



DISCUSSION ITEM

Agenda Item # 12

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

Prepared by: Donna Legge, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. February 12, 2019, Council Report & Subcommittee Report
2. Chronology of PARC Dog Park Meetings
3. May 5, 2020, Community Driven Outreach Staff Report
4. May 5, 2020, Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations
5. September 9, 2020, Heritage Oaks Off-Leash Implementation Plan
6. February 29, 2020, Dog Park Workshop Memo

Initiated by:

Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC)

Previous Council Consideration:

February 12, 2019

Fiscal Impact:

The following project will cost \$6,275 and will include the initial installation of off-leash rules and hour signs, dog bag dispensers, and dog bag refills for a 9-month period to be absorbed by the Park Maintenance operations budget.

- Breakdown of funds to be used:
 - o \$6,275 General Fund
- Amount already included in approved budget: Yes
- Amount above budget requested: 0

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does Council want staff to implement a 9-month pilot off-leash program in Heritage Oaks Park and the Hillview Baseball Field, including suspended enforcement of LAMC 5.08.010 related to the off-leash dogs, with appropriate signage?
- Does the Council want to consider any of the recommendations from the Dog Park Subcommittee, as outlined in the proposed Heritage Oaks Park Off-Leash Implementation Plan?

Reviewed By:

City Manager

CJ

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

SE



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

- Does the Council want City staff to implement the program as deemed appropriate and necessary to proceed?

Summary:

- In accordance with LAMC 5.08.010, dogs are prohibited to be off-leash in Los Altos parks
- Residents do not have a place to take dogs, legally, within the Los Altos community
- The PARC does not recommend a fenced in dog park at McKenzie Park and South Lincoln Park.
- The PARC recommends a 9-month pilot off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park
- Staff recommends suspended enforcement of LAMC 5.08.010 related to the off-leash dogs, with appropriate signage during the pilot period
- The PARC does not endorse all the Heritage Oaks Off-Leash Implementation Plan recommended by the Dog Park Subcommittee
- Staff recommends implementing the pilot off-leash program at their discretion and guidance from successful neighboring programs

Staff Recommendation:

Approve a pilot 9-month off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park beginning February 2021, to be implemented and evaluated at the discretion of City staff. Return to City Council with a status report and long-term recommendation in November 2021, unless otherwise deemed necessary to return to Council earlier.

Purpose

Consider recommendations from the PARC to host a 9-month pilot off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

Background

At its regular meeting of July 11, 2018, the Dog Park Subcommittee (Tanya Lindermeier, Mike Ellerin, and Grace Lilygren) recommended off-leash hours program rules, further review of six (6) suitable parks including McKenzie, Shoup, Lincoln, Hillview Baseball Field, Heritage Oaks, and Marymead. The PARC accepted the Subcommittee's recommendation and forwarded it to City Council at its regular meeting of February 12, 2019 (Attachment 1). Per the minutes:

The City Council directed staff to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to fully develop a pilot program proposal with an implementation plan to include off-leash dog hours at one or two parks, with limited hours, a public noticing plan and educational signage. Concurrently, staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission shall further



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

explore and develop a recommendation for a designated, fenced-in dog park. The proposal for the off-leash hours shall come back to Council for final review before implementation, along with the PARC recommendation for a fenced-in dog park.

At its regular PARC meeting of August 14, 2019, Vice Chair Stuart Eckmann and Commissioner Scott Spielman volunteered and were appointed to serve on the Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee). Commissioner Teresa Morris was appointed to the Subcommittee on February 3, 2020. Commissioner Eckman resigned from the PARC in June 2020 due to his relocation outside of Los Altos. The Subcommittee has worked closely with staff to evaluate options and gather information for the reports that have been prepared since October 2019. A chronology of the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings (13) held since Council's direction in February 2019 are attached (Attachment 2).

At its special meeting of October 16, 2019, the PARC discussed establishing a pilot program for off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

While staff and the PARC determined that McKenzie Park was a feasible option to consider for a fenced-in dog park, the PARC further recommended that South Lincoln Park be considered as a second alternative, at the regular meeting of November 13, 2019.

At its regular meeting of January 8, 2020, the PARC scheduled two Dog Park Public Workshops held on February 12 and 29, 2020. The goal was to engage the community to determine the preferred location for one fenced-in dog park from two options at South Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park as well as up to two locations for pilot off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and/or Heritage Oaks Park. Each workshop encouraged residents to complete pre-numbered ballots including name, address, email, dog owner status, fenced-in dog park options, and pilot off-leash hours program options.

At its regular meeting of May 20, 2020, staff presented the results of the Dog Park Workshop ballots and summarized community driven efforts that included one survey, two petitions, and a questionnaire, independent from the City efforts (Attachment 3). The combined total of participants, from both workshops, was 296, including 289 residents and 7 non-residents: 188 dog owners and 96 non-dog owners. Non-resident input was not included in the statistical graphics.



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

Workshop	Residents	Non-residents
February 12 - Garden House	166	5
February 29 - Grant Park	112	2
Walk-ins	11	
Totals	289	7

Fenced-in Dog Park Conclusion

152 workshop participants (52.8%) are against fenced-in dog parks. Results show that participants living near South Lincoln and McKenzie Parks are more likely to be against a fenced-in dog park than participants living further away.

Pilot Off-leash Hours Conclusion

158 workshop participants (55.6%) are supportive of a pilot off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field. 146 participants were supportive of a pilot off-leash hours program at Heritage Oaks Park (51.3%). There was not a consensus by nearby residents.

Based on the Dog Park Subcommittee recommendations (Attachment 4), the public process and above findings, the Parks and Recreation Commission is forwarding the following recommendations to City Council:

- 1) It is not appropriate to establish a fenced-in dog park at either Lincoln Park or McKenzie Park. **Motion passed: 6-0-1**
- 2) Establish an off-leash hours pilot program at the Hillview Baseball Field for a trial period of nine (9) operational months, subject to public health [COVID] guidelines. **Motion passed: 7-0-0**
- 3) Establish an off-leash hours pilot program at Heritage Oaks Park for a trial period of nine (9) operational months, subject to public health [COVID] guidelines. **Motion passed: 4-3-0**

Approximately 58 emails were received: ten (10) were in favor and forty-eight (48) were in opposition of the proposed off-leash hours in Heritage Oaks Park. Thirty (30) individuals spoke at the meeting: five (5) were in favor and twenty-five (25) were in opposition to the off-leash program in Heritage Oaks Park. Several speakers expressed concern that they were not noticed properly. Staff confirmed that appropriate noticing was completed.



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

During the “Potential Future Agenda Items” portion of the agenda, the PARC recommended that the Dog Park Subcommittee further discuss and aim to mitigate the concerns and recommend a Pilot Off-Leash Implementation Plan.

Discussion/Analysis

At its regular meeting of September 9, 2020, the Dog Park Subcommittee presented the Heritage Oaks Implementation Plan (Attachment 5). The PARC made the following recommendations:

- 1) Start the off-leash pilot program immediately at the Hillview Baseball Field.
Motion passed: 4-0-2

*Note: All City park turf areas are closed for annual maintenance from Mid-November through January. The soonest the program can begin would be February.

- 2) Modify the May 20, 2020 [Parks & Recreation Commission] recommendation [for the Heritage Oaks Park hours] to match the hours in the Implementation Plan. **Motion passed: 5-2-0**
- 3) Create an evaluation committee for the Heritage Oaks Park off-leash hours pilot program made up of at least one of each of the following, if available: one McKenzie Avenue resident, one dog owner in favor of off-leash hours, one Dog Park Subcommittee member, and one staff member/liaison. **Motion passed: 5-1-0**
- 4) Submit the [Implementation Plan] report [to City Council] without endorsement [by the Parks and Recreation Commission]. **Motion passed: 5-2-0**

Due to existing park uses shown in Attachment 6 (pages 4 and 5), the hours of the pilot off-leash program at both locations are limited. All City park turf areas are closed for annual maintenance from Mid-November through January. Staff and the PARC agree with the proposed pilot hours for the Hillview Baseball Field:

Hillview Park Baseball Field - Proposed Pilot Hours

February to Mid-November (9.5 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday thru Friday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday and Sunday	6 to 9 am	5 pm to sunset



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

Staff and the PARC recommend different pilot off-leash hours for Heritage Oaks Park.

Heritage Oaks Park - Proposed Pilot Hours

February to May (4 months) and September to Mid-November (2.5 months)

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Staff:	Monday thru Sunday	6 to 10 am	
PARC:	Monday thru Friday	8:30 to 10 am	
Staff:	Monday thru Friday		5:30 pm to Sunset
PARC:	Monday thru Friday		5:30 to 7 pm
Staff:	Saturday and Sunday		4 pm to Sunset
PARC:	Saturday and Sunday		No hours

June to August (3 months)

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Staff:	Monday thru Sunday	6 to 9 am	6 pm to Sunset
PARC:	Monday thru Friday	7 to 8:30 am	6:30 to 8 pm

Staff is recommending the pilot hours for a consistent schedule and appropriate, simple signage for the public. The earlier morning hours will cater to the non-social dog owner, while the later morning hours will cater to the social dog owner.

Options

- 1) Direct staff to implement a pilot 9-month off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park beginning in February 2021, to be implemented and evaluated at the discretion of staff and the Dog Park Subcommittee and return to City Council with a status report and long-term recommendation in November 2021, unless otherwise deemed necessary to return earlier. By resolution, suspended enforcement of LAMC 5.08.010 related to the off-leash dogs, with appropriate signage during the pilot period.



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations Regarding Dog Parks

Advantages: Model after other successful neighboring off-leash hour programs; flexible use; minimum expense and ability to adjust or terminate, accordingly. May justify additional programs in other Los Altos parks to expand the impact and use over additional parks.

Disadvantages: Significant opposition from Heritage Oaks Park neighbors. Available off-leash hours are limited due to maintenance schedule and other program use.

- 2) Direct staff to implement a pilot 9-month off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field only, beginning in February 2021, to be implemented and evaluated at the discretion of staff and the Dog Park Subcommittee and return to City Council with a status report and long-term recommendation in November 2021, unless otherwise deemed necessary to return earlier. By resolution, suspended enforcement of LAMC 5.08.010 related to the off-leash dogs, with appropriate signage during the pilot period.

Advantages: Model after other successful neighboring off-leash hour programs; flexible use; minimum expense and ability to adjust or terminate, accordingly. May justify additional programs in other Los Altos parks to expand the impact and use over additional parks. Appease opposing Heritage Oaks Park neighbors.

Disadvantages: Available off-leash hours are limited due to maintenance schedule and other program use. High impact to only one location. May create adverse turf conditions and require additional maintenance. May create a significant burden that may defeat the purpose and goal of offering multiple locations over time.

- 3) Direct staff to discontinue exploring options for an off-leash hours program until such a time when additional and appropriate parkland is made available for consideration.

Advantages: No opposition from concerned neighbors and residents. Save additional time, cost, and resources.

Disadvantages: Residents will not have a legal option within the city of Los Altos to take their dogs off-leash. Dog-owners will have to go outside of Los Altos to run their dogs off-leash, reducing the opportunity to socialize dogs and owners within community.

Recommendation

The staff recommends Option 1.



STUDY SESSION
Agenda Item # 7

**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog Hours in City Parks

Prepared by: Manny A. Hernandez, Maintenance Services Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Off-leash Pilot Program

Initiated by:

Parks and Recreation Commission

Previous Council Consideration:

None

Fiscal Impact:

Staff time for further research into an off-leash program recommendation.

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does Council want to consider allowing dogs to run off-leash in City parks, contrary to LAMC 5.08.010?
- Does Council want staff to develop and possibly implement an Off-leash Pilot Program as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) recommendation?

Summary:

- Currently, dogs are not allowed off-leash in any City parks in accordance with LAMC 5.08.010
- Los Altos does not have a fenced dog park within the City for dogs to run off-leash
- The PARC recommends restricting off-leash hours to early morning only at the six designated locations
- Cities such as Mountain View, Burlingame, and Foster City currently have off-leash hours in designated city parks

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends conducting additional research on off-leash dog hours in City parks to formulate a recommended pilot program for further City Council review

Reviewed By:

City Manager

City Attorney

Finance Director



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog hours in City Parks

Purpose

Consider the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) for a pilot off-leash program in existing parks.

Background

In July of 2017, the PARC created a Dog Park subcommittee to investigate how the City might create opportunities for dog activity through fenced dog parks and/or off-leash dog hours in existing City parks. The subcommittee met on several occasions and reported back to the Commission on a regular basis over a 12-month period of analysis. The subcommittee took tours of parks and City-owned land to better understand possibilities for dog activity. The PARC discussed the feasibility of a fenced dog park at several different Los Altos parks as well as off-leash hours in existing City parks.

During that time, the Dog Park subcommittee reviewed the Parks Plan criteria for a dog park in Los Altos. After considering that criteria, the PARC was unable to find a suitable location for the installation of a fenced dog park. Ultimately, at the July 2018 meeting, the PARC did not formulate a recommendation for a fenced dog park at any of the current City owned properties. At that meeting a proposal was brought forward for off-leash dog hours at existing City parks. The program recommendation is outlined in Attachment 1.

Discussion/Analysis

The Dog Park subcommittee defined a ‘fenced dog park’ as a space surrounded by a low-level fence where dogs could enter with their owners and run free within the fenced space. Many surrounding cities, such as Los Altos Hills, have a fenced dog park. Fenced dog parks are known for bringing the dog owning community together at a specified location and giving the dogs an opportunity to run off-leash in a safe, confined space. The initial capital costs for building a fenced dog park on park open space combined with ongoing maintenance costs significantly exceed the costs that are associated with simply maintaining that park open space without the addition of a dog park. In addition to the costs of such a project, the PARC considered the criteria outlined in the 2012 Parks Plan, such as park size, parking, and the presence of a buffer between residential homes.

The Dog Park subcommittee also investigated off-leash hours in existing City parks. ‘Off-leash’ is defined by the Dog Park subcommittee as the utilization of existing park open space to allow dogs to run off-leash at designated locations during specified times. Advantages of this type of program include the absence of capital costs and lower maintenance costs, partially due to the ability to limit the usage times at any given location. Another advantage is that multiple locations throughout the City can be designated as off-leash, increasing accessibility to different areas of the City. Drawbacks include concern for the safety of dogs who might run into the streets as well the interaction between off-leash dogs and non-dog park users.



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog hours in City Parks

At its July 11, 2018 meeting, PARC Commissioner Lilygren made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Heley:

“The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the City adopt an off-leash pilot program. Prior to advancing the recommendation to Council, the Dog Park subcommittee will work with City staff to identify the best locations and hours.” The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

After the PARC made this recommendation, they maintained the Dog Park subcommittee, which is still looking into options for a fenced dog park in Los Altos. With some recent findings by the Dog Park subcommittee, the PARC may have a recommendation on a fenced dog park in the near future.

Options

- 1) Direct staff to develop a pilot Off-leash Dog Program proposal in existing City parks, utilizing the PARC recommendation while considering risk mitigation strategies and learning from the experiences of neighboring agencies with off-leash programs

Advantages: Staff will be able to gather information from other agencies on current off-leash dog programs. Staff will have the opportunity to work with Risk Management services to assess the level of risk that might be assumed by the City through such a program

Disadvantages: None

- 2) Direct staff to not invest further time looking into an off-leash dog program as recommended by the PARC

Advantages: Savings in staff time

Disadvantages: None

Recommendation

The staff recommends Option 1.

The dog park subcommittee has been directed by the rest of the commission to focus on researching the possibility of implementing off leash hours at certain parks. This report from the subcommittee will:

- 1) Make an updated recommendation of parks suitable for off leash dog activity during certain designated hours
- 2) Present rules for off leash dogs and owners

Off Leash Pilot

The subcommittee recommends that dogs be allowed off leash at certain parks from Sunrise-9am when school is in session, and Sunrise-8am during summertime in order to minimize the interaction between children and off leash dogs. The test period for this program would last for 12 months, and can be cancelled at anytime by city staff if serious issues or complaints arise.

Suitable Parks for Off-Leash Hours

- 1) **McKenzie Park**- This park is currently very popular amongst dog owners and is a great place for dogs to exercise. The grassy area where dogs run around is located between 2 playgrounds that are commonly used, however, the given hours are designed to prevent any issues between children and dogs. This location also provides a space for South Los Altos residents to exercise their dogs off leash.
- 2) **Shoup Park**- The grassy area of Shoup park is a very popular place for dog owners to convene in the morning, and the park provides suitable space for dogs to exercise.
- 3) **Lincoln Park**- The section of Lincoln Park located between Edith and Main Street is frequently used by dog owners as a place to exercise their dogs. The fencing along Lincoln Park provides a sufficient buffer from Foothill Expressway in order to ensure safety of the dogs. However, if frisbees and throwing devices were to be permitted at Lincoln Park, the subcommittee recommends that a driving range type netting be added or a tall chain link fence along Foothill Expressway in order to prevent objects from interfering with vehicles and bicycles on the busy thoroughfare. An example of an attractive, very high, black chain link fence can be viewed bordering the west side of the new El Camino Park in Palo Alto located between Alma and the El Camino across from the Stanford Shopping center.
- 4) **Little League Field at Hillview Park**- Although the Little League field was previously disregarded as a possible trial location, the subcommittee has decided to include it as a suitable location for off leash hours since it is currently used for dog obedience training. In order to preserve the condition of the field, the subcommittee recommends that dogs

be allowed off leash only when Little League is not in season. Damages to the field will be monitored in order to maintain the field's condition.

- 5) **Heritage Oaks Park-** The grassy area of Heritage Oaks is a popular place for dog owners to allow their dogs to run around. However, given the parks proximity to Portland Avenue, the subcommittee recommends that a fence be added. This fence would help ensure the safety of dogs along with children from running into a busy street
- 6) **Marymeade Park-** The field of Marymeade Park is spacious and would serve as a good place for dogs to run around. However, this park is very close to Fremont Road. The subcommittee recommends that a fence be added in order to prevent dogs from running into traffic.

Rules for Off Leash Dogs

- 1) Dogs are only allowed off leash during the designated hours, and they must be kept on a leash at all other times
- 2) All dogs must remain within the designated area while off leash
- 3) Frisbees or throwing devices would be allowed or disallowed as posted on the list of Rules based on the Park
- 4) Dogs must be under voice command
- 5) Owners must clean up after their dog
- 6) Dogs must be up to date with vaccinations
- 7) Owners must supervise their dog at all times
- 8) Owners must be able to control their dog at all times
- 9) Dogs are not allowed off-leash on playgrounds or sports fields (other than seasonally allowed at specified times on the Hillview Little League field)

Chronology of Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings
Regarding Dog Park Activities in Los Altos

City Council Direction to Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission
February 13, 2019

Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

- March 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
- April 10, 2019 Regular Meeting
- July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting
- October 16, 2019 Special Meeting
- November 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
- November 25, 2019 Special Meeting
- December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

- January 8, 2020 Regular Meeting
- February 3, 2020 Special Meeting
- February 12, 2020 Special Meeting – Dog Park Workshop
- February 29, 2020 Special Meeting – Dog Park Workshop
- May 20, 2020 Special Meeting
- September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting



DATE: May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3b

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Donna Legge, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Community-driven Dog Park Input

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report from City staff

BACKGROUND

At its regular Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting of August 14, 2019, Vice Chair Stuart Eckmann and Commissioner Scott Spielman volunteered and were appointed to serve on the Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee). Commissioner Teresa Morris was appointed to the Subcommittee on February 3, 2020. The Subcommittee has worked closely with staff to evaluate options and gather information for the reports that have been prepared since October 2019.

At its special meeting of October 16, 2019, the PARC discussed establishing a pilot program for off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park, as suggested by staff and supported by the 2018 City Dog Park survey that showed Heritage Oaks Park as the third preferred location (26.5%) and Hillview as the fourth preferred location (25.7%) shown in Attachment A – pages 4 and 5. While available hours are limited, staff and PARC recommended pilot hours for a consistent schedule and appropriate signage for the public.

While staff and the PARC determined that McKenzie Park is a feasible option to consider for a fenced-in dog park, the PARC recommended that South Lincoln Park be considered as a second alternative, at the regular meeting of November 13, 2019. Lincoln Park was the top location choice (33.3%) for a fenced-in dog park according to the 2018 City Dog Park survey (Attachment A – page 9).

DISCUSSION

At its regular meeting of February 13, 2019, City Council directed the PARC to engage the community to determine a desired dog park type and location. As the commission fulfills City Council's direction, community interest and participation grew. Throughout the PARC process, separate community efforts took place. In addition, each ensuing Commission meeting attracted interest and public comment.



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Staff received 23 dog park emails from August 2019 to February 2020. Staff and the Subcommittee cross-referenced the residential addresses associated to the emails with the residential addresses of the workshop participants. From the 23 emails, 19 of the resident authors completed a Dog Park Workshop ballot; 4 did not fill out ballots of which 2 are opposed to a dog park in South Lincoln Park; 1 suggests Rosita Park; 1 suggests signs to enforce leash laws and a fenced-in dog park; 8 residents were against off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

The following is a summary of *independent dog park input* that has been received since the Dog Park Workshops held in February 2020. The input is in the form of one survey, two petitions and a questionnaire. It is not assumed that all participants involved in these independent efforts understood that the community-driven input was separate from the City efforts. Based on available information, staff and the Subcommittee cross-referenced the addresses of the community-driven participants to the addresses of the workshop participants to understand the patterns of participation, more thoroughly.

Community-driven Input (not sponsored by the City)

Lincoln Park Neighborhood Survey – Opposition of a Fenced-in Dog Park

The City received a survey from the Lincoln Park neighborhood that randomly sampled households adjacent to Lincoln Park, covering W. Edith Avenue to El Monte Avenue, mostly between January 20 to 23, 2020. In addition, a Google Survey was posted to the Lincoln Park neighborhood through Nextdoor on January 20, 2020. Additional surveys were distributed by email and home delivery of a hard copy.

84 households (111 residents) out of the 330 South Lincoln households participated in the survey. This represents 25% of the neighborhood households.

100% Adult, 95% Homeowner, 52% Dog Owner

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Want</u>	<u>Don't Want</u>
Fenced-In Dog Park in Los Altos:	24%	58%
Fenced-In Dog Park in S. Lincoln Park:	18%	79%
Off-leash Anywhere in Los Altos: (Sunrise to 9am, 4 to 6 pm)	26%	47%
Off- leash Hours at S. Lincoln Park: (Sunrise to 9am, 4 to 6 pm)	20%	69%

15% Want Los Altos land used for dog park; 74% Want it preserved as open space



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Top Priority:

S. Lincoln Park - Based Off-leash or Dog Park	24%
Off-leash or Dog Park elsewhere in Los Altos	27%
No Dog Park/Off-leash	49%

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

56 of the 111 participants also completed a ballot; 55 did not complete a ballot. Therefore, there was a duplication of opinions by 56 residents.

