



## Staff Report

Item #: C

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### **Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Staff Report**

**DATE:** May 16, 2024

**TO:** Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Samantha Holland, Parks & Recreation Director

**SUBJECT:**

Yountville Commons Dark Park Update, Overview and Proposal for Feedback

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND**

At the March 2024 meeting, the Commission received reports and gave feedback on two items, South Washington Street Parking Lot Improvements (Dog Run) and Off-Leash Hours for Dogs in Parks. We had an engaged discussion with robust community feedback at that meeting. Also discussed at that meeting was an update on the Yountville Elementary School property and the pending acquisition.

Since the March meeting, the Town has closed escrow on the school site and plans are moving forward for interim use that will take place for 2 – 3 years while the Town engaging in a public planning process for the long term use of the site. With this development, staff has redirected its efforts for a dog run/park/off leash area to the school site. Working with our consultants from Pound Management, staff is presenting a interim design for use of the north-east field space and dugouts as an interim dog park. The design will use the existing amenities like the perimeter fencing and dugouts as well as adding new movable fencing to create two secure area with individual double entry gates. (Design Attached)

**DESIGN**

- Utilize existing dugouts and fencing. Dugouts screening fences to be removed to create a shaded sitting area for dog owners.
- 5' Tall non permanent fencing will be installed to contain the area.
- Seating benches to be added to the grass area
- Mutt Mitt and Trash Stations to be added
- Water Access and Bowls added
- Double gated entry for safety
- Two fenced areas, Active Area and Passive Area, to provide space for different types of users.
- Existing grass will be left in place. Staff to monitor and assess future need for ground materials based on use.
- Signage with rules and regulations to be posted at all entrances.

**DRAFT POLICIES**

**PASSIVE POOCH AREA**

- Lower Energy Play
- Roaming, sniffing and socializing
- All size of dogs are welcome

## **ACTIVE EXERCISE AREA**

- High Energy Play
- Fetch, Run, Chase, and Play encouraged
- All size of dogs are welcome

## **GENERAL RULES**

- Hours 8 AM – Dusk
- No excessive barking.
- Dogs must always be monitored by their owner.
- Dogs must be on leash when coming and going and until they enter the holding area and both gates are closed.
- Dogs must be under voice control.
- Grooming is not allowed.
- All dogs must be healthy, licensed, over 4 months old and be currently vaccinated.
- Absolutely no female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Smoking or vaping is not allowed.
- Food is not allowed.
- Glass is not allowed.
- All children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Owners are responsible for the acts and conduct of their animal.
- Park users and dog owners assume all risks related to the use of the dog park.
- For the safety of all dogs, immediately leash your dog if it exhibits aggressive
- You are required to clean up after your dog. Waste bags and receptacles are available.
- ALL dog bites must be reported to Napa County Animal Control 707-253-4452
- Please call 911 for Emergencies or the Napa County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency Number (707)257-9223 to report a non-emergent issue.

Signs to be posted in English and Spanish.

## **OVER SITE & OPERATIONS**

- Staff to assemble a citizen steering group which will assist with monitoring, providing feedback and assisting staff with feedback, planning and day to day monitoring of the park.
- Staff will gather information on ongoing maintenance and operations during the interim phase to make future recommendations on improvements.
- Staff will track issues complaints along with the Sheriff's Department for ongoing review of policies.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes

Is it Currently Budgeted? Yes

Where is it Budgeted? CIP- Yountville Commons

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 and provide feedback.