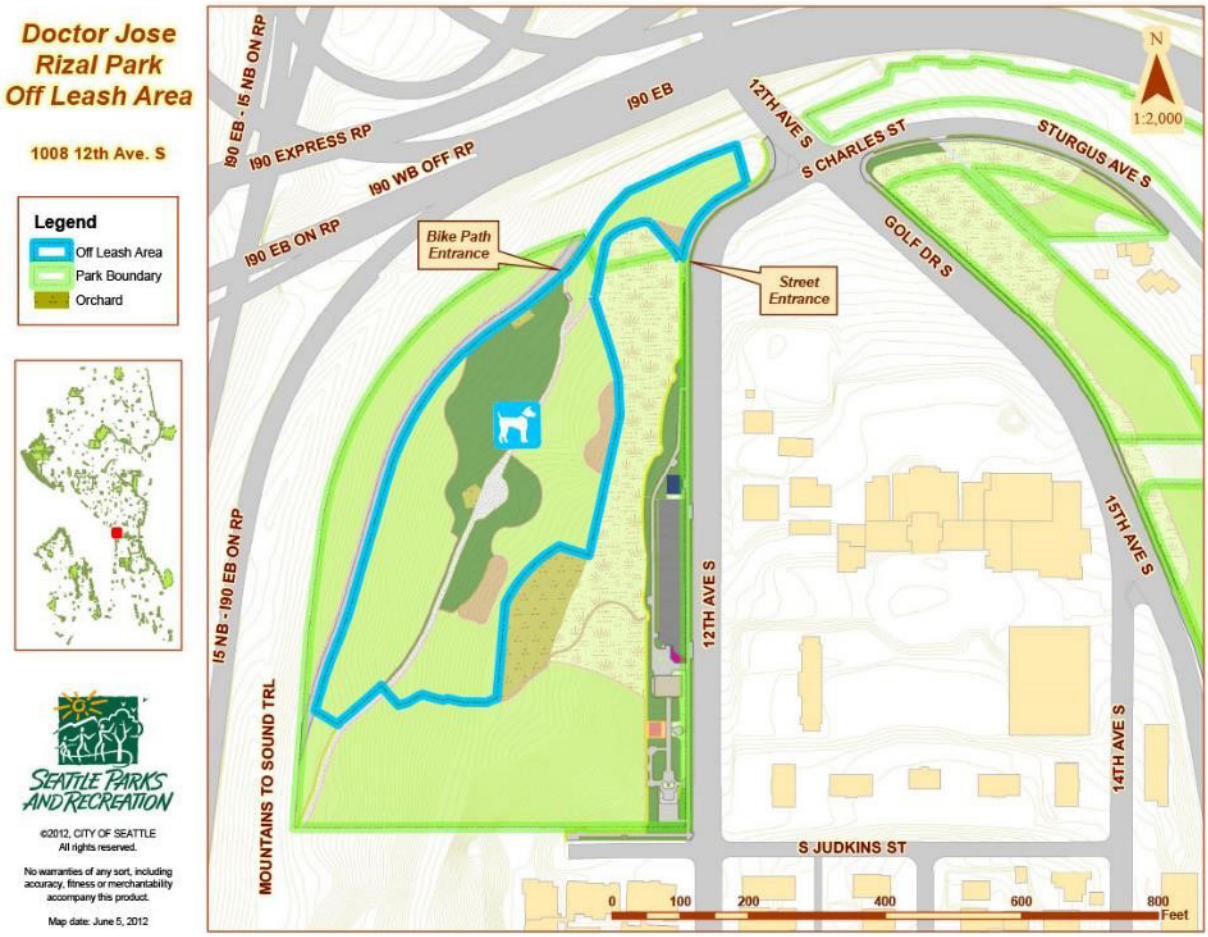
Address: 1008 12th Ave South
Size: 1.5 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2001

DESCRIPTION

Located just south of downtown on the north end of Beacon Hill, the site offers spectacular views of Puget Sound looking west and the Seattle Downtown skyline looking north. The park was renovated in 2011 after the Department of Transportation constructed a bicycle path connecting to the Mountains to Sound Greenway. There is water available for dogs, the fenced areas are accessed from stairs at the north end, and is also accessible from the bicycle trail.



SITE CHALLENGES

The main entry to the site is on a very steep slope that is not manageable by some disabled people and difficult for maintenance access, although there is now access via the lower bike trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Replace split-rail fence at north boundary.
2. Add and expand crushed rock surfacing to existing pathways to improve drainage.
3. Use goats or sheep to cut down on bushes on hill side.
4. Install new benches and picnic tables to lower park area along new bike trail.
5. Water access is located on the outside of the OLA, would be nice to locate the water source in a better area inside the OLA.
6. Have requested in the pass to place a pedestrian entrance at the truck entrance gates on the south west side of the OLA.
7. Study feasibility of adding ADA access pathway from new bike trail.
8. Install under/over structures for play.
9. Fix poor drainage around the gathering area.

DR. JOSE RIZAL OLA LOOKING WEST

GENESEE PARK AND PLAYFIELD

Address: 4316 S. Genesee Street
Size: 2.7 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1999

DESCRIPTION

Located in Southeast Seattle just south of the Stan Sayres Hydroplane Pits and just west of Seward Park on Lake Washington, the OLA is completely fenced with two double-gated entrances. It is easy to keep an eye on dogs as the area is relatively flat and secure. The center of the OLA is covered in gravel, which makes it mud-free in the winter. The park also has a doggie drinking fountain.

SITE CHALLENGES

This is a heavily-used site. There is a lot of dog poop in this OLA. The turf areas are difficult to keep healthy with the large volume of dog traffic. There are some poor drainage areas causing muddy conditions. Existing washed rock crossing entry trail brought to site by community members is not ADA accessible material.

GENESEE PARK OLA IN WINTER SHOWING AREAS OF POOR DRAINAGE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Service road needs regrading and resurfacing.
2. Repair/replace exercise course as needed including logs and structure for play.
3. Improve drainage throughout, replace or restore fence train.
4. Cap off sprinkler heads or raise sprinkler heads/irrigation. The current hose bib leaks.
5. Add picnic tables/benches.
6. Water upgrade for dogs – install dog wash area by the entrance/exit.
7. Need for small/shy dog area with an external gate.
8. Install shelter for rain protection and shade comfort.

GOLDEN GARDENS

Address: 8498 Seaview Pl. NW
Size: 0.90 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1996-1997

DESCRIPTION

Located in the upper northern portion of the park, the area includes a wide-open space covered in wood chips for playing and running. Trees are scattered throughout the OLA, tables, benches and a small covered area offer places to rest and protection on rainy days. Parking and a restroom are nearby. Surface and staircase drainage work were completed in 2016.

SITE CHALLENGES

This site is extremely wet and muddy along the drainage course. The surface material is built up at the southwest corner and pushing against the chain link fence. The understory vegetation is basically gone within the OLA and deteriorated outside of the OLA. Water runs down to the adjacent drainage channel.

In 2016 SPR provided storm drainage improvements and replaced the damaged stairway steps from the lower park area to the OLA. Funding of $438K was provided by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Provide ADA accessible route to OLA.
2. Add dog washing station with hose-bib and associated drainage.
3. Need for extensive vegetation restoration and within and outside of OLA; expand and fence existing rain garden.
4. Solve drainage problem from the southeast gate. Tiered grading perhaps.
5. Replace surface material and remove material that is built up along the southwest corner.
6. Add dog play apparatus.

