



**Draft for Parks and Recreation Commission
Review on July 10, 2013**

Council Date: July 23, 2013

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Off-Leash Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System (Study Issue) and Budget Modification No. 2

REPORT IN BRIEF

This study issue evaluated the general need, feasibility and costs associated with constructing additional dog parks and off-leash alternatives within the City of Sunnyvale's open space system. (Attachment A – *2013 Council Study Issue DPW 13-14 Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System.*) Parks and other open space areas were reviewed for suitability as locations for dog parks, including preferred features. Three sites including Lakewood, Fair Oaks and Serra Parks were identified and studied further. Should Council authorize the construction of additional dog parks or off-leash areas, this report identifies several feasible sites for consideration and associated funding. In addition, Las Palmas Dog Park was studied to determine if it contained those features and amenities ranked as most preferred by the public survey.

Staff recommends Alternatives Number 1: Approve Budget Modification No. 2 and appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of making improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs, amenities ranked as most preferred; and Number 2: Approve inclusion of new dog parks at Lakewood and Fair Oaks Parks as part of the scopes of work for the approved major renovation capital projects at each site in the Park Dedication Fund 20-year plan. It is not recommended to approve a dog park at Serra Park at this time because the major renovation for that park is not scheduled to occur until 2023/24.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a draft of this report at their July 10, 2013 meeting and voted to recommend that Council.....The Commission's recommendation was based on..... (Attachment E – Excerpt of Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013.)

BACKGROUND

Dog owners have historically expressed an interest in being able to exercise their dogs off-leash in public parks and open space areas. In response to that

need, many cities have built enclosed dog parks with restricted access as a separate amenity in existing parks or as a stand-alone facility. In 1990, Council authorized a legislative study entitled *Consideration of Dog Runs* and a follow-up study in 1991, *Feasibility of Constructing a Pilot Dog Park*. These studies resulted in the construction of the City's only dog park located at Las Palmas Park. The amenity has been in continuous operation and well-used since its opening in 1992. Las Palmas Dog Park provides a fenced, one-half acre site for use by all dogs and their owners (Attachment B – Las Palmas Park Site Map). The dog park amenities include: double-gated entry, decomposed granite surfacing, benches, shade trees, trash receptacles and potable water. The park is currently being maintained based on Council-approved budget service levels.

A second dog park, one quarter acre in size, has been approved as a feature of Seven Seas Park that is scheduled to open in summer 2014. This study issue was initiated by community members for several reasons, including: a) the need for additional dog parks and/or off-leash alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System, and b) safety concerns about dog owners allowing their dogs to run off-leash in areas where leashes are required. The need for a separate area for small dogs at the existing Las Palmas Dog Park and in the design of new dog parks was made apparent by dog owners.

There are currently 50 sites of open space maintained by the Public Works and Environmental Services Departments in the City of Sunnyvale representing 816 acres. Dogs are allowed on-leash at 42 sites comprising 433 acres. Dogs are not allowed on-leash or off-leash at Baylands Park, the golf courses or Cupertino School District sites. Dogs are currently allowed off-leash at one site, Las Palmas Dog Park.

Sunnyvale Municipal Code requires that dogs are kept on-leash, not to exceed six feet in length, on public streets, sidewalks, parks, school grounds, and other public places. The Municipal Code also requires that the dog owner is responsible for any damage caused by their dog, even if on leash.

EXISTING POLICY

General Plan

Goal LT-8: Adequate and Balanced Open Space: Provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of maintaining a healthy community based on community needs and the ability of the city to finance, construct, maintain and operate these facilities now and in the future.

Sunnyvale Municipal Code 6.16.010. (a) Leash required.

It is unlawful for any person owning or having control of any dog to allow or permit such dog, whether licensed or not, to be upon a public street, sidewalk,

park, school ground, other public place or upon any unenclosed lot or land unless such dog is kept by means of a leash not to exceed six feet in length.

Sunnyvale Municipal Code 9.62.070. (d) Conduct – Prohibited acts.

No person having the control or care of any dog shall suffer or permit such dog to enter or remain in a park unless it be led by leash of suitable strength not more than six feet in length; and the owner and the attendant shall be responsible for any damage caused, in any event, by such dogs, even if on leash.

DISCUSSION

Additional Dog Parks

A variety of factors were considered to determine need for additional dog parks and/or off-leash alternatives in Sunnyvale. Staff reviewed City population growth, estimated dog population, number of licensed dogs, dog parks and off-leash areas in comparable agencies. Staff conducted extensive public outreach, including public meetings and surveys (both online and hard copies) in order to solicit feedback on the issue of dog parks and off-leash alternatives. A total of 800 surveys were received, with 726 surveys submitted online and 74 received as hard copies. Over 90 percent (90.7%) of respondents indicated support for additional dog parks in Sunnyvale with permanently fenced, off-leash areas for dogs. (Attachment C – Public Outreach and Comments Summary).

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the national average for cities is one dog park per population of 48,000. Sunnyvale has a current population of 145,973 and would require three dog parks to meet the national average. Based on the National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy calculations, the dog population in Sunnyvale is estimated at over 30,000 dogs.

For benchmark information on dog parks and off-leash options, staff conducted a survey of 30 agencies within Santa Clara, San Mateo and Alameda Counties. Results indicated that most cities have established at least one dog park in their respective communities. Amenities vary from site to site; the majority of dog parks surveyed have separate areas for large and small dogs. Most are free for community members; a few have parking fees. The Silicon Valley Humane Society dog park is fee-based, with an application process to join. Some of the larger county parks and park districts offer considerable acreage for dog parks, and may not be considered comparable to Sunnyvale's park system. For more information about dog parks in neighboring communities, see Attachment D – Dog Parks & Off-Leash Alternatives in Municipalities in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

The Study called for staff to identify a select group of feasible sites for further consideration. Criteria in identifying potential dog park sites included:

geographic spacing throughout Sunnyvale, park acreage, accessibility, current and future uses of the City-owned property, regulatory restrictions (if applicable), and cost considerations. Staff identified several parks that best met the criteria including: Lakewood Park (located north of 101 and south of Highway 237), Fair Oaks Park (located north of Central Expressway and south of 101), and Serra Park (located on Hollenbeck Avenue between Fremont Avenue and Homestead Road). Dog parks could be built that are similar in size and amenities to Las Palmas Dog Park, within the scopes of work for approved major park renovations, at sites that are part of the Park Dedication Fund (PDF) 20-year plan. Between 85% and 89% (depending upon the particular park) of survey respondents were in favor of dog parks at all four of these sites. In addition, dog parks could be considered during the public input and conceptual design phase for all major park renovation projects in the PDF 20-year plan.