Community Petition - Support of a Fenced-in Dog Park at South Lincoln Park

The City received a petition in support of developing a fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park. Between 2016 and 2020, 559 signatures were collected including 223 Los Altos residents and 143 non-residents. While in support, 193 individuals either did not include a signature or an address – just a printed name. In January 2020, it was reported to the Police Department that a number of additional signatures were stolen.

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

Cross-referencing for duplications was not completed due to illegible signatures and a lack of residential information.

McKenzie Park Neighborhood Petition – Opposition of a Fenced-in Dog Park

The City received a petition from the McKenzie Park area with 49 signatures, expressing opposition to a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park. One person signed their name twice (work and home address); four were non-residents that worked in one of the adjacent medical offices, and two were illegible.

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

Out of the 48 signatures, seven (7) residents completed a Dog Park Workshop ballot and 32 residents did not.

Community Questionnaire - Support for Off-Leash Hours Program in Various Parks

The City received 84 questionnaires prepared to receive feedback regarding off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park: 2 of the feedback questionnaires are incomplete.

Support fast-tracking (90 day) pilot program 82



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Hours Recommended:

- Sunrise to 10 am 13
- Late afternoon to sunset: 04
- Both sunrise to 10 am and 4 pm to sunset 61
- No Time chosen 04

Additional Off-leash Park Choices

Grant Park	54	Montclair Park	4
Hillview Field	17	McKenzie Park	4
Marymead Park	16	Shoup Park	3
Rosita Park	13	Montclair Elementary	2
Heritage Oaks Park	6	Woodland Library	1
Los Altos High School	4	Miramonte Park	1
Lincoln Park	4	Covington School	1

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

In cross-referencing the feedback questionnaires with the Dog Park Workshop participant addresses: 28 were duplications and 4 people provided feedback twice.

Attachment:

- A. Summary of 2018 City Dog Park Survey

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AGENDA ITEM # 3c

City of Los Altos
Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting: May 20, 2020

Dog Park Subcommittee Report and Recommendations

Report Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020
To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Commissioners Stuart Eckmann, Teresa Morris, and Scott Spielman
Subject: Dog Park Subcommittee Report and Recommendations

Background

On February 13, 2019, the Los Altos City Council tasked the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) with conducting comprehensive public outreach in order to determine resident interest for a fenced-in dog park, as well as for off-leash dog hours in public parks. The current Mayor, Jan Pepper, later requested to the Subcommittee, that the process be divided into two proposals: one for a dedicated fenced-in dog park and the other for a shared space, off-leash pilot program. The design of the workshops and the recommendations in this report are consistent with those requests.

The issue of dog parks in Los Altos has been a subject of discussion within the leadership of this City for nearly ten years. In an attempt to thoroughly assess the issue PARC appointed a Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to explore ways to conduct thorough public outreach and analysis. The Subcommittee was formed in August 2019 and consisted of Stuart Eckmann and Scott Spielman. In February of 2020, Teresa Morris was added to the Subcommittee. This report and its recommendation is the product of the collective views of the Subcommittee.

In addition to the current subcommittee efforts there was a previous dog park PARC subcommittee. That Subcommittee consisted of Mike Ellerin, Tanya Lindermeier and Grace Lilygren. There was also a 2018 Dog Park survey.

City Council also requested that the PARC work with City staff to conduct the public workshops. The Subcommittee commends the work of staff, particularly Donne Legge and Trevor Marsden, as well as the rest of the recreation staff. They were invaluable in conducting the workshops, compiling the data from the workshops and collecting public inputs through petitions, surveys and emailed correspondence between August 2019 and February 2020. The Subcommittee appreciates the efforts of residents in the information they gathered and provided, as well.

PARC, along with staff, did extensive public outreach. Mailings were sent to residents that live within 1000 feet of each of the proposed dog park sites. Other outreach efforts included:

- Signs in all parks (not just the parks under consideration for dog parks)
- Paid ad and press release in Town Crier
- Flyers distributed and posted through the city
- Facebook

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- Instagram
- Nextdoor.com
- Neighborhood leaders were sent informational emails

The Subcommittee recommendations are based to a large extent on the dog park workshops. However, all input from residents were considered, including surveys, petitions, emails, letters and public comments at PARC meetings were assessed.

In February 2020, PARC and City Staff conducted 4 dog park workshops over a period of two days. The first set of two were conducted on a Wednesday evening at the Garden House in Shoup Park. The other set of two workshops were held two weeks later on a Saturday morning at Grant Park. Details of the workshops and the additional resident input are contained in the staff report.

Additional Information that contributed to the recommendations in this report:

According to Palo Animal Control, there are over 3,800 licensed dogs in the city of Los Altos. Given that there are 10,700 residences in the city, between 35 and 40% of the homes in the city have dogs. (The range given is imprecise because some homes have multiple dogs and some dog owners do not have licenses for their dogs.)

Los Altos has limited parkland (45.2 acres) and limited parks, of which perhaps 8 or 9 provide the conditions to support areas for dogs. The parks are heavily used for sports and other activities and this presents scheduling challenges. As a result of having fewer parks and less open space, it is a challenge to find ideal hours for any type of Dog Park in the city.

Neighboring cities, including Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale have dog parks.

Residents of Los Altos frequently drive to other cities to use the dog parks in those cities.

Given this background and information, the following are the recommendations of the dog park subcommittee.

Proposal for a Dedicated Fenced-in Dog Park

McKenzie Park Location Discussion:

Initially, staff recommended that McKenzie Park be considered for a fenced-in dog park. The Subcommittee noted that there were some problems in recommending that site:

For example, substantial capital investment would be necessary to make McKenzie Park functional as a fenced-in dog park. Hardscape would need to be removed, some trees would need to be removed, drainage would need to be improved and fencing would need to be extensive to enclose the irregular area of this park.

In addition, there was concern for the impact to trees from dog urine and resulting necessary watering. Also, protective fencing would be required for a number of the trees. Parking is also an issue due to the site being frequently full of vehicles during the day. Caterpillars, potentially harmful

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to dogs, are abundant in the months of April and May in this park. Although all parks in Los Altos face this potential infestation issue, it is a particular issue for the McKenzie Park site because the proposed fenced-in dog park would be located directly under the trees that are most infested with the caterpillars. Furthermore, a fenced-in dog park at this location would remove resident access to a play structure as well as public benches and picnic tables. Finally, and importantly, the data from the workshops do not support having a fenced-in dog park at this site.

Therefore, given these considerations and the negative impacts that would result from making a portion of the park a fenced-in dog park site, the Subcommittee does not recommend a fence-in dog park at this location. Furthermore, the recent financial constraints on the City budget, as a direct result of the Corona virus, also gives reason to reject a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park.

Lincoln Park Location Discussion

Subsequently, and in response to the direction from City Council for PARC to recommend a site for a fenced-in dog park, the subcommittee decided to consider one other option for a location. An evaluation was made of South Lincoln Park, an approximate 22,000 square foot area that was mostly unused and had low traffic volume and ample parking. Drawbacks to this alternative became evident. It made no sense to dedicate a large part of this park to a fenced-in dog park. It would be giving up too much open space. A smaller area of about 7,000 divided into two areas – one for small dogs and one for large dogs was considered. This still results in removing a third of the park from general public uses.

The City was provided with an additional source of input via a large petition in support of a fenced-in dog park at south Lincoln Park. However, those residents did not participate in any significant degree in the workshops, during PARC meetings or via writing to advocate for a dog park at south Lincoln Park. Therefore, the Subcommittee does not recommend proceeding with a fenced-in dog park at this location.

The City of Los Altos conducted a survey in 2018. The outcome of that survey had a number of participants in favor of a fenced-in dog park. However, the survey was not scientific in its methodology. Unlike the workshops, it lacked controls to allow for the separation of resident versus non-resident input. In addition, there was no control for duplication of voting.

Based on the workshops, there is consistent opposition to a dedicated fenced-in park in Los Altos.

One other data point was a City sponsored survey, conducted in 2018. It found that respondents preferred Lincoln Park between Edith and University (33%) for a fenced-in dog park. This survey also revealed desires for fenced-in parks at Grant, Hillview and Heritage Oaks Parks. However, based on the significant resident input through the dog park workshops results, the Subcommittee does not recommend that location or any others for a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos.

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Proposal for Off-Leash sites at two locations as a pilot program

Staff recommended two sites for off-leash hours that would be shared with other resident uses. PARC chose to support staff recommendations. The Subcommittee supports the concept of shared space, given that there is limited park space in our city. These two sites are: The Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

This would be a pilot program for a specific timeframe. The Subcommittee recommends 6-9 months in duration after the program begins. The 6-9-month period is exclusive of any closure due to any field maintenance. At the end of that timeframe, an updated report is recommended to City Council by current PARC subcommittee members and staff to determine if the pilot program should be extended or implemented permanently.

The Hillview Baseball Field Location Discussion

This site has a number of time limitations. It is used for baseball 7 months of the year and it is closed, as all parks in Los Altos are, for 2-1/2 months of the year, per staff, for field maintenance. However, the Subcommittee recommends this location because it received strong support in the dog park workshops. The Hillview Baseball Field is currently available weekday mornings and after baseball activities in the weekday evenings. It is also currently available on weekend evenings.

The Subcommittee recommends that dog owners be limited to the grass area and not allow their dogs to run on the infield to preserve the infield's condition. Appropriate signage needs to include this restriction.

Furthermore, the Subcommittee recommends that morning weekday hours continue until 10 am on the days the Field is not being used (refer to hour and timetable below). The hours below will not interfere with other activities in the park and will allow people who prefer to walk later, or who have school drop off conflicts to enjoy the location more fully.

Recommended hours for the off-leash use of Hillview Baseball Field are as follows:

Any adjustments deemed necessary by staff, to hours for the park schedule should be done in conjunction with the dog park Subcommittee.

Morning Hours

Days	Months	Off-Leash hours Start	Off-Leash Hours End
M, T, Th, Fr	Feb thru Jul	7:00AM	10:00AM
Sun, Wed, Sat	Feb Thru Jul	7:00AM	9:00AM
Sun-Sat ¹	Aug thru Jan	7:00AM	10:00AM

1. Except 7:00-9:00AM on Wed, Aug thru Oct

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Afternoon/Evening hours

Days	Months	Off-Leash hours Start	Off-Leash Hours End
Sat, Sun	Feb thru Jul	5:00PM	Sunset
Sat, Sun	Aug thru Jan	4:00PM	Sunset
Mon-Fri	Feb thru Oct	7:00PM	Sunset
Mon-Fri	Nov thru Jan	4:00PM	Sunset

Heritage Oaks Park Location Discussion

The second location that staff recommended as an off-leash hours site is Heritage Oaks Park. PARC supports this recommendation.

Off leash dogs should be prohibited within 25 feet, or whatever distance staff recommends, of the picnic table areas.

Dogs must be restricted from the creek area adjacent to the park.

The Subcommittee strongly recommends that these restrictions be clearly displayed on the main signage and strictly enforced by Animal Control and Los Altos Police.

Hours recommended for Heritage Oaks Park

Any adjustments deemed necessary by staff, to hours for the park schedule should be done in conjunction with the dog park Subcommittee.

Morning Hours:

Days	Months	Off-Leash hours Start	Off-Leash Hours End
Sun-Fri	Sept thru Jun	7:00AM	10:00AM
Sat	Sept thru Jun	7:00AM	9:00AM
Mon-Fri	July thru Aug	7:00AM	9:00AM
Sat-Sun	July thru Aug	7:00AM	10:00AM

Afternoon/Evening hours

Days	Months	Off-Leash Hours Start	Off-Leash Hours End
Mon-Fri	January thru December	5:30PM	Sunset
Sun-Sat	Apr thru Oct	5:30PM	Sunset
Sun-Sat	Nov thru Mar	4:00PM	Sunset

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Comments about Hours for Off- Leash Hours Locations:

As noted above, Heritage Oaks and Hillview, like most parks in Los Altos, are well used. Therefore, providing a balance between the scheduled activities and consistent hours is a challenge. One option is to have the same set hours for both parks that are more limited and the other is to offer as many hours for off leash dog owners possible. The Subcommittee chose the latter.

Resident Concerns

Heritage Oaks Park has a particular challenge in that it is directly adjacent to a row of houses. Hillview Baseball Field is similar. PARC received comments during the workshop and via the submitted comment cards, that residents adjacent to Heritage Oaks Park are concerned about the noise level. Taking this into account, PARC recommends that morning hours at this park and the Hillview Baseball Field do not begin until 7 am. It is our recommendation that the needs and desires of dog owners be balanced with the needs of residents and that all parties share the precious parkland that we have in our city. The Subcommittee recommends that any noise issues be considered as part of the post off-leash trial period discussion.

Monitoring and Evaluation for off-leash locations

Monitoring and evaluation is necessary.

The Subcommittee recommends the following procedures for public comment:

1. Allow the public to submit an email via a City address for emails and hard copy letters to be sent or dropped off with comments.
2. Set up an online comment form that requires name and address in order to fill out the form. Comments with names and addresses will be considered for evaluation for the pilot program. Comments will also be accepted via mail and walk in.
3. The submitted comments will be compiled reviewed by both staff and the Subcommittee.

Animal Control and Los Altos Police will patrol off-leash locations to ensure people are following the rules.

City staff and the Subcommittee will also monitor reports from Animal Control and Los Altos Police Department.

In addition, the Subcommittee suggests that dog owners organize to form a group of Los Altos residents to monitor the dog issues at the parks and to report them to the Subcommittee.

Dog owners and residents should report all incidents.

Staff should report to the Subcommittee any concerns they might have on a monthly basis.

Note: This is not to be considered a complete list. Moving forward, staff and the Subcommittee will work together to provide a complete list.

Dog Owner Responsibilities

- Dog owners will pick up after their dogs, keep their dogs in the designated areas, report any incidents, and avoid tearing up the grass, particularly on wet days.
- Dog owners must control the noise both they and their dogs generate, particularly before 8 am but also be aware of excess noise at all times.
- Dog owners need to be aware that this is a trial program and could be suspended if they do not take proper care of the parks.
- Dog owners must keep their dogs out of the nearby creek and yards and designated children's' play areas.
- Dog owners must abide by the hours and all rules provided by signage
- All dogs must licensed
- Dogs must be under voice control
- Limit of two dogs per human companion
- All dogs must have an ID tag and collar, or harness and owner must be in possession of a leash.
- Hours for dogs must be strictly honored
- Incidents must be reported per signage instructions

Note: This list may be expanded per staff and the Subcommittee.

Per the October 16, 2019 Staff Report, the estimate for the off-leash parks for signage, dog bags, etc. is \$7,100 per park.

Review of the Data from the Workshops

Data collected from the workshops, shows some support for fenced-in dog parks, as well as some opposition to off-leash hours. Comment cards from the workshops are consistent with these sentiments as well.

Support for fenced-in dog parks at one or both of the suggested locations, either Lincoln Park or McKenzie Park, was 38.9% of the 288 respondents. Specific to McKenzie, the support was 10.1% and for Lincoln Park the support was 6.6%. Conversely, an additional 8.3% responded no to the chosen locations but yes, to fenced-in elsewhere in Los Altos. Opposition to the suggested fenced-in locations was a majority at 52.8%.

Off-leash hours results showed the majority of respondents, 63% of the 284 respondents, support off-leash hours at one or both of the locations. Conversely, opposition to off-leash Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park was 9.5%. In addition, 27.5% completely opposed off leash hours *at any park* in Los Altos.

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For complete workshop statistics, see the Dog Park Workshop Results Staff Report (3a).

Note: The number of workshop participants represents about 1% of the Los Altos population.

How long should the pilot program run?

The Subcommittee believes that 6-9 months should be sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The 6-9-month period is exclusive of any closure due to any field maintenance.

The COVID-19 Virus - The COVID-19 virus has created uncertainty with respect to the timing of the implementation of the pilot off-leash program. It appears that it may be possible for dogs to be infected with the COVID virus and cause the infection of other dogs or humans. This needs to be factored into the timing of the pilot program, as do the same social distancing requirements already in place. It is crucial for PARC, as well as all staff, to stay abreast of the news regarding transmission via human to animal and animal to human as we move forward. If at any point, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off leash hours down, the City of Los Altos should act swiftly and decisively to do so. The City should consult, as necessary, with the Santa Clara County health Department as well.

COVID-19 Considerations - Public Health Issues.

The selection of potential sites for off-leash and fenced-in areas, as well as the City workshops, were all done prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, shelter-in-place orders, and guidelines for social distancing. The CDC have indicated that dogs and cats may become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, and they are currently advising people to refrain from letting their pets interact with people or other animals outside their own households.

More recent information from Stanford University indicates that the COVID-19 virus can be in solid waste. The risk of dogs getting COVID-19 may be minimal, but it does exist. Whatever risks that exist may also be increased in legal off-leash parks.

Addendum

1. CDC Guidelines

Recent CDC guidelines are included as an addendum to this report, and the Subcommittee may provide updates as needed. As a result of this new information, there could be potential public health issues from sharing areas where dogs urinate and defecate with individuals and families who picnic on the same turf, and whose children play sports on that turf.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID-19-and-Animals>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/pets.html>

2. A Potential Alternative Site at Heritage Oaks Park

Subsequent to public workshop input and the implementation of COVID-19 advisories and the shelter-in-place order, the Subcommittee discussed how and where another off-leash area could be implemented. If council feels that solid and liquid waste is a risk for the general public in the Covid-19 era an alternative might be to use the undeveloped area of Heritage Oaks Park. However, we believe that most participants in the workshop would have assumed the area to be used would be the grassy area of Heritage Oaks Park. Therefore, this section is separated from the rest of the report. In addition, there is potential that any individual who uses any dog designated area (off leash or fenced-in) is always at risk of exposure to additional dog related diseases.

Potential advantages of having a dedicated off leash area in Heritage Oaks Park include: Minimizing risk for both dogs and humans of contaminating shared turf with dog urine and solid waste; the potential for broader hours of operation; and the potential for better compliance with ADA issues, where a solid substrate would better facilitate wheelchair access.

Potential disadvantages: The close proximity to residential properties; and potential negative impact to a watershed area at the adjacent creek. Furthermore, this would require significantly more capital investment to enable this area to be safe and attractive to both dogs and dog owners. Additionally, this has not been reviewed by staff nor presented to the public and this would take significant time and analysis.

Sharing our discussions of this potential site is not meant to bypass any public input from public discussions, but rather to convey an organically-derived idea.

3. Future Additional Needs for Dog Areas

A) All Bay Area communities are facing housing challenges. The State of California is mandating additional housing units, and the City of Los Altos is addressing this with Accessory Dwelling Units and higher-density multifamily development. Sometimes developers are seeking variances in allowable square footage and setback requirements and incorporating as many units as allowed in order to maximize their returns on investments.

Dogs are, and will continue to be, part of the social and emotional fabric of families. The confluence of higher-density living, an overall decrease in per capita yard size, and the desire for families to include a companion animal, mitigate together to add pressures on our finite park space. As result of the higher density and developer maximization, it would behoove The City of Los Altos to *require* that all future high density development in Los Altos provide park space, including a play space for dogs, as well as a separate play space for children. The dog park in Mountain View at San Antonio Village is a prime example of such a park incorporated into a high-density housing development.

B) If the dog park off leash program is a success, consider creating additional off leash parks per the results of the dog park workshop.

Meeting Date: September 9, 2020
To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Dog Park Subcommittee
Commissioners Teresa Morris and Scott Spielman
Subject: Off-leash Pilot Program Implementation Plan

Attachment 5

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

At the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting on May 6, 2020, the Commission voted to recommend pilot off-leash hours at both the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Parks. At the meeting and through both emails and letters, several concerns were raised regarding Heritage Oaks Park. As a result, the Commission directed the Dog Park Subcommittee to develop an implementation plan.

The Subcommittee initiated five (5) in-person or zoom meetings with Heritage Oaks Park residents. The meetings included residents that were in support as well as in opposition of the proposed off-leash pilot program.

Summary of Top Resident Objections

Residents raised the following concerns about off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park:

- Increased conflicts with park users (i.e., large gatherings, playing, soccer)
- Creates a dangerous environment for children
- Lack of parking
- Increased noise (i.e., yelling, whistling, barking)
- Not appropriate during COVID-19
- General public safety
- Dog waste
- In conflict with children biking/walking to school
- Conflicts between dogs
- Traffic congestion on/near McKenzie Avenue
- Dogs digging holes/ruining grass

General Subcommittee Recommendations

The following recommendations are a result of resident input via emails, letters, and meetings with residents.

- Hours changed to avoid school commute times, impact on neighbors, as well as to address additional concerns.
- Reduced hours to 1.5 hours mornings and evening and none on weekends. It is intended that these hours address many of the concerns regarding impact on neighbors, school commute times.
- Fence to be added to protect the 4th side of the toddler play area.
- Low profile fence along climbing structure

- Expand dog owner responsibilities via signage
- Evaluation criteria
- A Resident Review Team composed of residents along with 1-2 Dog Park Subcommittee members to be formed. Review Team will meet monthly.
- Incident reporting procedure to staff (see below)
- Palo Alto Animal Control (PAAC) and Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) to patrol regularly during and around off leash hours
- Resident Committee will track parking situation at their monthly meeting. It will depend on feedback from resident committee observations and formal feedback from other park users.
- As stated in our original Dog Park PARC report, delay start of pilot program until phase four (in-person) for Covid-19 is implemented.
- Consider signage and/or permit parking for residents only on McKenzie Avenue on the residential side.
- Explore adding parallel parking spaces along Portland Avenue, per the Parks Plan recommendations (p. 10).

What constitutes an automatic shutting down of the program?

In response to a request by residents for criteria that would be used to shut down the off-leash program, the Dog Park Subcommittee recommends the following*

- Any dog bite attack on a human
- Three (3) incidents of a dog injuring another dog that requires vet care
- Two (2) incidents of an adult being charged or frightened by a dog within a month
- Two (2) incidents of a child being charged or frightened by a dog within a month
- Five (5) times in one month of noise complaints verified via a report filed with PAAC or the LAPD, and reviewed by the Resident Review Team (to be formed),
- Seven (7) off-leash citations given in a month and verified via a report filed with PAAC or the LAPD, and reviewed by the Resident Review Team
- Parking will be evaluated by Resident Review Team

* Please note that the above incident(s) must be verified via a report filed with Palo Alto Animal Control or the Los Altos Police Department and reviewed by the Resident Review Team.

Reduced Hours

Off leash hours will be enforced. Violators may be cited.

