

May 1st, 2015

Report To: Planning & Development Executive Committee

From: Operations & Facilities Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Proposal from a General Public Dog Park Group - To develop an off-leash Dog Park on the Old West End Rink Property

The proposal for the construction of an off-leash dog park from a general public dog park group was referred to the Planning & Development executive committee with input from the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee.

Back in June 2011 under the Town's strategic plan document, the Town was to complete an investigation into allocation of space for the exercising of dogs. In order to develop some level of appreciation on how much planning work has been done to-date siting a new off leash dog park and other pertinent information on the development of a dog park in your community on the Old West End Rink property, I have attached the following information for your review;

- 1) Administration Report dated February 15, 2013 from the Off-leash Dog Park Advisory Committee (OLDPA) to Council.
- 2) Comments from Town of Fort Frances Divisions and Depts. in the fall of 2012 in regards to the 4 preferred sites.
- 3) List of all 6 Candidate Sites with ranking by each member of OLDPA committee- November 8, 2012.
- 4) Comments from Merv Ahrens on October 2nd, 2012 in regards to the West End Rink Property converted to an Off-Leash Dog Park.
- 5) Article from Wikipedia on Dog Parks - Concerns with off-leash Dog Parks – page 4 of 10.
- 6) New Dog Park Proposal document (Old west end rink property) from the general public Dog Park group.

I have taken the liberty to comment **only** on items related to the Operations & Facilities Division in regards to the;

- 1) **Supply of Animal Proof containers-** There is a cost of supplying & installing these containers. A decision will have to be made on who is responsible for what – Town VS general public dog park group. If a dog park is approved on this property, the Town's parks crew will empty these containers on a regular basis as for any other park or green space area within the community.
- 2) **Supply of Lighting Poles –** There are initial capital costs (poles, conductor and lighting fixtures) and on-going operating costs for the new park space lighting. A decision will have to be made on who is responsible for what – Town VS general public dog park group. A general lighting layout is required to determine costs.

- 3) **Water supply-** There are initial capital costs and on-going operating costs to provide a water supply to be utilized in the proposed dog park. A decision will have to be made on who is responsible for what – Town VS general public dog park group. Using a Fire Hydrant to supply water to the dog park is not a long term solution where a water service line could be supplied from the existing infrastructure at the end of Lillie Avenue. The exact location of the dog fountain or tap is required to develop a cost estimate \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- 4) **Drainage system for Dog wading pools-** There is storm sewer piping at the end of Webster Avenue and Sanitary Sewer piping at both the end of Webster Avenue and Lillie Avenue. It is unknown if a sanitary sewer or storm sewer drainage connection is required at the time of preparing this report. See attached map.

In regards to funding, the Town's initial 2015 capital budget included the development of an off leash dog park at a total cost of \$30,000 at the preferred site (sewage treatment plant and water tower property) with the understanding that a service group like the Kiwanis club would be responsible for half these costs or a 50% split. Wading pools, space lighting were not considered in the \$30,000 just fencing and gating. The first question to be answered – Does the Town want to develop this property into an off-leash Dog Park?

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ryan, Chairman
Operations & Facilities Executive Committee

2015MayDogPark

DOG PARK PROPOSAL



February 15, 2013

Report To: Mayor & Council

From: Off-Leash Dog Park Advisory Committee (OLDPA)

SUBJECT: Progress Report on the Development of a New Off-Leash Dog Park within the Community

As outlined in the Town's June 2011 strategic plan document under item No. 28 -Park Operational review, the Town was to complete an investigation into allocation of space for the exercising of dogs. The Operations & Facilities Division was to coordinate the completion of this strategic objective. In the summer of 2012, the Town advertised and selected two citizens at large from the community to be a part of the OLDPA committee. Kathleen Egan and Duane Hicks were selected and have played a fundamental role in completing the planning work for the last six months. More importantly the Kiwanis Club approached the Town to be a partner in the development of such a dog park along with provide some kind of financial support once the selection process was completed. George Bell and Janet Lambert of the Kiwanis Club have also played an essential role in completing the planning work for the last six months.

Please find attached the Terms of Reference, which were developed by the OLDPA committee and approved by Council in September of 2012. The Off Leash Dog Park Advisory Committee consists of the following members;

Duane Hicks – Chairperson & General Public Member
Kathleen Egan – General Public Member
Andrew Hallikas – Councilor
Ken Perry – Councilor
George Bell – Kiwanis Club
Janet Lambert – Kiwanis Club
Arlene Byrnes – By-Law Officer
Doug Brown – Operations & Facilities Manager

Over the past six months, the OLDPA committee met five times where the committee reviewed a listing of all green spaces and parks presently maintained by the Parks and Cemeteries Department. Each member of the committee provided both positive and negative comments on each site and ranked their six top sites. Eventually four candidate sites were selected by the committee and distributed to all Town departments for input. Please find attached a listing of the four candidate sites with comments from the Town departments.

The OLDPA committee is of the opinion that the four candidates would probably require some fine-tuning, as there appears to be reconsideration for one of the sites previously removed from the listing. However, there is a general consensus that the Town owned property by the Sewage Treatment Plant and Water Tower is considered the preferred or the first choice site to construct an off leash dog park. The exact layout of the site and cost estimate would be completed once a preferred site is selected and endorsed by Council. A ballpark figure of around \$ 30,000 will be required to construct a standard off-leash dog park with two areas, one for small dogs and one for large dogs.

However, the recent Resolute announcement in late November of 2012 has had an impact on the development of the Off-Leash Dog Park in 2013. Where the Off-Leash Dog Park development is considered an expansion of service where the Town will not be in a position to provide any in-kind services and financial support for the completion of such a project in 2013.

The OLDPA committee met on January 24, 2013 and decided that it did not make sense to host a public open house meeting if the dog park was not going to be built in 2013. As a result the committee delayed the process and will meet in the fall of 2013 prior to determine if the financial state of the community has improved where an off-leash dog park could be supported and developed in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Hicks – Chairperson & General Public Member of the OLDPAC

Kathleen Egan – General Public Member of the OLDPAC

Andrew Hallikas – Councilor & Member of the OFDPAC

Ken Perry – Councilor & Member of the OFDPAC

George Bell – Kiwanis Club Representative on the OFDPAC

Janet Lambert – Kiwanis Club Representative on the OFDPAC

Arlene Byrnes – By-Law Officer & Town Representative on the OLDPAC

Doug Brown – Operations & Facilities Manager & Town Representative on the
OLDPAC

<p>There is no action required by Council at this time and this progress report has been prepared to ensure Council is aware of the work completed to date by the Off- Leash Dog Park Advisory Committee.</p>

**TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
AD-HOC OFF-LEASH DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
Revision No. 2 – August 28, 2012**

A. PURPOSE:

1. To plan and select a site for a new off-leash dog park within the existing greenspace & park areas of the community. Preference will be given to Town owned land. The following factors will be taken into consideration:
 - Participation of local level partners in the siting and financing of the park.
 - Increase vehicular traffic.
 - Noise and smell from the new park.
 - Location is appropriate for the dogs, the owners and the community.
 - Size and layout of the park – large dogs and small dogs considered.
 - All season usage
 - Consideration to abut the new off-leash dog park beside or in an existing park or green or open space or Park area.
2. To design a preliminary layout of an off-leash dog park where both small and large dogs are taken into consideration.
3. To develop a set of rules for the off-leash dog park which will be approved by Council.

B. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:

The Committee will consist of the following:

- Two (2) Citizens at large selected by and approved by Council.
- Two (2) Councillors; Mr. Ken Perry & Andrew Hallikas
- Two (2) Members of the Kiwanis Club: George Bell & Janet Lambert
- Operations and Facilities Manager. The Operations & Facilities Manager will also serve as the recording secretary.
- One by-law Officer

The chair of the off-leash dog park will be selected at the first meeting of the committee. Minutes of all meetings will be taken. The term for the Committee is undetermined at this time will commencing in the summer of 2012 and ending once the off-leash park is open to the dogs and dog owners of Fort Frances. Consideration will be given to continue the off-leash dog park advisory committee once the new off-leash dog park is fully operational.