I-5 COLONNADE

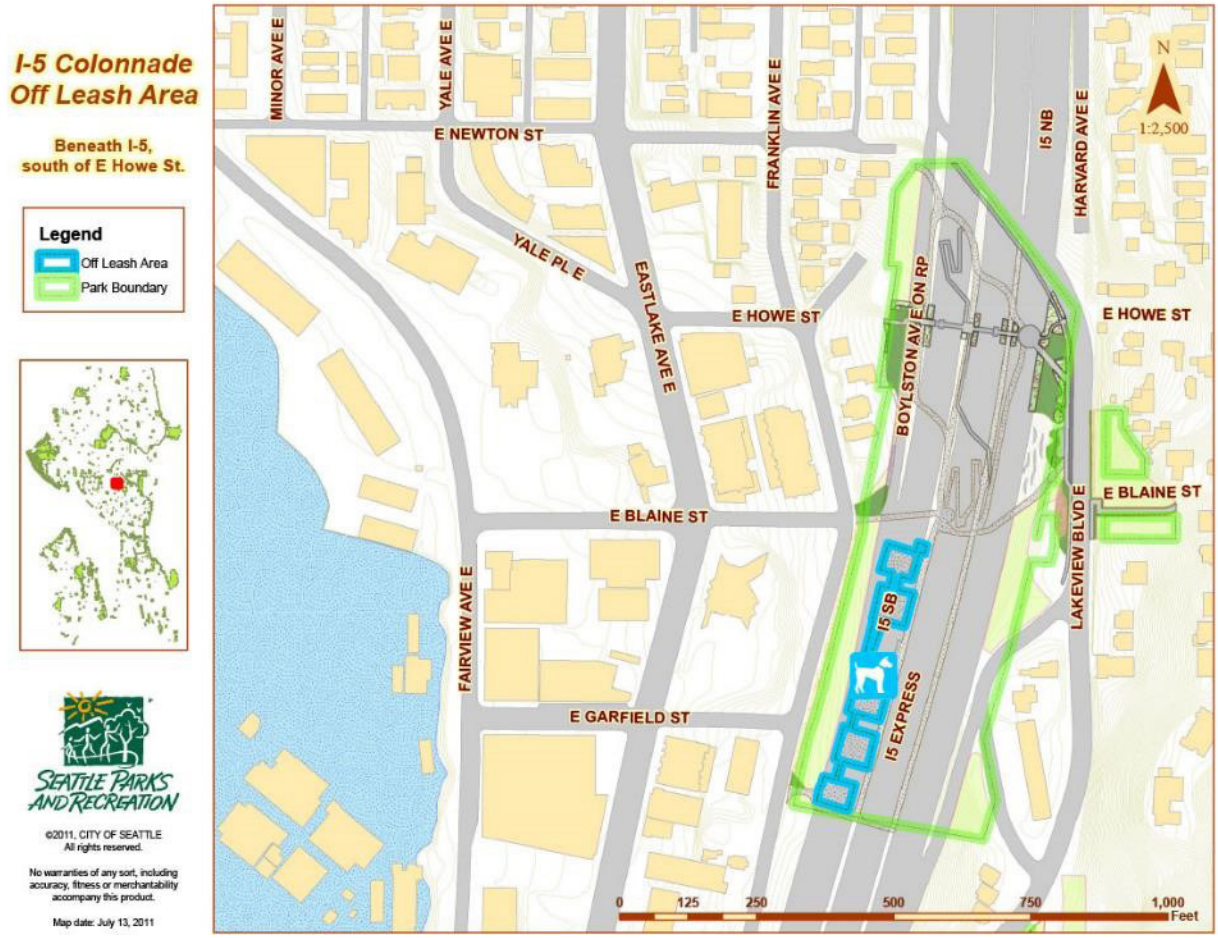
Address: 1701 Lakeview Blvd E
Size: 0.50 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2005

DESCRIPTION

I-5 Colonnade Park is located on a steep slope under the I-5 freeway just north of downtown Seattle. The OLA has several large tiers connected by walkways and stairs. It has a crushed gravel surface, round stones, several benches, and a potable water source at the north entrance.



SITE CHALLENGES

This site is under a freeway and is shady and dry with no vegetation. An irrigation system and an elaborate under drainage system with permeable surface material has been installed to flush the area daily, and to quickly drain, however the system is currently not functioning (2016). Citizens have complained about the material being too difficult for dogs to walk on and the rock base hurts the paws of dogs. Pea gravel and other surface materials tend to migrate down slope due to the grade. The site is not ADA accessible. The south entrance is completely inaccessible to maintenance vehicles. Homeless encampments are frequent in the areas surrounding the OLA and result in their own set of challenges.

VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST UNDER THE FREEWAY TOWARDS THE OLA

OLA WITH INTERNAL FENCING

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Improve surface material while maintaining its drainage function.
2. Remove interior fencing within OLA, allowing for more free-romp space.

KINNEAR PARK

Address: 899 W. Olympic Place
Size: 0.12 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2013

DESCRIPTION

The site is a corral configuration on a relatively flat incline beneath a towering forest. The OLA is surrounded by a 4' fence and has a double gate entrance with a single gate emergency exit in the rear to ensure dog safety. It includes a kiosk, a seating bench, natural feeling wooden fencing, wood chip surfacing, logs and rocks, a bench and native plantings on the adjacent hillside. Due to the steep slope conditions to get to this site, it is not ADA accessible.

SITE CHALLENGES

The OLA was part of the 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund and was completed in 2013. The site sits within the forest on a steep slope and is not ADA accessible. Seattle's Department of Construction and Inspections did not allow SPR to install a water line due to the steep slope status and the need for a collection system to the street below. This was cost prohibitive, and possibly not wise, so was removed from the original plan. There is one bench but no shelter.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Additional seating.

MAGNOLIA MANOR

Address: 3500 28th Ave West
Size: 0.48 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2012

DESCRIPTION

The park property is part of a larger site owned by Seattle Public Utilities and has spectacular views. The reservoir is surrounded with a chain link fence and part of the remaining space now functions as the OLA with a "chuck it" game zone and dog drinking fountain. In addition, the park has Magnolia's first P-Patch, and park space with picnic table, benches and walking path. Funding for construction was provided by the 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy.

SITE CHALLENGES

The OLA at Magnolia Manor Park was developed as part of a plan for the entire site. The OLA opened in November 2012. The dog owning and non-dog owning community raised $25,000 to add to the Parks & Green Spaces Levy project budget. The current OLA footprint is being reduced in size to accommodate a pedestrian pathway connecting the OLA with the existing P-patch garden. Construction is slated for 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

No additional capital improvement recommendations are made at this time.

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

VIEW LOOKING WEST

NORTHACRES PARK

Address: 1278 1st Ave NE
Size: 1.6 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1997 and improved in 2000

DESCRIPTION

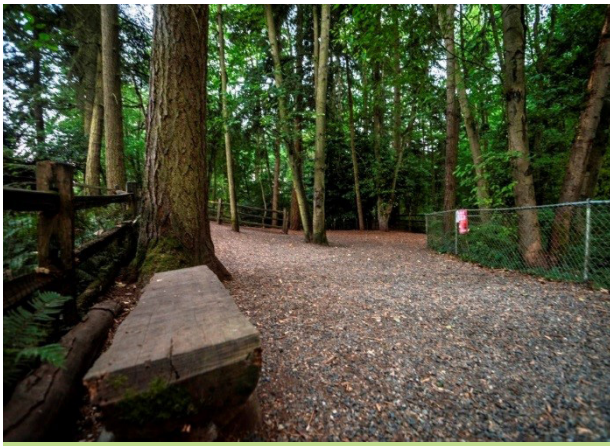
The site is heavily forested with open spaces, trails, shade and has a good understory of vegetation within the OLA itself. There is only one access point at the south end of the OLA. There are chairs and a shady place to relax, water service for dogs. Restrooms, play areas, spraypark, playfields and picnic areas are nearby.