2021 Pilot Hours	Off-leash	Sept to Mid-November	Mid-January to May	June to August
Mon thru Friday, Morning		8:30 to 10 am	8:30 to 10 am	7 to 8:30 am
Mon thru Friday, Evening		5:30 to 7 pm	5:30 to 7 pm	6:30 to 8 pm

*Park is closed for maintenance Mid-November to Mid-January

Dog Owner Responsibilities

- Dog owners will pick up after their dogs, keep their dogs in the designated areas, report any incidents, and avoid tearing up the grass, particularly on wet days. Dog owners must control the noise both they and their dogs generate, particularly before 8 am but also be aware of excess noise at all times
- Dog owners need to be aware that this is a trial program and could be suspended if they do not take proper care of the parks
- Dog owners must keep their dogs out of the nearby creek and yards and designated children's' play areas
- Dog owners must abide by the hours and all rules provided by signage
- All dogs must be licensed
- Dogs must be under voice control
- Limit of two dogs per human companion
- All dogs must have an ID tag and collar, or harness and owner must be in possession of a leash
- Hours for dogs must be strictly honored
- Incidents *must be reported* per signage instructions

Note: The Dog Park Subcommittee recommends that *Dog Owner Responsibilities* be incorporated into the signage, per City ordinances and Staff.

Off Leash Signs

1. Dog owners will pick up after their dogs, keep their dogs in the designated areas, report any incidents, and avoid tearing up the grass, particularly on wet days. (put areas on signage)
2. Dog owners must control the noise both they and their dogs generate. Be aware of excess noise at all times. **Nuisance** noise from a **dog** is defined as **barking** or whining for more than 5-minutes in any 1-hour period. (<https://www.davis-stirling.com/HOME/Nuisance-Barking>)
3. Dog owners must keep their dogs out of the adjacent creek area, neighboring yards and designated children's' play areas. Leashed or not.
4. Dogs will not be allowed within 25 feet of the picnic tables, or whatever distance staff recommends, of the picnic table areas.
5. All dogs must be licensed and current with required vaccinations
6. Dogs must be under voice control
7. Limit of two dogs per human companion
8. All dogs must have an ID tag and collar, or harness and owner must be in possession of a leash.
9. Incidents must be reported per signage instructions
10. Poop Happens. Clean it up! (place a few cute signs throughout park)
11. Aggressive dogs are not allowed in park See City

12. Dogs are not allowed to charge other dogs or people
13. No more than 10 off leash dogs allowed in the park at one time.
14. No one under the age of 13 is allowed to supervise off leash dogs without an adult present.
15. Dog owners need to be aware that this is a trial program and could be suspended if they do not take proper care of the parks.
16. Dog owners are responsible for all injuries to other dogs and people

Evaluation Process:

The Subcommittee recommends the following procedures for public comment:

1. Allow the public to submit an email via a City address for emails and hard copy letters to be sent or dropped off with comments.
2. Set up an online comment form that requires name and address in order to fill out the form. Comments with names and addresses will be considered for evaluation for the pilot program. Comments will also be accepted via mail and walk in.
3. Provide an in park comment box. Details to be determined between City Staff, Subcommittee and residents.

Please note, it is strongly advised that dog owners and residents should report all incidents.

A resident review team will be formed. The Resident Pilot Program Review Team will include one (1) off leash resident in support; one (1) McKenzie Ave. resident; and one (1) to two (2) Dog Park Subcommittee members. The Team will meet monthly to review the evaluation forms, LAPD and PACS reports and emails to staff to determine how things are going. The process may have to be adjusted as review is made. For situations that are urgent, we will go to PARC and City Council to receive approval to make timely changes.

In addition, the subcommittee, with staff support

- will meet monthly until end of pilot program
- Survey the immediate neighbors and dog owners who used the park
- Review what is received via the broader evaluation forms and letters to City and PARC
- Review formal reports of Incidents amount and type (police, PAAC and City reported)

Note: This is not to be considered a complete list. Moving forward, staff and the Subcommittee will work together to provide a complete list

Resident evaluation form Questions:

1. How do you rate the off leash program on a scale of one to ten. Ten is excellent.
2. Have you had any incidents with off leash dogs during off leash times? If yes, please briefly describe.
3. Did you contact the police or animal control regarding any off leash incidents? If yes, please provide details.

4. What changes did you notice in the park due to off leash dog hours?
5. Was poop picked up? Provide details if not.
6. Were bags available in the bag stations for poop pick up?
7. Did you have to wait to access the park due to limiting of number of dogs for off leash hours? Provide details.
8. Did you notice any additional dog related noise in the park during off leash hours? Describe.
9. Was parking in designated park parking spaces available?

Please provide your name and street (your name and street name are important to the assessment process)

Please feel free to add any additional comments below. Compliments and complaints welcome.

May we contact you by email, if yes provide email

Thank you for participating in the Off-Leash Pilot program assessment.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
 Fenced-in Dog Park and Off-Leash Hours Program Proposals
 Staff and Dog Park Subcommittee Report



Prepared for Public Workshops - February 2020

BACKGROUND

In Fiscal Year 2008-2009, City Council budgeted a dog park project that was later placed on hold until a site was selected. The Los Altos Parks Plan (Parks Plan) was adopted by City Council on May 8, 2012. The Parks Plan includes recommended goals and aspirations based on a comprehensive park assessment and is intended to guide future development and planning including the aspiration to identify a location for a fenced-in dog park. The following excerpt is from pages 28 and 29 in the adopted 2012 Parks Plan:

The difficulty in building a dog park is that such parks typically generate a strong, negative reaction by immediate neighbors. Currently, there is not overwhelming support for building a dog park in the City. In a [scientific] survey conducted in 2010 by Godbe Research for the Parks Plan, a dog park was rated “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important” as a facility they would like to have available in Los Altos by 53% of respondents (45% of respondents answered “Not Important”). As of 2011, dogs are allowed, on-leash, in all Los Altos Parks and dogs and owners are frequently seen in the parks. Whether or not a dog park is built, the City should continue to allow dogs on-leash in all City parks.

In planning for a dog park, certain criteria should be met before designing such a park. At a minimum, a site should include:

- Sufficient room for off-leash activities for dogs of all sizes (at least one-half acre)
- Sufficient parking for park-use
- Sufficient buffer between the park and surrounding residential areas to mitigate impact from the park on homes
- Access to water (drinking fountain or spigot)
- Seating located away from perimeter fence
- Covered trashcans/waste disposal stations

None of the parks in Los Altos, meet all the criteria. As such, a site outside of the current park system that includes all the above criteria should be identified before funds are allocated for a dog park. A dog park should include the following within the design:

- A 4' to 6' fence surrounding the dog area
- Adequate drainage
- Nearby parking
- Clear and well-placed signs for park rules
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners
- Seating located away from perimeter fence
- Covered trashcans/waste disposal stations

Dog Park Definitions

A “**fenced-in dog park**” is defined as an enclosed and dedicated area, which is often divided into two separate areas, one for larger/more active dogs and the other for smaller, shyer dogs. Dogs run off-leash in these dog parks. A fenced-in dog park typically is open from sunrise to sunset.

An “**off-leash hours program**” is defined as an unenclosed area where dogs can run but the owner(s) must manage their dogs so that they do not go beyond the designated off-leash areas, unless they are leashed.

On July 12, 2017, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) established the original Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to investigate opportunities for dog activity through the development of a dog park in existing City parks. Various PARC and Dog Park Subcommittees have explored the feasibility of establishing off-leash areas as well as fenced-in dog parks over the last two and a half years. In recognition of the work of past Subcommittee members, the current Subcommittee has built upon the previous work of Tanya Lindermeier, Mike Ellerin and Grace Lilygren.

The 2017 Subcommittee drafted and refined an online Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs Survey. The “electronic” survey was posted on the City website between January 29 and March 8, 2018. The survey was viewed 1,127 times and included a total of 868 responses in a 1,776-page report. A summary of the report is attached (Attachment 1):

	<u>Fenced-in Dog park</u>	<u>Off-leash Hours</u>
Yes	78.1 %	56.6 %
No	16.4 %	33.4 %
Unsure	5.6 %	10.0 %

Top Four Preferred Locations:

Lincoln Park	33.3 %	Grant Park	31.2 %
Hillview Park	31.7 %	Lincoln Park	27.8 %
Grant Park	31.6 %	Hillview Park	27.7 %
Heritage Oaks Park	25.4 %	Heritage Oaks Park	26.5 %

Based on the survey results, the Subcommittee presented a report (Attachment B) to the PARC at its regular meeting of May 9, 2018, including the following recommendations:

Dog Park Criteria (in addition to the Parks Plan Criteria)

1. A minimum of 10,000 square feet for off-leash activities for dogs of all sizes
2. Access to bathrooms
3. ADA compliant
4. Appropriate hours including periods closed for maintenance
5. Double entry system
6. Surface medium and maintenance regimen that ensures sanitary conditions and a pleasant visit
7. Small tables
8. Covered trashcans

9. Free doggie bags

Off-leash Criteria

1. Trial (pilot) area should not be used as a sports field
2. At least one trial (pilot) location should be convenient to north and south Los Altos
3. Sufficient parking
4. Sufficient buffer between the park and residences/places of worship
5. Clear and well-placed signs that post off-leash park rules
6. Covered trashcans
7. Free doggie bags
8. Waste disposal Stations

The Subcommittee also presented the pros and cons of nine (9) City parks considered for a fenced-in dog park and eleven (11) City parks considered for off-leash hours program.

The PARC recommended that the Subcommittee explore an off-leash hours program.

At its regular meeting of July 11, 2018, the Subcommittee recommended off-leash hours program rules, further review of six (6) suitable parks including McKenzie, Shoup, Lincoln, Hillview Baseball Field, Heritage Oaks and Marymead. In addition, the Subcommittee recommended preferred hours to be sunrise to 9am during school and sunrise to 8am during the summer with a recommended pilot period of 12 months, which could be cancelled at any time by staff should serious issues or complaints arise. The PARC accepted the Subcommittee's recommendation and forwarded it to City Council (Attachment C).

At its regular meeting of February 12, 2019, City Council directed staff to prepare a proposal for a pilot off-leash hours program at no more than two parks, and for staff to work with PARC to recommend a fenced-in dog park:

The City Council directed staff to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to fully develop a pilot program proposal with an implementation plan to include off-leash dog hours at one or two parks, with limited hours, a public noticing plan and educational signage. Concurrently, staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission shall further explore and develop a recommendation for a designated, fenced-in dog park. The proposal for the off-leash hours shall come back to Council for final review before implementation, along with the PARC recommendation for a fenced-in dog park.

At its regular meeting of April 10, 2019, the Subcommittee presented a report to the PARC including an overview of 1) the need for a dog park in Los Altos; 2) gating issues; 3) alternative locations; 4) potential programs; 5) design features; 6) dog park rules and 7) ongoing changes in the community (Attachment D). The Subcommittee recommended that the PARC forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve McKenzie Park for the development of a fenced-in dog park.

The recommended design features include the following:

1. Considering the tennis court fence, fencing the remaining perimeter
2. Divide fenced area into two separate areas, one for larger dogs, and the other for smaller or

- gentler dogs
3. Install two double-gated “airlocks,” with self-closing gate, for entrance and exit into each of the two areas
 4. Replace surface with hardy grass varieties, such as Buffalo or Red Creeping grass, or more likely a decomposed granite (DG) surface to deal with normal wear and tear
 5. Grading to ensure adequate runoff
 6. Install additional landscaping along the perimeter where McKenzie Park shares with the Altos Oaks properties
 7. Retain tables and benches in each section
 8. Removal of climbing wall (play equipment) and consider replacing with dog agility equipment
 9. Consider removing small trees and install fencing around other larger trees
 10. Install plastic bag dispensers and waste containers
 11. Provide additional handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the site
 12. Install a community bulletin board to post scheduled events and dog-related services
 13. Install appropriate signage and dog park rules

The McKenzie Dog Park recommendation has not yet been forwarded to the City Council.

DISCUSSION

At its regular PARC meeting of August 14, 2019, Vice Chair Stuart Eckmann and Commissioner Scott Spielman volunteered and were appointed to serve on the Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee. Commissioner Teresa Morris was recently appointed to the Subcommittee, on February 3, 2020. The Subcommittee has worked closely with staff to evaluate options and gather information for the reports that have been prepared since October 2019. The following information has been a combined effort.

Off-leash Hours Areas

At its special meeting of October 16, 2019, the PARC discussed establishing a twelve-month pilot program for off-leash areas at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park, as suggested by staff. These sites and hours were discussed by the PARC. Due to existing field use, the availability of afternoon and evening access is limited.

While the hours are limited, staff and PARC are recommending the following pilot hours for a consistent schedule and appropriate signage for the public. Shown below, are the current scheduled uses at each off-leash location, followed by proposed hours for the off-leash program.

Hillview Baseball Field – Scheduled Uses

Program	Days	Times	Months (#)
Dog Obedience	Wednesdays	9 to 11 am	Jan to Dec (12)
Little League	Monday to Friday	4 to 7 pm	Feb to July (6)
	Saturday & Sunday	9 am to 5 pm	Feb to July (6)

Hillview Baseball Field – Scheduled Uses (Continued)

Program	Days	Times	Months (#)
Little League	Mon, Wed, Fri	5 to 7 pm	Aug to Mid-Nov (4.5)
Pony League	Tues & Thurs	4 to 7 pm	Aug to Mid-Nov (4.5)
Annual Maintenance	Monday to Sunday	sunrise to sunset	Mid-Nov to Jan (2.5)

Hillview Park Baseball Field: Proposed Hours - February to Mid-November (9.5 months)

<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday and Sunday	6 to 9 am	5 pm to sunset

Pros

- Close to restrooms
- Central to Civic Center and close to downtown
- Available benches and shade
- More available hours on weekends in afternoon/evening
- More available hours in morning, Monday through Friday
- Dog obedience classes already use park

Cons

- Limited afternoon/evening hours during week and fall and winter months (day light hours)
- Current construction is a perceived obstacle (can be mitigated)
- Temporary limited parking until construction is complete
- Possible negative impact to turf conditions/maintenance

Heritage Oaks Park – Scheduled Uses

Program	Days	Times	Months (#)
Youth Soccer	Mon, Wed, Fri	4:15 to 5:15 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
MVLA Soccer	Thursday	4 to 5 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Tuesday	12:30 to 1:30 pm	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)
Youth Soccer	Friday	10 to 11 am	Sept to Mid-Nov, Feb to June (6.5)

Heritage Oaks Park: Proposed Hours

February to May and September to Mid-November (6.5 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	
Saturday and Sunday		4 pm to sunset
Monday through Friday		5:30 pm to sunset
June to August (3 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset

Pros

- Close to restrooms
- Available benches and shade
- Variety of terrain available
- More available and consistent hours
- Located farther in south side of town

Cons

- Will likely require a more substantial fence along Portland Avenue
- Possible negative impact to turf conditions/maintenance
- Limited parking

Off-Leash Hours Program Cost

While the off-leash hours program will cost less than a dedicated fenced-in dog park, there are some expected costs to start and maintain the pilot program. Expenses include staff time for set-up and maintenance, as well as materials. Here is a sample list of expected costs including estimates for a 12month pilot program:

Signs, 18” x 24,” purchase and installation (7)	\$1,350
Dog bag dispenser purchase (7)	\$2,450
Dog bag dispenser maintenance (1-roll per station/mo.)	<u>\$3,300</u>
	Total \$7,100

Funding for this program is available in the existing Park Maintenance operating budget.

Measuring Success

As a pilot program, staff will evaluate its feasibility as an ongoing program. Factors that will be taken into consideration over the course of the pilot program will include:

1. Feedback from residents and users regarding the program

2. Evaluation of incidents reported to Animal Control and the Police Department
3. Evaluation of actual cost vs expected costs
4. Legal issues
5. Field conditions
6. Attendance.

The proposed pilot period would allow for the program to be evaluated through all four seasons of the year. Experiencing the program through the different weather and field conditions will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation.

Fenced-in Dog Park – Separate Proposal

While staff and the PARC have determined that McKenzie Park is a feasible option to consider as a fenced-in dog park, the PARC supported the Subcommittee's recommendation to further work with staff. At the November 13, 2019 meeting, PARC recommended South Lincoln Park as a second alternative to be considered.

The potential cost to design and develop a dog park is earmarked for FY 2020-21. The budget allows up to \$250,000. The funds will not be officially allocated until the project and estimate is approved by City Council. The source of funds is from Park in Lieu Funds. The approval process will include the solicitation of public input on aspects such as location, design and programming that will be facilitated months in advance of construction. A landscape architect will be hired by staff to design and estimate the cost of the project. The process will include review by the PARC and City Council.

The Subcommittee has made the following observations, related to the pros and cons of two, alternative fenced-in dog parks:

McKenzie Park

Staff and the PARC have identified a location which meets many of the criteria for a dog park, with the exception of size. The location includes a portion of McKenzie Park that borders on Fremont Avenue and Altos Oaks Drive. The site is approximately 7,700 square feet of usable space. The triangular footprint backs up to tennis courts on one side and commercial medical offices on the other side. Residential properties on one side are buffered by offices on both sides of Altos Oaks. Residential properties on the other side are buffered by Fremont and Foothill Expressway.

The Subcommittee believes that the existing traffic is likely to contribute more noise than a dog park.

Pros

- No contiguous residential properties
- Driving access without the need to go on residential streets
- Adjacent parking
- The location is not currently being used for specific organized parks or recreation programs
- There are restrooms serving both sides of McKenzie Park (east and west)
- The location is easily accessible to both north and south Los Altos residents

Cons

- Parking lot is often full - regulations are currently not enforced (Altos Oaks and Commuters)
- Substantial grading and drainage work are needed
- Wide tree coverage, which may adversely impact the drying time in rainy weather, possibly creating a muddy environment
- Possible caterpillar threat – will require signage and mitigation
- Arborist evaluation upon design – possible impact to trees
- Fencing complexity because of an irregular boundary
- Removal of outdated playground climber
- Possible negative impact to turf conditions/maintenance

South Lincoln Park

The Subcommittee has identified a second location for consideration of a fenced-in dog park: the south end of Lincoln Park. This is a long, narrow area along Foothill Expressway, which is located between Foothill Expressway and Lincoln Avenue. The footprint can support two areas for large/active dogs and smaller/shy dogs. There is ample parking immediately adjacent to the park. The properties closest to the park, are churches, separated by Lincoln Avenue with angled parking on both sides. At its regular meeting of February 3, 2020, the Subcommittee recommended reducing the size to 6,400 square feet. This location could accommodate a two-zone fenced-in dog park. There are no Parks and Recreation Department activities on this site, current or planned.

Pros

- Adequate drainage
- Fewer trees
- May dry out quicker during rainy season
- Parking is more than ample during the week
- Proximity to downtown businesses and proximity to major expressway
- Public restrooms available nearby in Shoup Park
- Less grading and land preparation
- Any noise from a dog park is not likely to be greater than that already generated by traffic on Foothill Expressway

Cons

- Potential parking issues on Sunday, which could be addressed by coordinating with nearby churches and closing the dog park for Sunday services
- Public restrooms – while close by – still require a walk to Shoup Park, with a steep grade
- Impact to Chamber of Commerce restrooms (can be mitigated)
- Close proximity to Foothill Expressway – limits play with balls and Frisbees

Dog Park Rules and Signage

Many municipal dog parks are divided into two distinct areas for large dogs and small dogs. The Subcommittee recommends a division between large dogs and smaller or gentler/passive dogs because some older dogs, while large, may be more docile. Other posted rules include adult supervision, prohibiting supervision by individuals under a specific age. In addition, signs define the number of

dogs allowed, pickup requirements, vaccination compliance, and dog park etiquette. No changes in our City code or ordinances would be required for a fenced-in or off-leash dog park.

ADA Considerations

The City of Los Altos is required to meet the standards for accessibility in public facility design in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Public Outreach

At a special meeting on December 11, 2019, the PARC established the following public workshop schedule:

Wednesday, February 12, from 7 to 8 pm and 8 to 9 pm
Garden House – Informational Presentation at 7 and 8 pm

Saturday, February 29, from 10 am to 11 am and 11 am to 12 pm
Grant Park Multi-Purpose Room - Informational Presentation at 10 am and 11 am

The workshops are intended to engage and will be promoted and designed to solicit input from neighbors, dog owners and the general public. The PARC scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, to discuss a final recommendation for City Council, related to the proposed fenced-in dog parks and pilot off-leash hours.

Attachments:

- A. Dog Park Survey
- B. May 9, 2018 Subcommittee Report
- C. February 12, 2019 City Council Staff and Subcommittee Report
- D. April 10, 2019 Subcommittee Report

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

All Responses sorted chronologically

As of March 19, 2018, 2:03 PM

Summary of Dog Park Electronic/Online Survey

ATTACHMENT A



Open City Hall is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The responses in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

As of March 19, 2018, 2:03 PM, this forum had:

Attendees: 1127

All Responses: 868

Hours of Public Comment: 43.4

This topic started on January 16, 2018, 3:18 PM.

This topic ended on March 8, 2018, 2:44 PM.

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?





Responses

Do you have a dog?




		%	Count
Yes		64.1%	556
No (skip next question)		35.9%	311

How many dogs do you have and what are their sizes?

Small dog (25lbs or less)

		%	Count
1		33.2%	184
2		8.5%	47
3		0.7%	4
5+		0.2%	1

Large dog (25lbs or more)




		%	Count
1		54.1%	300
2		10.1%	56
3		0.9%	5

Given a choice, which would you prefer more:

		%	Count
Dog Park		26.0%	220
Off-leash hours		11.9%	101

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs







Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		%	Count
Both Dog Park and Off-leash hours for dogs in parks		45.6%	386
Neither		15.5%	131
Unsure		0.9%	8

Would you support a Fenced-In Dog Park being located in the City of Los Altos?

		%	Count
Yes		78.1%	673
No		16.4%	141
Unsure		5.6%	48

Given the choice, which would you prefer more? A Dog Park for:












		%	Count
Small dogs		1.5%	13
Large dogs		1.0%	9
Both sizes WITH small/large dog separation		48.2%	414
Both sizes WITHOUT small/large dog separation		26.7%	229
Neither		14.9%	128
Unsure		7.7%	66

What park locations would you prefer Los Altos have a Fenced-In Dog Park?

		%	Count
Grant Park (1575 Holt Avenue)		31.6%	262





Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		%	Count
Heritage Oaks Park (Portland Avenue & Miramonte Avenue)		25.4%	211
Hillview Park (97 Hillview Avenue)		31.7%	263
Lincoln Park (W. Edith Avenue & University Avenue)		33.3%	276
Marymeade Park (1285 Fremont Avenue)		18.1%	150
McKenzie Park (707 Fremont Avenue)		18.6%	154
Montclair Park (1160 St. Joseph Avenue)		12.2%	101
Redwood Grove Nature Preserve (482 University Avenue)		13.5%	112
Rosita Park (401 Rosita Avenue)		20.6%	171
Shoup Park (400 University Avenue)		22.9%	190
Village Park (2 N San Antonio Road)		13.0%	108
None of the parks		16.4%	136

How important are the following amenities to a successful Fenced-in Dog Park (1=not important, 5=very important)?