Las Palmas Dog Park

An extensive public survey was conducted as part of this study and survey respondents heavily favored improving the facility to provide separate areas for small and large dogs and the addition of natural grass as the main surfacing throughout the dog park. The initial renovation and ongoing maintenance is dependent upon a capital investment of \$100,000 and additional annual operating costs of \$6,000, required primarily to irrigate, maintain, renovate and replace the natural grass as needed.

A petition signed by 135 community members was presented to Council at the February 12, 2013 meeting requesting two proposals for Las Palmas Park. One proposal was to allow small dogs to play and socialize off-leash in Las Palmas Park's north-west grass area. The second proposal was to install a fence and an additional gate, inside the existing dog park, to allow a separate area for small dogs, and install artificial turf on the dirt area. They requested this alternative due to the lack of space for small dogs to safely and legally exercise and socialize off-leash. Improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park will address the request for a separate area for small dogs and for natural turf.

Baylands Park and Sunnyvale Landfill Site

Sunnyvale has maintained and operated Baylands Park, a 177-acre facility, since 1994, through a lease agreement with the County of Santa Clara. The current lease is for a 25-year term with a possible 10-year extension that would terminate the agreement in 2044. Although not required by the County or any regulatory agency, the City has never allowed dogs in the park due to the desire to protect native wildlife. Examples of sensitive fauna that use this location as part of their habitat are burrowing owls and salt marsh harvest mice that are listed as "species of special concern" by the California Department of Fish and Game. Positive aspects of locating a dog park at this facility include the size of the park and distance from residential areas. Detracting factors are: sensitive wildlife, County-owned land, and distance from residential areas.

The Sunnyvale Landfill is currently in its post-closure monitoring and maintenance phase, and is required to comply with many federal, state and local regulations. The landfill is currently designated as a public facility and is maintained mostly as open space for passive and active recreation such as hiking, jogging, bicycling and bird watching. Dogs are currently allowed on-leash in certain areas of the landfill including the West Hill.

Off-Leash Alternatives

Many dog owners allow their dogs to be off-leash in Sunnyvale Parks, in violation of Sunnyvale's Municipal Code. The Department of Public Safety, Animal Control Division, responds to off-leash violations on a regular basis by providing education, warnings and issuing citations. In response to limited dog parks, and the cost of citations, some dog owners have requested a change to the municipal code that would allow them to have their dogs off-leash in parks outside of a traditional, fenced dog park. Some cities have provided unfenced, off-leash areas at designated sites at certain times, with established rules and criteria. Survey results indicated 51% in support for designated off-leash areas without fencing for dogs in Sunnyvale and another 20.3% were in favor but only with restricted times.

There are no cities in Santa Clara County that currently provide unfenced, off-leash areas for dogs in public open space. The City of Mt. View does issue permits for dog training that allow qualifying applicants to have their dogs off-leash in unfenced areas of a park with certain restrictions. There are two cities in San Mateo County, Foster City and San Carlos, that currently provide unfenced, off-leash areas for dogs at designated times. The City of Foster City may be cited as an example of a municipality with a successful off-leash program. In addition to an established fenced Boat Dog Park, dogs are allowed off-leash at designated areas within five parks at specified times. Foster City also established an 11-person citizen advisory committee to address issues related to off-leash dogs in the parks

Off-leash, unfenced options would require a change to the municipal code. If Council were to approve the change to municipal code, then established operating program criteria would need to be established and approved by the Director of Public Works. Criteria considerations, based on other municipalities with off-leash programs, could include establishing resident liaisons between dog owners and the City helping to ensure that rules and regulations were being followed. Rules could include requiring dogs to be licensed and vaccinated, with display tags for both. Enforcement of new regulations by Sunnyvale's Department of Public Safety Animal Control Unit would be challenging given limited staff resources.

Temporary, Portable Fencing for Off-Leash Dogs

Another alternative is to allow off-leash dogs in designated areas with owner-supplied, portable fencing. This alternative would allow small dogs, specifically, to run off-leash within the confines of temporary, portable fencing. Many of the community members that advocated this as an option later petitioned Council with the proposal for a separate small dog area at Las Palmas Park, (refer to "Las Palmas Dog Park" section of the discussion). If Council should consider this temporary fencing option, criteria would need to be clearly established, including: permit process, fencing material, equipment storage, designated area and time, number and size of dogs, and cleanliness. Responsible parties would need to be identified in the event of damage to City property and/or responding to complaints from other park users. A change to the municipal code would also be needed. Survey responses reflected 66% in support of this option.

Risk and Liability

Existing law makes the owner of any dog civilly liable for the damages suffered by any person who is bitten by the dog while in a public place. Existing law also governs the tort liability and immunity of claims and actions against a public entity including a city. The "Dog Park Immunity Act" (Assembly Bill 265) is currently pending in the California legislature and would grant immunity to a local public entity that operates a fenced dog park for any damages that result solely from the actions of a dog in the dog park. According to the author, liability costs constitute one of the largest barriers to small cities and counties from being able to afford a dog park. Although a local public entity is arguably already immune from liability under the California Government Claims Act, many local governments believe this bill would provide greater certainty and permit them to provide an important community service without exposing taxpayers to the cost of litigation.