SITE CHALLENGES

The site is under a dense tree canopy. The trees and understory plants makes it more natural and friendly to users. This site has history of illegal use which decreased after introducing OLA. The steward and volunteers have done great jobs restoring understory vegetation of this site. There is no big field for dog play or ball-throwing. This OLA is well maintained and well used.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Add second double-gate entrance at the north end off of NE 130th Street.
2. Remove invasive plants and restore with native plants.
3. Add dog washing station with hose-bib and associated drainage.



NORTHACRES OLA WITH HEALTHY UNDERSTORY

NORTH CORNER OF OLA - MAINTENANCE ENTRANCE

PLYMOUTH PILLARS PARK

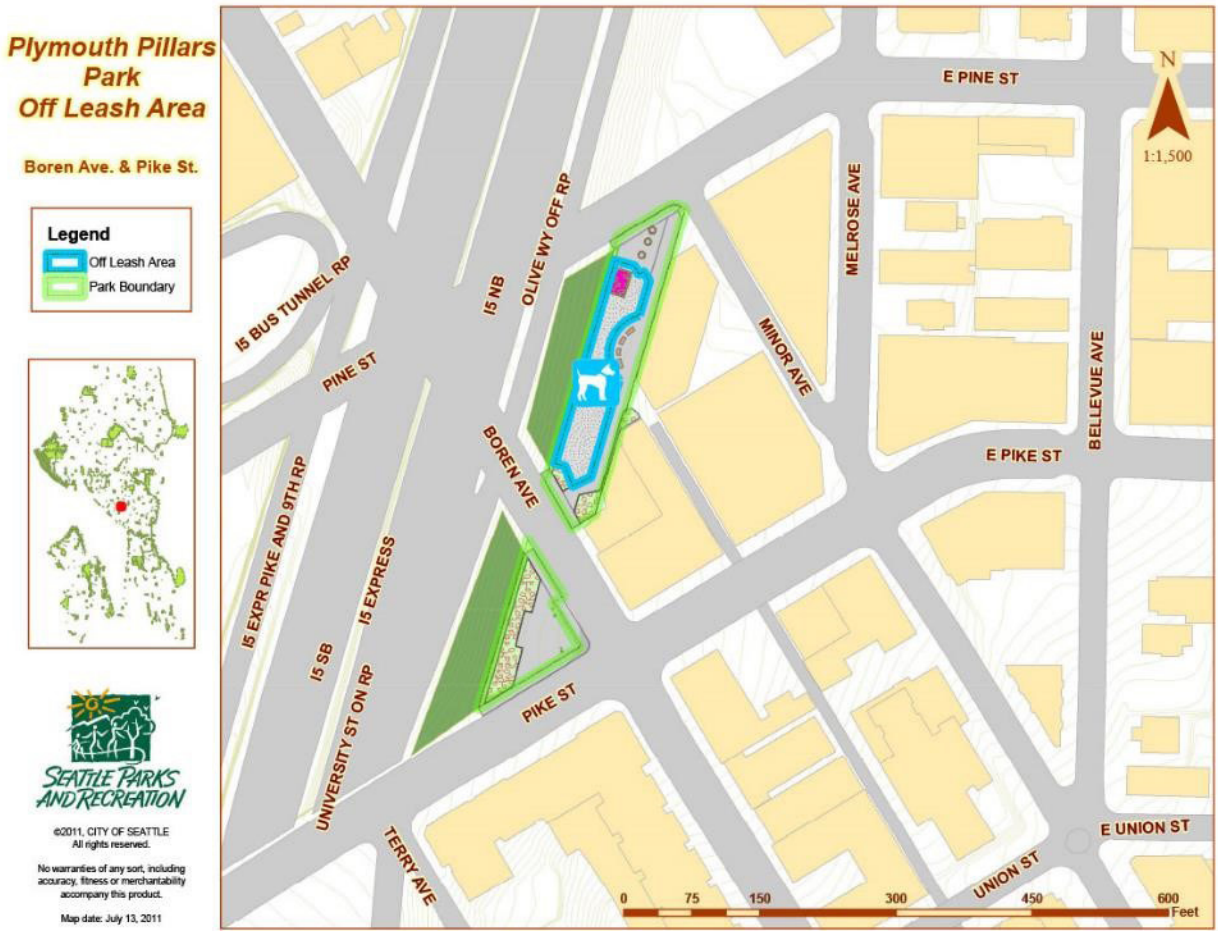
Address: 1050 Pike Street
Size: 0.20 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2005

DESCRIPTION

Located just east of downtown, the OLA has a long, narrow design, with a scenic view of downtown. The surface is crushed rock, and has a unique human/dog drinking fountain inside the OLA.



SITE CHALLENGES

The site is small and narrow located at the base of Capitol Hill on the Pike-Pine corridor with panoramic view of downtown Seattle. The small size causes increased negative reactions between dogs. There is sunken ground and cracks at the sidewalk at the north entry adjacent to the bridge.

VIEW LOOKING NORTH-NORTHEAST

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

No projects are currently listed.