Access to water station






		%	Count
1		8.8%	71
2		4.0%	32
3		12.5%	101
4		12.5%	101

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs






Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		%	Count
5		53.8%	436






Agility equipment/dog play

		%	Count
1		34.9%	283
2		17.4%	141
3		19.3%	156
4		8.0%	65
5		7.3%	59

Seating/benches

		%	Count
1		10.9%	88
2		7.8%	63
3		17.4%	141
4		25.2%	204
5		29.1%	236






Shaded areas

		%	Count
1		7.3%	59
2		4.0%	32
3		13.3%	108
4		25.3%	205
5		40.4%	327






Walking trails/pathways

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs






Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		% Count
1		22.3% 181
2		14.7% 119
3		22.3% 181
4		12.6% 102
5		15.3% 124

Landscaping

		% Count
1		17.3% 140
2		15.8% 128
3		28.1% 228
4		15.9% 129
5		9.6% 78

Lighting

		% Count
1		17.4% 141
2		9.0% 73
3		21.6% 175
4		21.2% 172
5		18.8% 152

Restrooms

		% Count
1		16.9% 137
2		15.4% 125

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		%	Count
3		19.9%	161
4		15.3%	124
5		20.7%	168

Parking

		%	Count
1		8.4%	68
2		6.7%	54
3		19.6%	159
4		22.5%	182
5		32.3%	262

None of the above

		%	Count
1		10.4%	84
2		0.1%	1
3		0.6%	5
4		0.1%	1
5		4.2%	34

Do you have any comments regarding Los Altos having a Fenced-in Dog Park?

Answered 356

Skipped 512


all also **altos area** areas children **do dog dogs** don fenced

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs









Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

fenced-in from large leash like lincoln LOS more need off off-leash one
 other owners park parks people play run S small so space t
 them they think up use

Would you support the City of Los Altos having specific Off-Leash Hours for dogs at a non-fenced-in park?





		%	Count
Yes		56.6%	487
No		33.4%	288
Unsure		10.0%	86

What Los Altos locations would you prefer to have Off-Leash Hours for dogs at a non-fenced-in park?









		%	Count
Grant Park (1575 Holt Avenue)		31.2%	241
Heritage Oaks Park (Portland Avenue & Miramonte Avenue)		26.5%	205
Hillview Park (97 Hillview Avenue)		25.7%	199
Lincoln Park (W. Edith Avenue & University Avenue)		27.8%	215
Marymeade Park (1285 Fremont Avenue)		17.6%	136
McKenzie Park (707 Fremont Avenue)		21.1%	163
Montclair Park (1160 St. Joseph Avenue)		13.5%	104
Redwood Grove Nature Preserve (482 University Avenue)		16.8%	130

Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

		%	Count
Rosita Park (401 Rosita Avenue)		25.4%	196
Shoup Park (400 University Avenue)		25.2%	195
Village Park (2 N San Antonio Road)		12.8%	99
None of the parks		31.6%	244

What times would you prefer to have Off-Leash Hours for dogs at a non-fenced-in park? (choose all that apply)

		%	Count
6am - 8am		35.1%	281
8am - 10am		40.3%	322
10am - 12pm		14.9%	119
12pm - 2pm		11.5%	92
2pm - 4pm		13.0%	104
4pm - 6pm		39.0%	312
6pm - 8pm		47.5%	380
None of these times		29.4%	235

Do you have any comments regarding Off-Leash Hours for dogs at a non-fenced in park?

Answered 346
 Skipped 522

after all also altos area **children** do dog **dogs** don fenced from
hours kids **leash** like los need **off off-leash** other owner



Dog Park & Off-Leash Hours for Dogs

Do you support fenced-in Dog Parks and Off-Leash Hours for dogs at parks?

owners park parks people play run running S so some t them
they think time times up who

Email (your response will be kept confidential and will not be shared):

Answered	444
Skipped	424

Are you a resident of the City of Los Altos?

		%	Count
Yes		94.1%	801
No		5.9%	50

DATE: May 9, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 2



TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Manuel A. Hernandez, Commission Liaison
SUBJECT: Dog Park/Off-Leash Sub-Committee Report

BACKGROUND

Recently the Parks and Recreation Commission posted an electronic survey on the City website regarding dog activity areas. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the interest the community might have in dog activity areas in Los Altos parks.

DISCUSSION

At the March Commission meeting the dog park sub-committee was tasked with reviewing the results of the survey and bringing back a report to the May Commission meeting for discussion.

The Dog Park sub-committee will present their report to the Commission. The Commission will discuss the sub-committee's report and possibly decide on a recommendation to City Council.

Attachments:

- A. Dog Park/Off-Leash Sub-Committee Report

The subject of a Los Altos dog park has been considered for many years. According to the discussion in the 2012 Master Los Altos Parks Plan, “A CIP was created in 2009 for construction of a dog park. That project was funded but placed on hold until a site was selected.” This report from the sub-committee of the current Parks and Recreation Commission will

- 1) submit the criteria for a dog park,
- 2) present the pro’s and cons of various dog park locations,
- 3) make a recommendation for the location best suited for an off-leash dog park in Los Altos,
- 4) make a recommendation for a pilot program that allows dogs to be off-leash and owner-supervised (without fences) at suggested locations in town at specified times of the day.

DOG PARK CRITERIA

*A minimum of 10,000 square feet for off-leash activities for dogs of all sizes. (Carmel Village on San Antonio Rd. has 7,500 sf and Mitchell Park in Palo Alto has 22,000 sf.)

*Sufficient parking

*Access to bathrooms

*Sufficient buffer between the park and residences/places of worship

*Access to a water fountain designed for people and pooches

*Adequate shade

*ADA compliant

*Appropriate hours including periods closed for maintenance

*A 4’ or 6’ fence surrounding the dog area with a double entry system

*Properly engineered drainage, surface medium and maintenance regimen that ensures sanitary conditions and a pleasant visit

*Clear and well-placed signs that post park rules

*Seating and small tables

*Covered trashcans

*Free doggie bags

*Waste disposal Stations

DOG PARK LOCATIONS DISCUSSED

- 1) **Grant Park**-fields are heavily used and they could not spare the 10,000-sf needed for a fence enclosure, neighborhood setting would not absorb additional traffic and parked cars, especially from users coming from nearby Cupertino and Sunnyvale
- 2) **Heritage Oaks Park**-although the undeveloped back end of the park is large enough for a fenced dog park with nearby bathrooms and ample shade, the parking is insufficient and the residences are too close
- 3) **Marymeade Park, McKenzie Park and Shoup Park**-the space required for a dog park on the grassy field would virtually eliminate the picnics, Frisbee tosses and open space enjoyment that goes on now.
- 4) **Montclair Park**-no space

- 5) **Redwood Grove**-The close proximity to residences, the quiet enjoyment of a natural setting and the parking demands including Shoup Park and Garden House negate this as a possible dog park location
- 6) **Rosita Park**-The sports fields should not be disturbed. The small area alongside the parking lot is only 20% of the size required.
- 7) **Village Park**-Before this park was renovated, it might have been an anchor activity destination downtown for dogs and dog owners to commune. Too much money has been invested to consider a do-over.
- 8) **Lincoln Park**-There are two sides to Lincoln Park.
 - a. The side between Edith and Main Street is a naturally beautiful grassy field with mature redwoods. But its limited parking, lack of bathrooms, closeness to residences, and its use as a venue for the 4+ decades old *Fine Art in the Park* makes this side of Lincoln inappropriate for a dog park.
 - b. The other side, between Main Street and the start of Orange Ave along Lincoln Avenue would not provide the required 10,000 square feet of land without interfering with places of worship, bathrooms would be needed at great expense, parking would be inadequate when nearby organizations were active and errant balls and Frisbees would require golf range type netting to guard against traffic disruption on the busy Foothill Expressway. If we are willing to settle for a long, narrow dog park with restrictions on playing fetch, such a park exists not too far away in Los Altos Hills at Purissima and Elena Roads.
- 9) **Hillview Park**-The committee unanimously agreed that the 10,000 square foot area for future expansion included in the new Hillview Community Center architectural plans would satisfy all of the criteria for a fenced in dog park. The dog park could be operated on this part of the Hillview Community Center until such time as an additional wing would be added to the Center. In the meantime, the dog park would provide a popular amenity that would build community among 1,000's of potential users and on-lookers. Who doesn't like to watch dogs at play whether they currently own a dog or not?

OFF-LEASH DOG PILOT PROGRAM

The Municipal Code does not permit dogs to be off-leash anywhere in Los Altos. And yet, single or groups of dog owners regularly let their dogs off-leash to play and exercise. The sub-committee recommends that a few parks meeting the selection criteria allow dogs to be off-leash from sunrise to 9am, 7 days a week for a test period to be decided by the full Commission (6 to 12 months?). The program could be canceled at certain parks at any time or at all off-leash parks based on a staff review of complaints and at their sole discretion.

OFF-LEASH PARK CRITERIA

*Trial area designated should not be used as a sports field

*At least one trial location should be convenient to north and south Los Altos

*Sufficient parking

- *Sufficient buffer between the park and residences/places of worship
- *Clear and well-placed signs that post off-leash park rules
- *Covered trashcans
- *Free doggie bags (The City should consider free doggie bag dispensing stations at all Los Altos parks at multiple locations in each park to make it easy for dog owners to succeed in cleaning up after their dogs)
- *Waste disposal Stations

OFF-LEASH LOCATIONS DISCUSSED

- 1) **Grant Park**-A small area alongside the basketball courts and near the playground might provide an early morning off-leash area should the trial program be successful. The small area might require activity limitations.
- 2) **Heritage Oaks Park**-The undeveloped back end of the park might be considered for off-leash activities following a successful trial program elsewhere. The land will need to be reviewed for ground and landscaping improvements to make this space safe and useable.
- 3) **Marymeade Park**-The grassy field is too close to the busy Fremont Road thoroughfare.
- 4) **McKenzie Park**-Dog owners already meet in the morning between the two playgrounds at either end of the grassy field. This park qualifies as our south Los Altos trial location.
- 5) **Shoup Park**- Dog owners already meet in the morning on the grassy field. This park qualifies as our north Los Altos trial location.
- 6) **Montclair Park**-no space
- 7) **Redwood Grove**-The close proximity to residences, the quiet enjoyment of a natural setting, the fragile native vegetation and the parking demands including Shoup Park and Garden House negate this as a possible off-leash dog park location.
- 8) **Rosita Park**- A very small rectangular area alongside the parking lot might provide an early morning off-leash area should the trial program be successful. The small area will require activity limitations.
- 9) **Village Park**-The layout of the space with its close proximity to two busy streets require all dogs to be on-leash at all times of the day or night.
- 10) **Lincoln Park**-There are two sides to Lincoln Park.
 - a. The side between Edith and Main Street is a naturally beautiful grassy field with mature redwoods and is used frequently by owners of small to big dogs to exercise and socialize with other dogs and dog owners. This location provides an alternative north location to Shoup Park or an additional trial park to Shoup with an even larger off-leash area for use from sunrise to 9am. While ball throwing is very controllable, flying discs should be disallowed to discourage errant discs from entering the Foothill Expressway corridor.
 - b. The other side, between Main Street and the start of Orange Ave along Lincoln Avenue could provide an off-leash area limited to small dogs only. Because of the narrow parcel so close to the street, all fetching activities might be disallowed.

- 11) **Hillview Park**-Although the Little League field is used now for dog obedience training and unpermitted off-leash visits, its use as a sports field disqualifies it as a trial candidate. There is a future possibility that after a successful early morning off-leash trial program, the ball field could be tested as an off-leash area during the baseball off-season. Damage to the field from overuse or dog digging would have to be considered and monitored.



STUDY SESSION

Agenda Item # 7

**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog Hours in City Parks

Prepared by: Manny A. Hernandez, Maintenance Services Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Off-leash Pilot Program

Initiated by:

Parks and Recreation Commission

Previous Council Consideration:

None

Fiscal Impact:

Staff time for further research into an off-leash program recommendation.

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does Council want to consider allowing dogs to run off-leash in City parks, contrary to LAMC 5.08.010?
- Does Council want staff to develop and possibly implement an Off-leash Pilot Program as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) recommendation?

Summary:

- Currently, dogs are not allowed off-leash in any City parks in accordance with LAMC 5.08.010
- Los Altos does not have a fenced dog park within the City for dogs to run off-leash
- The PARC recommends restricting off-leash hours to early morning only at the six designated locations
- Cities such as Mountain View, Burlingame, and Foster City currently have off-leash hours in designated city parks

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends conducting additional research on off-leash dog hours in City parks to formulate a recommended pilot program for further City Council review

Reviewed By:

City Manager

City Attorney

Finance Director



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog hours in City Parks

Purpose

Consider the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) for a pilot off-leash program in existing parks.

Background

In July of 2017, the PARC created a Dog Park subcommittee to investigate how the City might create opportunities for dog activity through fenced dog parks and/or off-leash dog hours in existing City parks. The subcommittee met on several occasions and reported back to the Commission on a regular basis over a 12-month period of analysis. The subcommittee took tours of parks and City-owned land to better understand possibilities for dog activity. The PARC discussed the feasibility of a fenced dog park at several different Los Altos parks as well as off-leash hours in existing City parks.

During that time, the Dog Park subcommittee reviewed the Parks Plan criteria for a dog park in Los Altos. After considering that criteria, the PARC was unable to find a suitable location for the installation of a fenced dog park. Ultimately, at the July 2018 meeting, the PARC did not formulate a recommendation for a fenced dog park at any of the current City owned properties. At that meeting a proposal was brought forward for off-leash dog hours at existing City parks. The program recommendation is outlined in Attachment 1.

Discussion/Analysis

The Dog Park subcommittee defined a ‘fenced dog park’ as a space surrounded by a low-level fence where dogs could enter with their owners and run free within the fenced space. Many surrounding cities, such as Los Altos Hills, have a fenced dog park. Fenced dog parks are known for bringing the dog owning community together at a specified location and giving the dogs an opportunity to run off-leash in a safe, confined space. The initial capital costs for building a fenced dog park on park open space combined with ongoing maintenance costs significantly exceed the costs that are associated with simply maintaining that park open space without the addition of a dog park. In addition to the costs of such a project, the PARC considered the criteria outlined in the 2012 Parks Plan, such as park size, parking, and the presence of a buffer between residential homes.

The Dog Park subcommittee also investigated off-leash hours in existing City parks. ‘Off-leash’ is defined by the Dog Park subcommittee as the utilization of existing park open space to allow dogs to run off-leash at designated locations during specified times. Advantages of this type of program include the absence of capital costs and lower maintenance costs, partially due to the ability to limit the usage times at any given location. Another advantage is that multiple locations throughout the City can be designated as off-leash, increasing accessibility to different areas of the City. Drawbacks include concern for the safety of dogs who might run into the streets as well the interaction between off-leash dogs and non-dog park users.



Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation on Off-leash Dog hours in City Parks

At its July 11, 2018 meeting, PARC Commissioner Lilygren made the following motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Heley:

“The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the City adopt an off-leash pilot program. Prior to advancing the recommendation to Council, the Dog Park subcommittee will work with City staff to identify the best locations and hours.” The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

After the PARC made this recommendation, they maintained the Dog Park subcommittee, which is still looking into options for a fenced dog park in Los Altos. With some recent findings by the Dog Park subcommittee, the PARC may have a recommendation on a fenced dog park in the near future.

Options

- 1) Direct staff to develop a pilot Off-leash Dog Program proposal in existing City parks, utilizing the PARC recommendation while considering risk mitigation strategies and learning from the experiences of neighboring agencies with off-leash programs

Advantages: Staff will be able to gather information from other agencies on current off-leash dog programs. Staff will have the opportunity to work with Risk Management services to assess the level of risk that might be assumed by the City through such a program

Disadvantages: None

- 2) Direct staff to not invest further time looking into an off-leash dog program as recommended by the PARC

Advantages: Savings in staff time

Disadvantages: None

Recommendation

The staff recommends Option 1.

The dog park subcommittee has been directed by the rest of the commission to focus on researching the possibility of implementing off leash hours at certain parks. This report from the subcommittee will:

- 1) Make an updated recommendation of parks suitable for off leash dog activity during certain designated hours
- 2) Present rules for off leash dogs and owners

Off Leash Pilot

The subcommittee recommends that dogs be allowed off leash at certain parks from Sunrise-9am when school is in session, and Sunrise-8am during summertime in order to minimize the interaction between children and off leash dogs. The test period for this program would last for 12 months, and can be cancelled at anytime by city staff if serious issues or complaints arise.

Suitable Parks for Off-Leash Hours

- 1) **McKenzie Park**- This park is currently very popular amongst dog owners and is a great place for dogs to exercise. The grassy area where dogs run around is located between 2 playgrounds that are commonly used, however, the given hours are designed to prevent any issues between children and dogs. This location also provides a space for South Los Altos residents to exercise their dogs off leash.
- 2) **Shoup Park**- The grassy area of Shoup park is a very popular place for dog owners to convene in the morning, and the park provides suitable space for dogs to exercise.
- 3) **Lincoln Park**- The section of Lincoln Park located between Edith and Main Street is frequently used by dog owners as a place to exercise their dogs. The fencing along Lincoln Park provides a sufficient buffer from Foothill Expressway in order to ensure safety of the dogs. However, if frisbees and throwing devices were to be permitted at Lincoln Park, the subcommittee recommends that a driving range type netting be added or a tall chain link fence along Foothill Expressway in order to prevent objects from interfering with vehicles and bicycles on the busy thoroughfare. An example of an attractive, very high, black chain link fence can be viewed bordering the west side of the new El Camino Park in Palo Alto located between Alma and the El Camino across from the Stanford Shopping center.
- 4) **Little League Field at Hillview Park**- Although the Little League field was previously disregarded as a possible trial location, the subcommittee has decided to include it as a suitable location for off leash hours since it is currently used for dog obedience training. In order to preserve the condition of the field, the subcommittee recommends that dogs

be allowed off leash only when Little League is not in season. Damages to the field will be monitored in order to maintain the field's condition.

- 5) **Heritage Oaks Park-** The grassy area of Heritage Oaks is a popular place for dog owners to allow their dogs to run around. However, given the parks proximity to Portland Avenue, the subcommittee recommends that a fence be added. This fence would help ensure the safety of dogs along with children from running into a busy street
- 6) **Marymeade Park-** The field of Marymeade Park is spacious and would serve as a good place for dogs to run around. However, this park is very close to Fremont Road. The subcommittee recommends that a fence be added in order to prevent dogs from running into traffic.

Rules for Off Leash Dogs

- 1) Dogs are only allowed off leash during the designated hours, and they must be kept on a leash at all other times
- 2) All dogs must remain within the designated area while off leash
- 3) Frisbees or throwing devices would be allowed or disallowed as posted on the list of Rules based on the Park
- 4) Dogs must be under voice command
- 5) Owners must clean up after their dog
- 6) Dogs must be up to date with vaccinations
- 7) Owners must supervise their dog at all times
- 8) Owners must be able to control their dog at all times
- 9) Dogs are not allowed off-leash on playgrounds or sports fields (other than seasonally allowed at specified times on the Hillview Little League field)



DATE: April 10, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Manuel A. Hernandez, Commission Liaison
SUBJECT: Dog Park Sub-Committee Update

BACKGROUND

The Dog Park sub-committee is tasked by the Parks and Recreation Commission to look into options for a dog park, in addition to other possible dog activities in the City of Los Altos.

DISCUSSION

The Dog Park Sub-committee met on Friday, January 04 at McKenzie Park to look at and discuss the possibility of recommending a fenced-in dog park at this location. The discussion was about if a dog park could work in the front portion of McKenzie Park between the tennis courts and Fremont Ave. This area currently contains benches tables and a climbing play structure and is separated from the large green space and children's play structures that are located on the other side of the City Maintenance Services yard.

The Commission will receive the sub-committee update on their discussions and possibly make a motion on recommendation.

Attachments:

- A. Dog Park Sub-committee Recommendation

Recommendations for a Dog Park

Dog Park Subcommittee

Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Los Altos

Need for a Dog Park. Los Altos and Palo Alto have many demographics in common. Each has two ZIP codes among the top 10 most expensive ZIP codes in the country.¹ Mountain View, which is listed as the 18th most expensive ZIP in the country, also shares many things with Los Altos, including an elementary school district which serves both communities. Another thing these communities share in common is that they are all “dog” cities. Palo Alto has five fenced-in dog parks. Mountain View has two fenced-in dog parks, one at Shoreline and the other as part of the San Antonio mall complex. Los Altos residents would also like a dog park. In a recent survey, 83.2% of those residents participating said they would like a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos², an unprecedented number of positive responses for any recent city survey. This level of interest is backed up by hard numbers: the Palo Alto animal control officer estimates that there are 3800 active dog licenses in Los Altos.³ The role of pets in this community is further reinforced by the fact that one of the top ten businesses in the City is one of its companion animal veterinary practices.⁴ However one might extrapolate the number of adults per household, that’s a lot of Los Altos voters who would benefit from a dog park.

Gating Issues. The absence of a dog park in Los Altos has not been for lack of trying. Some of the issues that have united citizens in their desire for one have also impeded choice of any specific location: With the city spread out, what single location would be convenient to both North and South Los Altos? If a dog park goes into an existing park in my neighborhood, what park space would we be giving up? How would the additional traffic impact the neighborhood? How would noise levels impact nearby residents? And with comparatively less parkland than surrounding communities, do we even have enough land to dedicate to the dog community? Those of us on the Parks and Recreation Commission Dog Park (PARC) Subcommittee view these not as impediments to a successful outcome, but rather as useful input for selecting a location that addresses citizen concerns.

Location Recommendation. The PARC Dog Park Subcommittee recommendations have previously been that an ideal dog park would be at least 10,000 square feet.⁵ More recently, the Subcommittee has identified a location which, while only about 7,000 square feet, meets many criteria for a dog park site. The location is the part of McKenzie Park that borders on Fremont Avenue. This triangular site backs up on the City’s tennis courts on one side and commercial (medical offices) on the other side. Residential properties on one side are buffered by offices on both sides of Altos Oaks. Residential properties on the other side are buffered by Fremont and Foothill Expressway. When the City of Beverly Hills did a noise mitigation study for a dog park⁶, they concluded that the change in noise level would be minimal (3 decibels) and in the Los Altos location this Subcommittee is recommending the existing traffic is likely contribute more noise than a dog park would.