A permanently fenced dog park with double-gated entry mitigates issues between park users and off-leash dogs. The City has a better opportunity to implement and enforce risk control measures at a fenced dog park. As an example, the City of San Mateo established a pilot off-leash, unfenced program in 2010. According to the April 6, 2011 Administrative Report to San Mateo's Parks and Recreation Commission, there were several incidents. For example, "In early 2011, a senior citizen was knocked over one morning during the off-leash period by an overzealous dog while she was walking through the park." In response to reported incidents, San Mateo has installed fences in previously unfenced, off-leash areas. Burlingame has done this as well. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is also reviewing its off-leash pet management policies in response to documented incidents. (Refer to the full report at <http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/dog-management.htm>)

From a risk management and liability perspective, unfenced, off-leash options pose substantial risks. Dog behavior is unpredictable; some dogs are aggressive or anti-social and may seriously harm other dogs and park users. Not all dog

owners behave in a responsible manner, including cleaning up after their dogs. Many community members voiced concerns with dogs running off-leash and posing a threat to them while walking, skating, bicycling, playing sports, having a picnic, or other activities. Users of a fenced dog park understand that there are inherent dangers, and they assume some risk when they enter those areas with their dogs. A park user visiting the park without a dog would not anticipate encountering an unleashed dog in the park. Such a park user would not have assumed any risk from unleashed dogs when visiting a park. From an enforcement perspective, the Department of Public Safety, Animal Control Division, currently deals with ongoing problems with irresponsible dog owners in violation of Sunnyvale Municipal code and unsafe dog behavior.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Should Council authorize the construction of additional dog parks in Sunnyvale's existing park system, the projects are categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA guideline section 15303.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total estimated cost to renovate Las Palmas Dog Park in FY 2013/14 is \$100,000, which includes the installation of natural grass and the addition of a separate area for small dogs. The ongoing maintenance of the natural grass, including water, mowing, renovation and materials, is estimated to cost \$6,000 per year and would be funded by the General Fund. If the renovation project is approved, these ongoing maintenance costs will be incorporated into the Neighborhood Parks and Open Space Management Program's operating budget starting in FY 2014/15.

Costs for major renovation projects at Lakewood and Fair Oaks Parks are currently included in the Park Dedication Fund's 20-year financial plan. The scope of these renovation projects has not yet been fully determined; however, sufficient funding is currently available in each project to incorporate the design and construction costs associated with a new dog park at each site. The Lakewood Park Renovation and Enhancement Project design is planned for FY 2013/14 and construction is planned for FY 2014/15. The Fair Oaks Park Renovation and Enhancement Project design is planned for FY 2015/16 and construction is planned for FY 2016/17. While neither of these projects anticipates additional operating costs resulting from the renovations, if there are additional operating costs associated with the new dog park elements of these renovation projects, they will be considered during the regular review of the operating budget.

Budget Modification No. 2 has been prepared to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund Capital Project Reserve to a new project, Las Palmas Dog Park Renovation. There is capacity within this reserve to appropriate these additional funds without impacting the other projects currently programmed over the 20-year planning period.

**BUDGET MODIFICATION NO. 2
FISCAL YEAR 2013/14**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Revised</u>
Park Dedication Fund			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
New Project – Las Palmas Dog Park Renovation	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<u>Reserves:</u>			
Capital Projects Reserve	\$4,375,745	(\$100,000)	\$4,275,745

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

Public meetings were conducted by City staff at six different park sites at two different times each with 121 total attendees who completed a survey and provided input after hearing a staff presentation about the study issue. Meetings were advertised on the City's Web site, *Sunnyvale Sun* newspaper and KSUN. Meeting notices were sent to residents and businesses within 1,000 feet of potential existing and potential dog park sites, including: Lakewood, Fair Oaks, Las Palmas, and Serra. Sunnyvale neighborhood associations, and interested parties, such as, the *Friends of Parks and Recreation*, were sent email announcements. Flyers were posted at all Sunnyvale parks, including Las Palmas Park and Dog Park.

A Web page, *DogParks.inSunnvale.com*, was created to inform the public about the study and public meetings, to encourage participation in an on-line survey, and to provide staff contact information. 726 people responded to the on-line survey and 74 people completed a hard copy survey that gave community members an opportunity to state their opinions on dog parks, off-leash alternatives, and related issues. This informal survey was not intended to be statistically controlled or sampled and it should be noted that 79.5% of the respondents were dog owners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a draft of this report at their July 10, 2013 meeting and voted to recommend that Council.....The Commission's recommendation was based on.....(Attachment E – Excerpt of Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013.)

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of making improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs.
2. Approve inclusion of new dog parks at Lakewood and Fair Oaks Parks as part of the scopes of work for the approved major renovation capital projects at each site in the Park Dedication Fund 20 year plan.
3. Direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Municipal Code to allow dogs off-leash at designated locations and times in Sunnyvale's Park System and establish rules for such under the authority of the Director of Public Works.
4. Provide other direction to staff as Council deems appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternatives Number 1: Approve Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of making improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs, and Number 2: Approve inclusion of new dog parks at Lakewood and Fair Oaks Parks as part of the scopes of work for the approved major renovation capital projects at each site in the Park Dedication Fund 20-year plan.

The first alternative addresses the need for improvements of the City's only existing dog park, including the addition of a separate area for small dogs and the addition of natural grass surfacing based on survey results. The second alternative responds to the need for additional dog parks throughout Sunnyvale. Survey respondents overwhelmingly supported additional dog parks in general and, specifically at Lakewood, Fair Oaks and Serra Parks. It is not recommended to approve a dog park at Serra Park at this time because the major renovation for that park is not scheduled to occur until FY 2023/24.

New dog parks would provide legal options for dog owners to allow their dogs off-leash without the City incurring additional liability. Staff does not support

off-leash, unfenced alternatives, for a variety of reasons including increased risk and liability, safety concerns for both dogs and people, and difficulty in enforcement. Over 150 survey respondents provided comments that voiced those concerns and others including off-leash dogs in unfenced areas of a park potentially discouraging more vulnerable groups of people, including children and the elderly, from using the park.

Reviewed by:

Kent Steffens, Director, Public Works
Prepared by: Patricia Lord, Senior Management Analyst and Scott Morton,
Superintendent of Parks, Golf and Trees

Reviewed by:

Grace Leung, Director, Finance
Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers
City Manager

Attachments

- A. 2013 Council Study Issue DPW 13-14 *Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System*
- B. Las Palmas Park – Site Map
- C. Public Outreach and Comments Summary
- D. Survey of Dog Parks & Off-Leash Alternatives in Municipalities in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Alameda Counties
- E. Excerpt of Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013

ATTACHMENT A

2013 Council Study Issue

DPW 13-14 Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System.