C. PROCEDURES:

The Committee will meet at minimum on a quarterly basis to review matters that arise. Meetings of the Committee will be as informal as possible. Any decisions arrived at shall be by majority consensus.

Meetings will be scheduled so that all members can attend. Minutes of the meetings shall be forwarded to the Town's Clerk and a copy to the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee. Recommendations from the **AD-HOC OFF-LEASH DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will be forwarded to Operations and Facilities Division Manager to bring to the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to consider in their recommendations to Council .

No.	Candidate Sites	Pros	Cons	Fire Dept.	Planner	CAO	Chief Building Official	Engineering	FFPC	Community Services
		Off Leash Dog Park Committee	Off Leash Dog Park Committee							
1	Phair Avenue Park	No houses facing dog park, water main on 6th St., large size of land north and west of playground equipment total area of 1.89 ha, Near Railway Track thus considered substandard for residential development	Bush must be cleared and landscaped, backs onto residential property, not centrally located - East End of the Community		Rezoning required R2 to Open Space, small area when playground equipment area removed approximately 1.08 ha		Same as con listing	Existing roadways surface treatment on surface, a lot of wildlife in the area, thus more noise	Zoned R2	No issues
2	6th Street Rink and Green Space	Water available from rink shack, back lane access, Community Living owns property abutting south boundary line, no houses facing open space	Poor parking, in the north end but centrally located	Small Width could be a design factor	Could impact on Daycare Activities - smell & noise. No rezoning required		Too close to the Daycare, where very young children are at play	Parkland used by the Daycare	Green Energy Act Consideration - Property is well suited to host a ground mounted solar farm	Land used a lot for Daycare activities; walks, picnics & walks in the winter time
3	Water Tower Property/West End Boat Launch/Sewage Treatment Plant	Large piece of property 7.47 ha, no impact to residential owners, west end boat launch parking lot could be utilized for parking, water service near water tower, possibly to tie-in to existing fencing.	Relatively steep slopes, probably need to develop sidewalk or pathway network to access new dog park, Boat Launch Parking lot not plowed in the winter months	Parking set-up could be a design factor	Rezoning required for Institutional zone to Open Space, approximately 1.63 ha already zoned open space	Sloped grades are not good for Dogs & owners thus less utilization.	Likes this property based on the following reasons; Very accessible with no neg. parking issues, could be easily located and used by tourists, does not require clearing or grading, does not have large impact on neighboring residential properties, large areas, has some fencing and basically is move-in ready	Site is large enough to accommodate a larger number of animals, easily accessible, far enough away from residential homes and site is groomed (Park like)	Green Energy Act Consideration - Property is well suited to host a ground mounted solar farm	High School athletic teams use extensively for hill training and as well as others training for various fitness pursuits
4	Town property just south of 5th Street West ROW between McIlvaine Road to Wright Avenue	Relatively flat piece of land, water available on north side of 5th Street ROW, No impact to residential areas	Property could be developed into Industrial or Commercial lots in the future, Located in the Northwest part of the Community, Poor access for vehicular & pedestrian traffic (no parking along 5th street) more fencing needed to restrict access to narrow width of property and no parking lot thus more cost for development.	Small Width could be a design factor	Rezoning required M2 to Open Space, Town marketing property for sale with development program established in 2011		Same as con listing	A bit too close to the CNR tracks	Green Energy Act Consideration - Property is well suited to host a ground mounted solar farm	No issues

Reconsideration should be given to the old West End Rink property doesn't like the candidate sites

Consideration should be given to utilizing one of two baseball parks, York and the 3rd baseball park at the St. Francis Sportsfields on a trial basis to determine if there is a need

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:45 PM

To Ken Perry <lakracer@yahoo.ca>, "JANET LAMBERT"
<janetlambert@shaw.ca>, "Duane Hicks"
<dhicks@fortfrances.com>, "George Bell"
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

Hi All information forwarded to town depts. Regards

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755

----- Forwarded by Doug Brown/Frances on 11/09/2012 03:44 PM -----

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:43 PM

To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
Ruppenstein/Frances@Frances, Laurie
Witherspoon/Frances@Frances, Mark
McCaig/Frances@Frances, Rick Hallam/Frances@Frances,
Faye Platt/Frances, Jason Kabel/Frances, Trish
Law/Frances, Glenn Treftlin/Frances, Milt Strachan/Frances,
Doug Herr/Frances, Trevor McKinnon/Frances, Brian
Mueller/Frances, Roy Avis/Frances
cc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

Hi All, similar to a minor variance application from the Town planner, the off leash dog park advisory (OLDPA) committee is looking to receive input and comments from all town depts.. prior to holding a open house information meeting introducing the candidate sites to the general public and receive their input and comments. The OLDPA committee has narrow its choice down to 4 candidate sites which are located on property owned by the Town. I would like to receive your comments back by Friday November 23, 2012. Your input is very important to the selection process. Attached is a map showing the locations of the sites and a spreadsheet outlining the pros and cons of each site. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Regards



Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf 2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755

Off-Leash Dog Park Candidate Sites

Candidate Sites

- * Phair Avenue Park - 1.89 Ha
- * 5th ROW/CNR - 4.26 Ha
- * 6th Street Rink and Green Space - 2.03 Ha
- * Water Tower/West End Boat Launch/STP - 7.47 Ha



Off - Leash Dog Park Candidate Sites - November 8, 2012

No.	Candidate Sites	Pros	Cons
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Jason Kabel/Frances
11/18/2012 10:13 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
cc Herr/Frances@Frances, Faye Platt/Frances@Frances,
Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Glenn
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Doug:

I have discussed the candidate sites with the superintendents in the community services division and although there was not consensus on one particular site here are a couple of thoughts for the OLDPC:

- I don't know if a needs analysis has been done by the committee for the project but I do believe that it is essential that one be done. The public meeting may offer quality insight into the sentiment with the townspeople but it may also be an exercise in apathy and not reveal much at all, which then should lead to an analysis I believe.

- I agree with the pro/con list that has been submitted but another influential variable that I think should be considered/added is existing use of each piece of property. Simply because a section of land is vacant does not mean that there are not current users. Specifically: 6th Street Rink & Greenspace - The daycare uses this greenspace almost weekly for walks with the children, picnics, open play time, and lots of winter activities. Water Tower Property - This is really the only hill in the west end of town. It is used by the high school athletic teams extensively for hill training and as well as others training for various fitness pursuits. I don't think development of the other two sites would be an imposition in the same way.

- I also wonder if it may be worthwhile to consider a proof of concept before any real development is done or much money is invested. Perhaps declaring an existing ball diamond as an off-leash dog park is a good first step to prove the need for such in the town. Either Vanjura, which is not in use at all anymore, or the 3rd diamond at St. Francis could perhaps be considered as temporary parks for puppies to access how well utilized it would be before major investments are made or land is re-purposed.

Best regards,
Jason

Jason Kabel, B.Sc., B.Ed.
Manager of Community Services
Town of Fort Frances
Tel: 807-274-4561 ext. 11
Fax: 807-274-3799

Frank Sheppard/Frances
11/14/2012 02:47 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
cc Herr/Frances@Frances, Faye Platt/Frances@Frances,
Glenn Treftlin/Frances@Frances, Jason
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Hi Doug:

I think the space factor and parking are the main considerations that favor the water tower location. The two sites in the East end would seem to be rather small for an off lease application, and the width of the Fifth Street West location limits that site.

Regards

Frank Sheppard, Fire Chief/CEMC
Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service
Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
09/11/2012 03:43 PM

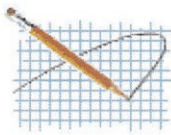
To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
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[attachment "Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf" deleted by Frank Sheppard/Frances] [attachment "2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf" deleted by Frank Sheppard/Frances]

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario

Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755



Faye Platt/Frances
11/19/2012 03:59 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
cc Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
Herr/Frances@Frances, Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances,
Glenn Treftlin/Frances@Frances, Jason
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

X Doug,

I offer for consideration of the OLDPC the following:

X Option 1 (Phair Ave) - Property is zoned R2 therefore to permit a park (of any kind) the property would need to be rezoned. The map attached shows this area is 1.89 ha. but according to our GIS, the area is 1.41 ha, which includes the area where playground equipment is located. If that is removed, the area is reduced to 1.08 ha (see attachment). The R2 zoning would appear to indicate that it is considered appropriate for residential development. If memory serves me correctly the Town received an expression of interest on this property a few years ago.

