



Dog Park Classifications

For the purpose of this process, dog parks are categorized by their function below. The criteria established in this document is for the designation of parks as Dog Friendly and is not siting criteria for off-leash Dog Parks.

| Dog Park Type | Dog Usage | Service Area |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dog Friendly Park | Leashed | Countywide |
| Dog Park | Leashed and Off-leashed | Countywide |

Dog Friendly/Leashed Dog Park

Dog friendly parks are a place for people to enjoy their dogs on-leash. Care must be taken when choosing sites for dog friendly parks to mitigate potential negative impacts in sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, high value habitat areas, and to protect watersheds. Dog friendly Parks may include but are not limited to looping unpaved or paved trails (i.e., native soil, gravel, or paved surfacing), gravel or paved parking areas, dog waste dispensers, trash receptacles, regulatory signage, and drinking fountains.

Site Selection Criteria for Dog Friendly Parks

To determine the appropriate park locations for leashed dogs the following criteria will be evaluated:

Adjacent Land Use Compatibility

Research has identified both real and perceived concerns related to adjacent land use compatibilities dog park facilities. Most issues and concerns identified (e.g., noise level of barking dogs, smell of dog waste, etc.) arise when the adjacent land use is residential. When feasible dog friendly parks should be located to minimize conflicts with existing and/or planned land uses.

Environmental Considerations

When a natural area is being considered as a dog friendly park, the area should be analyzed to determine if there are any environmentally sensitive lands such as wetlands, sensitive habitats, protected species, or watersheds are present. Preference should be given to sites that are not environmentally sensitive, but if natural areas are considered for a dog friendly location, the following measures should be undertaken to minimize potential impacts from off-leash activities.

- Construct trails, paths, and amenities away from sensitive areas when possible.
- Place barriers and buffer zones to protect sensitive and highly erodible areas.
- Provide sustainable controlled access points to natural water elements (e.g., creeks, ponds).
- Limit locations to those without critical habitat for listed species or managed species.

Each potential site must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis prior to determining its feasibility for being a dog friendly location.



Vehicular and Pedestrian Access

The desired level of vehicular and pedestrian access varies according to the dog park's type, location, and adjacent land uses. Dog Friendly Parks function more as an individual amenity and not a destination. These parks have designated parking and should have good path and trail linkages to encourage both walking and driving to, depending on the proximity to residential development.

Site Infrastructure

The amount of infrastructure required for dog park development depends on the type of amenities desired by the users. Due to the nature and intent of off-leash Dog Parks, they are typically located where existing land use development has already provided roads, streets, water and sewer mains, and other utilities. Dog Friendly Parks may not have all of the same infrastructure (ie: water fountains, shade structures and fencing) as off-leash Dog Parks.

Guidelines for Placement of Dog Friendly Parks

The following guidelines will be evaluated when an application for a Dog Friendly Park is submitted and during the master planning process for new parks when public input indicates the desire for a park to be Dog Friendly:

Size: The location of a dog friendly park will be dependent upon the particular park in which it is proposed. Longer walking paths/trails are preferred (at least ½ mile), but if a distance can be accommodated in a particular park, with community support, then a smaller size will be considered.

Buffer from Residential: It is important to provide a buffer between nearby residences and the dog friendly park. The buffer should allow for neighbors to have no more disturbances from than other typical park uses. Buffers may include vegetation and/or berms to aid in noise/visual attenuation.

Non-residential Adjacent Land Use: Depending on the type of business or institution, a dog friendly park may be considered either a beneficial amenity or an undesirable facility.

Drinking Fountain: Source of drinking water is highly desirable within or adjacent to the proposed park.

Parking: Sufficient parking, convenient to the site, should be provided such that the park does not create undue burden on surrounding neighborhoods.

Shade: Shade is highly desirable. The site should provide a good mix of mature trees and open space/turf grass.

Use Conflict Avoidance: It is important to review park locations to determine if leashed dogs would impact existing park uses such as playgrounds, trails, ball fields, picnic shelters, game courts, or any existing heavily used or programmed area.



Protect Natural Areas: Dog Park areas should not be located in or in close proximity to natural areas where sensitive or critical habitats occur or areas where specific species are being managed. Dog friendly parks can be considered in natural areas on a case-by-case basis.



Process for Designating a Park as Dog Friendly

- Application for Dog Friendly Park must be completed.
- Petition for establishment of a dog park will be completed no less than 25 residents within the service radius of the park.
 - Regional
 - Service radius: up to 10 miles
 - Community
 - Service radius: ½ to 3 miles
 - Neighborhood
 - Service radius: ¼ - ½ miles
 - Special Purpose
 - Service radius: 3 to 10(+) miles
 - Environmental
 - Service radius: approx. 20(+) miles
- A minimum 30-day public notice and comment period will be made and reviewed by the Director or their designee, the Parks and Natural Resources Manager and a representative from Animal Control.
- An application may be accepted, accepted with provisions, or rejected with an explanation.
 - Sites that may not be deemed suitable for dogs include:
 - Areas designated specifically as playgrounds or children’s play area
 - Athletic fields and sport courts
 - Parks with approved exclusive use agreements
 - Sensitive habitat areas or wildlife areas determined by the Parks and Natural Resources Division
 - Areas directly upslope from a community garden
 - Undeveloped / reduced service level parks