Lead Department Public Works

History **1 year ago** None **2 years ago** None

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

At the December 4, 2012 council meeting, Vice Mayor Whittum proposed a study to examine the general need, feasibility and costs associated with constructing additional dog parks within the City of Sunnyvale's open space system. Dog owners have historically expressed an interest in being able to exercise their pets off-leash in public parks. In response to that need many cities have built enclosed dog parks with restricted access as a separate amenity in existing parks or as a stand-alone facility. There are approximately 750 acres of open space maintained by the Parks Division and dogs are not allowed in the majority of that space including at Baylands Park, Schools and Golf Courses. Dogs are allowed on-leash at approximately 25 sites comprised of 200 acres and including parks, JWC Greenbelt, Community Center and other special use areas.

In 1990 Council authorized a legislative study issue entitled "Consideration of Dog Runs" and in 1991 a follow-up study entitled "Feasibility of Constructing a Pilot Dog Park." These studies resulted in the construction of the City's only dog park located at Las Palmas Park. The amenity is approximately 0.5 acre in size and has been in continuous operation and well-used since its opening in 1992. Since then there has been no organized or significant interest for another dog park until 2011 during public input meetings to discuss the conceptual design for Seven Seas Park. Neighbors of the planned park requested that an off-leash "dog run" area be included in the design for the new park. Current preliminary designs include a dog run area approximately a quarter of an acre in size.

This study would review parks and other City-owned property and identify a select group of sites for further study. Community outreach would be conducted to engage park users, park neighbors, community residents and other stakeholders to accurately if more dog parks are needed in Sunnyvale and if there are other issues that should be considered as part of the study. Three to five sites would be studied to determine the feasibility of all aspects of constructing dog parks.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

General Plan Goal LT-8 "Adequate and Balanced Open Space". Provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of maintaining a healthy community based on community needs and the ability of the city to finance, construct, maintain and operate these facilities now and in the future.

3. Origin of issue

Council Member(s) Whittum, Spitaleri

4. Staff effort required to conduct study Major

Briefly explain the level of staff effort required

Staff from the departments of Public Works and Library and Community Services would need to collaborate to determine the feasibility of constructing additional dog parks and how they would affect the current uses of open space.

5. Multiple Year Project? Yes Planned Completion Year

6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No

Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes

If so, which? Parks and Recreation Commission

Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

7. Briefly explain if a budget modification will be required to study this issue

Amount of budget modification required 0

Explanation

The study could be performed within existing staff resources.

8. Briefly explain potential costs of implementing study results, note estimated capital and operating costs, as well as estimated revenue/savings, include dollar amounts

Are there costs of implementation? Yes

Explanation

Capital costs to construct additional dog parks vary greatly depending upon the number, size and design. Operating costs may increase depending upon the amenities any new dog parks would replace within an existing facility.

9. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation Support

If 'Support', 'Drop' or 'Defer', explain

The feasibility of additional off-leash dog areas should be carefully studied to ensure the needs of dog owners are balanced with the interests of neighbors and other park users. The study would engage all interested stakeholders to identify issues related to the construction of additional dog parks.

Reviewed by

Kent Steffens 12-14-12

Department Director

Date

Approved by

Greg L... 12-14-12

City Manager

Date

Las Palmas Park



Sunnyvale
Tennis
Center

Dog
Park

Russet Drive

**Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks
And Alternatives in Sunnyvale’s Park System**



Public Outreach & Comments Summary

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City of Sunnyvale
 Public Works Department – Parks Division
 P.O. Box 3707
 Sunnyvale CA 94088-3707

ATTACHMENT C
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(Insert Address Here)



NOTICE PUBLIC MEETINGS

DOG PARKS AND OFF-LEASH ALTERNATIVES

The City of Sunnyvale is studying dog parks and off-leash alternatives in Sunnyvale's park system. The City currently has one dog park at Las Palmas Park, and is considering Fair Oaks, Lakewood, Serra, and Las Palmas Park as potential sites for new dog parks or off-leash options. The public is encouraged to attend any of the community meetings listed to provide input on this issue. Meetings will be held in the park buildings and expected to last approximately one hour; the same information will be presented at each.

Community Outreach Meetings:

<p>Lakewood Park 834 Lakechime Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, April 9 12 Noon 7 p.m. • Saturday, April 13 10 a.m. 	<p>Fair Oaks Park 540 N. Fair Oaks Ave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, April 11 12 Noon 7 p.m. • Saturday, April 13 Noon 	<p>Las Palmas Park 850 Russet Dr.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, April 16 12 Noon 7 p.m. 	<p>Ortega Park 636 Harrow Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, April 17 7 p.m. • Thursday, April 18 Noon • Saturday, April 20 11 a.m. 	<p>Raynor Park 1565 Quail Ave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday April 20 1 p.m.
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Visit DogParks.inSunnyvale.com

For more information or to give feedback, call Sunnyvale Parks Division at (408) 730-7506, TDD (408) 730-7501, or email parks@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Pursuant to Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance in these meetings, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 730-7483. Notification of 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility (29 CRF 35.104 ADA Title II).

DOG PARKS IN SUNNYVALE



What do you think?

The City of Sunnyvale is studying dog parks and off-leash alternatives to dog parks. The City currently has one fenced dog park at Las Palmas Park, and is considering Fair Oaks, Lakewood, Serra and Las Palmas Parks as potential sites for new dog parks or off-leash options.

As part of the study, the public is encouraged to attend any of the community meetings listed below to provide input on:

- ◆ Whether there should be additional dog parks in Sunnyvale and where they could be located;
- ◆ What amenities should be included in any new dog parks;
- ◆ Whether there should be designated times and unfenced areas within parks for dogs to be off-leash; and
- ◆ Whether dog owners should be allowed to bring their own portable fencing to a park for their dogs to be off-leash.



COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Lakewood Park** - 834 Lakechime Drive
Tuesday, April 9 at Noon and 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m.
- ◆ **Fair Oaks Park** - 540 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Thursday, April 11 at Noon and 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 at Noon
- ◆ **Las Palmas Park**- 850 Russet Drive
Tuesday, April 16 at Noon and 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Ortega Park** - 636 Harrow Way
Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 18 at Noon
Saturday, April 20 at 11 a.m.
- ◆ **Raynor Park** - 1565 Quail Ave.
Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m.

City staff will present the same information at each meeting. Please attend a meeting at a time and location convenient to you. Meetings are expected to last one hour in the recreation buildings.