X Option 2 - (6th St.) - Area shown on map includes entire property occupied by children's complex, rink and rink shack. If those structures are eliminated, the size would decrease, according to our GIS, from 2.03 ha to approx. 1.08 ha. The property is currently zoned Open Space and appropriate for park. However the proximity to the children's complex may hinder outdoor activities.

X Option 3 - (Water Tower) - Other than an approximate 1.63 ha piece fronting Colonization Rd. W. that is zoned Open Space, the majority of this property is zoned Institutional (see area in red on attachment). If the proposed park was to intrude on any area other than the Open Space, a zoning amendment would be required. In addition, because this area is designated as Living Area in the Official Plan, an OPA would be required as well. Although this designation covers the entire property, the area zoned OS is deemed to confirm (aka grandfathered)

X Option 4 - (5th St. W.) - This property is actively being marketed under the development incentive program established last year. It is zoned M1 and designated as Working Area in the Official Plan. To accommodate a park, an amendment to zoning and the official plan would be required.

I trust the above will assist in the committee's deliberations.
regards,
Faye

N. Faye Flatt, AMCT, ACST, CPT
Municipal Planner
Town of Fort Frances,
www.fort-frances.com/departments/planning-zoning
(ph) 807-274-5323 ex. 275
(fax) 807-274-8479

Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:43 PM

To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
Ruppenstein/Frances@Frances, Laurie
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cc

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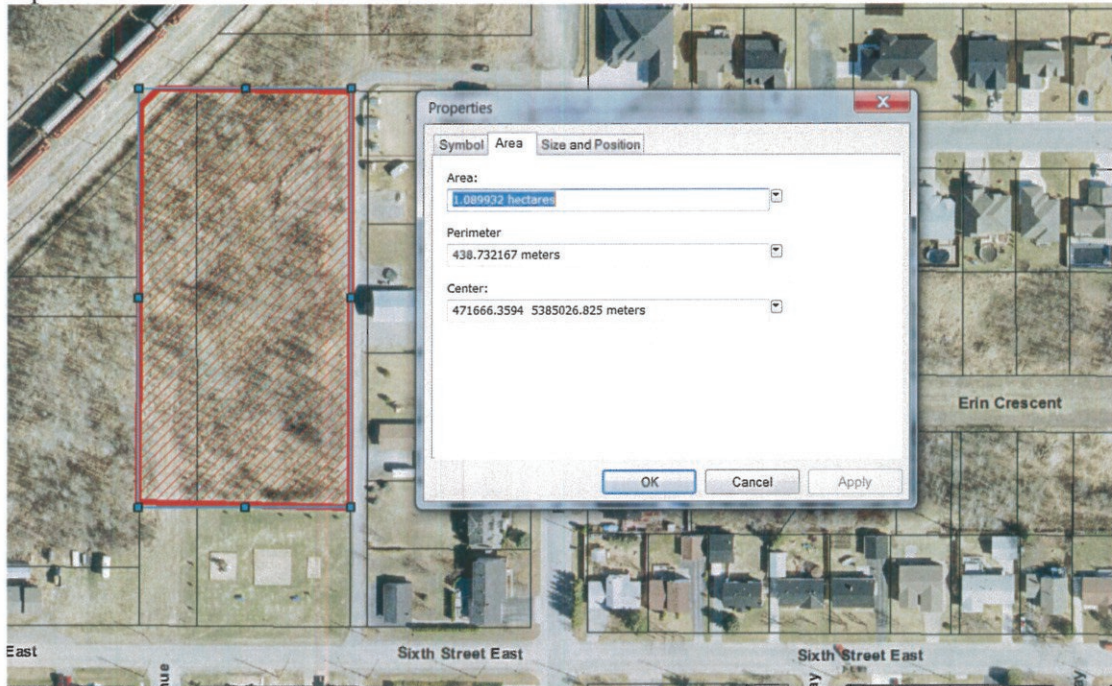
Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf



2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf

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Option 1




Option 3





Trish Law/Frances
11/19/2012 04:07 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Doug:

I have reviewed the four site and I believe that the best site would be at the Water Tower. There is ample room for parking, it already has a treed area and is relatively out of the way (in terms of noise, smell, etc) yet easy for people to get to. I know that the high school and other clubs use the area for recreation/training but I believe there is ample space for both uses at this site.

Phair Ave Park - the roads are not the best and there is a lot of wildlife at this location (bears, deer, etc)
Sixth St green space - used by the Day Care, possible health concerns with the little ones
Fifth Street - would be my second choice, lots of space but a bit too close to the CNR tracks for my liking

Trish

Trisha Law, B.Sc. (Geography), MGIS
GIS Expert
Town of Fort Frances Public Works
P: (807) 274-9893 ext. 304
F: (807) 274-7360
tlaw@fort-frances.com



Brian Mueller/Frances
11/14/2012 11:59 AM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

Hi Doug. I have no concerns with any of these sites. Thanks
Doug Brown
----- Original Message -----

From: Doug Brown
Sent: 11/09/2012 03:43 PM CST
To: Frank Sheppard; Joerg Ruppenstein; Laurie Witherspoon; Mark McCaig; Rick Hallam; Faye Flatt; Jason Kabel; Trish Law; Glenn Treftlin; Milt Strachan; Doug Herr; Trevor McKinnon; Brian Mueller; Roy Avis
Subject: Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

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Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755

Doug Herr/Frances
11/15/2012 08:57 AM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Faye
cc Flatt/Frances@Frances, Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances,
Glenn Treftlin/Frances@Frances, Jason
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Doug,

After reviewing the four site locations the site at the location of the water tower would be the preferred location. The site is large enough to accommodate a larger number of animals, easily accessible, far enough away from residential homes (noise buffer; barking and any additional vehicle traffic) and site is already groomed (park like).

Regards,

Douglas Herr
Environmental & Facilities Supt.
Operations and Facilities Division
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3P9
P: (807) 274-9893 Ext.: 303
F: (807) 274-7360
email: dherr@fort-frances.com
Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:43 PM

Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
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Hi All, similar to a minor variance application from the Town planner, the off leash dog park advisory (OLDPA) committee is looking to receive input and comments from all town depts.. prior to holding a open house information meeting introducing the candidate sites to the general public and receive their input and comments. The OLDPA committee has narrow its choice down to 4 candidate sites which are located on property owned by the Town. I would like to receive your comments back by Friday November 23, 2012. Your input is very important to the selection process. Attached is a map showing the locations of the sites and a spreadsheet outlining the pros and cons of each site. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Regards



Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf



2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755



Rick Hallam/Frances
11/14/2012 11:05 AM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
cc Herr/Frances@Frances, Faye Platt/Frances@Frances,
Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Glenn
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park

Hi Doug,

I am assuming that this is the "short list" and no other properties are contemplated at this time. After review of the site map and the pro/con list I would opt for the Water Tower Property for the following reasons;

- Very accessible with no negative parking issues
- Could be easily located and used by tourists
- does not require clearing or grading
- does not have large impact on neighbouring residential properties
- Large area
- Pathways could be constructed of granular material such as crusher chips.
- Has some existing fencing
- Basically is move in ready.

As to the other properties on the list I would rule them out based on the "cons" list along with some others not mentioned. For instance, in my opinion the Sixth St. Rink property is too close to the Day Care where very young children are at play.