The McKenzie Park location has more than adequate parking, currently used by City employees working at the adjacent City maintenance yard, as well as by residents using the two City tennis courts. According to City staff, excess parking is typically used by employees at the adjacent medical offices. The location is not currently used for any of the Parks and

Recreation programs, so no program would need to be terminated or relocated. There are easily-accessible rest rooms serving both parts of McKenzie Park. The location is easily accessible to both North Los Altos and South Los Altos residents via the City's main thoroughfares, without creating any additional traffic on any residential streets.

Alternative or additional locations. The Dog Park Subcommittee has identified other locations that are large enough to accommodate a dog park and can also be subdivided into two separate areas. One is the space on the Hillview campus adjacent to the Bus Barn and the soccer field. It currently has two older oak trees that have been evaluated by an arborist. Assuming that the site would be safe for both tree health and public use, it could house a fenced-in dog park. Like the other site, it has nearby parking and rest rooms. It is also fairly central to North Los Altos. Another location could be adjacent to the new community center. It would have the same advantages of the Hillview site adjacent to the Bus Barn, with the disadvantage that implementation would be delayed until completion of the community center. These other locations are not being submitted as recommendations, but rather to document the Subcommittee's process in its review of different sites.

Programs. A fenced-in dog park offers the Los Altos dog community a *de facto* community center. Drawing from programs that other cities have implemented for their dog parks, a McKenzie Park fenced-in dog park could provide:

- Unstructured time: a chance for dogs to play, and an opportunity for owners to socialize;
- Dog instruction: obedience, agility, conformation (dog showing), and puppy training classes, as well as testing for the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) designation. The Deep Peninsula Dog Training Club and the West Valley Dog Training Club have both offered well-attended classes in Mountain View;
- A special needs meet-and-greet: an all-inclusive opportunity for those with special needs to bring their dogs (emotional support and otherwise), meet with other families with similar needs, and socialize with others who want to join them. This is being done in other communities, such as Cincinnati, which has done this as a "pop-up park" concept that has been very well received⁷; and
- An animal shelter and rescue group meet-and-greet: where these groups would have the opportunity to introduce adoptable dogs to the community.

A fenced-in dog park in Los Altos could serve additional purposes. It could provide those who do not have a dog in their family and opportunity to come, spend time in the dog park, and see if a dog is right for their family. If the City of Los Altos were to create a fenced-in dog park and work out relationships with dog training clubs, as Mountain View has, it could allow the Parks Department to expand its programming under the aegis of such clubs, without additional programming costs.

Design. The McKenzie Park location has a fence on one side for the tennis courts. Buildout for a dog park would require:

- fencing the rest of the perimeter;
- a fenced divider to demarcate two separate areas, one for larger dogs, and the other for smaller or gentler dogs;

- two double-gated “airlocks,” with self-closing gate, for entrance and exit into each of the two areas;
- replacement of the surface with hardy grass varieties, such as Buffalo or Red Creeping grass, or more likely a decomposed granite (DG) surface to deal with normal wear and tear;
- possible grading to ensure adequate runoff;
- possible additional landscaping along the perimeter that McKenzie park shares with the Altos Oaks properties;
- retention of tables and benches in each section;
- removal of playground equipment and possible replacement with dog agility equipment;
- possible removal of some small trees and fencing around other larger trees;
- plastic bag dispensers and waste containers;
- additional handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the site;
- a community bulletin board to post scheduled events, dog-related service; and
- signage for the park’s rules.

Dog Park Rules. Many municipal dog parks are divided into two distinct areas. Some divide their parks into large and small dogs. Others divide them into large and smaller or gentler dogs. The Dog Park Subcommittee prefers the latter, because some older dogs, while large in size, may be more docile. Other posted rules typically include adult supervision (no dogs brought in by people under a specific age), number of dogs allowed, pickup requirements, vaccination compliance, and dog park etiquette. The Subcommittee will be submitting photo examples of rules and signage used for other dog parks. To our knowledge, no changes in our City code or ordinances would be required for a fenced-in off-leash dog park.

Ongoing Changes in the Community. All Bay Area communities are facing housing challenges. The State of California is mandating additional housing units, and the City of Los Altos is addressing this with Accessory Dwelling Units and higher-density multifamily development where developers are seeking variances in allowable square footage and setback requirements. Another fact of Bay Area living in 2019 is that dogs are, and will continue to be, part of the social and emotional fabric of families. The confluence of higher-density living, an overall decrease in per capita yard size, and the desire for families to include a companion animal, all work together to put pressure on our finite park space, and we expect that will put greater pressure on the City of Los Altos for use of our parks. In what we, the Dog Park Subcommittee, believe to be an extremely inclusive process, Los Altos citizens have had ample opportunity to present, in their comments to the Parks and Recreation Commission, their views regarding a dog park. The overall consensus is “yes” to a definite need for a dog park and “no” to various locations. The Dog Park Subcommittee has listened, done its due diligence on various locations, and believes that the site it is recommending takes into consideration the views of the City’s residence and represents the best of all possible options. Furthermore, it believes that providing 3800 households or approximately 1 dog owner for every 2 square feet of park space is a useful and reasonable metric for any cost/benefit analysis of use of its park space.

Recommendations. The Dog Park Subcommittee is recommending that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the McKenzie Park site for forwarding on to City Council for their consideration and approval. The Dog Park Subcommittee further requests that PARC

approve submitting this entire report, both as documentation of the thoroughness of this process and as a recommendation for a site of choice and alternative sites, to City Council for their consideration and approval.

¹ 24/7 Wall Street report, reported on in 12/17/2018 article in USA Today

<https://247wallst.com/special-report/2018/12/07/these-are-the-most-expensive-zip-codes-in-2018>

² City of Los Altos dog park survey https://www.losaltosca.gov/community/page/open-city-hall#peak_democracy

³ May 10, 2018 email communication with Cody Macartney, Interim Superintendent, Animal Services Division, Palo Alto Police Department (The City of Palo Alto oversees Los Altos pet licensing)

⁴ Wikipedia article https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Altos,_California , reporting on City of Los Altos Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

http://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/Finance%20and%20Technology/page/875/cafr_fy2009-2010.pdf

⁵ From Dog Park Criteria submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission Subcommittee as Attachment A of the May 2018 meeting

⁶ City of Beverly Hills Draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration, Dog Park Project

<http://www.beverlyhills-ca.gov/cbhfiles/storage/files/1622915470371464222/DogParkMNDDraft.pdf>

⁷ WLWT television report on pop-up dog park in Cincinnati, OH

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/teen-with-rare-disability-connects-community-through-pop-up-puppy-park/22551295>

From: [M.Squire](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Donna Legge](#)
Subject: Cover letter for Petition Opposing Off-Leash at HOP and Map
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:35:14 PM

Dear Council Members,

On Nov. 10 the City Council will be voting on a proposal presented to you by the Park and Recreation Commission. This is a proposal to establish a Pilot Program to have Off-Leash Dog Hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

We would like to draw your attention to the petition we sent in to Donna Legge and the City Council opposing Off-Leash Dog Hours at Heritage Oaks Park. (HOP)

HOP neighbors did not get proper advanced notice about the May 20, 2020 PARC meeting and only heard about it 4 days ahead of that meeting. The Park Commission was to vote on an Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at HOP. There was not enough time to get a petition organized and signed opposing it. The Commission voted that night to establish Off-Leash Hours at Heritage Oaks Park even after the majority of neighbors spoke against this proposal.

Since May, we have been gathering signatures opposing this Pilot Program at HOP.

We have 244 signatures from neighbors, park users and parents of Coach Ken's Soccer Academy opposing the Off –Leash Pilot program at Heritage Oaks Park.

The vast majority of people are Los Altos residents. Other non-resident signatures were gathered mostly from Mountain View and Sunnyvale residents and are from the above mentioned parents of the soccer program.

The parents are paying the City of Los Altos class fees to attend and are concerned about feces not being picked up and the dogs using the same grassy area as the soccer classes. They are also worried about the safety of their children encountering a charging unleashed dog when they use the park at other times.

Not all dog owners are in favor of off leash hours at the park and we collected signatures also from those some of those folks. Most of the people signing did indicate that they bring their children to the park.

Safety issues are the main concern for not having Off –Leash Hours at HOP. But there are many others including, unprotected playground structures, lack of parking, traffic congestion, and noise from multiple barking dogs, yelling and whistling, to name a few.

We would also like the Council to take note of the map of McKenzie Avenue residents who live directly across the street. **There is 100% opposition from every house on McKenzie against Off-Leash at HOP.** There is not enough buffer between the park and the residences, which was one on the initial criteria for

establishing a dog park by PARC. We live on McKenzie. Our house is 25 feet across the street from the park to our property line and another 25 feet to our front door.

This distance is an easy jaunt for a dog to run into our living room, which has happened last December. The dog was unleashed and the owner was not paying attention to the dog. Currently all dogs must be on a leash according to the sign on the hill at Heritage Oaks Park.

Hillview Park was also voted on in May by PARC to have a Pilot Program. There has not been much opposition to that park. We think that Hillview provides a viable location for dog owners to exercise their dogs and would be a good place for an Off-Leash Pilot program.

We understand that there were petitions against Off-Leash at Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park (not on McKenzie Ave.) They were presented to PARC and it was decided not to go forward with Off-Leash at those parks. **These petitions each had less than our 244 signatures and their opposition and opinions were listened to.**

PARC has recommended a Pilot for Off -Leash Hours at Heritage Oaks despite residents' concerns. We are respectfully asking the Council to consider all the reasons Heritage Oaks Park is not an appropriate location for Off-Leash Hours and reject the proposal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Millie and John Squire

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

The Los Altos City Council will vote soon on a proposed pilot program for off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park. Off-leash dogs would use the same grassy area also used by the City's soccer program and many other recreational and sports activities. The proposed off-leash hours would create a nuisance and safety risk to children and other park users. The increased number of off-leash dogs would disturb and displace many park users and park activities, especially during the popular late afternoon and evening hours. Greater numbers of off-leash dogs would also be a nuisance and a safety risk to pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists on park trails and adjacent streets.

The Dog Park Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission is still working on details of the proposal, but all potential modifications would still include off-leash dogs in Heritage Oaks Park.

We, the undersigned, are OPPOSED to the City's proposal to establish off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

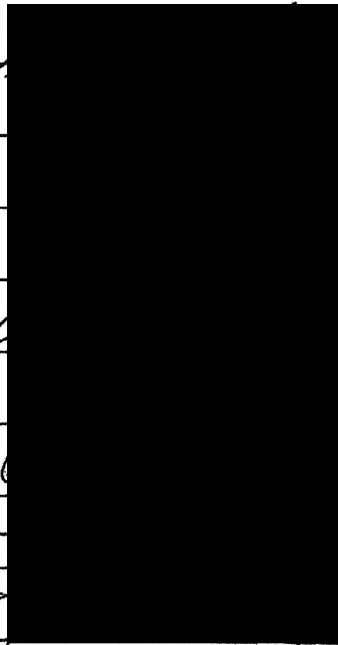
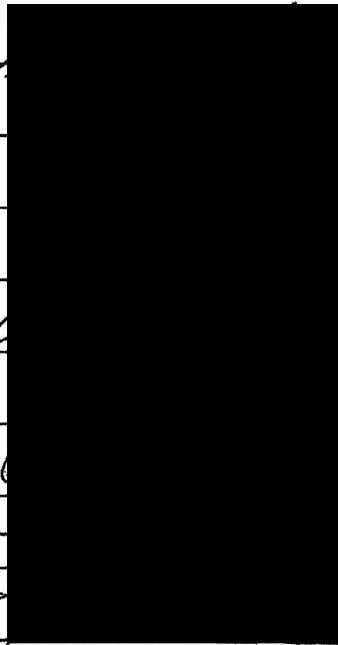
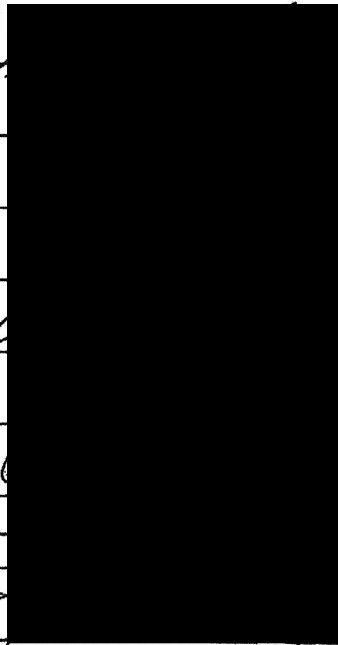
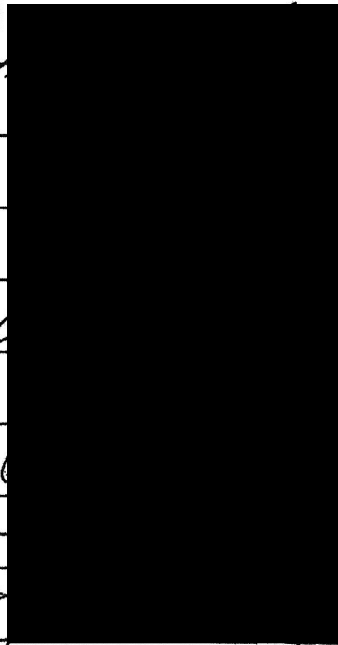
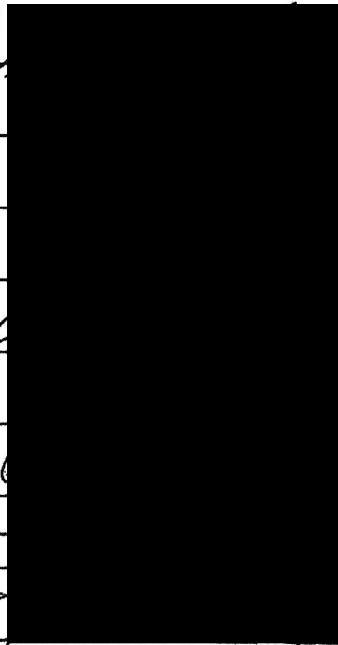
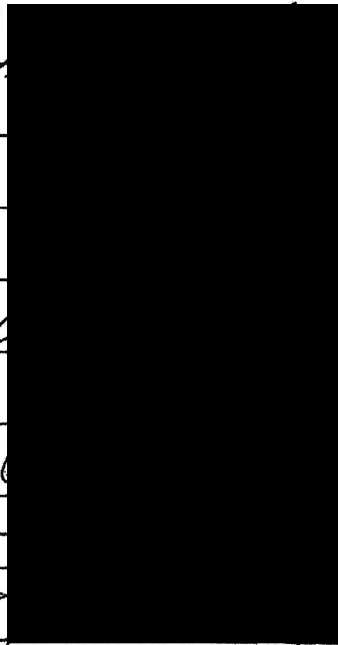
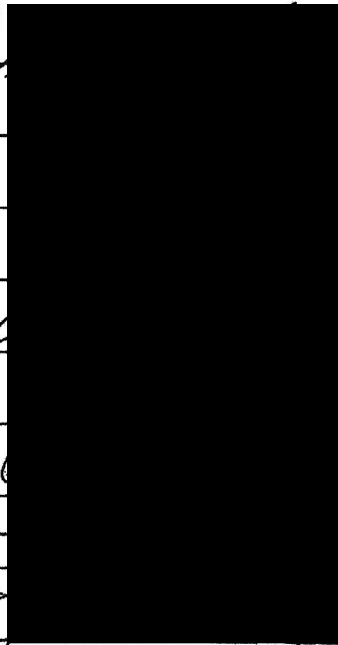
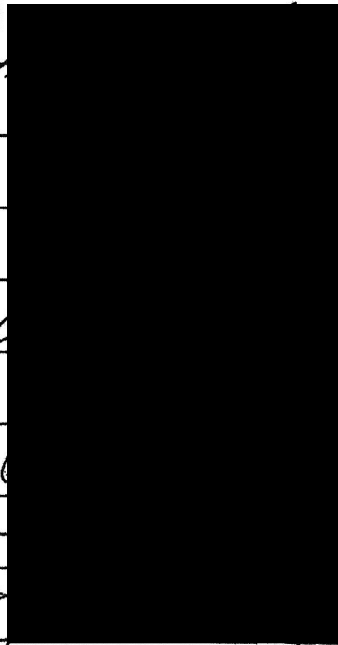
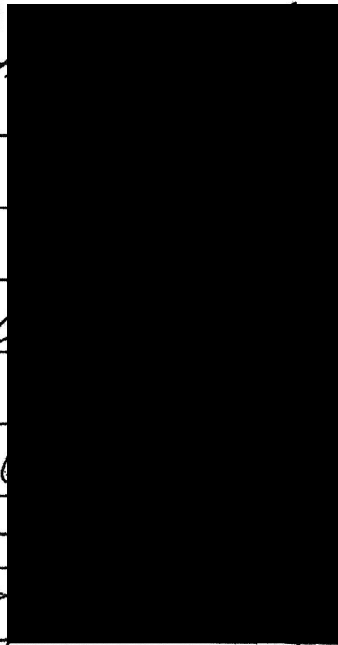
Signature	Print Name	Street Address (optional, but at least the name of your street is appreciated)	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? (Yes/No)
	Maya Bronicki	1081 St. Joseph Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Yorval Bronicki	1081 St. Joseph Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Nadav Bronicki	1081 St. Joseph Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Noa Bronicki	1081 St. Joseph Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Kimia Famili-Yadegar	1360 Carvo Ct.	LA	Y	Y	NO
	Behrooz Yadegar	11	11	"	"	"
	Lisa Norani	1460 HOLLY AVE.	LA	Y	Y	Used to be
	ALAN NORANI	9	"	"	"	"
	Tsang-Tou Yang	1194 Payne Dr.	LA	Y	Y	no

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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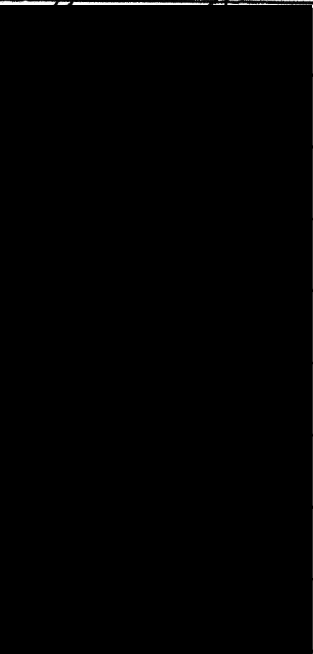
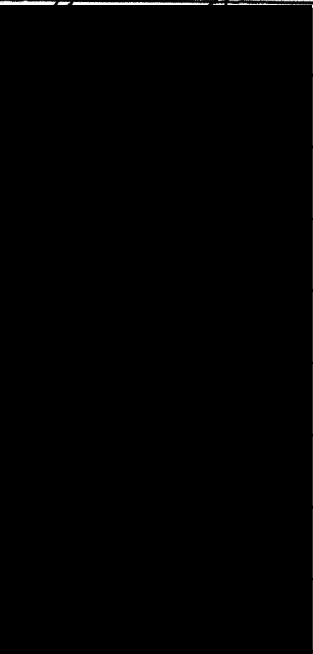
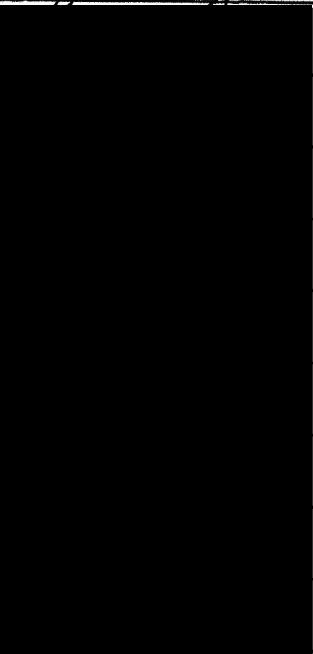
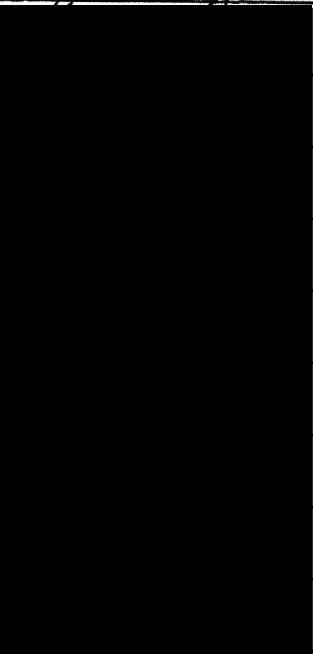
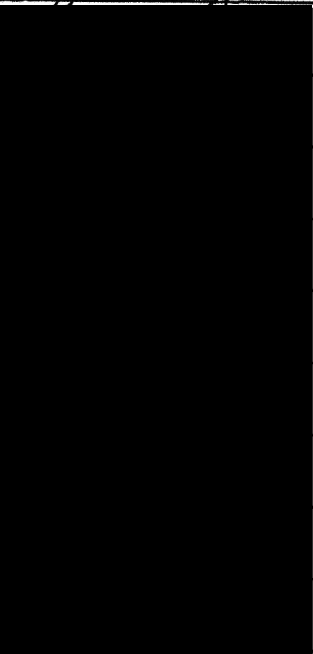
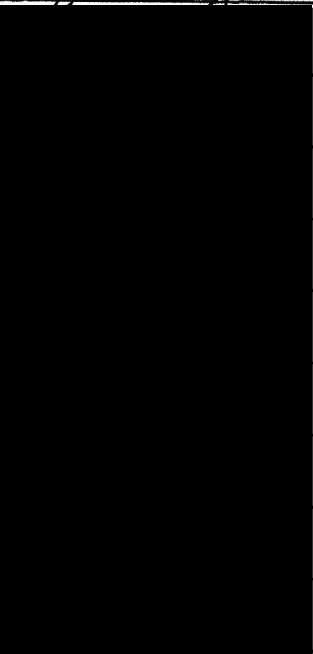
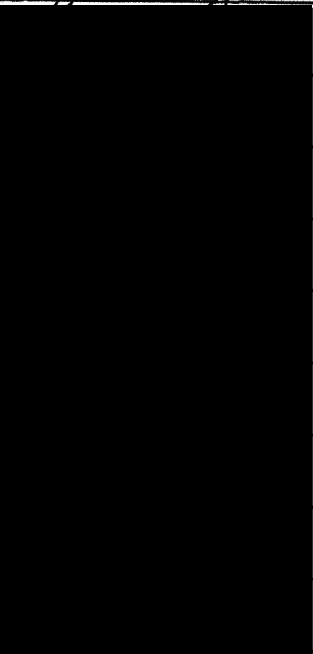
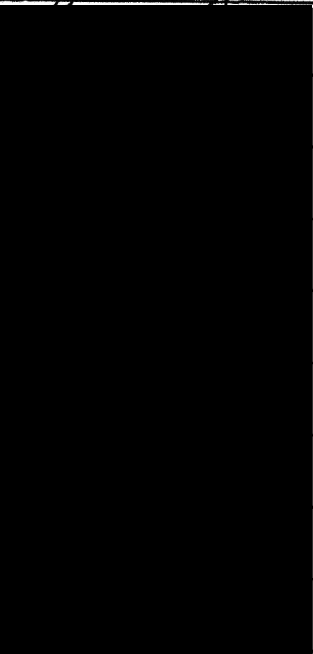
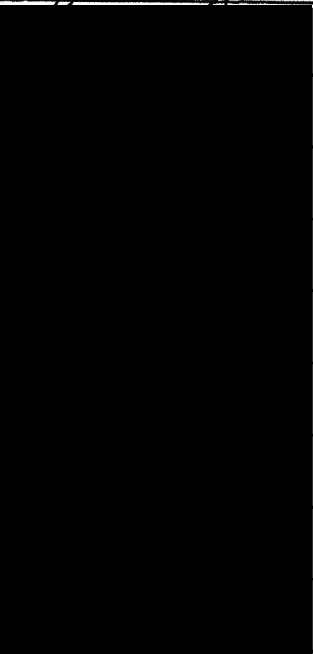
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	RICHARD A. McALPINY	1395 McKenzie	LA	X	X	N
	NAN McALPINY	"	LA	Y	Y	N
	Dwight Nadel	667 Orange Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Iris Roth	" "	LA	Y	Y	N
	Gregory Ross	174 E. Charleston Rd	CA	Y	N	N
	Aaron Alpas	1605 Shirley Ave	LA	Y	N	N
	Bruce Alpas	1605 Shirley Ave	LA	Y	N	N
	JAMES TOROSI	1262 NIGHTINGALE CT	CA	Y	N	N
	SUSAN CUMMINGS	1262 Nightingale	LA	Y	Y	Y

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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The Dog Park Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission is still working on details of the proposal, but all potential modifications would still include off-leash dogs in Heritage Oaks Park.

