



DOG PARK STAFF DEMAND

This document was prepared for the September 8, 2025 Parks & Environmental Commission meeting with input from the City's Public Works Department.

Below are additional considerations to keep in mind for ongoing discussions regarding a City Dog Park.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Location access

Foot traffic interactions with surrounding activities such as playgrounds and ballfields may present safety and sanitation concerns, particularly regarding the control of off-leash dogs, potential dog-owner conflicts, and potential odor impacts to other park users.

Access paths should ideally support vehicle traffic to facilitate delivery of maintenance materials (e.g. wood chips) and removal of pet waste. Modifications to existing trails will be necessary to accommodate maintenance vehicles and equipment. If vehicle access is not possible, materials may need to be brought/removed manually.

Trail infrastructure longevity

In the presence of a park trail, accessing the dog park will require the use of the adjacent asphalt trail to transport mulch, fencing materials, and service the waste dumpster using trucks, heavy equipment or light utility vehicles. This additional repeated use will accelerate surface wear, cause cracking, or degrade trail edges and require repairs sooner than anticipated.

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Ground cover (mulching)

Mulching is required to maintain clean, mud-free conditions and minimize odor and wear on the soil. Replenishment frequency may be weekly or monthly depending on weather and usage levels. Wood chips would need to be purchased frequently. Due to access limitations, 2 crew members would be required for delivery and distribution and may require manual labor.

Waste management

A dedicated dumpster for pet waste will be necessary, ideally placed in a discreet yet accessible location. This dumpster should be emptied at least once a week, with increased frequency in summer months or during periods of high usage. Waste bag dispensers and signage must be installed and refilled according to demand.

Fencing and infrastructure

Routine inspection and repair of the perimeter fencing, gates, and latches are essential to ensure security and user safety. Fencing, gates, and latches should be visually inspected at least weekly and repairs made immediately for identified issues. Repairs may include but are not limited to: patching holes, reinforcing posts, adjusting gate hardware to prevent escape or injury.

General inspection and cleanliness

Daily checks and monitoring for the park would include removal of trash and debris, ensuring no dangerous objects or dog waste have been left behind, vandalism, safety hazards or rule violations. More thorough inspection would need to occur monthly to address deeper cleaning, drainage, surface wear, and signage integrity.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Odor management

Accumulated pet waste will need to be managed regularly to avoid odor-related problems that may affect other activities at the location (i.e. proximity to playgrounds, sports fields).

User behavior and compliance

Park success relies on user compliance with leash laws outside the park, proper waste disposal, and supervision of pets. Public education and visible signage will be required.

Impact on adjacent park usage

Increased foot and canine traffic will interact with nearby recreational areas. Additional fencing, pathways, and buffer zones may be needed to minimize disruption.

ESTIMATED OVERALL IMPACTS

Parks Crew workload impact

Public Works currently has three members on the parks crew. This crew also manages mowing, field preparation, playground inspections, irrigation, and other standard parks maintenance. A dog park would increase daily and weekly responsibilities especially during peak season (spring-fall). The following tasks would require an estimated **6-8 additional staff hours per week at minimum**, up to **10-15 hours** during peak season or after weather events.

Daily/Every Other Day tasks (5-6 hours/week)

- Pet waste pickup and bag refill
- Trash and waste disposal monitoring/emptying
- Visual inspection of fence, gates, latches, park cleanliness
- Walking the park for spot-cleaning and other issues

Monthly tasks (8-12 hours/month)

- Fence and latch repairs
- Minor grading, filling of worn paths and holes
- Park condition reporting and documentation

Seasonal/Quarterly tasks (20-30+ hours/quarter)

- Hauling in and spreading mulch
- Repairs to trail or damage from hauling equipment
- Odor management/additional waste clean-up in warmer months
- Snow removal from access paths and gates (if open year-round)