Hope this helps,

Rick Hallam
Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:43 PM

Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
Ruppenstein/Frances@Frances, Laurie
Witherspoon/Frances@Frances, Mark
McCaig/Frances@Frances, Rick Hallam/Frances@Frances,
Faye Platt/Frances@Frances, Jason
To Kabel/Frances@Frances, Trish Law/Frances@Frances,
Glenn Treftlin/Frances@Frances, Milt
Strachan/Frances@Frances, Doug Herr/Frances@Frances,
Trevor McKinnon/Frances@Frances, Brian
Mueller/Frances@Frances, Roy Avis/Frances@Frances
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Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf



2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf

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Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755

Mark McCaig/Frances
11/14/2012 03:00 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

I don't think the choices are particularly great. Surprised old west end rink is off the table. I don't know that people will want to walk those sloped areas near the water tower but it may be the best of the worst of a no-good pile.....Mark
Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
11/09/2012 03:43 PM

To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
Ruppenstein/Frances@Frances, Laurie
Witherspoon/Frances@Frances, Mark
McCaig/Frances@Frances, Rick Hallam/Frances@Frances,
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[attachment "Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf" deleted by Mark McCaig/Frances] [attachment "2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf" deleted by Mark McCaig/Frances]

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755



Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances
11/20/2012 10:10 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
cc Herr/Frances@Frances, Faye Platt/Frances@Frances,
Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Glenn
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Hi Doug, from FFPC's perspective we can offer the following comments:

We have assessed all four properties in regards to distributing electricity as well as for opportunities for future development of the subject land. The establishment of an off-leash dog park does not have an impact on our distribution of electricity however under the current Green Energy Act there is significant opportunity for the development of land to host renewable energy projects. The Government has recently introduced zoning restrictions to Windmills as well as to ground mounted solar installation that essentially limit where they may be located. Rooftop solar installations currently do not have any zoning restrictions.

Of the four proposed dog-park locations, two would qualify as potential properties for hosting ground mounted solar installations. The 5th Street property as well as the 6th Street Rink property would be allowed to host ground mounted solar installations provided that the primary purpose of the property is not solar generation. In a nutshell:

- Ground-mounted solar projects may not be located on residential property or on property abutting residential property.
- A ground-mounted solar project is permitted on commercial or industrial property as long as the project is not the main, primary or only use of the property.
- Earlier zoning exemptions are no longer in place (any projects not yet built as well as all future projects have to abide by zoning rules).
- Various restrictions to agricultural lands exist but do not apply to these locations

Let me know if you have any questions.

Joerg

~~~~~  
Joerg Ruppenstein  
President & CEO  
Fort Frances Power Corporation  
Ph: (807) 274-9291  
Fax: (807) 274-9375  
~~~~~

Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
09/11/2012 03:43 PM

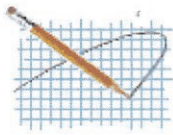
To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
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cc

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Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755



Faye Flatt/Frances
11/21/2012 10:32 AM

To Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
cc Brown/Frances@Frances, Doug Herr/Frances@Frances,
Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Glenn
bcc
Subject Re: Review and Provide Comments on the 4 Candidate
Sites for the New Off- Leash Dog Park 

Hi Joerg,
Just for clarification, projects under the Green Energy Act are still exempt from the Planning Act except as it relates to a recent change not by the government but by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) which is an independent corporation established in 2004 by Bill 100. The only component of zoning that still applies, as a requirement by the OPA, is that residential use cannot be permitted either on or abutting the property proposed for the solar project. For example, a property zoned highway commercial permits residential use as an accessory to the commercial and would therefore not meet that criteria. Projects are still exempt in regards to setback, coverage, etc.

regards,

Faye

N. Faye Flatt, AMCT, ACST, CPT
Municipal Planner
Town of Fort Frances,
www.fort-frances.com/departments/planning-zoning
(ph) 807-274-5323 ex. 275
(fax) 807-274-8479

Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances



Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances
11/20/2012 10:10 PM

To Doug Brown/Frances@Frances
Brian Mueller/Frances@Frances, Doug
Herr/Frances@Frances, Faye Flatt/Frances@Frances,
Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Glenn
Treftlin/Frances@Frances, Jason Kabel/Frances@Frances,
cc Laurie Witherspoon/Frances@Frances, Mark
McCaig/Frances@Frances, Milt
Strachan/Frances@Frances, Rick
Hallam/Frances@Frances, Roy Avis/Frances@Frances,
Trevor McKinnon/Frances@Frances, Trish
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Let me know if you have any questions.

Joerg

~~~~~  
Joerg Ruppenstein  
President & CEO  
Fort Frances Power Corporation  
Ph: (807) 274-9291  
Fax: (807) 274-9375  
~~~~~

Doug Brown/Frances

Doug Brown/Frances
09/11/2012 03:43 PM

To Frank Sheppard/Frances@Frances, Joerg
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[attachment "Offleash Dog Park Candidate Sites.pdf" deleted by Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances] [attachment "2012NOVDOGPARKSITES.pdf" deleted by Joerg Ruppenstein/Frances]

Doug Brown, P. Eng.
Operations & Facilities Manager
320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, Ontario
Town of Fort Frances
Work #-807-274-9893 Ext. 306
Cell # 807-275-9755

No.	Candidate Sites	Pros	Cons										
1	Lillie Avenue Park	Attached to existing park (West or South) - Lillie, better utilization of land no houses facing park area, relatively a flat property, Good access and parking - Webster or Lillie	Property could be developed into residential lots in the future, North & South boundary backs on residential properties, No watermain near park area (6th or 5th street), Not centrally located in the community (North end) Residential property owners storing items on park land.	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	45	6
2	Phair Avenue Park	No houses facing dog park, water main on 6th St., large size of land north and west of playground equipment total area of 1.89 ha, Near Railway Track thus considered substandard for residential development	Bush must be cleared and landscaped, backs onto residential property, not centrally located - East End of the Community	4	2	5	3	5	2	2	4	27	3
3	6th Street Rink and Green Space	Water available from rink shack, back lane access, Community Living owns property abutting south boundary line , no houses facing open space Large piece of property 7.47 ha, no impact to residential owners, west end boat launch parking lot could be utilized for parking, water service near water tower, possibly to tie-in to existing fencing.	Poor parking , in the north end but centrally located Relatively steep slopes, probably need to develop sidewalk or pathway network to access new dog park, Boat Launch Parking lot not plowed in the winter months	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	3	29	4
4	Water Tower Property/West End Boat Launch/Sewage Treatment Plant			1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	16	1
5	Old West End Rink Property	Close to water main, two driveways - old rink and end of Lillie Ave, attached to existing park - Legion, better utilization of land - presently just cutting grass, no houses facing park area, relatively a flat property, Legion Park Washrooms near by land, good parking & centrally located in the Community	Property could be developed into residential lots in the future, North boundary backs on residential properties/ROW, Poor access for vehicular & pedestrian traffic	6	6	1	5	2	4	4	6	34	5
6	Town property just south of 5th Street West ROW between McIrvine Road to Wright Avenue	Relatively flat piece of land, water available on north side of 5th Street ROW, No impact to residential areas	Property could be developed into Industrial or Commercial lots in the future, Located in the Northwest part of the Community, Poor access for vehicular & pedestrian traffic (no sidewalk along 5th street) More fencing material to due to narrow width of property and no parking lot thus more cost for development.	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	2	17	2



Merv Ahrens
<mlahrens@sympatico.ca>
10/02/2012 12:25 PM

To "Duane Hicks" <dhicks@fortfrances.com>,
<dbrown@fort-frances.com>
cc "merv Ahrens" <mlahrens@sympatico.ca>
bcc
Subject Re: TofFF Dog Park Locations

History:

📧 This message has been forwarded.

Hi Duane,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on one of the candidate sites for a possible dog park, namely "PROPERTY ON LILLIE AVE. (adjacent to the Legion Park). " By the latter Fort Frances Times description, I presume the site referenced is officially known as the **WEST END SPORTS FIELD**, the former location of a ball diamond, bleachers, hockey rink and community hall.

May I begin by emphatically stating my opinion -- the **WEST END SPORTS FIELD needs to remain a SPORTS FIELD**. There is **NOT a surplus** of town-owned / town-maintained, low-organizational sports fields suitable for a game of baseball, soccer, golfing shots, fitness walks, kite flying, etc. One of the few available spots, Pither's Point Park, will soon be managed by Agency 1 / Treaty 3.

