



Town of Johnstown

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS

AGENDA DATE: April 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Community Dog Park

ACTION PROPOSED: Discussion Purposes Only

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Trust for Public Land: Dog Parks 101- 2019
2. Potential Dog Park Site Map

PRESENTED BY: Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

At a recent Town Council meeting, Councilmember Tallent requested of Staff to gather information related to establishing a dog park in the community. The information provided presents several questions, answers and ideas related to the development of a dog park in the community. Staff has provided this information at this time for discussion purposes only, with a hope to provide the guidance necessary by the Town Council to ensure that Staff is moving in the right direction. Additionally, photographs and details regarding neighboring community sites of their dog parks are attached for visual information. Special thanks to Danielle Gardner and Darryll Wollnik for their support in providing the important information to facilitate the discussion of this item. Below is a listing of questions considered when evaluating a dog park in the community.

Q: What is the recommended size of a dog park?

A: Recommended size for a dog park is between ½ acre and 2 acres.

Additional Information: The map provided within this agenda item has identified property currently owned by the town that has 2 acres of contiguous land available that can be prioritized for this purpose.

Q: What is the recommended location for a dog park?

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A: It is recommended to maintain a 50–200-foot buffer from any residential areas. If Council desires to have a dog park in a certain area, we may want to conduct a public hearing with adjacent land owners to gather their feedback.

Additional Information: It would be Staff recommendation that if a site is identified that based on the location, we hold a public hearing/open house to gather perspectives and information from the neighboring property owners related to their support for the site location.

Q: What are the best surface materials to use?

A: We found no consensus as to the best type of surface material. Several cities have multiple surfacing types including crushed, fine, or decomposed granite around the entrance area, concrete, grass and mulch. Grass is used most often in larger areas. If possible, lawn areas should be rested periodically to allow turf to recover. The City of Denver, for example does not currently use grass as it is the hardest surface to maintain.

Q: What kinds of amenities or equipment are needed for a successful dog park?

A: A source of drinking water is recommended for both humans and dogs if possible. Most cities provide benches and seating while very few have dog play amenities. All cities said they comply with ADA for access to the dog park sites. All parks looked at provide trash containers and some provide dog bag holders and bags (we currently provide dog bag stations at all Town parks). The City of Denver does not provide bags as the cost is too great.

Q: What type of fencing is suggested? Is there a minimum height requirement?

A: A galvanized or vinyl coated chain link fence, with a minimum height of 4 feet is recommended. Double gated entries are encouraged to allow dog owners to unleash the dogs in a corral prior to letting the dog run free.

Q: Is it better to develop a single dog area or sectioned areas based on dog size or energy level?

A: Most cities do provide small dog areas if space allows or “high energy” vs “low energy” spaces

Q: What hours of operation are recommended?

A: Available hours from dawn to dusk is common.

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