REGRADE PARK

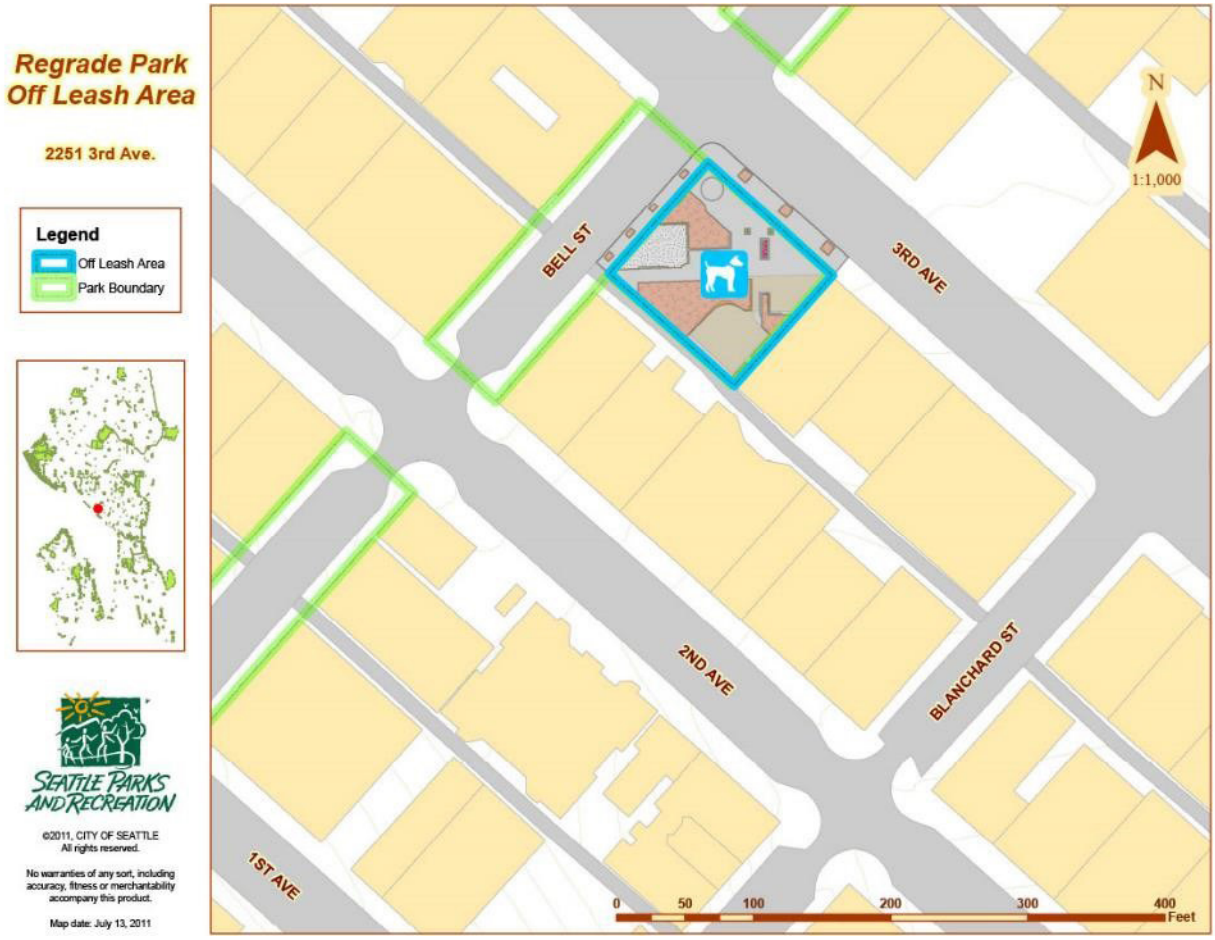
Address: 2251 3rd Ave
Size: 0.30 acres

HISTORY

Created in 2005

DESCRIPTION

Located in the heart of downtown, at 3rd and Bell. There is a 5-foot-tall fence that encloses the entire park, and there are double "airlock" gates at each entrance to ensure your dog's safety. Street vehicle traffic is substantial in this area. This park also has running water and is wheelchair-accessible.



SITE CHALLENGES

This urban OLA is extremely small and highly used. The small size contributes to negative reactions between dogs.

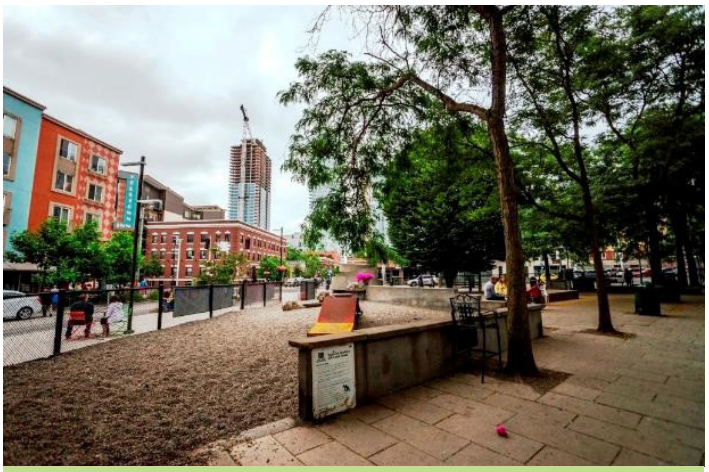
Wood chips have been replaced with gravel to minimize the smell generated from urine.

Undesirable behavior sometimes occurs in the space behind the mural wall which is used for equipment storage and access to panels.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Repair latches on gate.
2. Improve safety and provide better secure access to area behind mural.
3. Mulch around trees/tree protection.
4. Add plastic bag dispensers.
5. Replace wood curbing with concrete along Bell St.
6. Install benches.

VIEW LOOKING NORTH THROUGH THE OLA



VIEW LOOKING EAST THROUGH THE OLA

WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK

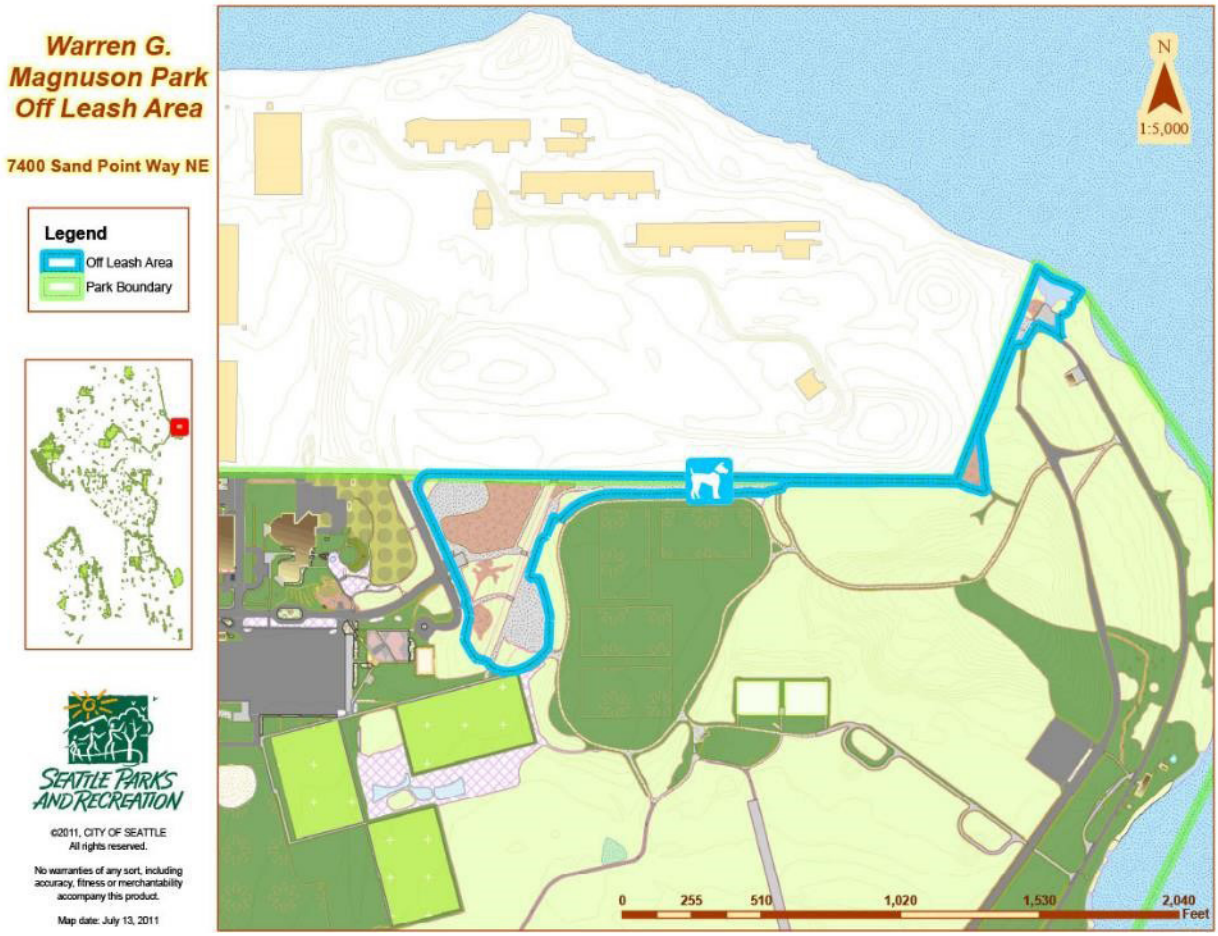
Address: 7400 Sand Point Way NE
Size: 8.6 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1999 and improved in 2005

DESCRIPTION

This OLA is the only one inside city limits with water access (Lake Washington's freshwater shoreline). The site has a large, generally flat play area, a winding trail with several open areas and changes of scenery along the way. The site is fully fenced with multiple double gate entryway points, drinking water stations and shade cover. Most of the trail is compact gravel and is wheelchair accessible. There is a small and shy dog area within the OLA.