My reasons for opposing a dog park in / near the **WEST END SPORTS FIELD** are:

1. This area is frequently used as a SPORTS FIELD.
2. Kids and picnics, etc. in the adjacent Legion Park would be a major canine distraction.
3. Vehicular traffic would be increased past the children's playground on Lillie Ave.
4. Vehicular parking and turn-around space are limited and already create a danger to the children using Legion Park and to the park trees and grass. Sunday church parking often congests the area.
5. The **Webster Ave. exit** (both right & especially left turns onto Colonization Rd) are **VERY DANGEROUS**. The Lillie Ave. exit onto King's Highway is also challenging.

6. The road surfaces of the back alley connecting Lillie and Webster and Lillie Ave. are broken, often pot-holed and dusty.

7. The MNR recognizes the adjacent river bank / island have been choice areas for a pair of nesting bald eagles - prolonged area closures have occurred.

8. Residential property owners in the immediate area would be negatively affected by increased vehicular traffic, barking, excrement odors, etc.

I would be happy to provide further clarification to your selection committee on any / all of the above points.

Sincerely

Merv Ahrens

535 Webster Ave.
274 3744

----- Original Message -----

From: [Duane Hicks](#)

To: [Merv Ahrens](#)

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 3:38 PM

Subject: Re: ToffF Dog Park Locations

Hi Merv,

Further to my prior email, I just talked to Doug Brown, and it would be preferred if you could submit your input to me and I will bring it to the committee (as opposed to making a presentation to the committee). Feel free to email any information to me or drop written information off at the Times' office.

If you could do it before this Thursday afternoon, that would be great. But if not, you can give me the information at a later date and I will bring it to the committee at our next meeting after that.

Thanks again.

On 2012-10-01, at 2:06 PM, Merv Ahrens wrote:

Hello Duane,

I recently read your (Staff) article in the Times re possible dog park locations and the Ad Hoc committee. Subsequently I had a long chat with Doug Brown, TofFF Exec. member.

I would like to provide some input reproperty on Lillie Avenue (adjacent to the Legion Park).

Could you please advise how my comments could be registered before a public meeting where the committee presents its Pros & Cons for each of the candidate sites.

Thanks for considering this request.

Sincerely

Merv Ahrens

274 3744

Dog park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the exercise area for dogs; there is also a Dog Park (movie).

A **dog park** is a facility set aside for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners. Parks vary in accoutrements, although a typical dog park offers a 4' to 6' fence; separate, double-gated entry and exit points; adequate drainage; benches for humans; shade for hot days; parking close to the site; water; tools to pick up and dispose of animal waste in covered trash cans; and regular maintenance and cleaning of the grounds.^[1] Dog parks may also feature wheel-chair access, a pond for swimming; and a separate enclosure for small dogs. In the U.S. the first official dog park opened in 1979 in Berkeley, California's Ohlone Park. Today, more than 600 city- or county-sanctioned off-leash areas in the U.S. exist,^[2] and more than 1,100 exist in the U.S. and Canada combined (Dogpark.com, 2002). In Australia, dog parks feature water taps rather than hydrants, garden benches, and mature trees for shade. Some (e.g. Pymble, New South Wales) have solar lampposts for after dark use.



The recently renovated Tompkins Square Park dog run was the first in New York City, and it was recently named one of the top five dog parks in the United States by *Dog Fancy* magazine.



Dogs playing in Milwaukee Area Dog Parks

Contents

- 1 Benefits of off-leash dog parks
- 2 Concerns with off-leash dog parks
- 3 Children in dog parks
- 4 Community solutions: Instant dog parks and unfenced dog parks
- 5 Weather considerations
- 6 Dog park locations
- 7 Dog parks growth
- 8 External links
- 9 References

Benefits of off-leash dog parks

Off-leash dog areas, or dog parks, provide a community setting in which people can gather and socialize^[3] and where they can observe the interaction of groups of dogs at play. Dog parks the world over allow owners and their dogs to spend time together while the dog satisfies its cravings for canine play and companionship.^[4]

Respected organizations like the ASPCA believe that dog parks are beneficial to both dogs and their guardians.^[5] According to Dan Emerson of Dog Channel.com, proponents of dog parks cite the following benefits: "They promote responsible pet ownership and the enforcement of dog-control laws; give dogs a place to exercise safely, thus reducing barking and other problem behaviors; provide seniors and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions; and provide an area for community-building socializing."^[6] Dog park regulations vary from park to park, but some are quite extensive and comprehensive, like this poster from The New York Council of Dog Owner Groups (http://nycdog.org/NYCdofreeserver/DLdocs/Poster_Apr06.pdf) attests. The guide Public Open Space and Dogs (<http://www.petnet.com.au/openspace/7.0.html>) includes plans and illustrations.



The Danny Jackson Family Bark Park in Houston, Texas is a dog park operated by the Harris County government

ownership in the United States increased by over 1 million households between 1990 and 1992, up to 54 million, or 58% of all U.S. households. Of the pet-owning households, 38% included dogs, which translated to 1.5 dogs per dog-owning household or a total of 53.3 million dogs.^[7] By 2005-2006, the U.S. Pet Owners Survey showed that the number of dogs Americans owned had shot up to 73 million dogs, a significant increase.^[8] The Humane Society noted in 2007 that approximately 60% of U.S. owners had one dog, 25% had two dogs, and 15% had three or more dogs,^{[9][10]} and 75% of dog owners consider their pets to be a significant part of the family.^[11]



A Great Dane lounges on a picnic table in Meir Park, Tel Aviv.

In Great Britain dogs and cats were owned by 39% of people.^[12] A 2007 Pet Club article noted: "The Blue Cross Pet Census shows that we spend an average of £406 per year on our dogs, a 20% increase from last year and £128 more than the average expenditure on pets."^[13] Australia has one of the highest incidence of pet ownership in the world, with 2.8 million Australians owning dogs in 2005.^[14] While none of these statistics address the urban dog, one can surmise that more dogs than ever live in urban environments where yards tend to be small and strict leash laws are enforced. In her 2007 Master's Thesis, Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities (http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes_capstones), author Laurel Allen wrote:

"In urban environments dogs are generally confined to a crate, portions of the home, or small sections of the yard most of the time. Typically, dogs are taken on daily walks, but because of strict leash laws, they cannot run free or easily socialize with other dogs."

A leash can cause a dog to become territorial.^[15] Dog parks where dogs can run unfettered can seem like a good solution for urban dogs, but before embarking on such a project designers should "consider legal ramifications, social behavior of dogs and dog owners, environmental and health issues for dogs and people, and the costs of building, maintaining, and policing dog parks."^[16] Proponents of dog parks are encouraged to advocate at the local level, work closely with public parks and recreation staff, and have rules firmly established before bringing their case to the public. As the dog population increases in high density environments, regulations need to be in place to promote responsible pet ownership, and facilities

need to be provided to allow pet owners and their canine companions to exercise and play together.^[17] The provision of ample quality space for the human/dog companion recreation promotes the physical and mental well being of both dog and human.^[18]

Scientific studies have shown that people find it easier to talk to each other with dogs as the initial focus, breaking down the usual social barriers that make people in our society perceive others as strangers.