We, the undersigned, are OPPOSED to the City's proposal to establish off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

Signature	Print Name	Street Address (optional, but at least the name of your street is appreciated)	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? Yes/No
	LOWRETH		LA	Y	Y	Y
	Manson Conn		LA	Y	N	N
	Quang Nguyen	Eureka Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Kiana Ariyama	Parma Way	LA	Y	N	Y
	Daniel Aharon	Granger Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Jonathan Aharon	188 Granger Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	David Aharon	1825 Grange Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Ruth Berkow	Granger Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Yeela Bronick	1081 St. Jughan	LA	Y	Y	Y

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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	MICHAEL CARPENE	1255 PORTLAND AVENUE	LA	Y	N	NO
	Andrew Brown	1385 Mckenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	NO
	Sarah Brown	1385 Mckenzie Ave	LA	Y	X	NO
	Alicia Brames	1688 Stevens Pl Unit B	LA	Y	Y	NO
	KEREN SHAHAR	1335 MCKENZIE AVE	LA	Y	Y	Yes
	Shai Mansoor	1335 Mckenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Abigail Stueker	1370 Mckenzie	LA	Y	Y	N
	Ryan Bahur		LA	Y	Y	Y
	Madison Caspell	1370 Mckenzie	LA	Y	Y	N
	Dan Stueker	1370 MCKENZIE	LA	Y	Y	N

4/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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	Xiomara	969 Eichler Pl	LA	Y	Y	No
	Inna	Lisa Ln	LA	Y	Y	No
	Louise	Lisa Ln.	LA	Y	Y	No
	Nika	Dalbust Ave	LA	Y	Y	No
	Greta	Briarwood Ct	LA	Y	Y	No
	Sarah	Cesano Ct	LA	Y	Y	No
	Maddy Kinsky	Montclair Way	LA	Y	N	Yes
	Laura Jane	Altamont	LA	Y	N	Yes
	Kevin Hernandez		LA	Y	N	N
	Azhar Deen	Eureka Ave	LA	Y	N	Yes

5/31

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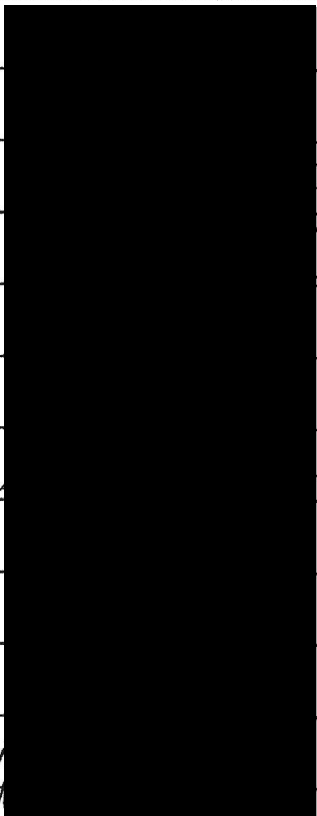
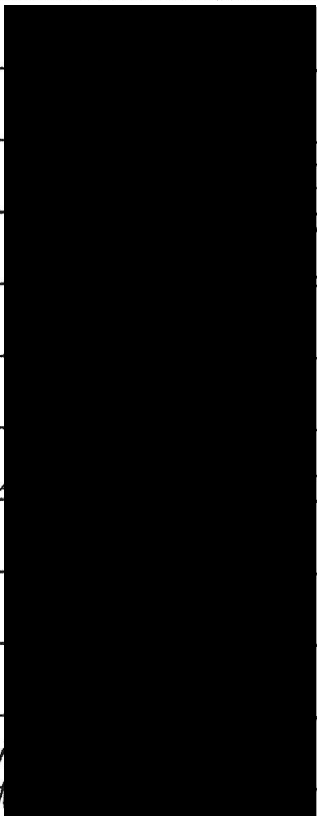
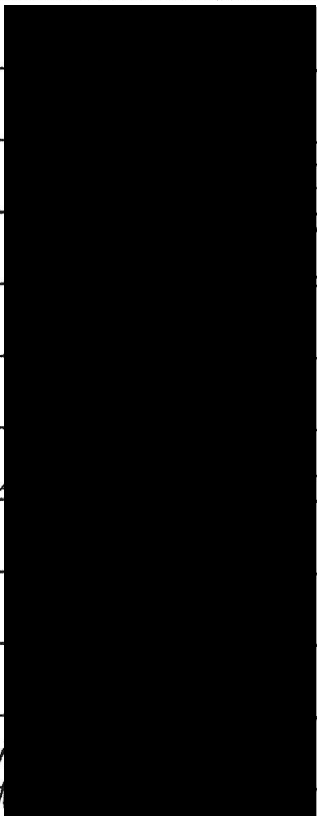
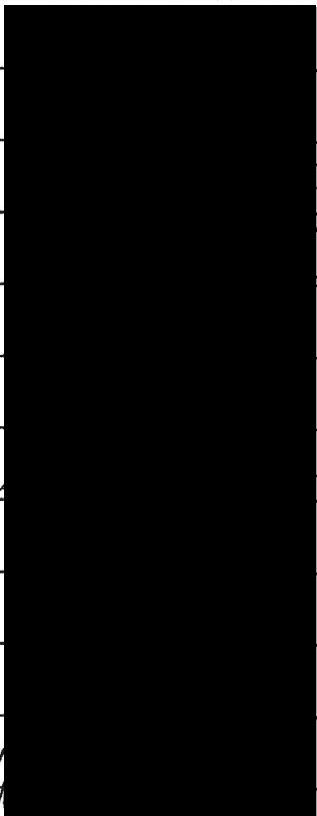
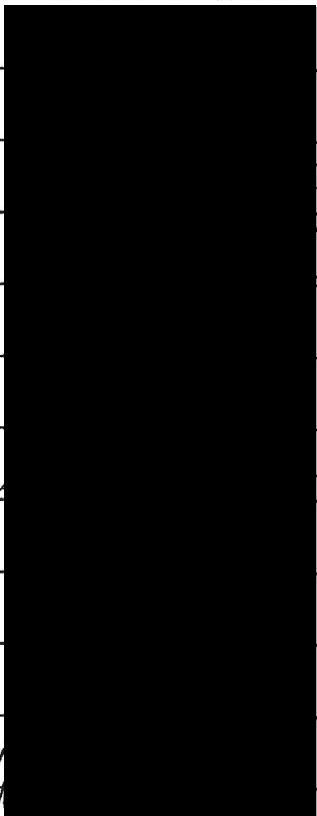
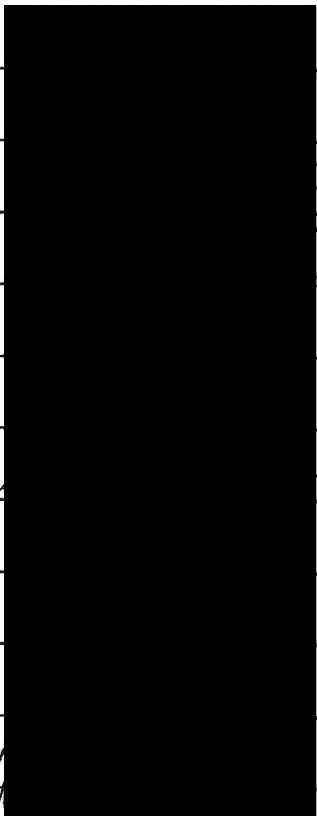
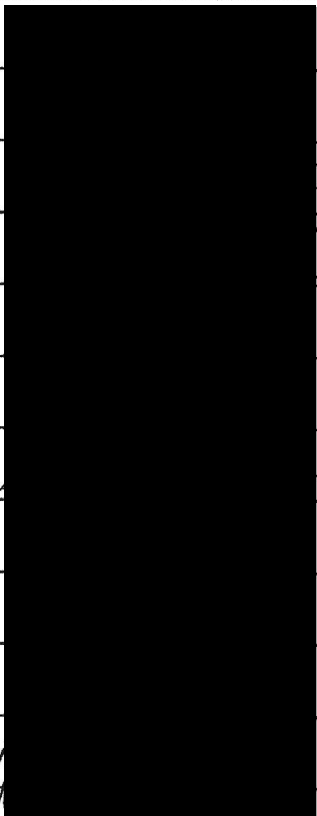
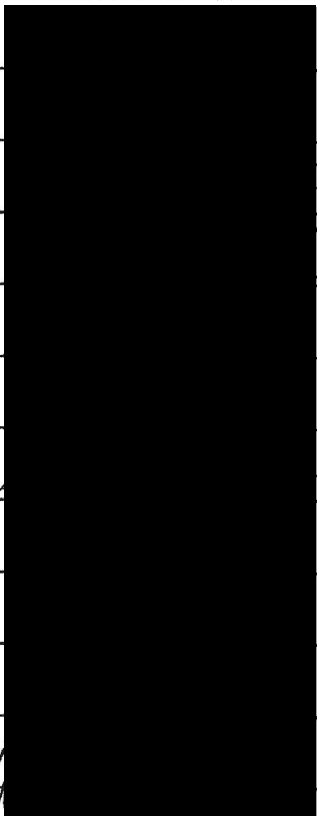
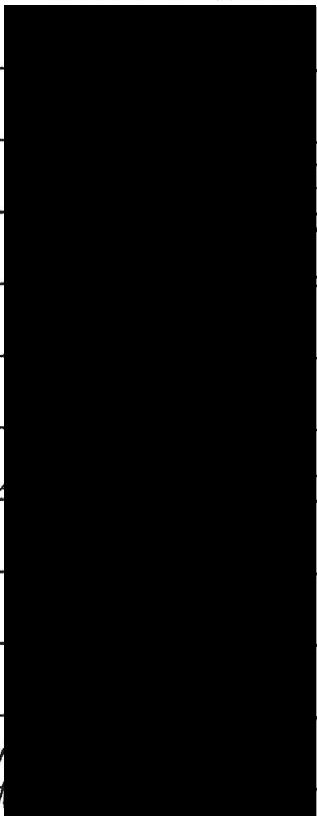
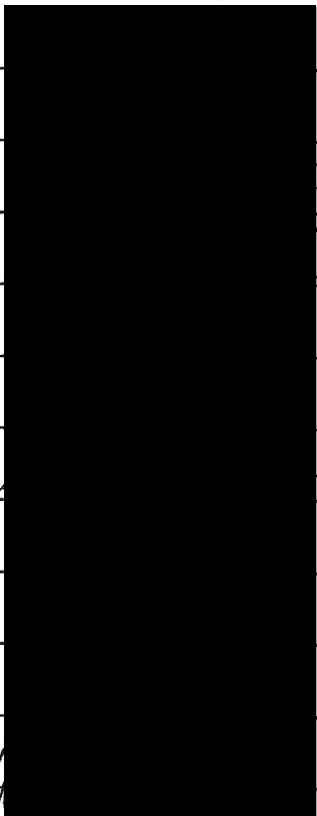
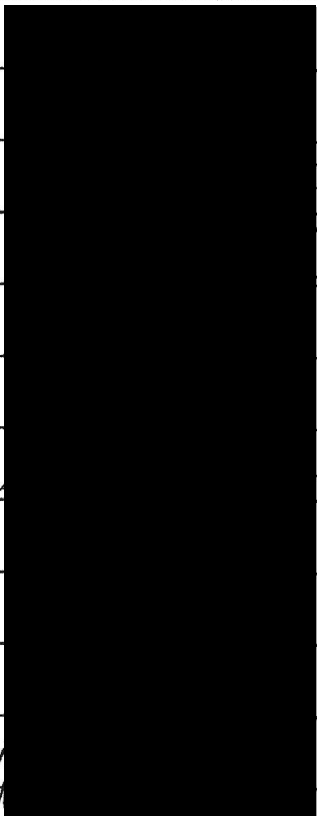
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	Mary Anne Williams	1511 McKenzie Ave	LA	X		Y		N	
	James Williams	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Mirit Zandman	1363 Cuestro Ave Cupertino	MV	Y		N		X	
	Dov Zandman	- -	MV	X		N		X	
	JITKA DINGOVA	1250 HERITAGE	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Tony Karabanov	1473 Miramonte Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Brian Salmeron	1417 Brookline (R)	LA	Y		Y		N	
	GIRI TATAVARTI	1285 RICHARDS AVE	LA	Y		Y		Y	
	Pranav Tatavarti	1285 Richards Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y		Y	
	SUBHA TATAVARTI	1285 Richards Ave	LA	Y		Y		Y	

6/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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Signature	Print Name	Street Address	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? Yes/No
	Chaya shahar	1335 Mckenzie Ave	LA	Yes	Yes	NO
	Menashe shahar	1335 MCKENZIE AVE	LA	Yes	Yes	NO
	Susan Stout	20635 ^{Creek} OR LA ^{San-} atope	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Carol Lin	226 Morse Ave	Sunnyvale	Y	N	N
	Jindrid Ding	1250 Heritage Ct	LA	Y	Y	U
	Allison J. Teiplo-	1300 Holly Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Morgan Taylor-Cohen	1300 Holly Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	A. FISCHER	Cuesta	LA	Y	Y	Y
	D. FISCHER	618 CUESTA DR	LA	Y	Y	Y
	MANISH SARIN	1287 FREMONT	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Amy Schroeder	970 Berry Ave	LA	Y	Y	N

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Signature	Print Name	Street Address	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? Yes/No
	Anu Murthy	Mtn View		N	Y	N
	Paul Smith	Los Altos	LA	Y	N	N
	Jodie B.	Los Altos	LA	Y	N	N
	Naomi Yu	1208 Green Oak Ln. Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Y	N	N
	Greg Takayama	1208 Green Oak Ln. Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Y	N	N
	Daniel Rubashinsky	1301 McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Laila Rubashinsky	1301 McKenzie	LA	Y	Y	N
	Iek Teng Wu	1071 Suffolk Way	LA	Y	Y	N
	Jianchao Yang	1071 Suffolk Way	LA	Y	Y	N
	Diana So	1380 Villa St.	LA	Y	Y	N
	Krista Szyncl	325 Chamisal Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y

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[Redacted]	SIVA SELAKUMAR	1049 Fremont Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	SENDUR SELAKUMAR	"	"	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	MARC JANKOVICH	1070 Autumn L	LA	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	LISA IWAHASHI	"	"	Y	N	N
[Redacted]	Yasmin Shekhat	1340 Mykonos Ave	LA	yes	No	No
[Redacted]	emily karsky	1245 Montclair way	LA	yes	no	yes
[Redacted]	ANA PEREZ	535 ROSE STREET, M	MV	yes	yes	No
[Redacted]	Sander Us	551 ROBERT CT	SV	Y	Y	No
[Redacted]	Richard Feldman	1159 Lisa Lane	LA	Y	N	N
[Redacted]	MOISE NAHOURLI	969 EICHLER DR.	MV	Y	Y	NO
[Redacted]	KATRIN KHAK	969 EICHLER DR.	MV	Y	Y	No

9/31

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	David Wray	Oakhurst Ave		Y	Y	N
	KEN BAER	7085 SPANGLER ROAD	LA	N	N	Yes!
	GREG BALKAN	1575 Oakhurst Ave	LA	Y	N	N
	RASHMI SINGH	1121 Russell Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y
	GAURAV LAMBA	Same "	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Dr. Lubich	1021 Suffolk Way	LA	NO	N	NO
	J. Zelenko	1896 Middleton Ave	LA	Y	N	Y
	BEATRICE ZELENSKO	1896 Middleton Ave	LA	Y	N	Y
	Idan Zelenko	1896 Middleton Ave	LA	Y	N	Y

10/31

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	Lee-Jin Yang	1194 Payne Dr.	CA	Y	Y	No
	Minnie	1281 Eureka	LA	Y	Y	No
	Lokesh	6604 El Camino Dr.	CA	Y	N	No
	Pooja	6604 El Camino Dr	CA	Y	N	No
	Arusha	6604 El Camino Dr	CA	Y	N	No
	Helen	635 Marguerite Ave	CA	Y	Y	No
	Kyan	" "	CA	Y	Y	No
	MIRIAM UMEOKA	1343 MCKENZIE AVE	CA	Y	N	YES
	EMILIO UMEOKA	1343 MCKENZIE AVE	CA	Y	N	YES

11/31

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	Lana Shukhman	1259 Heritage Ct	LA	Y	Y	N
	Alex Shukhman	1259 Heritage Ct	LA	Y	Y	N
	Rita Shmurakov	" "	CA	Y	Y	N
	Priya Shmurakov	" "	LA	Y	Y	N

12/31

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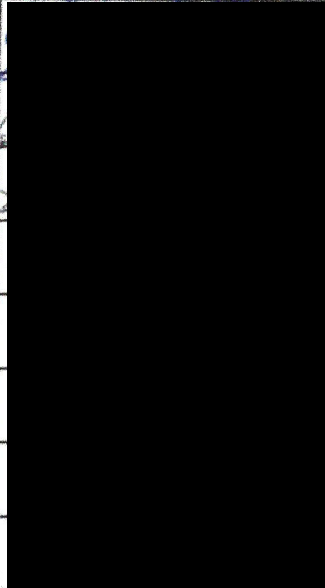
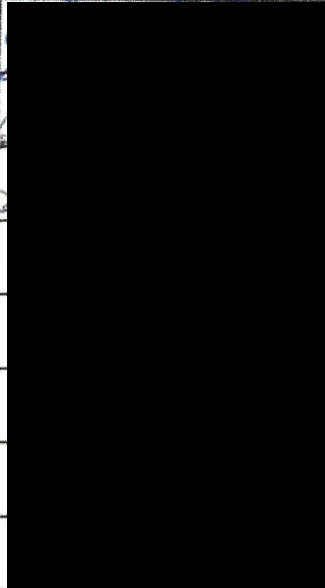
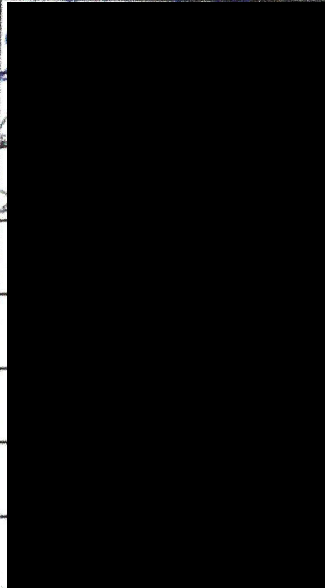
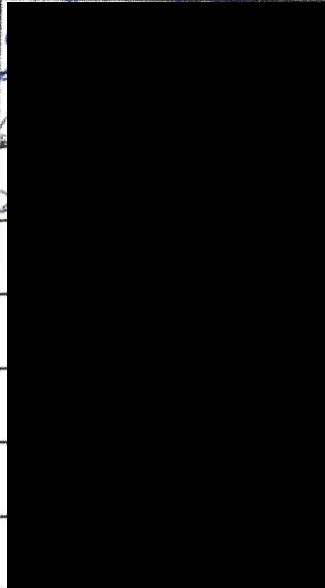
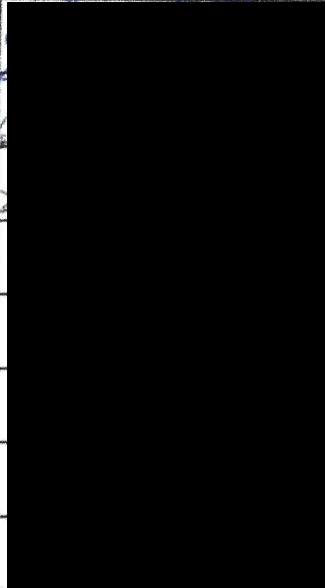
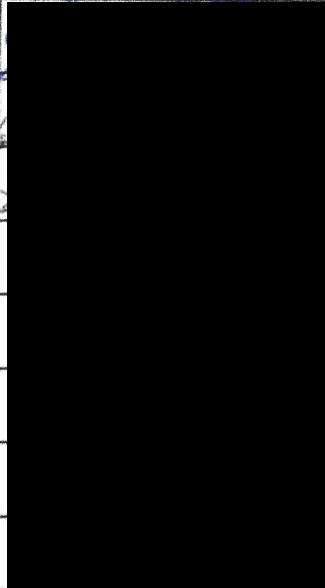
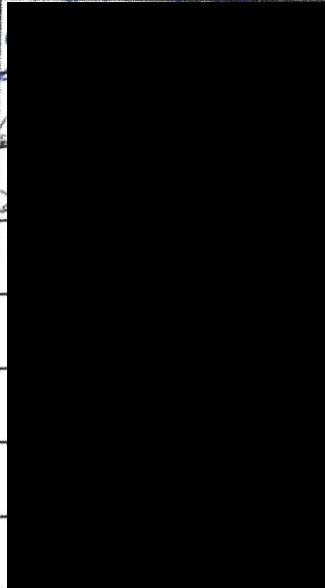
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			Los Altos = LA	Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	bring children to the park? Y/N	dog owner? Yes/No
	Vladimir Solomonik	1905 Quail Meadow Rd	LA	Y	Y	No
	Irena Tertov	1925 Quail Meadow Rd	LA	Y	Y	No
	SERGEY KAMENISEV	545 CUESTA DR LOS ALTOS, CA 94024	LA	Y	Y	No
	ANGELICA KAMENISEVA	345 CUESTA PK LOS ALTOS, CA 94024	LA	Y	Y	No
	ARISA REZIC	1631 Holt Ave LOS ALTOS 94024	LA	Y	Y	No
	Lev Rezzina	1631 Holt Ave Los Altos, CA 94024	LA	Y	Y	No
	Virginia Carter West	1055 Valley View Ct, Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Y	Y	Yes

