A Proposed Pilot Dog Park in Silver Spring at Ellsworth Urban Park

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Public Meeting
October 30, 2013
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Agenda

Provide information and gather input on a proposed pilot dog park at Ellsworth Urban Park

- Background and Need
- Existing County Dog Parks
- Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks
- Site Selection Criteria and Program of Requirements
- Analysis of Potential Sites
- Discussion of Proposed Site
- Questions and Comments
- Discussion of potential future park dog park locations (time permitting)
Background and Need

Some Meaty Canine Statistics

- 80 million pet dogs in the United States
- 40% of U.S. households own at least one dog *
- Dog parks are one of the fastest-growing segments of city parks nationally
- More households with dogs than with kids (43 to 38 million)
- Montgomery County has over 200,000 dogs

* American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Background and Need

Benefits of Dog Parks

- Dogs can improve owner’s health *
  - Lower blood pressure
  - Reduce anxiety and depression
  - Provide a sense of caregiver responsibility
  - Increase resistance to allergies and diseases

- People find it easier to talk to each other with dogs as the initial focus

- Highly socialized dogs that are exercised are healthier, happier, and less aggressive

- Dogs are like four-legged park ambassadors

- Dogs incentivize owners to get outside and maintain active lifestyles

* National Center for Disease Control
Background and Need
Existing Dog Parks on Parkland

- Black Hill Regional Park
- Cabin John Regional Park
- Ridge Road Recreational Park
- Olney Manor Recreational Park
- Wheaton Regional Park
2012 Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan

- 12 additional dog parks
- Geographic Distribution
- Current inventory and future facilities to be delivered in proportion to percent of County population in each subarea of the County.
- Currently no dog parks inside the Beltway (Planning Area 1)
2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS)

Dog Parks Needed per Service Area by 2022 (Draft)

- Directly proportional to 2022 projected population
- Existing dog parks subtracted
- Number of dog parks may vary, depending on size

PROPOSED PILOT DOG PARK IN SILVER SPRING AT ELLSWORTH URBAN PARK
Site Selection Criteria and Program of Requirements

Site Selection Criteria

- Existing parkland
- Area of high density and walkability
- Site is underutilized or doesn’t involve conversion of desired park uses
- No environmental constraints

Program of Requirements

- Adequate parking and safety
- Appropriate distance from residents
- Minimum size: +/-10,000 square feet
- Fencing - min 5 feet high
- Double gate entry system
- Surface – various
- Seating and shade
- Landscaping
- Water fountain and water features
- Dog waste bags and receptacles
- Signage and lighting
# Background

## Approximate Cost of Building a Dog Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BASIC</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FENCING</strong></td>
<td>Chain link fence</td>
<td>Wire mesh like Patterson Dog Park</td>
<td>Decorative fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER SOURCE</strong></td>
<td>Water: basic spigot</td>
<td>Good water fountain</td>
<td>Water fountains and water features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHELTER</strong></td>
<td>No shelter</td>
<td>Shade structures</td>
<td>Shelters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURFACE OPTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Grass, bare earth or mulch</td>
<td>Stone or gravel</td>
<td>K9 Turf, pavers, mosaic of hard surface and landscaped natural area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEATING</strong></td>
<td>Standard benches</td>
<td>Standard benches on concrete pads</td>
<td>High end seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trees with moderate level of protection</td>
<td>5” caliper trees in tree wells with ornate tree protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRASH</strong></td>
<td>Standard trash cans</td>
<td>Specialized trash cans</td>
<td>Higher end receptacles or methane conversion system</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Canine play structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Public canine themed art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lighting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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|                      | $40,000*                      | $250,000*                                   | $400,000*                                    |

*Cost estimates exclude land purchase*
Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks

Basic Models

- Canton Dog Park, Baltimore, MD
Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks

Basic Models

- Wheaton Regional Park, Wheaton, MD
Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks

Basic Models

- King Farm, Rockville, MD
Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks

Higher End

- Latrobe Park, Baltimore, MD
Examples of Existing Urban Dog Parks

Higher End

- Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD
Program of Requirements

Surface Types
- Grass
- Mulch
- Crushed Stone
- Hardscapes
- Artificial Materials
  - Grass carpet, canine turf, etc.
- Combinations

Site-specific Considerations
- Size of Dog Park and Degree of Use
- Slope
- Aspect
- Drainage
- Maintenance Accessibility
- Budget
- etc.
Analysis of Potential Sites

1. Montgomery Regional Office
2. Fairview Neighborhood Park
3. Ellsworth Urban Park
4. Jesup Blair Park
5. Fenton Street Urban Park
6. Nolte Local Park
7. Bullis Local Park
8. Dale Ave Neighborhood Park
9. Sligo Creek Golf Course
10. Rock Creek SVP - near I-495
11. Sligo Creek SVP - multiple sites
Preliminary Site

Ellsworth Urban Park

- 3.6 acres
Preliminary Site
Ellsworth Urban Park

- 10,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet of unconstrained area
- Parking and good public access
- Potential to program underutilized park area and reduce safety concerns
- Associated recreational amenities would compliment dog park
- Citron and Chelsea developments
- No adjacent private residences
- Community Advocacy
Preliminary Site

Ellsworth Urban Park

- 10,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet of unconstrained area
- Parking and good public access
- Potential to program underutilized park area and reduce safety concerns
- Associated recreational amenities would compliment dog park
- Citron, Chelsea, Fenwick development
- No adjacent private residences
- Community advocacy
Preliminary Site

Ellsworth Urban Park

- Outreach
Preliminary Dog Park Concept
May, 2013
Preliminary Dog Park Concept
May, 2013

- NEW FOUNTAIN
- ACCESS FROM PARKING LOT
- DOUBLE GATED ENTRY
- TRASH RECEPTACLE

- ORNAMENTAL METAL FENCE
- NEW LANDSCAPING
- SEAT WALL AND TREE FENCE
Preliminary Dog Park Concept
May, 2013

- EXISTING PATH
- BIOSWALE (STORMWATER MANAGEMENT)
- NEW COLORED ASPHALT PATH

- EXISTING TREE RETENTION
- ORNAMENTAL FENCE
- PLAY MOUND
- RESURFACE EXISTING PLAZA - WITH COLORED ASPHALT

- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- BOULDERS
- SEAT WALL AND TREE FENCE
- NEW BENCHES
Public Input So Far ...

Will the playground be too close?

Can we build more in other urban parks?

How do we keep it clean and safe?

This is a great location!

Will it have natural or artificial surfaces?

Dogs and people need shade and water

What about separate spaces for large and small dogs?
What’s Next

Fall 2013
- Revise concept drawing
- Include newest public input

Winter 2014
- Present new concept to the Planning Board
- Public input continues

Proceed to Implementation
Question and Comments

We want to hear from you!

- Post comments and ideas online at ParkPlanning.org
- Flip Charts in the room
- Survey

Email or call

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