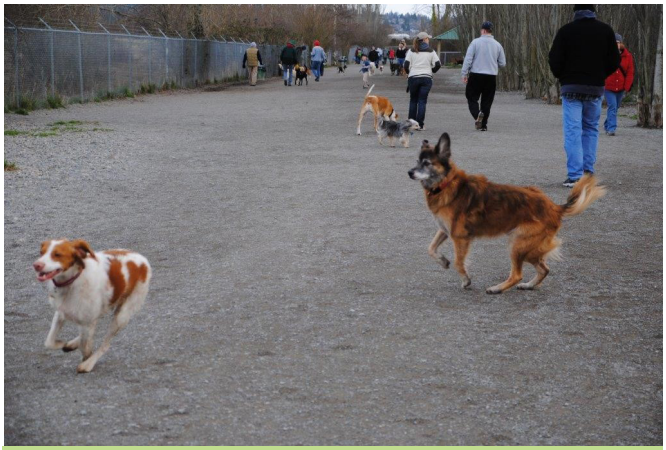
SITE CHALLENGES

The site is a federally-listed wetland and has rules and regulations associated with this status. The site is fairly large and is heavily used with more large groups. The topography is flat with beach access.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Add berms for dog play.
2. Add seating.
3. Improve surface at parking lot – fill ruts and grade.
4. Install shelter.
5. Install lighting (depending on available electrical source and scale of project).
6. Finish planting of swale along northern edge of playfield.

MAGNUSON OLA WATER ACCESS SPOT



MAGNUSON OLA AREA LOOKING EAST

WESTCREST PARK

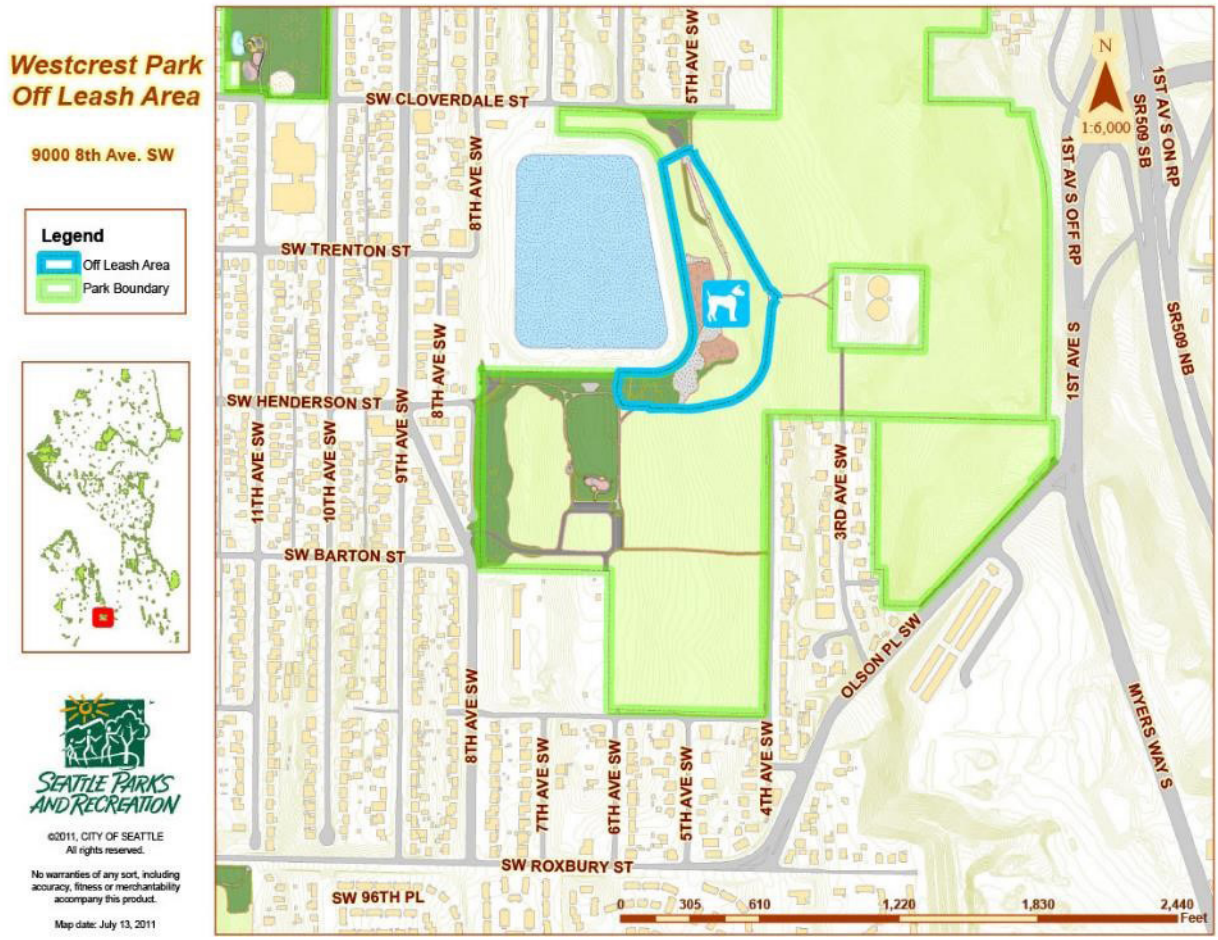
Address: 9000 8th Ave SW
Size: 8.4 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1999

DESCRIPTION

Located on a hill above and west of Boeing Field in southwest Seattle, the OLA contains a special, separated area for small and shy dogs, open spaces and paths, a doggie drinking fountain, shade, trees and lots of open space. For people, the OLA provides benches, chairs, and a shady place to relax. Restrooms, play areas and picnic areas are nearby. Improvements include a parking lot, fencing, shelters and lighting.



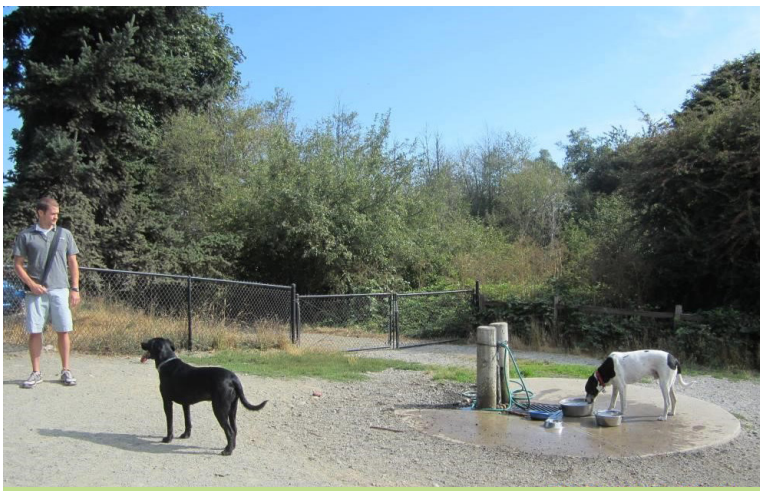
SITE CHALLENGES

This site has steep slope areas surrounding by heavily wooded forest areas. In the past drainage from the lidded reservoir site has caused problems in the OLA. The new retention pond should help to ameliorate this.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Reinstall ADA parking sign and ADA path in small and shy dog area.
2. Upgrade fencing to protect natural areas.
3. Replace woodchips with other surfacing and fill in ruts.
4. Restore eroded slope.
5. Pave service road from the north lot entrance to the inside dumpster.