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	Pavel Rubashevsky	1301 McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Anastasiya Rubashevsky	1301 McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	N	N
	Irina Rubashevsky	1301 McKenzie ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	VLADIMIR RUBASHEVSKY	1301 McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Galina Reana Shewsky	1301 McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Rinley Gupta	1120 Portland Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Abhishek Maheshwari	1120 Portland Ave	LA	Y	Y	N

14/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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	Piotr Prokop	1819 Austin Ave	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Jennifer Prokop	1819 AUSTIN AVE	LA	YES	YES	No
	Guochun Shi	1243 Mingingale	LA	Yes	Yes	NO
	F/MG/ZN/LI	1243 Mingingale	LA	Yes	Yes	NO

15/31

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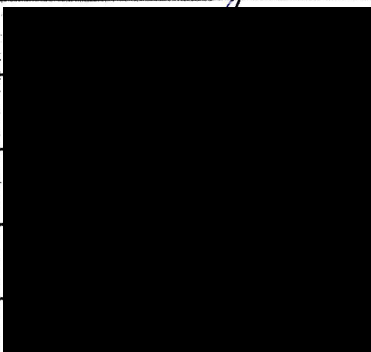
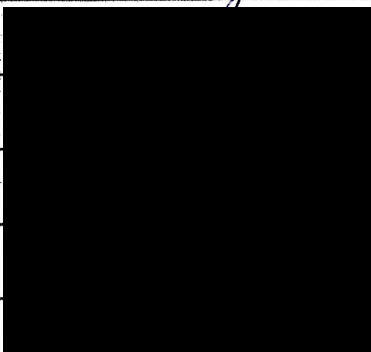
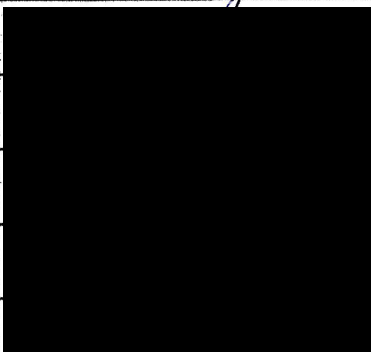
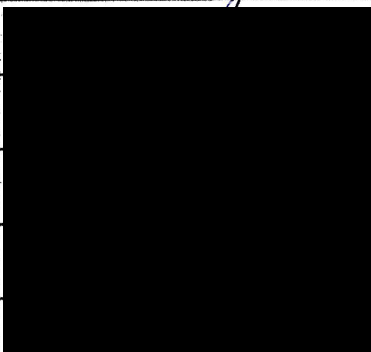
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	John Squire	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	N	FORMER
	MILLIE SQUIRE	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	N	FORMER
	SAMPY SHULT	Altamead DR	CA	Y	N	N
	GARRETT SMITH	Eastwood	LA	Y	Y	N
	HEATHER LARKIN	Oakhurst Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Jane Clayton	McKenzie Ave.	LA	Y	N	N
	John Petro	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y	N	N

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			Los Altos = LA				
	MARTIN SAJO II	MCKENZIE AVE	LA	Y		Y	NO
	RANI ROLEY	1367 MCKENZIE AVE, LOS ALTOS	LA	Y		N	YES
	ARVIND JAINI	MCKENZIE AVE	LA	Y		N	YES
	Betty Christopher	1300 Holly Ave	LA	Y		N	NO YES

17/31

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	Smadar Agmon	McKenzie Ave.	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Sarah Agmon	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Eran Agmon	McKenzie Ave.	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Tomer Agmon	McKenzie Ave.	LA	Y		N		N	
	YOAV Agmon	McKenzie Ave.	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Gillie Roth	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		N		N	
	Julien Roth	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		N		N	
	NOA GRADT	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	GUY BECHT	McKenzie Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	



18/31

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	CARL E Hess	HOLLY AVE	Los Altos	Y	N	N
	Tracy Pirnaek	1345 Holly Ave	LA	Y	N	Not currently

19/31

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	Janine Aikin	1031 Suffolk Way Los Altos, CA	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Saeb Aikin	1031 Suffolk Way Los Altos CA	LA	Y	Y	No
	MARLENE LOURON	1350 Sunrise Ct Los Altos CA	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	ROY LOUISON	1350 SUNRISE CT. LOS ALTOS CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Dorris Tyson	1345 Sunrise Ct Los Altos, CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Mebry Tyson	1345 Sunrise Ct Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Betty Tsang	1550 Montebello Oaks Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Deborah Kitani	1546 Kensington Cir Los Altos, CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	No
	Jill Swidler	1566 Siesta Drive Los Altos CA 94024	LA	Yes	Yes	Yes

20131

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[Redacted]	Caroline Gupta	Dartmouth Ln	LA	Y	Y	Y
[Redacted]	Sanjeev Gupta	Dartmouth Ln	LA	Y	Y	Y
[Redacted]	cindy zinn	Ranchita Dr.	LA	Y	Y	Y
[Redacted]	mar zinn	Ranchita Dr	LA	Y	Y	Y
[Redacted]	Nick Chan	Dartmouth Ln	LA	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	Anne Ren	Dartmouth Ln	LA	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	TOBY REITMAN	Dartmouth Ln	LA	Y	Y	No
[Redacted]	Amy Kuan	1350 Concord Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
[Redacted]	Eric Mark	1350 Concord Ave	LA	Y	Y	N

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	GREG BLUMSTEIN	OAKHURST AVE	LA	X		X	N
	Elaine Blumstein	Oakhurst Ave	LA	Y		Y	N
	Elaine McMurray	Dartmouth Ave	LA	Y		Y	N
	SAMY BEN MO	DARTMOUTH LN	LA	Y		Y	N
	Anne Hecht	Rosemund Ave	LA	Y		Y	Y
	Lanshin Yang	Mulr Way	LA	Y		Y	N
	Doris Wang	Sunrise Ct	LA	Y		Y	Y
	Lu Li	Sunrise Ct	LA	Y		Y	N

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	Tracy Bantz	986 scena Ave	LA	Y		Y	N
	VANESSA MAUNDER	321 WHISMAN STATION	MV	Y		Y	N
	APOORV GUPTA	563 MORELAND WAY	S.C.	Y		Y	N
	Russell NORD	1835 Oakhurst Ave	L.A	X		Y	N
	JOANNA BERRY	595 Almond Ave	LA	Y		Y	Y
	Stephanie Shum	1325 Concord Ave	LA	Y		Y	N
	Dina Thomas	1440 Brookdale	MV	Y		Y	N
	Kamika A	Russet Dr	Sv	Y		Y	N
	Tina Sandler	San Martin pl.	LA	Y		Y	N

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	Yana Ivey	999 Loraine Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Stuart Scott	Garrison Ave,	SJ	Y		N		Y	
	JUNFANG WANG	KNICKERBOCKER DR	ST	Y		Y		N	
	TREVOR MARSHALL	LAMMY PLACE	CA	Y		Y		N	
	MELISSA SELIGMAN	1205 PORTLAND AVE	LA.	Y		Y		N	
	STEVEN SELIGMAN	1205 PORTLAND AVE.	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Cynthia Roseby	244 Almond Ave	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Brenda		LA	Y		Y		N	
	NATHAN DAV	686 Boynton Ave	SJ	Y		Y		N	

24/31

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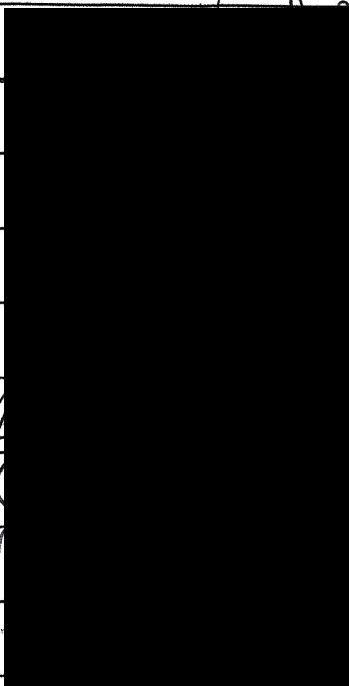
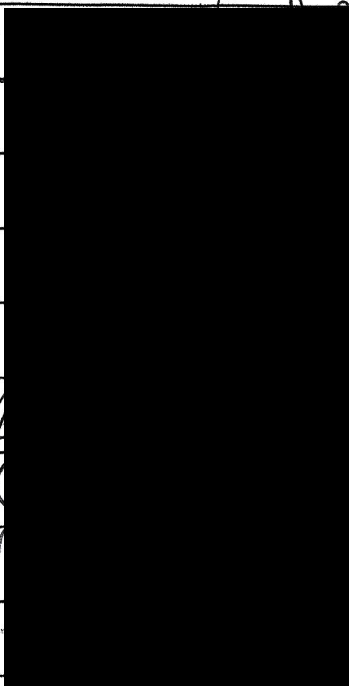
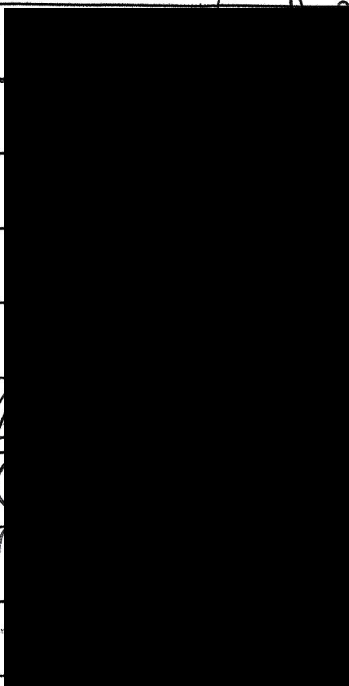
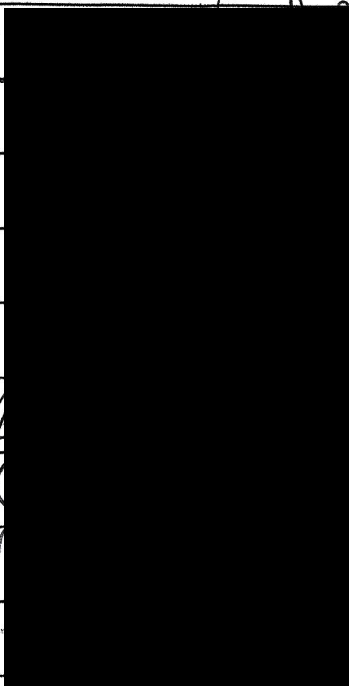
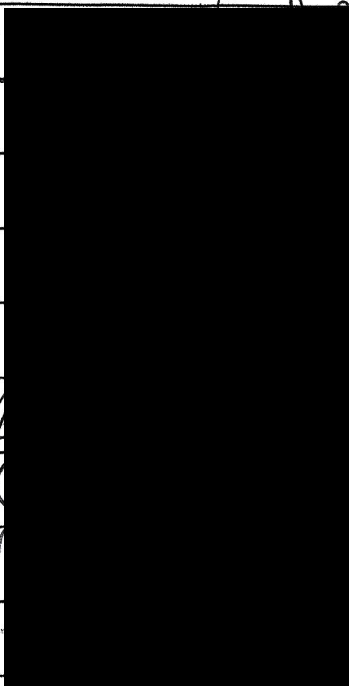
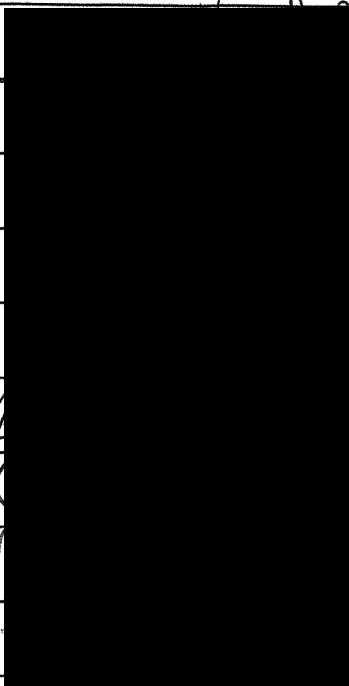
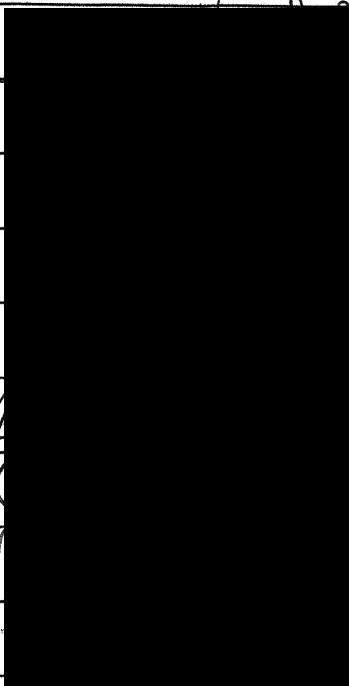
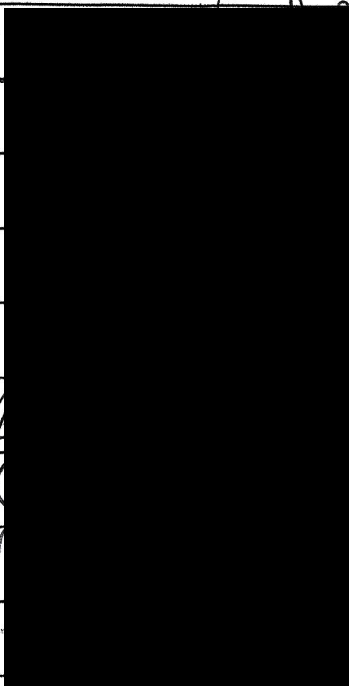
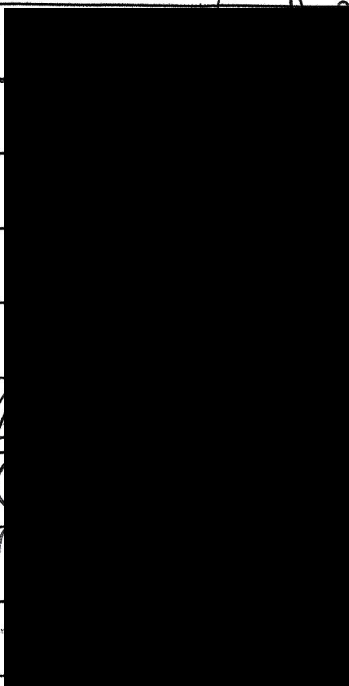
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	VIKAL MISHRA	40728 Palatino St.	Fremont	Y		Y		No	
	Sydney Aurdal		Berkeley	Y		N		N	
	Rebecca Nixon	Benvenue Ave	Los Altos	Y		Y		N	
	Cathy Van	Suffolk Ct	Los Altos	Y		Y		N	
	Kenneth Mburu	326 Doyle Road	San Jose	Y		Y		N	
	Mario Castillo	301 Acahues	Sunnyvale	Y		Y		N	
	Christian Daudre	1570 Edmundo Way	Mountain View	Y		Y		N	
	Kayo Yamai	10645 Magdalen ¹⁴ COS ALTOS ST	LAH	Y		Y		Y	

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	Shellee Heath	1315 Miravalle Ave	LA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Jessie Calvert	925 Jamison Wy	LA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Jaclyn Owen	Conejo Court	LAH	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Barbara M.A	Belvoir Dr.	LA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Shadi Hawawini	5700 Jackson St	MV	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Ronald F. Burre	1051 Eastwood Dr	LA	Y	Y	Y	N
	Enrique Olavarria	1895 Granger Ave	LA	Y	Y	Y	N
	Ralph Orrock	1340 Sunrise Ct	LA	Y	Y	Y	N
	Mark Orrock	1340 Sunrise Ct	LA	Y	Y	Y	N

26/31

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	Leah Caldarone	Eureka Ave	LA	Y	Y	N
	Wei Chung Wym	Winstead Ct.	Sunnyvale	Y	Y	N
	Madoka Tega	W. El Camino Real	MV	Y	Y	N
	Naoko Clark	Camline Ct, MV	MV	Y	Y	N
	Bosheng Zhang	Canemara Way, S	Sunnyvale	Y	Y	N
	Jessica Hall	Causm Drive	Sunnyvale	Y	Y	N
	A. Walsh	St Giles Lane	M	Y	Y	N
	I. Soreu	104 Sondra Way	MV	Y	Y	N
	S. Ividhya Padmanaban	Holly Avenue	LA	Y	Y	N

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	Tanya Manning	410 W Walsh	Atterton	Y		Y		N	
	Jennifer Deeg	Portland	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Zhenxiang Ouyang	Glenborough	MV	Y		Y		N	
	Fengmei Liu	Connemara way	SV	Y		Y		N	
	Annit Verma	Fremont Ter	SV	Y		Y		N	
	YANGXUE GAO	Glenborough	MV	Y		Y		N	
	Edith Gutierrez	Broadway	LA	Y		Y		N	
	Keri McGhee	978 Alpine Terrace #4 Sunnyvale, CA 94086	SV	Y		Y		N	
	Amanda Carmack	442 Martins Ave	MV	Y		Y		N	

Mountain View, CA 94040

2/8/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

The Los Altos City Council will vote soon on a proposed pilot program for off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park. Off-leash dogs would use the same grassy area also used by the City's soccer program and many other recreational and sports activities. The proposed off-leash hours would create a nuisance and safety risk to children and other park users. The increased number of off-leash dogs would disturb and displace many park users and park activities, especially during the popular late afternoon and evening hours. Greater numbers of off-leash dogs would also be a nuisance and a safety risk to pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists on park trails and adjacent streets.

The Dog Park Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission is still working on details of the proposal, but all potential modifications would still include off-leash dogs in Heritage Oaks Park.

We, the undersigned, are OPPOSED to the City's proposal to establish off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

Signature	Print Name	Street Address (optional, but at least the name of your street is appreciated)	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N		Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? Yes/No
	Glottie Creppin	Remington Drive	LA	Y		Y	N
	Leah Stern	Highlands Cir	LA	X		X	N
	Carlos Cuevas	568 Hazeldell Way	SV	Y		Y	N
	Madeline Pickett	La Cuesta	LA	Y		Y	N
	KC Grewal	Springer Rd.	UA	Y		Y	Y
	L Benz	580 Guadalupe Dr.	LA	Y		Y	Y
	Lori Gimenez	Monte Monte Ave	LA	Y		Y	N
	MICHAEL CALDERON	EUREKA AVE	LA	Y		Y	N
	Lula Lu	Vineyard Dr.	LA	Y		Y	N

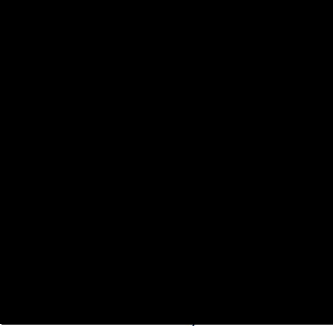
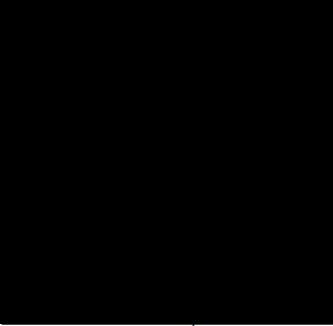
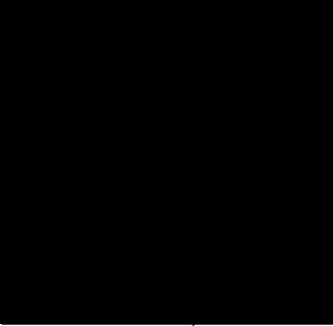
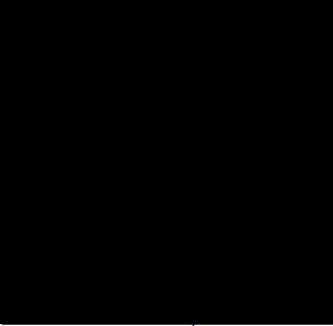
29/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

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			Los Altos = LA			
	Kim Adams	1035 Golden Way	LA	Y	Y	Y
	Jonas Klittmark	1640 Villa st	MV	Y	Y	N
	Julia Caulfield	¹⁵⁴⁰ Montebello Oaks Ct	LA	Y	N	Y
	Kevin Wandryk	¹⁵⁴⁰ Montebello Oaks Ct	LA	Y	N	Y


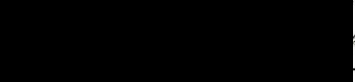
30/31

PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF LOS ALTOS

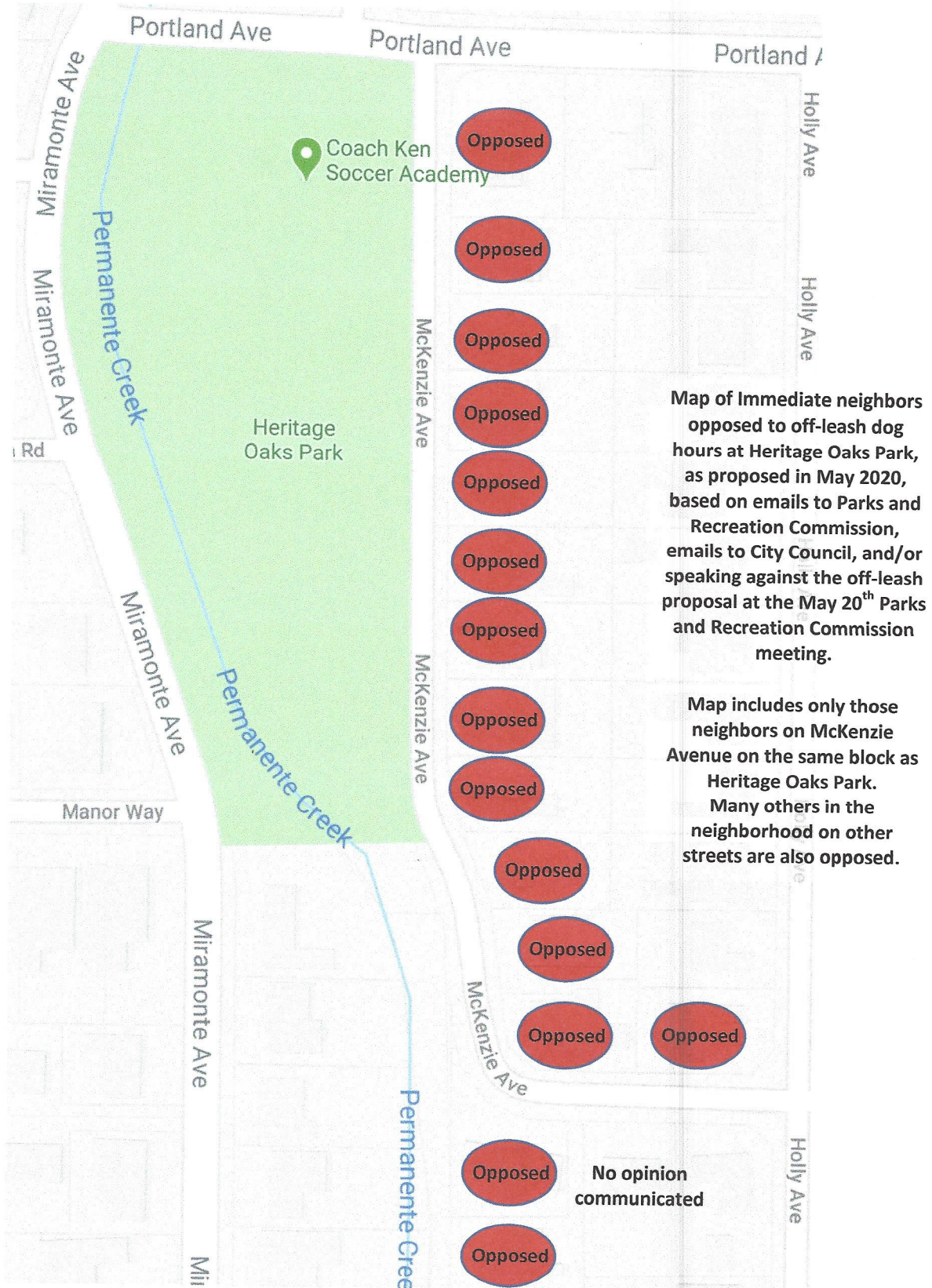
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Signature	Print Name	Street Address (optional, but at least the name of your street is appreciated)	City Los Altos = LA	Do you visit Heritage Oaks Park? Y/N	Do you ever bring children to the park? Y/N	Are you a dog owner? Yes/No
	Haluk Ozdemir	McKenzie (Owned)	✓	✓	✓	NO
	Janet M. Rempa	McKenzie Ave	✓	y	y	N

Opposition to Off-Leash Dog Hours Proposal at Heritage Oaks Park



Andrea Chelemengos

From: Dorris Tyson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Heritage Oaks as a dog park

I am a neighbor near enough to walk to the park with my small grandkids. They are now 3 and 4 and love the adventure of walking to the park and playing. I am one of the many who feel that the whole idea of turning the park into a free zone for unleashed dogs is a problem. I was actually for the idea if it was kept under control. If there is a fenced area for dogs to run free that would be fine. I would feel much safer.

