

To: Mayor Taylor and the City Council
 Fr: Ron Chandler
 Dt: June 20, 2014
 Re: Dog Park

The staff was asked to consider possible locations for and the creation of a dog park. Our review considered the use of existing facilities, ease of construction, access, and minimal maintenance. We considered all City property and looked at the short and long term improvements. Attached is a request we received earlier this year.

Location: NOC detention basin between 2550 N and 2700 N.		
Short Term improvements:		
Water Source:		\$ 2,000
Parking - road base:		\$ 2,500
Equipment - signs, trash can, "mutt mitt" box		\$ 300
Sub Total		\$ 4,800
Resloping the ditch on west side of property		in house
Long Term Improvements		
Grass along top of the berm		
Sprinkler on east side of property		
benches		
trees		
small gate		

Short-term Improvements



Long-term Improvements



Funding Proposal. Increase the fee for dog licenses and dedicate the funds to improving the park.
Our current, annual fees are as follows:

Unaltered dog and no microchip	\$30.00
Fixed Dog but no microchip.	\$10.00
Microchip but not fixed.	\$20.00
Fixed dog and chipped.	\$5.00

Last year we registered 1,682 dogs.

Letter Received April 2014

As the population of our city grows, both human and canine, the instances of unwanted dog encounters will surely increase as well. Ordinances can be written to restrict the movement of dogs within our community, but the reality is that dogs and people will come into contact. Our best hope is that when these instances occur, there will not be a negative outcome.

Dog owners know that a properly exercised dog will make for a healthier animal. This is difficult to accomplish while keeping a dog on leash. Many homeowners lack the available yard space to give their dogs proper exercise. So despite ordinances not allowing an off-leash dog, they are taken to parks and trails where they often encounter other users of those areas. When these encounters take place, it is in the best interest of all that the dog has been well socialized to people and other dogs.

In order to well socialize a dog, it must be exposed to a variety of people, dogs, and situations. In order to accomplish this, the dog must be taken into places where strange people and dogs are present. Currently there is no such area available in North Ogden. So this either doesn't happen, making the dog less well socialized and increasing the odds of an unfavorable outcome to an unwanted encounter, or it occurs in places that are less convenient for the unsuspecting public.

Pedestrians walking or running through neighborhoods, children walking to school, and bicyclists are just a few of the people who also encounter dogs who are unrestrained. It is not unusual for a dog to run out of a yard and into the street to bark at, follow, or worse yet, aggressively react to a stranger in their territory. Again, when these instances occur, it is in the best interest of all that the dog is well socialized.

Some of the examples given occur only when the dog owner has chosen not to comply with existing rules, regulations and overall responsibilities of dog ownership. While it is impossible to say what percent of people accept their obligations as responsible dog owners, a visit to any nearby park or trail provides plenty of evidence of irresponsible dog owners "leaving their mark". Some of these irresponsible dog owners would benefit from the influence of a more responsible dog owner. A responsible dog owner can provide a good example of proper training, handling, and socializing of dogs as well as influence the attitude or opinion of owners who do not clean up after their animals. It is in the best interest of all that an opportunity be made available that would bring dog owners together so that a responsible owner can influence others who are not.

A dog park can be part of the solution to these problems. It can provide an area where dogs can run off-leash, gain experience with other dogs and people, and protect the public from unwanted encounters. And when unexpected encounters do happen, the result may be more favorable. A dog park is not just a benefit for those who have dogs, but a benefit for the entire community.

Presently there are not many dog parks in our area. Ogden City has one, located in the Fort Buenaventura area. Hill AFB has one but of course that is only available to those with military privileges. South Ogden has a dog park that is open part of the year (April - November). Logan has an unfenced area where dogs are allowed off leash. Davis County opened a dog park in 2011 but it is presently closed due to construction. There are several dog parks in the Salt Lake City area but these were not researched.

In summary, dog parks are a benefit to the whole community:

1. It provides dogs a place to run off leash. A tired dog is a happy dog. A happy dog isn't going to bark out of boredom and disturb neighbors. If a dog has someplace to go off leash, it is less likely that the owner will take the dog to a park where he might come into contact with those who prefer to avoid encounters with a dog.
2. It provides the opportunity for more responsible dog owners to influence less responsible dog owners. It provides a place for dog owners to discuss issues related to dogs. It provides a place for people to see examples of well trained dogs and get encouragement to train their own dogs.
3. A better socialized dog is a better canine citizen. In the event that someone does come into contact with the dog by surprise or accident, it is less likely that it will result in a negative experience if the dog is well socialized to other people and animals.

Some dog parks are created at the expense of the city. Other times it is a combination of the city providing some resources while working with volunteers or sponsors for labor or materials. Eagle scouts may be interested in using a dog park as their project to qualify for their badges.

Requirements for a Dog Park:

1. **Real Estate** - A dog park can be as simple as a single fenced in area. However, ideally there should be 2 separate areas so that smaller dogs can play and interact without risking injury from a larger, more rambunctious dog. There should also be enough area to allow for adequate parking.
2. **Water Source** - Provide drinking water for active dogs and lawn maintenance. Not all dog parks have lawn/grassy areas, but dog owners are more apt to use a park where their dog won't be playing in the bare dirt. The dog park in Davis County (before closing for construction) had a simple plastic wading pool available for dogs to use in the park that proved popular with canines.
3. **Shade** - For dogs and owners. A few trees can provide relief from a hot summer sun.

4. **Signage** - Dog park rules and regulations.
5. **Fencing** around each area, 4 - 6 feet, and double gates to prevent dogs from escaping.
6. **Trash cans**
7. **Doggie Bag Station** - Not necessarily required since responsible owners generally carry their own, but having a station encourages others to clean up after their dogs and sends another message of expectation.

Dog Parks North of Salt Lake:

Club Heights Dog Park is located at 4100 South Palmer Drive, South Ogden. It is open April - November. This fenced-in park has 2 acres for dogs to play.

Ogden City Dog Park is located at 2450 A Avenue, at Fort Buenaventura. It is just over 1.75 acres, all fenced-in with both natural and grassy landscaped areas. There are separate areas for smaller/larger dogs, and an agility area.

HAFB Dog Park is located across the street from the Youth Center. It is one large area, no partitions. The park is only available to those with military privileges.

Davis County has a dog park located at the Legacy Center. It opened in 2011 but presently is closed for construction. The park is 20,000 sq. feet. It has two fenced off-leash areas.

Rendezvous Park is located at 1500 S US Hwy 89/91 in Logan. This park is an unfenced off-leash dog area. Because the information on this park was so limited, it would suggest that it is not a fully developed park.