Dogs playing "catch"

"Dogs act as social 'ice breakers' and help people strike up friendly conversation with others," says Dr. June McNicholas, senior research fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. "We are probably much more sociable than society allows us. It is difficult for us to strike up a conversation with a complete stranger – all sorts of ulterior motives may be suspected. But being with a dog (or other pet) gives a safe, non-threatening, neutral topic to start a conversation."^[19]

Research has also shown that dogs improve people's health (by lowering their blood pressure) and increase resistance to disease by giving people unconditional love and companionship. They reduce anxiety and depression, stimulate people to exercise, connect people with others and help redevelop a sense of purpose.^{[20][21]} The unconditional love of a companion animal is very beneficial for the elderly,^[22] many of whom are unable to properly exercise their dogs and who stand to benefit from taking their dogs to a dog park.^[23]

Additional benefits of a dog park to the community include:

- 1) Promoting responsible dog ownership,^[24]
- 2) Socialization and exercise for dogs (which leads to a healthier dog in both mind and body),
- 3) Bringing dogs and owners together in neutral territory, which can reduce fear and aggression in dogs,^[25]
- 4) Offering elderly and disabled citizens a place to exercise their companions,^[26] and
- 5) Accommodating dogs and their owners in a public open space (this has been shown to lead dog owners to higher levels of compliance with relevant laws).^[27]

The benefits of exercise for dogs is well documented,^[28] although dogs can learn and reinforce bad behaviors if owners are not vigilant or careful.^[29] Cesar Millan, the Dog Whisperer, cautions that the dog park should not be used as a substitute for a daily walk. He suggests that the owners walk their dogs briskly for 35 minutes to calm them before placing them unleashed inside a dog park enclosure.^[30] Dogs that are highly socialized and exercised are healthier and happier, and less aggressive in behavior.^[31] They are less likely to bark, or be destructive or aggressive if they are able to expend pent-up energy during regular play or exercise.^[32]



Dog beach at Coronado, California.

Concerns with off-leash dog parks

Not everyone is enamored with dog parks and establishing one can create contention within a community when residents worry about noise, smell, and traffic.^[33] The town of Leesburg took eight years to approve a small dog park in Loudoun County, Virginia that will hold only 20 dogs at once.^[34] The town of South Windsor, Ct built a Bark Park on town owned land within a few hundred feet of private residences, without discussion nor notification of the homeowners. The homeowners hear barking dogs and car traffic while in their homes. This has led to a lawsuit against the town for noise nuisance. Laurel Allen, author of *Dog Parks: Benefits and Liabilities* (<http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mecapstones>) points out that very few experienced experts in park design or dog behavior are consulted during the design process of dog parks:

Most dog parks result from the perceived needs of a local dog owners' community without guidance or input from experienced park designers, veterinarians, or experts on dog behavior. There is no comprehensive reference manual outlining the requirements for the design of a safe and well-maintained dog park. The only available reference for local dog park advocates is Susyn Stecchi's *So You Want to Build a Dog Park?* (2006), which was written from the perspective of an AAHA certified animal hospital practice manager and dog owner and co-founder of the first public dog park in Florida; Susyn operates a business that promotes dog park construction, called DogParks USA. Untapped authorities who could be used to assist novices in the design of dog parks include livestock farmers, cattlemen and ranchers, game-farmers, veterinarians, kennel owners, and zookeepers most of whom have had decades of experiences with animal husbandry.

Some experts caution that a dog park is no substitute for the daily walk,^[35] and contend that if owners walk their dogs on the leash for at least 20–30 minutes per day and play with them for 15 minutes daily, their dogs will be well-adjusted to the urban environment.

Before introducing a dog park to the community, it is best to plan thoroughly,^[36] advocate for a park on the local level with partners that can help,^[37] like public parks staff,^[38] solicit for funding, and establish a set of firm rules that will be strictly enforced by dog park officials.^[39] A primary objective - and one of the toughest - is to ensure that the location is appropriate for the dogs, their owners, and the community.^[40] The park should not be placed in environmentally sensitive areas, and it must be free of poisonous plants that might hurt the dogs and dangerous topography such as steep cliffs that might present a danger to their owners. The second objective is to ensure that the park is safe for dogs, people, and wildlife. This generally will require the park to be a some distance away from traffic to mitigate any concerns, and always requires an appropriate fence or barrier to ensure that dogs do not run away and end up in precarious situations, and adequate lighting if dog parks are open past sunset. A third objective is to make sure the size of the dog park is appropriate. Dog parks that are too big can result



Dogs in Grange Park (Toronto)



in opportunities for dogs to learn and demonstrate anti-social, dominant behavior, which can result in fights without swift intervention by their guardians. Smaller dog park allows an owner to react more quickly if their dog becomes unruly, but these allow only a few dogs in at a time.^[41]

A Doberman Pinscher in a dog park in Hod Hasharon, Israel

Allowing dogs off-leash in the safety of a dog park is an excellent way to socialize dogs, but they must be supervised at all times. When people converse with each other they can lose sight of their dogs, which can lead to trouble.^[42] Some owners are unaware of "dog language" and inadvertently read signs of aggression where there are none. Still others ignore warning signs or mistakenly think that a stiff wagging tail means that a dog is friendly.^[43]

Some people keep their dogs locked up in a crate during the week, only to unleash their dogs in a dog park on the weekend without proper exercise, creating issues; and still others allow dogs with illnesses or unvaccinated dogs to run alongside healthy dogs.^[44] Dogs who are shy or aggressive can learn to interact safely with other dogs if their owners take the time to learn about dog behavior and acclimate them at the dog park.

The right kind of socialization is essential to the normal development of a family pet. Dogs are social creatures that crave the attention of people and the companionship of other dogs. This ability to spend time productively with both people and play with other dogs does not just come about naturally, it must be carefully fostered.^[45]

Offleash Area Segregation: Some dog parks have separate play spaces for large and small dogs. Others have one large area for dogs of all sizes. There is debate about this issue, as some argue that dogs should be segregated by size (see reference for one example in an editorial column of a newspaper),^[46] while others feel that dogs of all sizes can and should socialize together.

In any case, dog owners must make sure their dogs are well-socialized, and watch carefully so that they can intervene if the dog acts anti-socially towards other dogs or humans.

Children in dog parks

As a rule small children should not be taken inside dog parks, although opinions differ. Many dog parks forbid children from entering for the obvious reason that an over excited dog can bump a child during aggressive play, causing a fall, or, worse, bite the child.^[47] Some dog parks allow children inside if they are properly chaperoned by an adult.^[48] The general agreement is that adults should be cautious about bringing children inside a dog park and be aware that it is hard to keep a careful eye on both the dog and their child. Before entering a dog park, children should be told about the dangers of petting a strange dog; cautioned not to run or scream inside the enclosure; and to stand still if a dog turns aggressive.^[49]

Community solutions: Instant dog parks and unfenced dog parks

Instant Dog Parks: Communities that desperately need cheap or free new off leash parks can simply re-purpose an underused tennis court as a new off leash area. Some communities have great success using pools, ice rinks, hockey rinks^{[50][51]} and tennis courts in the off season as makeshift dog parks. It's an

inexpensive, practical, and quick way to solve a problem. Equestrian facilities, riding rings, warehouses, abandoned lots, tennis and basketball courts with cracked or poor surfacing, all make good off-leash areas. For an example see an image of a converted baseball field at Joe Station Dog Park in Tulsa. (<http://joestationdogpark.com/>) Municipalities can offer a zoning variance and/or tax incentive, and liability waiver to anyone with a fenced pasture who is willing to let local dog owners use it.^[52] This along with allowing a property owner to install a donation box at the pastures gate provides incentive for a private land owner to help out the community at little cost to citizens and taxpayers. The constant traffic to and from dog parks can add safety to a community. The dog park at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington D.C. was planned to deter local drug transactions and was successful in this endeavor.^[53]



Standard poodles at a water hydrant in a dog park

Unfenced Dog Parks: Dog owners can find suitable off-leash space in many fenced dog parks and in a few unfenced areas where dogs are permitted off-leash. Prospect Park in Brooklyn is a national model for incorporating off-leash space without fencing, into a large multi-use park.^[54] Portland offers several unfenced off-leash dog areas with limited hours and restrictions.^[55] An unfenced dog park can present challenges to residents who live nearby or whose property abuts the park, especially if dog owners bring dogs that are not properly trained to follow commands.^[56]

Weather considerations

Hot Weather: Unless plenty of shade and water are available, dog parks can be brutal for active canines in hot weather. "Symptoms of heatstroke include restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, vomiting, and lack of coordination."^[57] Dehydration, canine sunburn, and overheating can result in serious health problems.^[58] On stiflingly hot days dogs must have easy access to water and should not be permitted to run and play for too long. It is best to take pets to the dog park early in the morning before temperatures rise.^[59]



