

DOG OFF-LEASH RECOMMENDATION

Off Leash Pilot Program

The Parks and Recreation Commission 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 and within sight
- 5) Owners must clean up after their dog
- 6) Dogs must be up to date with vaccinations
- 7) Any person having charge, care, custody or control of a dog in a posted off-leash area must supervise their dog at all times
- 8) Any person having charge, care, custody or control of a dog in a posted off-leash area must be able to control their dog at all times
- 9) Dogs are not allowed off-leash on playgrounds or designated sports fields (other than seasonally allowed at specified times on the Hillview Little League field)
- 10) No person shall have more than two dogs in a posted off-leash area at one time