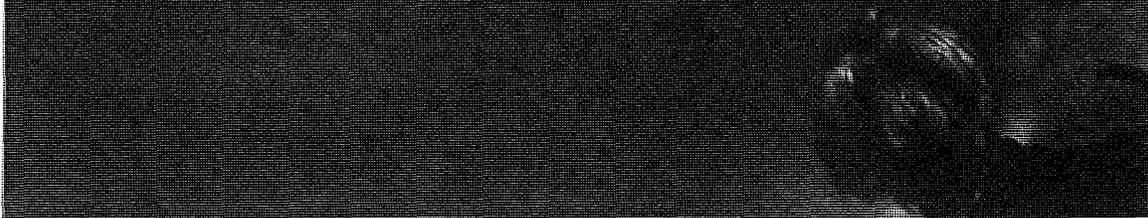
For more information or to give feedback about dog parks to the City's Parks Division:

- ◆ Call (408) 730-7506, TDD (408) 730-7501
- ◆ Email parks@sunnyvale.ca.gov
- ◆ Visit DogParks.inSunnyvale.com

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Dog Parks and Alternatives

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Contact

Address:
City Hall
456 W. Olive Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Mailing address:
Patricia Lord
Parks, Golf and Street Trees
221 Commercial Street
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Phone: (408) 730-7501

Email: [Patricia.Lord](mailto:Patricia.Lord@cityofsunnyvale.com)

Hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dog Parks and Off-Leash Alternatives in Sunnyvale

[Take the Survey](#)

[Click here to take survey](#)

The City of Sunnyvale is studying dog parks and off-leash alternatives to dog parks. The City currently has one fenced dog park at Las Palmas Park, and is considering Fair Oaks, Lakewood, Serra and Las Palmas Parks as potential sites for new dog parks or off-leash options.

As part of the study, the public is encouraged to attend any of the community meetings listed below to provide input on:

- Whether there should be additional dog parks in Sunnyvale and where they could be located;
- What amenities should be included in any new dog parks;
- Whether there should be designated times and unfenced areas within parks for dogs to be off-leash; and
- Whether dog owners should be allowed to bring their own portable fencing to a park for their dogs to be off-leash.

SCHEDULED COMMUNITY MEETINGS

City staff will present the same information at each meeting. Please attend a meeting at a time and location convenient for you. Meetings are expected to last one hour in the recreation buildings.

Lakewood Park 834 Lakechime Drive
 Tuesday, April 9 Noon
 Tuesday, April 9 7 p.m.
 Saturday, April 13 10 a.m.

Fair Oaks Park 540 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
 Thursday, April 11 Noon
 Thursday, April 11 7 p.m.
 Saturday, April 13 Noon

Las Palmas Park 850 Russet Drive
 Tuesday, April 16 Noon
 Tuesday, April 16 7 p.m.

Ortega Park 636 Harrow Way
 Wednesday, April 17 7 p.m.
 Thursday, April 18 Noon
 Saturday, April 20 11 a.m.

Raynor Park 1565 Quail Ave.
 Saturday, April 20 1 p.m.

City of Sunnyvale

Normal City Hours of Operation are
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Can't Find It?

Frequently-Used Links

- [Jobs with the City](#)
- [Garbage and Recycling](#)
- [Downtown Development](#)

About the Web Site

The City of Sunnyvale Web Site is maintained by the Sunnyvale Communications Office and



SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
City of Sunnyvale
Public Outreach Meetings

ATTACHMENT C
Page 6 of 76

2013 CoCouncil Study Issue DPW 13-14:

Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System

The following is a summary of public comments made at a total of 12 community meetings held April 9 through 20, 2013 at the following times and locations throughout Sunnyvale:

COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Lakewood Park** - 834 Lakechime Drive
Tuesday, April 9 at Noon and 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m.
- ◆ **Fair Oaks Park** - 540 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Thursday, April 11 at Noon and 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 at Noon
- ◆ **Las Palmas Park**- 850 Russet Drive
Tuesday, April 16 at Noon and 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Ortega Park** - 636 Harrow Way
Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 18 at Noon
Saturday, April 20 at 11 a.m.
- ◆ **Raynor Park** - 1565 Quail Ave.
Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m.

City staff facilitated the meetings and solicited feedback on the following issues:

1. If established, where should dog parks be located?
2. What features and/or amenities should be considered?
3. Would you support off-leash, unfenced areas?
4. Would you support off-leash dogs if owners supplied portable, temporary fencing?
5. Other comments related to dog parks and off-leash options

If established, where should dog parks be located?

- Add an area for small dogs at Las Palmas Dog Park
- Lakewood Park - south end
- Not at Lakewood
- Lakewood or Fairwood
- Fair Oaks - suggest area behind Skate Park
- Not at Fair Oaks; conflicts w/ baseball
- Locations based on # of registered dog owners
- Does not account for unregistered dogs
- Baylands Park

- Not around homes
- Convert a whole park to a dog park; make it big
- Spreading out dog parks throughout the City will help reduce traffic and wear and tear on the existing Las Palmas Park
- Serra Park
- Separate area for small dogs at Las Palmas Park
- Ortega
- Raynor
- Off-leash at fenced schools
- Split existing dog park at Las Palmas to create an area for small dogs
- Small separate dog park at Las Palmas with temporary fencing
- Move Las Palmas dog park from existing location and place away from residences; with small/large dog area
- Keep Las Palmas dog park in existing location and create a small dog park within the existing area
- Baylands is a large area away from private residences
- Alternative sites? Other spaces??
- Requirement as part of existing park
- Development of Dog Park; stand-alone park
- Minimum size needed??
- Consider location of dog park relative to residential areas
- Time of use for dog park: separate times for large dogs and small dogs
- Electronic pass access to dog park
- Limit to registered Sunnyvale residents
- Relocate Dog Park at Las Palmas to middle of park
- Need waste disposal systems; sewer septic systems
- Panama Park
- Have fenced areas and off-leash areas at each site
- John W. Christian Greenbelt - dog run
- Fee-based dog park with higher level of service, ongoing maintenance and better amenities
- Spread dog park sites throughout the City to give more options
- Map parks with registered dog owners/Panama Park
- Re-do Las Palmas Dog Park
- Check out Butcher Park in San Jose and Campbell's Dog Park; active volunteer groups
- Repair drainage problems at Las Palmas Dog Park
- Check out Saratoga Creek Dog Park in San Jose (off Lawrence Expy)
- First priority renovate Las Palmas Dog Park
- Raynor Park - with side off Partridge for Dog Park
- Locations: Ortega, Panama & Serra
- Work with Cupertino Unified School District to allow dogs @ school sites when school not in session
- Look at consolidating Little Leagues and other sports groups to open up space for dog parks

- Establish dog parks away from children's play areas, especially considering entrance/exiting dog park
- Relocate Las Palmas Dog Park from its' current location

What features and/or amenities should be considered?