Canine friends enjoy wintry play in an Ohio dog park

Cold Weather: Except for puppies and old dogs, and hairless or short-haired dogs, most dogs don't notice the cold in winter. They may take up to a month to acclimate to cold weather, however, and it is advisable to keep them inside if the temperatures dip too far below freezing.^[60] Water might not be readily available at dog parks in winter, so owners should make sure that fresh unfrozen water is available. Barker Field (<http://friendsofbarkerfield.org/>) in Richmond, Virginia notifies owners that the water tap is turned off during the cold months. After exercising their dogs in cold weather, owners should check tender paws and provide their dogs with warmth as soon as play time is over.^[61]

Dog park locations

World Dog Parks

- Dog in Format (<http://www.doginfomat.com/dogparks.htm>)
- Bring Fido (<http://www.bringfido.com/>)

Australian & New Zealand Dog Parks

- Essential Pet - Australian Dog Park Finder. (<http://www.essentialpet.com.au/dog-parks>)
- Doggo.com.au - directory of dog parks Australia wide. (<http://www.doggo.com.au/>)
- Public Open Spaces for Dogs in Australia (<http://www.petnet.com.au/openspace/6.1.2.html>)
- Christ Church Dog Exercise Area (<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/Recreation/dogs.asp>)

Canadian Dog Parks

- Dog Parks in Ontario, Canada (<http://www.pets.ca/dogparks/ontario.htm>.)
- Sydney, Nova Scotia, Off-leash Dog Park (<http://www.sydneydogpark.com>)
- Hamilton, Ontario, HB SPCA (http://www.hbspca.com/page/programs_leashfreepark)
- Dog Parks in British Columbia (<http://www.pets.ca/dogparks/bc.htm>)

European Dog Parks

- Images: The Dog Parks of Helsinki (<http://www.axis-of-aevil.net/archives/misc/koirapuisto/koirapuistot.pdf>)

U.S. Dog Parks

- DogParkUSA.com - An interactive Map of Dog Parks across the United States. Also includes articles and forums for dog lovers. (content is user-supported) (<http://www.dogparkusa.com/>)
- Dogfriendly.com - lists places to take your dog, including dog parks, allows search by location, covers US (<http://www.dogfriendly.com/>)
- Dog Fancy Magazine Names America's Best Dog Parks: 2008 (<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS193348+15-Apr-2008+PRN20080415>)
- Dog parks: Wikipedia Category
- The Best Dog Parks in Each State (<http://www.petwellbeing.com/articles/2009/02/best-dog-park-in-each-state.cfm>)
- Road Tails visits and documents dog parks and beaches across the USA (<http://parks.roadtails.net>)
- PetAdvocate.net - Lists pet-friendly locations, including dog parks. Reviews are provided if available (<http://www.petadvocate.net/>)

Dog parks growth

December 2011: Dog parks are the fastest-growing segment of city parks. There were 569 off-leash dog parks in the 100 largest U.S. cities in 2010, a 34 percent jump in 5 years, while overall parks increased only 3 percent. Portland, Oregon has the highest per capita with 5.7 dog parks for every 100,000 residents. There are now more households with dogs than with kids of 43 million and 38 million respectively. "It's a playground for people without kids."^[62]

External links

- Dog Parks (ASPCA) (<http://www.aspcabehavior.org/articles/58/Dog-Parks-.aspx>)
- Dog Parks Benefits and Liabilities, Laurel Allen, University of Pennsylvania (http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes_capstones)
- Dogs Play at the Park (<http://www.petplace.com/dogs/dogs-play-at-the-park/page1.aspx>)
- The Evolution of Dog Parks (http://www.somdog.org/join_us/park_neighborhoods/nunziato/extras/Kochan_2008_June.pdf)
- Start A Dog Park: Animal Planet (<http://animal.discovery.com/features/dogpark/startpark/startpark.html>)
- Etiquette at the Park (<http://www.petplace.com/dogs/etiquette-at-the-park/page1.aspx>)
- The Effect of Pet Ownership on Overall health (<http://clearinghouse.missouriwestern.edu/manuscripts/281.php>)
- Dog Park Offers More Benefits Than Canine Exercise (http://smithvilleherald.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1656:dog-park-offers-more-benefits-than-canine-exercise&catid=59:staff-columns&Itemid=120)
- Dog Park Design & Building Manual (<http://www.dogparksusa.org/manual.htm>)
- Listing of Dog Parks in the US & Canada (<http://www.dogpark.com>)
- Dog Friendly Accommodation (<http://dog-friendly-accommodation.co.uk>)

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12. ^ Dog Owners Dish Out More Dosh on Their Pets <http://www.petclubuk.com/p/pet-info/dogs/news/dog-owners-dish-out-more-dosh-on-their-pets/1156>
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15. ^ Avoiding Onleash Dog Aggression http://www.canineuniversity.com/articles/behavior/behave_10.html
16. ^ Dog Parks, p.10 (http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes_capstones)
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Categories: Dogs as pets | Dog parks

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Proposal for the construction of an off leash dog park in the town of Fort Frances

A committee was formed to look at this proposal, land area as well as financial fundraising etc. which consists of the following people

Carey Basaraba

Ashley Calder

Tammie Basaraba

Aurora Doerkson

Becky Irvine

Katie Beninger

Rosanne Flatt

Andrea Turgeon Byrnes

What we are proposing is an off leash dog park at the location formerly known as the West End skating rink area.

The land is vacant and cleared which would be perfect for the park in general as there are no houses directly affected by this area. It is understandable that there may be criticism of this endeavor but a park is desperately needed.

Currently people are running their dogs at seven oaks which is causing some issues as well as using the baseball diamonds because they are enclosed (guess what that's like a park) this will come to a halt soon as the sports seasons will start up soon and also who wants to slide into 1st not knowing what is on the ground.

An off leash dog park is a completely fenced in area with a double gate entry system which means once inside the pet cannot get out to cause any issues with other people, bicycles ,cars etc. The objective is twofold one to give the dogs a place to run free knowing they can't

escape as well as allowing the dogs to socialize with other dogs and people which in turn will make the owner and dog happier.

The area was measured off roughly and it will take approximately 1400 linear feet of 6 foot galvanized chain link fencing to close off the outer area with a service gate(allow equipment in mowers etc...) and a double gate entry system.

Once the area is closed off a second fence area will be separated in side as shown on the poster this will make the park into two areas one for small dogs and one for large dogs. This will ensure that all dogs are safe as some people are uncomfortable with their small pets around larger dogs. As provided there is a quote for the fencing materials required to do this size of an area which is \$ 12,500 plus taxes.

While driving past the town yard it was noticed that there is lots of fencing there rolled up which may be usable thus saving costs as well as various other objects garbage containers etc.?

The install will be done by volunteers with the help of Paul Nicholson this profession who had done this profession for 8 years prior to his current career.

Phase #1

Get the area enclosed and install of the waste disposal stations as per quotes handed out as this will allow use of area

Install a few lighting poles around area for safety as well as to allow evening use

Phase # 2

Will consist of making the water areas of the park as shown on the poster

Large Dog Park will incorporate a 12 inch deep wading pool with small dog area having a 6 inch wading pool as long as an agreement can be reached as far as incorporating water supply and drainage.

Water is available via a hydrant located at the corner and drainage could be gravity to the river bank at rear of property.

Also construction of trail system leading to areas of play equipment.

Phase # 3

Install play area equipment for the dogs as well as benches and tables for people to sit with a sheltered canopy at each location as to provide shade and allow exit out of the weather if needed.

In summarizing it up at the present time

- 1) We are asking that the town grant us that piece of vacant property to design and build the park
- 2) Set up a cost factor on what the town is willing to set aside for this project (e.g. we fundraise \$ 10,000 will they match?) %
- 3) Will the town consider install a few poles with lights in center of areas?
- 4) Designate a viable water source and drainage plan

After these issues are resolved we can render a drawing of the final area view as well as then we know what the committee has to raise.

This is Fort Frances the most generous community around and in a nutshell

BOUNDLESS

We are pretty sure that most of this can be accomplished by volunteers and sponsorship of the park by businesses and companies supplying materials etc.

