



Staff Report

Item #: D

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Staff Report

DATE: March 21, 2024
TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Samantha Holland, Parks & Recreation Director

SUBJECT:
Off Leash Dog Hours in Parks - Pilot Program for Review and Feedback

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

As part of the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, staff is working on phases of achieving the “Development of a Dog Run/Dog Exercise Park” item that was noted as a goal in the plan. A short term solution is to format a PILOT PROGRAM offerings Off-Leash hours in our existing parks. Staff is proposing the draft language below to the PRAC for review, discussion and feedback prior to bringing the item to Town Council for approval. In the short term, the Pilot Program can be implemented quickly with the additional of signage and Mutt Mitt stations. Longer term, the the project is successful and the community wants to implement Off-Leash hours permanently, staff will bring back draft Ordinance language to update the Municipal Code.

YOUNTVILLE OFF LEASH DOG HOURS – PILOT PROGRAM 5/1/2024 – 11/1/2024

- The Town Council can allow off-leash areas on Town Property under the current municipal code language with approval of the program. During the program the leash requirement portion of the municipal code will not be enforced as long as it is within the pilot program parameters.
- The pilot program period will begin May 1, 2024 and end November 1, 2024 but can be extended.
- Sunrise to 9 AM and 4 PM to Sunset Daily will be the pilot schedule at Vineyard Park Turf Area and Yountville Community Park Turf Area.
- Sunrise to Sunset would be the pilot schedule at the proposed Yountville Elementary School Field.
- Staff will assess and monitor any issues during the trial period including:
 - Feedback from general park users or other dog handlers.
 - Maintenance issues observed by staff or users.
 - Feedback from neighboring residents.
 - Feedback from volunteer community monitors.
- Special Events, programmed use or maintenance may cancel Off Leash Hours. Cancellations will be noticed and posted in advance. (Examples: Movies in the Park, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Little League)
- Pending any changes to the program, Town staff and Town Attorney will prepare new ordinance language to bring back to the Council in October 2024 to formally approve the program in the Town’s

Municipal Code.

- New Mutt Mitt and Trash Can Stations to be installed near off leash areas.
- New signage to be installed at the Mutt Mitt stations adjacent to the off-leash area.
- Areas will remain un-fenced and open as they are today.
- Public Noticing to go out via newsletter, social media, nextdoor.com and local newspapers prior to the start of the program.

DRAFT SIGN

OFF LEASH DOG AREA

Sunrise – 9 AM & 5 PM to Sunset

May be canceled for Special Events/Programs/Maintenance

Dogs...

- Must be licensed, wearing identification tags, healthy with current vaccinations and not in heat.
- Showing aggression must be leashed and removed from the park.
- Must ALWAYS be under voice control and responsive to commands.
- Must be kept on the turf and not be allowed to enter the playground, picnic areas, sports courts, or drainage areas.

Dog Handlers...

- Assume full responsibility and liability for their pets while in the park including supervision, behavior management, prompt clean up and disposal of waste, and ensuring their dog does not dig or damage the park landscaping.
- Understand that the privilege to utilize the off-leash areas may be revoked at any time.
- Must not leave children unsupervised in the area during off leash hours.
- Must be aware and respectful of other park visitors using the space.
- Must report all dog bites to Napa County Animal Control at (707) 253-4517.

Town of Yountville Parks and Recreation Department (707) 944-8712

Napa County Sheriff Non-Emergency Dispatch (707) 253-4452

Emergency 911

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes

Is it Currently Budgeted? No

Where is it Budgeted?

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Is there a Staff Resource Impact? Yes

RECOMMENDATION

Receive staff report and direct questions to staff.

Receive public comment.

Conduct discussion.

Provide Feedback to be brought forward to the Town Council for their consideration.