- Double-gated entry
- Artificial turf
- Natural turf
- Grass surfacing is important
- Decomposed granite
- Ground cover - plants
- All dog parks should have separate areas for big and small dogs
- Benches - not picnic tables
- Water
- Hoses for cleaning up messes
- Seating for dog owners w/ shade
- Shaded areas
- Is there a fee?
- Bag Dispensers & bags
- Pooper Scoopers and lined cans, instead of individual dog waste bags)
- Landscaping that dogs like with hills and large rocks, such as Santa Clara's dog park on Reed & Lafayette
- Make sure budget is there to maintain park - needs to be kept clean
- Not just flat & boring
- Dog owners may be willing to pay a fee, such as Milpitas Silicon Valley Humane Society Dog Park
- We already pay taxes; opposed to a fee-based dog park
- How to enforce owners cleaning up after their dogs?
- Self-policing in the dog parks
- Volunteers to keep the dog park clean
- Adopt-A-Park for a dog park
- Dog Owner Groups in Sunnyvale at time Las Palmas was established
- Make the area as large as possible, 3-5 acres
- Provide paths for owners to walk, too
- Like Campbell's Dog Park on Los Gatos Creek Trail
- Like Foster City's dog park
- Signage with rules posted
- Well-maintained
- Foot-operated water fountain (tamper proof) and allows fresh water for each dog
- Water faucet to fill your own water bowl
- Scheduled maintenance day for cleaning, i.e. Santa Clara is closed every Thursday for maintenance
- Two entrances/exits with double gates
- Shoreline Park in Mt. View is a good dog park with shade and benches
- Dust at Las Palmas is a problem

- Water fountain with “fresh water” for dogs
- Create a key-card entry with fee to allow access with requirements, such as license, obedience training + allow temporary “drop-in” access
- Similar to Silicon Valley Humane Society
- Dogs must be licensed in Sunnyvale to use dog park
- Check out Milpitas Dog Park (at Ed Levin Park)
- Play features: pipes, hills, structures
- Visual screening fencing so dogs cannot see dogs in park
- Important to provide for both large and small dogs
- Facility cleaning - fencing at Las Palmas
- Small dog area large enough for good runs
- Small dog optional in large dog area; large dogs not allowed in small dog area
- Natural grass surfacing
- Picnic benches on cement slab, not dirt
- Provide more than one entry
- Provide pooper scoopers instead of plastic bags
- Concern w/ heat issues with artificial turf
- Posted maintenance schedule for each dog park

Would you support off-leash, unfenced areas?

- Off-leash yes; dog parks no because of need to keep space available for multiple purposes
- No - dogs need to be fenced
- Yes - with designated times and designated areas
- Yes - without designated times
- Yes - with designated time from 4-6 p.m.
- Provide off-leash areas to dog parks don't have to be built
- Too hard to do designated times; people have different schedules
- Issues with dog waste; owners
- Needs good signage
- Concern if too crowded with designated times
- Like the idea, but would expect back-lash from non-dog owners
- Try it on a trial basis with a pilot program
- If established in a designated area within the park away from childrens' playground
- Yes, like Cuesta Park in Mountain View
- Yes, Foster City is a good example
- Children and parents do not feel safe in Las Palmas with dogs off-leash
- Concern with safety - as an older adult, being tripped by a dog off-leash
- No - there would be problems with large and small dogs together off-leash; unsafe
- Self-policing
- Large area - good to spread out if dogs are off-leash
- No - Las Palmas is now unsafe due to dogs off-leash
- Large vs. small dog times

- Change municipal code to allow dogs off leash
- Make times available at all parks
- Permit off-leash dog obedience
- Dog & owner tags
- Yes - Panama Park with designated off-leash hours
- Serra Park with off-leash hours (dog park between school and condos)
- Requirements for off-leash: license, dog bags, leashes in hand to control dog if needed
- Allow dogs off-leash at Panama Park, Fair Oaks and other parks at certain times. Suggest 7-9 a.m. and 7-9 p.m. or dusk/closing time
- Concern with liability costs/risk for off-leash dogs
- No - would not support off-leash areas; there are issues with dog waste
- No - it would encourage problems
- How can you enforce dog owners to clean up after their dogs with off-leash areas?
- Even with designated times, there are still problems with dogs out of control
- Fear factor for park users and dogs off-leash
- Cap the number of off-leash dogs
- Designate certain hours, certain areas; different hours for different size dogs
- Require dogs are licensed
- Have off-leash hours at school sites where most of the field areas have fencing

Would you support dogs off-leash if owner-supplied, portable temporary fencing?

- No - cannot monitor it
- What about storage?
- Maybe attractive for someone who lives in an apartment
- Is this a way to curb people from walking their dogs?
- Only for small dogs
- Yes, seems okay for small dogs - not for large dogs
- No - dog owners do not clean up after their dogs
- Yes, dog owners will pick up after their dogs
- Good idea - low cost, easy to set up, move around and spread wherever
- Bad idea - small fence not effective
- Try it as a pilot program
- Portable 4' high fencing; plastic roll fencing with stakes into ground
- Provide storage area at park
- Hybrid fence - raise & lower
- Long leash with a stake in the ground

Other comments:

- Why not revisit the policy at Baylands?
- Consider the benefits of dog parks
- Concern w/ rat poison at Las Palmas

