

Gautho, Julia

From: Josie Melo <josie.melo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:05 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Pilot Program for Dogs Off Leash

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear City Council,

My husband and I have come to know many of our wonderful Capitola neighbors through meeting at Monterey Park in the evenings while walking our dog. We have had the opportunity to get to know each other and have our dogs run, fetch balls and play. The socialization aspect for all the pet owners is a wonderful way to be connected with others in our local community. We all stay to the back of the park, clean up after our dogs and leash them when there are other dogs on leash are walking with their owners. It is very rare that our dogs bark and the noise from their play is minimal.

These local neighbors with dogs including myself are predominantly Senior Citizens who have come to support each other's through life's events, providing meals when one is hospitalized, going through treatment or Physical Therapy and provide dog walking services for each other.

We don't meet for more than one hour each day, yet have been reprimanded by the local official Public Officer who demands that the dogs be on leash at all times and has said he will cite us with a \$500 Fee if our dogs are off leash. I have not seen any signs at the park regarding citations that can be incurred.

I would like the City Council to consider a 60-day pilot program where our dogs can be off leash for Only One Hour daily.

One hour 4:00 - 5:00pm in the Fall/Winter until Daylight Savings time
One hour 5:30 - 6:30pm in the Spring/ Summer until Daylight Savings time

Note: We can be flexible with the time and typically do not attend when there are events such as Summer Food Truck Fridays and scheduled School Baseball or Soccer Practices and Games played on the field at the park.

In Capitola there is only one-Off Leash dog park — Ozzi Dog Park at McGregor Park at 1560 McGregor Drive

We have driven our dog here and he gets the ground cover stuck in his paws and does not like to run here. It is also dirty, dusty and hot, not a pet or people friendly place for us to visit. This park is not walkable (or unsafe to walk) with no sidewalk once you cross Park Ave. This park also does not have ample parking for our group of friends with dogs.

It would be great to have the request of the local dog owners recognized. Please take into consideration a 60-Day Pilot Program for Dogs Off Leash at the back of Monterey Park.

Thanks in advance for your sincere consideration,

Joe and Josie Melo
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