WESTCREST OLA LOOKING SOUTH



WESTCREST DOGGIE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

WOODLAND PARK

Address: 1000 N. 50th Street
Size: 1.0 acres

HISTORY

Created in 1998

DESCRIPTION

Located just west of the tennis courts, the OLA is situated on a slope, has benches and doggie drinking fountain. The OLA is intensively used, is not ADA accessible, but does have parking in close proximity.

SITE CHALLENGES

The steep slope accompanied with dog traffic is causing erosion and human accessibility issues. The site has a dense tree canopy making it dark. The compaction around trees is causing trees to die at this site. The site is not ADA accessible and difficult for maintenance access.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. Replace wood fence that protects wooded area.
2. Add small and shy dog area.
3. Fill in ruts.
4. Needs intensive landscape and understory restoration.
5. Fix drainage problem moving water away from bottom of slope.
6. Install a covered shelter area.
7. Repair or replace fencing around tool area, add a shed.

WOODLAND PARK OLA DENUDED UNDERSTORY – LOOKING WEST

WOODLAND PARK OLA DENUDED UNDERSTORY – LOOKING EAST

APPENDIX 8: INVESTMENT IN OLAS SINCE 2000

Park	Year	Purpose	Pro Parks Levy	Parks and Green Spaces Levy	Neib Matching Fund	COLA	Friends of SLU Dog Park	Vulcan/ Amazon	CRF	Westcrest Group	Magnuson Off-Leash Group	Notes
Denny	2011	Fencing, surface						$50,000				No planning; temporary
Jose Rizal		Schematic, planning										
Genesee	2008	Schematic, development							$90,000			Post-landfill work
Golden Gardens	2003	Shelter			$7,995							
	2002	Shelter				$8,000						
I-5 Colonnade	2005	Planning, development	$1,800,000									
	2014	Planning			$25,000							
Jose Rizal	2001	Improvements			$5,000	$5,000						
Kinnear	2011	Planning		$70,000								
	2012	Development	$750,000									
Plymouth Pillars	2004	Planning and Development	$1,100,000									
Magnuson	2002	Master Plan									$10,014	
	2004	Planning and Development	$700,000									
	2009	Water, fencing, etc.	$515,000									
Magnolia Manor	2011	Planning		$70,000								
	2013	Development		$402,500								
Westcrest Park	2000	Design			$5,000							
Woodland Park	2003	Shelter and seating			$10,264	$10,264						
??	2011	Develop awareness of group			$1,000		500					
Subtotals			$4,865,000	$140,000	$64,259	$23,264	$500	$50,000	$90,000	$5,000	$10,014	
Grand Total		**$5,650,537**										

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APPENDIX 9: OLA AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SEATTLE AND CITIZENS FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS ON THE OFF-LEASH AREAS PROGRAM

I. Introduction

Whereas, the Off-Leash Areas Program for 1998-2000 consists of several sites geographically dispersed throughout the city where dogs are allowed off-leash; and

Whereas, after completion and evaluation of a fifteen-month pilot program, the City Council in September 1997 approved a program of ten sites, a mix of pilot, interim, permanent and to-be-identified sites; and

Whereas, six of the sites in operation at the date of the signing of this agreement are located within City parks, and the seventh is Seattle Public Utilities property; and

Whereas, the activity at each location will occur within a delineated, properly signed, and in most cases fenced area where dogs will be allowed off-leash to run, play, exercise, train and socialize with their owners/handlers and with other dogs; and

Whereas, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been designated as the organization that shall be responsible for management of the off-leash sites with the coordination and support of the Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA); Now, therefore,

II. Purpose

The manager of park properties is the DPR, and the steward of the off-leash areas (OLAs) is COLA. The purpose of this agreement is to outline the duties of DPR and COLA for the operation of the program. This agreement lays out the responsibilities COLA will carry out in support of the program, describes the limits of COLA's responsibilities, and clarifies the roles of Animal Control and DPR staff.

III. Synopsis of the Status of Each Site

Following is a synopsis of the status of each site at the date of the signing of this agreement. Please see the attached maps. Note: Maps are included here to approximate the off-leash area sites, and may not reflect current configurations. Boundaries may change by agreement between DPR and COLA, or by action of DPR in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 118274 and Resolution 29628.

UPPER GOLDEN GARDENS: Permanent. Please see the attached map.

MAGNUSON: Interim, pending adoption of a Use Plan for the combined Sand Point/Magnuson property. The Council's intent is to include a permanent off-leash site within the park. Please see the attached map.

WOODLAND PARK: The newly opened (March 1998) pilot site will operate as a pilot site for 18 months, during which time DPR will monitor and evaluate its success and at the end of which DPR will make recommendations to the City Council on its future. Please see the attached map.

VOLUNTEER: Temporary. The Department, in response to Council Resolution 29628, has identified several alternate properties on or near Capitol Hill and forwarded the list to the City Council. Please see the attached map.

GENESEE: Permanent. This off-leash site reopened in October 1999 after completion of a landfill capping project. Please see the attached map.

WESTCREST: Permanent. The City Council asked in Resolution 29628 that DPR complete an environmental checklist on the entire park. That work is underway at the date of the signing of this agreement. Please see the attached maps (2).

BLUE DOG POND: Permanent. Please see the attached map.

NORTHACRES: Pilot. DPR was unable to move forward with improvements to this site due to 1998 budget limitations, and has funding for 1999 and 2000 to do so. Please see the attached map.

BEACON HILL (East Duwamish Greenbelt, Jefferson Reservoir or City Light ROW #2): Pilot. DPR was unable to move forward with improvements to the site to be selected from among these three due to 1998 budget limitations, and has funding for 1999 and 2000 to do so. Please see the attached maps (3).

CITY LIGHT ROW #3: Pilot. DPR was unable to move forward with improvements to this site due to 1998 budget limitations, and has funding for 1999 and 2000 to do so. Please see the attached map.

IV. Effective Date

This agreement will be in effect upon signature by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Director of the Executive Services Department, and the Chair of the Citizens for Off-Leash Areas Board of Directors. It shall not expire but may be amended and revised as necessary.

Table of Dog Parks in North American High and Medium-High Density Cities

City	Policy	Population (sorted by)	Land Area	Density (People / Acre)	Acres of Total Parkland	Parkland Per 1000 People	Num of Dog Areas	Dog Area Acreage
New York NY	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	8,336,697	193,692	44.7	39,006	4.6	>138	>120
Los Angeles CA	Single-Use Only	3,884,307	299,949	13.2	36,177	9.3	9	108.95
Chicago IL	Single-Use Qualifications	2,718,782	145,686	19.9	12,485	4.6	27	~12 including multiple Lakeside dog beaches
San Diego, CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	1,355,896	208,120	35.7	48,405	35.7	19	~20 + 4 beaches
Calgary AB	Multi-Use Zones	1,097,000	203,904	5.38	52,496	47.85	150	3088
Austin TX	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	885,400	190,653	4.7	27,096	30.6	13	672 incl trails
San Francisco CA	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	837,442	29,999	27.9	5,693	23.2	29	120
Seattle WA	Single-Use Only	652,406	53,723	12.4	6,541	10	14	25
Denver CO	Single-Use & Multi-Use Zones	649,495	97,920	8.7	5,884	9.1	11	>13.6 including grading system for scoop compliance
Portland OR	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	609,456	85,393	7.5	14,442	23.7	33	66.73
Vancouver BC	Single-Use & Multi-Use Hours	603,502	28,170	21.4	14,000	23.2	36	168 incl trails
Minneapolis MN	Single-Use Qualifications	400,070	34,543	11.78	5,056	12.6	7	21.61 + 1.5 trail miles

While Chicago, Minneapolis and Denver above seem to be in similar situations as Seattle, the industry trend shown above is clearly moving toward allowing more off-leash access in order to control the spaces where dogs cannot be off-leash because of incompatible populations/uses or natural habitats and restoration efforts. Off-leash areas in medium-high to high density cities include some of the most desired parkland in the country, such as Central Park, Boston Common, Lake Michigan beaches, and Golden Gate National Park, further underscoring the gap in approach between

6. Site-Specific Agreements: A DPR representative and a COLA representative will, by August 31, 1999, sign an agreement for each off-leash site, substantially conforming to previous site-specific agreements.