- Problem with dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs
- Young children should not be allowed in a fenced dog park for their safety
- Pay user fee to help cover maintenance and improvements
- Need additional Public Safety to enforce muni code
- Define small dog
- More signage needed for dog owners to clean up after their dogs
- Concerns w/ dogs without license or current shots
- Paperwork/application to show dog training
- Easier for Public Safety to enforce if there are viable options for dog owners
- Some people don't follow the laws; inconsiderate
- Offer dog training/dog obedience training
- How many dogs are in Sunnyvale? How many are licensed?
- Dog owners - survey?
- Time of use on weekends limit to start time to 8 AM; earlier on weekdays OK
- Review rules
- Dog bans for irresponsible dog owners and unsafe dogs
- Traffic calming measures for park users on street around dog park
- More enforcement
- Require licensing
- Revenue from citations
- Establish a membership/fee-based dog park facility
- If more dog parks are established, then it will take the pressure off Las Palmas as the only site
- Concerned about vandalism
- Lack of enforcement
- Cost considerations: off-leash vs. construction & maintenance of fenced dog park
- Fee-based dog parks
- Dog parks strengthen community as a social hub
- Find out the number of registered dog owners in Sunnyvale

Summary notes prepared by:

Patricia Lord

Patricia Lord

Senior Management Analyst

Department of Public Works



SUMMARY of SURVEY RESULTS

City of Sunnyvale

SURVEY: Dog Parks & Off-Leash Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System

The following is a summary of survey results, including online surveys and hard copy surveys completed. The survey was open from April 5 through May 10, 2013. The survey gave community members an opportunity to state their opinions on dog parks, off-leash alternatives and related issues. This informal survey was not intended to be statistically controlled or sampled.

1. "Would you support adding more dog parks in Sunnyvale parks with permanently fence, off-leash areas for dogs?"

Response	Online	Hard Copy	Response Count	Percentage
Yes	654	70	724	90.7%
No	70	4	74	9.3%
Total			798	100%

2. "Would you support designated off-leash areas for dogs without fencing in Sunnyvale Parks?"

Response	Online	Hard Copy	Response Count	Percentage
Yes	367	38	405	52%
Yes, but at restricted times only	146	13	159	20%
No	206	12	218	28%
Total	719	63	782	100%

3. "Would you support dog owners being allowed to set-up owner-supplied temporary fencing for their dogs to run off-leash in Sunnyvale Parks?"

Response	Online	Hard Copy	Response Count	Percentage
Yes	468	41	509	66%
No	251	15	266	34%
Total	719	56	775	100%



Dog Parks and Off-Leash Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System

1. Would you support adding more dog parks in Sunnyvale parks with permanently fenced, off-leash areas for dogs?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		90.3%	654
No		9.7%	70
	If no, why not?		79
	answered question		724
	skipped question		2

2. Several sites in Sunnyvale are currently being reviewed for the feasibility of off-leash areas for dogs. Would you support adding a permanently fenced, off-leash area for dogs at the following parks?

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Las Palmas Park (adding a separate small dog area)	85.1% (571)	14.9% (100)	671
Lakewood Park	87.5% (547)	12.5% (78)	625
Fair Oaks Park	88.5% (577)	11.5% (75)	652
Serra Park	87.2% (578)	12.8% (85)	663
			If you answered no and would like to explain or would like to suggest another location, please comment below: 165
			answered question 724
			skipped question 2

3. If additional permanently fenced, off-leash areas in dog parks are established in Sunnyvale, features should be included? Rank in order of preference, where 1 is most preferred.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Separate area for large and small dogs	22.2% (161)	10.5% (76)	9.1% (66)	8.1% (59)	7.5% (54)	6.4% (46)	9.7% (70)	6.5% (47)	6.1% (44)	6.8% (49)
Artificial turf	4.8% (35)	5.8% (42)	6.2% (45)	5.0% (36)	4.1% (30)	5.4% (39)	7.2% (52)	10.5% (76)	14.6% (106)	15.5% (112)
Grass or natural turf	19.1% (138)	12.3% (89)	12.7% (92)	9.1% (66)	8.1% (59)	9.0% (65)	6.5% (47)	6.2% (45)	6.2% (45)	6.8% (49)
Decomposed granite surfacing	1.0% (7)	1.7% (12)	1.8% (13)	2.8% (20)	4.7% (34)	7.0% (51)	8.8% (64)	15.7% (114)	18.4% (133)	20.2% (146)
Trees and shade	11.2% (81)	19.1% (138)	19.5% (141)	16.6% (120)	13.0% (94)	8.0% (58)	4.8% (35)	3.0% (22)	2.2% (16)	1.2% (9)
Double-gated entry	15.9% (115)	13.8% (100)	11.5% (83)	10.8% (78)	10.4% (75)	8.1% (59)	7.9% (57)	7.7% (56)	5.9% (43)	5.8% (42)
Benches	2.1% (15)	4.6% (33)	9.0% (65)	13.8% (100)	16.9% (122)	18.1% (131)	13.7% (99)	9.8% (71)	6.6% (48)	3.9% (28)
Picnic tables	1.1% (8)	1.2% (9)	2.2% (16)	3.6% (26)	4.1% (30)	8.7% (63)	12.3% (89)	18.1% (131)	15.7% (114)	17.0% (123)
Bulletin board(s)	0.3% (2)	0.8% (6)	1.5% (11)	1.8% (13)	2.9% (21)	7.9% (57)	11.5% (83)	13.7% (99)	15.6% (113)	18.5% (134)
Dispenser for dog waste bags	14.1% (102)	14.5% (105)	11.3% (82)	12.6% (91)	12.8% (93)	10.1% (73)	8.4% (61)	5.9% (43)	4.8% (35)	2.9% (21)
Trash receptacles	8.3% (60)	15.7% (114)	15.2% (110)	15.9% (115)	15.5% (112)	11.3% (82)	9.3% (67)	2.8% (20)	3.7% (27)	1.5% (11)

4. Would you support designated off-leash areas without fencing for dogs in Sunnyvale parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		51.0%	367
Yes, but at restricted times only		20.3%	146
No		28.7%	206
	If no, why not?		201
	answered question		719
	skipped question		7

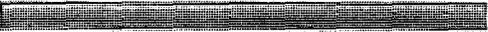
5. Would you support dog owners being allowed to set up owner-supplied, temporary fencing for their dogs to run off-leash in Sunnyvale parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		65.1%	468
No		34.9%	251
	If no, why not?		227
	answered question		719
	skipped question		7

6. Are you a Sunnyvale resident?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		79.1%	568
No		20.9%	150
answered question			718
skipped question			8

7. Do you own a dog?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		79.5%	571
No		20.5%	147
answered question			718
skipped question			8

8. Do you visit Sunnyvale parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		96.2%	691
No		3.6%	27
answered question			718
skipped question			8

9. In what recreational activities do you typically participate when you visit Sunnyvale parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Attend programs and classes		16.6%	114
Playgrounds		41.8%	287
Jogging or running		32.1%	220
Walking		81.9%	562
Picnicking		46.8%	321
Informal or drop-in sports		20.0%	137
Organized sports		15.3%	105
Dog walking or dog park use		75.4%	517
	Other (please specify)		55
	answered question		686
	skipped question		40

Page 2, Q1. Would you support adding more dog parks in Sunnyvale parks with permanently fenced, off-leash areas for dogs?