I would appreciate a dog park in Los Altos but Heritage Oaks is a small neighborhood park. It is not fenced. The area that is currently dirt and trees could be fenced off for dogs. This would keep them from running loose in the areas used by small children and old folks. This would also keep the dog messes from being where the people are walking or playing ball or having lunch. All year the park's large grassy area is used for soccer, volleyball and birthday parties. At the end of the school year there are parties for the kids from Oak School. Right now there are dogs running free, playing here every day. Their owners don't follow the leash laws now. Do you really think they will follow the rules setting times for dogs to be off leash? And, of course, there will be more coming in.

I know, ideally, this would be kept clean by dog owners but it is not kept clean now. If you add more dogs and more owners it will not improve. As I understand it, if someone's dog bothers you or leaves a mess, the plan is that we should call the police? Seriously? They will get there in time to give a good lecture? Perhaps we are expected to make a website of shame and post pictures. Would you look if we did?

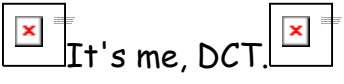
If the city finds it too expensive to fence off a section for dogs, ask the dog owners to pay for it. They are asking for things to change. They want the rules that they don't like to be changed to suit them. Will they be paying for poop bags to be in the park? Will there be covered trash sites so the smell doesn't join us for lunch?

This plan should have been publicized and explained before becoming fact. Flyers should have been placed on doors, and notices mailed out. This neighborhood is in the dark about it and when so many are staying inside, because of the Covid Virus they will not find out until it is too late to make their voices heard.

Please re-think the idea and make plans that keep people safe from loose dogs and their messes. I think a fenced off section could work and make the park safe for everyone.

Thank you,

Dorris Tyson
1345 Sunrise Ct.
Los Altos, CA 94024



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Donna Legge](#)
Cc: [City Council](#)
Subject: Heritage Oaks Park Off-Leash Dog Proposal is Dangerous
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:37:03 PM

Hello Donna and Los Altos City Council,

I am shocked that the city is considering converting Heritage Oaks Park to an off-leash dog park. The city risks exposing young children to **toxocara canis** (see description below) which can cause blindness, respiratory failure, liver disease, heart inflammation, and gastrointestinal illness. Please do not do this!

It violates basic public hygiene principles to allow dogs off-leash in the same area as children. The grassy area where off-leash dogs would run and poop is also used as a soccer field for young children and a picnic area for many families and small groups on picnic blankets. Since dog feces can contain parasites and bacteria, off-leash dogs are clearly an incompatible use of this space and represent a health and safety risk to other park users. Please do not do this!

Heritage Oaks has been my neighborhood park since 1994. During the past 25 years, I've played with my toddlers in the park, coached my kids' soccer, played with my dog (always on leash) in the park, gathered for neighborhood picnics, and now that I'm a senior I walk through the park almost daily. I would not be able to safely do these activities if there were dogs running around the park without a leash! Please don't take my neighborhood park away from me! Do not designate Heritage Oaks Park as an off-leash dog park!!!

Toxocara canis (also known as dog roundworm) is a worldwide-distributed [helminth](#) parasite of dogs and other [canids](#). Consumption of eggs from feces-contaminated items is the most common method of infection for humans especially children and young adults under the age of 20 years. When humans ingest infective eggs, diseases like [hepatomegaly](#), [myocarditis](#), respiratory failure and vision problems can result depending on where the larva are deposited in the body.^[13] In humans, this parasite usually grows in the back of the eye, which can result in blindness, or in the liver or lungs. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxocara_canis

-
[Thank you for hearing concerns of residents in this neighborhood.](#)

[Betty Christopher](#)

[1300 Holly Ave](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Donna Legge](#); [Casey Richardson](#)
Subject: Off-Leash Dog Hours at Heritage Oaks Park
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 7:03:19 PM

Dear Ms. Legge and Ms. Richardson,
My name is Jane Clayton and I attended the PARC meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9 via RingCentral.

When the Commission was considering a motion (for the second time) to adopt the off-leash dog hours that were included in the Implementation Plan (as presented in the agenda packet for the 9/9/20 meeting), Casey Richardson posted those hours on the screen. She also showed hours that she apparently believed were from the May report of the Dog Park Subcommittee, as voted on during the May meeting. **However, she did not show the correct version of the hours as presented on and approved at the May 20 PARC meeting.**

Casey showed on the shared screen the morning hours as beginning at 6:00 AM. Those were the hours that were proposed at the February workshops and perhaps in some of the **early** drafts of the May Dog Park Subcommittee Report.

Please refer to Page 5 of the "Dog Park Subcommittee Report and Recommendations", which is for Agenda Item 3c for the May 20, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Those are the hours that were presented to the public and were voted upon by the Commission. They clearly show that the off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oaks Park were recommended to start at 7:00 AM every single morning.

It is important that the minutes of the September 9 meeting do NOT include the hours that Casey erroneously displayed on the screen during the meeting. If the City Council (or anyone else, for that matter) wanted to compare the hours that were approved by PARC in May with the hours that were approved by PARC in September, it is essential to provide the correct hours for comparison. This is a simple matter of presenting the facts correctly.

Thank you,
Jane Clayton

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Caroline Gupta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Donna Legge; City Council
Subject: Heritage Oaks - Off Leash Dog Park - Against!

Good morning,

I feel I need to send some feedback regarding the off leash pilot program at Heritage Oaks Park. Let me start by saying that I am a dog owner and live next to the park.

We have been living in Los Altos for 11 years now and started going to the park with our dog a few years ago. We used to meet a few other dog owners from the neighborhood at HOP in the morning and after dinner. It was friendly, respectful and with no incidents. I have to say that I was looking forward to go to the park with my dog and meet the other dog owners. I am also sure that my dog was looking forward to it as she was telling me when it was time to go!! We all kind of became friends. As time passed, a lot of people saw us and joined. Unfortunately, some of them were not from the neighborhood and that's when we started having problems.

At first, it was fine but at some point, people were driving to come with their dogs and some were not too friendly. It became too crowded, a few incidents happened and that's when the police was called in a few times. Unfortunately, because of those incidents, the no off leash rules were enforced and that was the end of it for our group. None of us are going to HOP now. We all go to Cooper park or Blach.

I think Los Altos is the only city in the Bay Area that does not have dog parks, I think it is about time we have a few but not the way you are proposing to do it and here is my reasoning.

- The grass area where the pilot project is proposed is a multi use area with soccer there on a daily basis, a picnic area, a playground and the grass area for diverse activities for a diverse age group. Once the project is approved, people from all over will be coming (it has already started) and because it is not "their" neighborhood park, they do not care and do not always pick up after their dog. Last week, on one occasion I saw 3 large dog poop piles that had not been picked up. Not fun, when you know your kids play there!!

- The pilot project is suggesting a maximum of 12 dogs at a time. Well, when it does make sense, let's be realistic, no one will be enforcing that rule.

- Once the pilot project is approved, if approved, even if it doesn't work, I'm pretty sure there won't be any going back and we'll be stuck with that decision.

- There was a lack of transparency in sharing the information with the Los Altos population. When I mentioned it to residents they were not aware of it.

In summary, think that Los Altos needs a dedicated, gated and permanent dog park (or more than one if possible). I think HOP would be a great location but in the back of the park, in the area that is not in use. I also think that the residents of LA would approve that. Dog owners would be thrilled and I can see non dog owners be happy too to have the dog park in a more secluded area. I think the issue is really having an off leash area in a part of the park that is constantly in use.

McKenzie park would also be a great location, in the area next to the tennis courts. A dedicated, gated and permanent dog park would be perfect there.

Lincoln park could also be a great location for a similar initiative.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my email and I hope that the community can be educated and come to a sensible solution that will please most.

Best,
Caroline Gupta
1008 Dartmouth Ln
Los Altos

Andrea Chelemengos

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 6:18 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Donna Legge
Subject: Off-leash dog hours @ Heritage Oaks Park

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

It was just recently brought to my attention that there is to be an off-leash “pilot” for Heritage Oaks Park, and that the pilot was introduced to the city in some sort of forum during February of this year. I live in the Heritage Oaks Park neighborhood and had never heard about a community forum on this, nor were many of my neighbors. We neighbors are NOT in favor of this and if the city’s Parks Commission thinks that having a single forum in the middle of the COVID chaos - right when we were figuring out whether schools were closing - is meeting the standard we would expect of transparent governance, they are very misguided. We expect more from our local officials. Off-leash in such a small park is not advisable as we have small children there all day long, especially now that we are still all at home. Portland Avenue is already a busy street with a sidewalk on only one side, the street narrows dramatically due to a large oak tree in the middle of the street and creating a park that would attract people to come by car to let their dogs run wild is not a safe idea. Furthermore, Heritage Oaks Park is also home to small children’s soccer classes - it’s hard enough to ensure that owners pick up after their dogs today. Imagine when dogs are off leash and many more visit this park.

We hope the City Council reconsiders this plan. If Los Altos is looking for an off leash dog park, it really ought to be fenced off, large enough for the dogs to get their exercise and keep children and adults safe.

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Kuan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Donna Legge](#)
Cc: [City Council](#)
Subject: Heritage Oak Park -Pilot Off Leash Program
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:58:01 PM

Dear Donna Legge, Staff Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Los Altos

It came as a surprise that we found that a proposal to a pilot off-leash program was to be presented and voted on by the city council without any discussion of how the pilot program will be carried out. Those of us who lives near the HOP were not informed at all.

It appears that the proposed hours and number of dogs to be allowed were put there as an attempt to control the program while in fact once the program is in place any control will be strictly voluntary and sanitation will definitely be a problem.

Please reconsider the proposal and find better ways to exercise our dogs.

Sincerely,

Roy Louison

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Donna Legge](#)
Subject: Heritage Oaks off-leash proposal (opposed)
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:45:26 PM
Attachments: [Heritage Oaks Park off leash.pdf](#)

Dear City Council members,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed off-leash dog hours at Heritage Oak Park.

I love dogs, have owned several dogs over the years, and have taken my dogs to dog parks on multiple occasions. My objection to the off-leash dog hours has to do with the issues which should be expected if this proposal is approved for this particular location.

I have personally been aggressively 'charged' by off-leash dogs at this park while walking without my dog, and more times while walking my dog on a leash along the pathway. Without a fenced-in area to contain the dogs, this off-leash proposal is just not safe for others. In addition, declaring the grassy field area an off-leash area as well as using the same grassy field for picnicking, kids' and adults' soccer programs, recreational volleyball, frisbee, etc. is just not sanitary. Dog poop does not always get picked up now, and it's certainly more likely to be missed when dogs are off-leash. Heritage Oaks is a small, well loved, and very well-used community park. Please, let's keep it clean, safe and accessible for the children and adults who use it so regularly.

I would not oppose creating a separate, dedicated, FENCED dog park area in the currently undeveloped area at Heritage Oaks Park, on the other side of the rest rooms from the grassy field, although that's still very close to existing homes and will create a 'nuisance' factor for those homes. The Hillview Park off-leash proposal makes more sense, since Hillview's proposal involves a fenced area with adequate parking, separation from nearby homes, and I've heard the proposed field area has less use outside of organized sports league hours.

This proposed off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park is explicitly opposed by the neighbors on McKenzie Drive (see attached map). As sent in separately, people who regularly use the park have signed the petition asking that this park NOT be used for the proposed off-leash dog hours. Over 200 signatures were gathered; when I helped gather signatures at the park, only one person declined to sign out of the approximately 15 adults at the park. And, the person who declined said they supported the petition's position but they preferred not to sign.

During the May 20th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, it was acknowledged that the input from the directly impacted neighbors was not captured in the dog seminars (nor in the subsequent staff report), based on a lack of awareness by the Heritage Oaks Park neighbors. I first learned that the off-leash dog hours were proposed for Heritage Oaks Park on May 17th, via other neighbors. Frankly, I'm quite unhappy that the feedback from the Heritage Oaks Park local residents to the Parks and Recreation Commission was set aside in making their recommendation to Council, with disparaging comments from one of the commissioners in particular.

This unfenced, off-leash proposal in such a well-used park (using the same fields used for children's recreational programs) just does not make sense due to safety and sanitation concerns. I ask that the City Council reject this proposal for off-leash dog hours at Heritage

Oaks Park.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Tracy Pirnack
1345 Holly Ave (for 30+ years)

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Rani Roley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 6:11 PM
To: City Council
Cc: rani roley; Donna Legge; arvind jaini
Subject: Off Leash Dog Pilot Program at Heritage Oaks Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

My husband, Arvind Jaini and I have a small dog but do NOT support the approval of the off leash hours at Heritage Park for the reasons stated below.

1. Heritage Park has a sign that says dogs have to be on leash at all times and so many dog owners have blatantly ignored the rule and no one has monitored to ensure that this be followed. What makes any one think that just by having off leash dog hours that this rule is going to be adhered and monitored when it's not even happening now?
2. We live at the tail end of the park right opposite the creek where the trail into the park begins. There have been so many occasions when dog owners take the leashes off and the dogs have run down the creek only to run back up and charge me and my leashed dog in our driveway. We have also been charged at on numerous occasions by dogs off leash at Heritage Park and have had to pick my small dog up immediately for fear. It's astounding when owners have just stood calmly or been belligerent when I have reacted in fright. We now tend to walk in the opposite direction for our walks just to avoid dogs off leash in the park.
3. We all love our fur family and think that they can be trusted to not chase, attack or bite but I know as much as I love my dog, he is an animal who could still act unpredictably.
4. I also go for walks to Cuesta park and have noticed on many occasions owners socializing and not paying attention to their dog's whereabouts..I've seen dogs run to other areas of the entire park outside of the unfenced dog bowl and owners not picking after them too. *Unlike* Cuesta Park, Heritage park is very small and *like* Cuesta Park, there are many families who come here with their little kids who picnic, play soccer etc.
5. On one of my recent walks at Cuesta, I had to walk diagonally across a green area off the walk way to avoid a family with the COVID situation. In doing so, I did not realize I had stepped on animal feces which had not been picked up. Also, being a dog owner myself, I know that the grass blades still have residual feces even after pick up. I cringe when I see children playing on the grass barefoot and people lying around knowing that dogs have been running freely. This is just not sanitary.
6. Heritage Park is postage sized - it's SMALL! There is no buffer between the park and the homes on our street. There is minimal parking space and has busy streets on either side and others. Safety is a MAJOR consideration that can't be ignored. We constantly have children playing soccer and in the playgrounds - how are we going to protect them with dogs off leash.. This park is a small family park for residents and others who bring their kids who will likely decide NOT to use the park for fear of these dogs and the safety of their children.

Respectfully,
Rani Roley and Arvind Jaini
1367 McKenzie Ave, Los Altos 94024
[REDACTED]

Andrea Chelemengos

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:48 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Donna Legge; smadar.agmon@gmail.com; marcyhawkins14@hotmail.com; mercedeshawkins@hotmail.com; Heitz82@netzero.com; janeemilia@aol.com; gvruba@gmail.com; menasheshahar@yahoo.com; mercedeshawkins@hotmail.com; chaya@chayahomes.com; jsquire@sbcglobal.net; martin.saso@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to Off Leash Dog Pilot Program at Heritage Oaks Park due to SAFETY ISSUES

Subject: Opposition to Off Leash Dog Pilot Program at Heritage Oaks Park due to SAFETY ISSUES

Please allow me to be respectful yet direct as possible with my comments below...

My name is Martin Saso and I am the owner for the past 30 years of a home on McKenzie Ave...

- I own one of the homes directly across from Heritage Oak Park and one of the homes that would be DIRECTLY impacted by, what I would label to be an unsafe idea to allow dogs to be (at any time) off a leash / un-leashed where the safety of children and adults is paramount...
- As I stated back at the May 20th PARC meeting and again at the September 9 meeting held via the Ring Central call) ...
 - At age 4, I was attacked by an un-leashed dog in an area that had an "assigned area" for unleashed dogs, yet the owner of said dog (similarly to what we have regularly witnessed over these recent months and reported to Donna Legge and others as we saw them take place) had his dog unleashed in an area that was not permitted...and I have the scars to show it on my right hand when I was attacked.
 - I consulted with a Personal Liability Attorney whom has plenty of cases that he prosecutes on behalf of those attacked by unleashed dogs...he was so very surprised to hear that the City of Los Altos was considering such an idea especially given the "form factor" (which I will further explain and comment on below) of Heritage Oaks Park and the related SAFETY issues that Heritage Oaks Park has for such a proposal.

Data for my Opposition to this idea includes:

- I could not find any **SAFETY** related data within the staff report to the Parks and Recreation Commission back in May nor in the September discussion as to the impact that the proposed un-leashed dog hours at Heritage Oak Park would have on the Community, nor on the McKenzie Ave residents nor anyone simply walking or jogging on the street.
- **Regarding the inappropriate "form factor" at Heritage Oaks Park and the safety issues that it has for such an idea includes...**
 1. Unleashed dogs running in the park will be a huge safety issue (unsafe and dangerous) for children and others playing and using the park as there is not a sufficient buffer zone within the park for both. Recall there are 2 easily accessed children playground areas at the park and, logically speaking, an unleashed dog will indeed penetrate that area while running freely.
 2. Unleashed dogs running in the park will also make McKenzie Avenue unsafe and dangerous as there is not a sufficient buffer zone between the park and the residents and those walking along the street.
 3. The insufficient buffer zone poses a safety risk to the residents from aggressive dogs. In addition, unlike in some of the other parks, there is no parking lot. An unleashed and aggressive dog entering the property of a Resident on McKenzie Ave. would be a danger to said Residents and children of same playing or being in their front yard area. This has happened previously and was stated at the May PARC meeting by one of the residents on McKenzie Ave.
- I also recall that back around 2007, an idea for a dog park in the Heritage Oak Park was presented and logic prevailed and the idea was fortunately scrapped.
- Respectfully...
 - **In my view, the safety of children and to all humans are far more important than a dog owner exercising their pet dog off-leash at the ongoing risk to humans when the pet owners disobey the law / continue to disobey the law which they have been doing and, logically, will continue to do at this park where the "form factor" of same is not sufficient for both.**
 - **Based on the data from which I form my conclusion, I would have these same SAFETY issues and concerns even if I did not own a home on McKenzie Ave. as the data "speaks" for itself.**

In Conclusion:

- **Heritage Oaks Park is poorly designed for unleashed dogs to be legalized even for a "Pilot Period" of time given the form factor and the related SAFETY issues the park has as a result...**

- **In the world of Silicon Valley in which we all live, a bad design does not go to market and fail...that is a "loss leader" and in this situation Heritage Oaks Park would be both a "loss leader" and a huge SAFETY issue for the children and residents.**
- **Respectfully, with this and the other data being presented in opposition to this un-leashed pet dog idea, I trust that the City of Los Altos will seriously consider these SAFETY concerns and not pursue this ill advised pilot program for Heritage Oaks Park.**
- **I ask that you please add this communication to your "packet" for the upcoming meeting to be held on November 10th.**

Please note that I have attempted in this email to summarize accurately every fact known that is relevant to making sound my opinions contained in the preceding paragraphs.

Respectfully,

Martin Saso
Home Owner
McKenzie Ave, Los Altos, CA

From: Nina Srinath [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 9:52 AM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Off leash hours at Hillview Baseball field

Hello Los Altos Council Members,

I am writing to ask about the off leash hours for dogs at the Hillview Baseball field. My question is regarding why the delay in taking a decision on this?

I have attended various meetings on the subject (in person and via ring central) and it seems to me that there is no contention on this subject for the Hillview field and yet no action has been taken. I live very close to this field and see that it is empty and unused pretty much all the time. From my tax payer point of view all residents of the community should get to be able to share the open areas that are part of the city.

Thank you and looking forward to some clarity on this topic

Nina Srinath

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Haluk Ozdemir <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Donna Legge
Subject: Off-Leash Hours at Heritage Oaks Park

This is to register my opposition to the recent proposal for off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

Haluk Ozdemir, Owner
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