7. Site Closure: The DPR Superintendent is authorized to close sites, temporarily or permanently, or modify the boundaries within reasonable limits in accordance with Ordinance 118724. Please refer to Attachment 1, Ordinance 118724, for details. In the event of a permanent closure of any off-leash site, COLA may endeavor to find a reasonably comparable alternative site, including non-DPR-owned property, as close as possible to the already established site to present to the City Council for approval.

8. New Sites: Resolution 29628 directs COLA to attempt to locate new non-park off-leash sites.

9. Notification of Meetings: COLA has been designated by the City as steward of the program. The City also recognizes that notification to the public regarding off-leash activities is very important. DPR and Animal Control shall keep COLA informed of significant problems and any public complaints within a reasonable time of receipt, and shall keep COLA informed of potential changes or closures so that COLA may have an opportunity to correct the problem, assist with intervention, or provide input before such decisions are made.

VII. Responsibilities

Administration of Agreement: COLA and DPR will meet on a regular basis but at least quarterly to discuss off-leash areas managed by DPR. Such meetings shall be open to the public. One purpose of these meetings is to discuss clarifications, additions or amendments to this agreement. City staff from DPR and Animal Control shall provide oversight required to carry out duties under this agreement, and shall monitor and administer it. Animal Control staff shall provide oversight of COLA volunteers in regard to compliance with City rules and ordinances relating to dogs. Animal Control will keep COLA informed regarding enforcement issues they encounter.

1. Operations. DPR has primary responsibility for maintenance of all off-leash areas. DPR staff will ensure that maintenance and improvements initiated and carried out by COLA volunteers are done according to DPR specifications as provided to COLA. DPR staff will inform COLA or individual site stewards of issues relating to the maintenance or operation of off-leash areas, and may request COLA's help in resolving them. DPR staff will inform COLA of upcoming special events that may have an impact on the operation of an off-leash area. If such events result in the temporary closure of an off-leash area, DPR will contact Animal Control and COLA to provide adequate notice to site users. DPR will provide adequate notice of closures and will post notices on kiosks. Unless otherwise agreed, or unless closure is for more than a weekend, adequate notice is one week in advance unless the closure is of an emergency nature. Animal Control and DPR staff will ensure that all responsibilities and duties under this agreement are carried out according to City policies, rules and ordinances, and will provide COLA with copies of all such off-leash areas policies, rules and ordinances.

COLA will solicit volunteers to carry out the responsibilities under this agreement. For this purpose, COLA will assign a single person or group to carry out duties at each off-leash site. Each person or group will provide DPR and Animal Control with a number where the City can reach, or leave a message for, the designated representative. The designated representative will respond to City inquiries within a reasonable time. DPR and Animal Control shall respond to COLA and its site stewards' inquiries within a reasonable time.

COLA will provide a telephone number visibly on the kiosk at each off-leash site which park users may call if they have questions or concerns about the off-leash areas program.

COLA will select a lead site steward to be the principal contact for each off-leash site. The lead site steward will be responsible for mobilizing volunteers, as needed, to carry out the duties outlined in "Duties and Responsibilities of Volunteer Groups." Each designated lead site steward will provide his/her name and telephone number to Animal Control and DPR maintenance staff. If there is a change in the lead site steward, COLA will notify DPR staff by telephone, written correspondence or another mutually agreed-upon method.

2. Off-Leash Area Budget: DPR will provide COLA with a copy of any proposed DPR budget or fiscal year budget sufficiently in advance of the adoption or approval of the budget by DPR or the City such that COLA may respond thereto.

3. Education, Training and Information. COLA volunteers may provide, with prior approval from DPR, regularly scheduled or special education and training classes for dogs and their owners. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and if not approved, a reason shall be provided for denial. COLA will notify DPR and Animal Control of these sessions at least two weeks before each event. COLA may invite Animal Control staff, Animal Control Commission members, or other animal experts to participate in the sessions. Topics may include responsible dog ownership, compliance with dog-related ordinances, dog obedience and behavior classes, pet licensing opportunities, pet health care and other issues reasonably related to off-leash dog areas or dogs and their owners. COLA will post notices of these sessions on off-leash area kiosks, other park information boards with DPR approval, and non-park sites as deemed appropriate. Notices will contain information about the time, date and location of each session.

   COLA volunteers may provide the public with written materials regarding off-leash areas and other information of interest to dog owners without prior notification of DPR or Animal Control staff.

4. General Maintenance (Cleanup) of Off-Leash Areas. COLA volunteers will provide for general cleanup and maintenance activities relating to the implementation and operation of off-leash sites. DPR will provide each site with an adequate number of kiosks and bulletin boards, appropriate numbers of garbage cans (at least two), garbage bags, bag dispensers and bags for cleaning up dog feces and reasonable

maintenance of grounds. DPR will be responsible for trash removal from off-leash areas.

5. Off-Leash Site Improvements. COLA may help with improvements to an off-leash area. DPR and COLA may work together on such improvements. All improvements must be to DPR specifications, which shall be provided to COLA. Improvements may include:
    - Installation of lighting, after a public process and approval by DPR;
    - Installation or maintenance of fencing and gates;
    - Installation or maintenance of signs;
    - Trimming of weeds or other undesirable vegetation;
    - Maintenance of paths or trails;
    - Rehabilitation of lands, turf and vegetation; and
    - Adding park furniture or other amenities mutually agreed upon by DPR and COLA volunteers.

    DPR will not unreasonably withhold consent for improvements done at COLA expense, and will provide a written reason for denial of permission if it opposes COLA's proposed improvements.

6. Kiosk Maintenance: COLA volunteers will maintain the postings on the kiosk(s) installed near each off-leash site. Maintenance may include ensuring that rules, names of contacts and other information are posted, and cleaning to ensure kiosks are presentable. If DPR wishes the kiosks to be maintained in a certain form or manner, it will provide the necessary materials and other required equipment.

7. Monitoring Off-Leash Areas: COLA's duties include performing monitoring activities that may include:
    - Inspecting off-leash sites to identify and report to DPR maintenance staff and the lead site steward any damage to fencing, signs or other fixtures that may impair operations;
    - Notifying DPR maintenance staff of hazardous materials, debris or conditions in or around the site.

8. Fundraising. COLA volunteers may engage in private fundraising efforts for the purpose of making improvements to off-leash areas or carrying out other duties outlined in this agreement.

9. Animal Control Responsibility for Enforcing Animal Control Ordinances and Rules:
    - Animal Control and, from time to time, Seattle Police Department staff will be solely responsible for enforcing City ordinances, regulations and policies relating to animals at off-leash sites. In no circumstance will COLA or its volunteers act as agents of the City.
    - COLA volunteers may inform off-leash site users of the site rules, may refer users to handouts or information on kiosks, and may sponsor workshops on site rules.