1	Because there's no space at the park anyways. And dogs off-leash is not a good idea	May 10, 2013 1:41 PM
2	Even though people might use them, they're still going to allow their dogs to run off leash in other parks anyway. I wouldn't make a special trip to bring my dog to a dog park when there's a good one just down the street.	May 6, 2013 12:35 PM
3	There is not enough parkland for humans.	May 5, 2013 8:59 PM
4	Financial Cost	May 5, 2013 3:27 AM
5	There are too many irresponsible dog owners in Sunnyvale and this would only provide an avenue for further neglect. The city already refuses to enforce animal nuisance codes so how and who is going to monitor and control a dog park? The money would be better spent on residential street/ curb repair.	May 3, 2013 9:44 AM
6	I am more neutral on this than negative, but there is not such option. However what I am strongly advocating for is the idea of clearly marking other parks (that are NOT dog parks) with ON-LEASH signs. I have seen dogs off leash in Ponderosa park, but there is no sign for people to know if this is allowed or not.	May 2, 2013 5:22 PM
7	I do not believe people would use them. Dogs are off-leash in ALL the parks, all the time. Setting up an off-leash area in Fair Oaks Park is not going to prompt owners to transport their dogs from Ponderosa Park or Ellis Elementary simply to be "legal". This would be a waste of money and would not change anything in other parks at all.	May 2, 2013 8:56 AM
8	I think it would be asking for trouble because not all dogs get along and once they are off the lease there would be risks of dogs fighting. Not all dogs are nice and well behaved and when they are off their leash the owner may put other dogs at risk especially Big dog fighting with little dogs. How would you manage the dog owners? How many dogs would be allowed in the fenced area at one time. Space is a precious commodity children need a nice park instead!!! (not a dog park)	May 1, 2013 5:21 PM
9	Off leash dogs are potentially dangerous even if they are allowed to go off leash in specially marked fenced areas.	May 1, 2013 4:44 PM
10	The more dog parks means we will have less fast traffic on Spinosa barreling into the dog park with enormous dogs. But the trick is to get the people to go in the dog park....medium and small dogs don't enter. And big dogs run loose most all day.	May 1, 2013 10:21 AM
11	Just make all parks off leash parks	May 1, 2013 9:56 AM
12	No, because of the financial costs involved to implement and maintain	Apr 30, 2013 3:47 AM
13	for sure must be fenced.	Apr 29, 2013 10:00 PM
14	I live in the Las Palmas park neighborhood and admit I do not own a dog and am not a dog lover. I believe strongly that city parks are for people and provide a place to relax a bit or have children play there. Any city that has a park cares for its citizens and allows them to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life for a	Apr 29, 2013 9:23 PM

Page 2, Q1. Would you support adding more dog parks in Sunnyvale parks with permanently fenced, off-leash areas for dogs?

while and is simply a more civilized place to live. Unfortunately, at Las Palmas park that ideal was shattered with the installation of a dog park. Even though the dog park is fenced in, a significant number of dog owners simply ignore the dog park and allow their dogs to run loose through the rest of Las Palmas. Owners are quite blatant about taking their dogs off-leash and have done so numerous times when I walk through the park and at times am less than 20 feet away from them. Some have said, "MY dog is well behaved" so the leash law doesn't apply to them. They are well aware that Sunnyvale has neither the will nor budget to enforce the leash law so they have no qualms about letting their dogs run wild. As a result, we now have dog excrement at numerous places, including the areas where children play, providing unhealthy play areas, unpleasant odor and the occasional dog chasing after terrified children or elderly people. Increasing the dog park size or introducing off-leash sites will only make the problem worse and therefore I am against it. Increasingly, the people that used to frequent Las Palmas are being driven off to provide more room for dogs. With owners turning their dogs loose, the whole park will become just a giant litter box. What a sad way to kill off the noble idea of a park.

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 15 | Only if the owners truly kept their dogs in the fenced areas and abided by the regulations. Currently this is not happening. | Apr 28, 2013 9:27 AM |
| 16 | Being a dog owner, the Las Palmas park becomes a mud hole after rain. I would vote yes, if they were not mud holes. | Apr 28, 2013 8:52 AM |
| 17 | WELL BEHAVED DOGS DO NOT NEED TO BE IN A FENCED AREA AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE OFF LEASH WITH ATTENTIVE OWNERS. | Apr 27, 2013 8:50 AM |
| 18 | A city the size of Sunnyvale should have more dog parks. Pet owners need places to take their dogs where they can run off leash and socialize with other dogs, which is difficult when owners live in apartments. | Apr 24, 2013 5:01 PM |
| 19 | I have a dog and there aren't many off leash areas around. | Apr 23, 2013 12:37 PM |
| 20 | Owners wouldn't abide by regulations, and romping dogs would make parks unusable for people | Apr 22, 2013 12:10 PM |
| 21 | Adding more parks is not going to fix much. Plus, I do not like the idea of fencing an area. This will not allow dogs to run around, play fetch, or be free. | Apr 21, 2013 1:08 PM |
| 22 | We are already have perfect parks around neighborhood not need to spend money and time to add new dog park. That is wasted. | Apr 21, 2013 9:27 AM |
| 23 | Prefer off-leash hours in neighborhood parks. | Apr 20, 2013 10:51 PM |
| 24 | While adding more dedicated dog parks would be a welcome addition if necessary, I do not think it's necessary. Instead, I think it makes much more sense to allow dogs at the regular parks that already exist. Off-leash hours at existing parks would be much easier for most dog owners, who would rather not have to drive to a dog park. Studies have shown that allowing dogs off-leash makes them LESS aggressive than forcing them to be on-leash at all times, and that is just one reason why I would support more off-leash hours at existing Sunnyvale parks, especially Panama Park. | Apr 20, 2013 2:19 PM |