- Animal Control will provide COLA with a name and telephone number for citizens to use to report dog-related incidents and other information necessary to ensure proper operation of the site.
- DPR staff may report violations to Animal Control.
- Animal Control Officers may distribute COLA literature.

VIII. Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement by having their respective representatives affix their signatures in the spaces below:

_____ _____

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent Date
Department of Parks and Recreation

_____ _____

Dwight Dively, Director Date
Executive Services Department

_____ _____

Dan Klusman, Chair, Board of Directors Date
Citizens for Off-Leash Areas

~~4/28/98~~
~~7/29/l98 revision~~
~~Entered at DPR 9/30/98~~
~~11/22/98~~
~~7/12/99~~
~~8/20/99~~
~~10/7/99~~
~~3/1/00--edition with site descriptions separate~~
3/6/00--Final

APPENDIX 10: 1-ACRE PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS

This prototype for Off-Leash Areas (OLA) assumes that the site is 1-acre in size, is clean and relatively flat, has road access and existing utilities, including: water, drainage, sanitary sewer, and electric power readily available.

The prototype contains a small parking lot, with ADA parking and an ADA pathway into the area. There is a large dog and a small/shy dog area, separated by fencing with pea gravel surfacing and drainage system; entryways are double-gated. There are multiple benches, a shelter area and picnic tables for humans. Dogs have agility equipment, a drinking fountain and a wash station. Trees and vegetation areas within the OLA are protected by wooden fences and contain irrigation.

Description	Item Total	Subtotal
General Conditions		
Mobilization/ Demobilization (10% of construction cost)	$69,000	
	Subtotal:	**$69,000**
Site Demolition & Construction Stormwater Control (CSC)		
Clearing & Grubbing	$4,488	
Demolition - Removal, Dump, & Misc	$9,500	
Construction Stormwater Control & Maintenance	$3,500	
Construction Entrance	$1,800	
	Subtotal:	**$19,288**
Site Work and Grading to Subgrade		
Excavation	$6,800	
Grading - Cut and Fill	$12,000	
Soil Import / Export Allowance	$5,500	
Subgrade Compaction & Fine Grading	$4,500	
Misc Allowance	$3,000	
	Subtotal:	**$31,800**

Description	Item Total	Subtotal
Paving & Curbing for Parking Lot, Path, Seating Plaza, and Off-leash Area		
Asph. Parking & Driveway (2 Spaces+1 ADA)	$8,578	
Concrete Curb at Parking Lot	$3,000	
Pavement Striping- ADA Parking & Symb. Etc	$600	
Asphalt Paving for Path	$13,778	
Concrete Paving at Seating Area and Pads	$18,800	
Dog OLA Surfacing - Pea Gravel	$46,600	
Retaining Conc. Wall at Lower Edge, 18"High	$13,500	
Misc Allowance	$5,000	
	Subtotal:	**$109,856**
Drainage & Sanitary		
Catch Basin - Type 15	$5,280	
Drain Rock	$7,335	
Perforated Pipe	$6,000	
8" Solid PVC Pipe	$4,950	
Clean Out	$1,760	
Connection to Sanitary MH	$1,000	
Misc. Allowance	$3,000	
	Subtotal:	**$29,325**
Irrigation with Quick Couplers and Irrigation Zones for Planting Areas		
POC to Meter	$880	
Double Check Valve Assembly - 1-1/2"	$1,815	
Vault Fogtite 25 - TA	$1,320	
Controller Enclosure - Strong Box	$2,000	
Controller - RainBird	$300	
Quick Coupling Valve	$1,500	
Auto Control Valve 1 1/2"	$1,540	
Valve Boxes-Jumbo	$1,452	
Irrigation Main-2" PVC Pipe	$2,120	
Irrigation Line for QC - 1" PVC Pipe	$1,350	
Drain Valve with valve box	$200	
Gate Valve with valve box	$1,650	
Irrigation Heads & Laterals	$7,000	
Brass Fittings	$600	
Sleeves & Ductile Iron Pipe	$1,500	
Misc. Allowance	$2,000	
	Subtotal:	**$27,227**

Description	Item Total	Subtotal
Plumbing for Drinking Fountain & Washing Station		
New 2" Water Meter	$12,238	
Portable Water Line to Drinking Fountain and Washing Station	$3,500	
Drinking Fountain with Dog Drinking Fountain	$4,500	
Pet Washing Station Installed	$3,500	
Stop Valve with Valve Box	$700	
	Subtotal:	**$24,438**
Fencing for Perimeter Fence, Small Dog Areas, and Plant Protection		
Perimeter 4' H Galv. Chain Link Fence	$22,200	
Interior 4' H Galv. Chain Link Fence for small Dog Area	$5,300	
Two Double Gate Pedestrian Entrance	$4,000	
12' Swing Double Gate for Maintenance Vehicle	$1,200	
Split Rail Fence with Wire for Plants Protection	$8,750	
Misc Allowance	$4,000	
	Subtotal:	**$45,450**
Electricity for Lighting at Parking Lot		
Electric Service to site	$10,000	
Light Standard/Fixture, 20' H	$15,000	
Electric Conduit	$2,475	
	Subtotal:	**$27,475**
Dog Agility Equipment		
Dog Agility Equipment System 7 to 10 Items	$12,000	
Installation of Dog Agility Equipment	$4,000	
	Subtotal:	**$16,000**
Landscaping		
Large Shade Tree	$4,500	
Small Flowering Tree	$2,800	
Evergreen Tree	$3,200	
Hydroseeded Turf	$1,450	
Planting Area with Groundcover and Shrubs	$10,680	
Lawn Mowing & Fertilizer	$1,000	
Arborist Chip Mulch	$2,500	
Misc Site Restoration	$2,000	
	Subtotal:	**$28,130**

Description	Item Total	Subtotal
Site Furnishings & Amenities for People and Dogs		
Four Benches - 6' Park Std	$3,800	
Two Picnic Tables (1 Regular, 1 ADA)	$2,400	
Removable Bollard	$880	
Park "Rainbow" Sign	$2,750	
Landscape Boulders & Logs	$3,500	
Prefabricated Shelter	$35,000	
Park Kiosk or Integrated Entrance Station	$5,000	
ADA Parking sign	$330	
Trash Receptacle	$2,500	
Dog Waste Station with Bag Dispensers	$700	
Dumpster	$4,000	
Small Maintenance Storage	$3,500	
Misc. Signs	$1,000	
	Subtotal:	**$65,360**
Soil Preparation for Plants		
Top Soil	$7,499	
Place topsoil, rough grade	$1,928	
Tilling	$1,483	
Fine Grading	$1,000	
	Subtotal:	**$11,911**
	Project Subtotal:	**$505,259**
Design Contingency @ 25%	$126,315	
	Subtotal:	**$631,574**
Project Administration @ 2%	$12,631	
Bonding, B&O Taxes, & Insurance @5%	$31,579	
	Subtotal:	**$675,784**
General Contractor Profit on Subcontracts @ 1.5%	$10,137	
Total Estimated pre-tax Construction Cost Amount (CCA):		**$685,921**
Construction Contingency @10%	$68,592	
Taxes of CCA @ 9.6%	$72,433	
Public Process, Planning and Design, Project Management, Permits, Surveys and Construction Management @ 18.4%	$139,537	
	Total Project Cost Estimate:	**$966,483**

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