It seems like we are quoting too cheap but on the committee's part it would be a best guess cost of \$ 30,000 - \$ 40,000 to make this a viable park with the major cost being the fencing as long as the town will install the lights required

A local business has been approached and agreed to donate time on the welding of materials in return for an advertisement on a sign so possibly others will get on board also as gravel, concrete, sand, and equipment will be required during construction which is great.

Thanks again from the Paws around town Facebook group and please consider all the ideas mentioned can't wait to hear back



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PRODUCTS

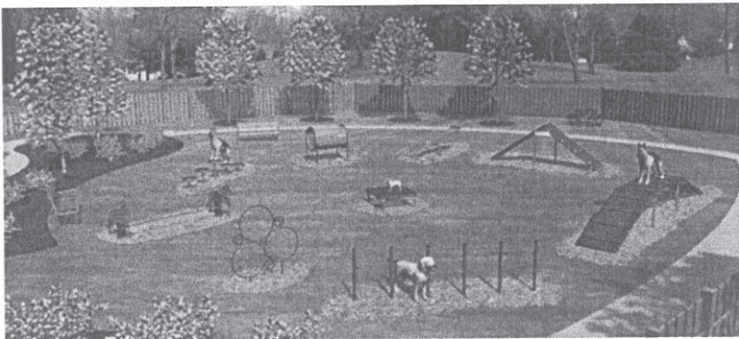
Play and Park Structures
Playgrounds
UPlay
Discovery Center
6-23 Months Play
Playground Safety Surfacing
Nature Play
Climbing Wall
ARC Skate Parks
Water Park and Splash Pads
Greenfield Outdoor Fitness
Athletic Sports Equipment
Bleachers
Shade and Shelters
Site Amenities
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PRODUCTS

Dog Parks

BarkPark's equipment was developed for dogs of all abilities & confidence levels as physical exercise is critical. Ask about BarkPark's proprietary CanineCoat™.





- It is very likely there will be groups of dogs running around the park, which can quickly become a problem if not managed. Call your dog away as soon as you see any signs in any dog that they are no longer happy about the situation.
- Please bring plenty of bags and clean up after your dog, and clean up after others if you come across them.
- The drinking bowl has been designed to not retain water. This is to ensure it is not an attractor for snakes. If it is not draining effectively please take a moment to empty it once your dog has taken a drink.

Key things to remember

- **Body language** – learn to read and respond to your dog's posture and body language.
- **Packs** – several dogs joining together as a pack can lead to problems. Lead your dog away from the group to a neutral area.
- **Possession** – dogs can protect their toys, treats and people. Shared toys can also lead to the spread of disease. Toys and food, with the exception of discrete small training treats, should not be brought into the enclosure.
- **Behaviour** – if at any time your dog becomes overly anxious, annoying or aggressive leave the park and come back another time.
- **Control** – dogs should be under the care of an owner who is at least 16 years old. They must be fully responsible for the actions of their dog at all times.
- **Children** – children in the enclosure should be supervised closely. Children under the age of 14 should not enter without an adult.
- **Smoking** – smoking is not allowed in the enclosure. Cigarette butts are potentially harmful if ingested by dogs.



Park do's

- Dogs coming into the dog park must be registered, desexed (unless a permit has been issued), and fully vaccinated
- Keep your dog under effective control and leave if it becomes aggressive
- Clean up and place waste in the bins provided
- Talk to other users before issues arise
- Children are vulnerable to attack so please supervise them carefully
- Keep the number of dogs you bring to two per owner preferably

Park don'ts

- Don't come into the park if your dog is unvaccinated, aggressive or on heat
- Don't bring puppies that have not completed their vaccinations
- Don't bring in food or toys
- Don't bring in children under 14 without an adult
- Don't let your dog crowd the gate

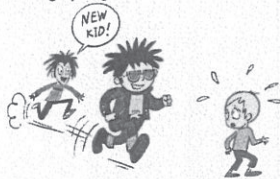
You may also like to read *Meet and Greet, an etiquette guide for off leash dog park behaviour* by Gwen McArthur, available through your local library.

Dog Park Etiquette

Rules to Help Dogs Get Along

You Wouldn't Want Kids To:

You wouldn't want one or more unfamiliar people rushing up to you.



It's not right to let kids steal toys.



It's not right to harass others into letting you play.



Sometimes kids can play too roughly.



You wouldn't want others to interfere with your play.



You wouldn't want your kid to get into everyone's personal space.



You wouldn't ignore your kid at the park.



You Wouldn't Want Dogs To:

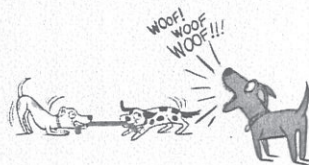
Dogs don't like groups or individual dogs rushing up.



Stealing toys is also improper at the dog park.



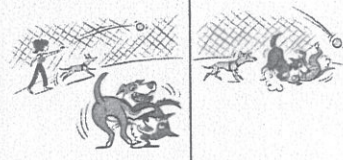
Dogs get irritated with this pushy behavior too.



And so can dogs.



Some dogs like to have their own space when playing too.



So you shouldn't let your dog jump on or body slam people at the park.



You shouldn't ignore your dog either.

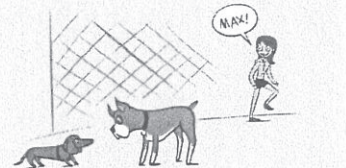


What Your Dog Should Do:

Train your dog to focus on and interact in games with you instead of getting into trouble with dogs or people at the park.



Train your pooch to come when called so you can call him before he gets into problem situations.



Once your dog is with you, keep him engaged with you, then release him to play again.



Your dog should learn that it's fun to focus on you and play with you instead of needing to always play with other dogs. But it is also ok to play with other dogs, as long as both dogs are relaxed and having fun.



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Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS
The Art and Science of Animal Behavior

For additional free educational resources and more dog behavior books and products, visit www.dr.sophiayin.com.



Offleash Dog Park Rules

Home | Resident | Recreation | Parks & Trails | Offleash Dog Parks | Offleash Dog Park Rules

The intent of the rules and regulations are to provide clear guidelines for off-leash dog areas users. Rules and regulations do not include off-leash areas etiquette which shall be developed in collaboration with the Committee and promoted with the users of off-leash areas. Rules and regulations signage with hours of operations and emergency contact numbers shall be posted at the entrance of each off-leash area:

1. Poop n' scoop is mandatory;
2. Dogs must be kept on-leash until inside the double gated area;
3. Dog owners and handlers are subject to Ontario Dog Owner's Liability Act and the City of Kingston Animal Control Bylaw;
4. Park users and dog owners assume all risks related to off-leash dog area usage;
5. Owners must have dog tags indicating that their dog has been vaccinated and the dog is currently licensed;
6. Dogs must be removed by owner or handler from the off-leash dog area if dogs are in heat (female), sick or aggressive;
7. No more than two dogs may be brought into the off-leash dog area by an individual at the same time;
8. All children under 12 years of age must be supervised by an adult attendant while inside the off-leash dog area;
9. No food (this applies to both the human and canine variety), is permitted in the off-leash dog area;
10. Off-leash areas are smoke free areas;
11. Choke, spike, chain or pinch collars are not allowed in off-leash area;
12. Dogs must be under control;
13. Professional dog trainers are not permitted to use the off-leash areas to conduct their business;
14. All pit bulls must be muzzled.

Links

Dog Park Rules

Humane Society

Maintenance Issues

contactus@cityofkingston.ca

Phone: 613-546-0000

Contact

Kris Hebert

Off Leash Dog Park Public Liaison

khebert@cityofkingston.ca

Phone: 613-546-4291 ext 1256



where history and innovation thrive

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216 Ontario Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 2Z3, 613.546.4291



SAMPLE

Sign



DOG PARK RULES



- Dogs with registration and current vaccinations only.
- Dogs in heat not allowed.
- Dog handlers must be in view and in control of their dog(s) at all times.
- Owners must dispose of pet waste immediately.
- Dogs who bark incessantly or are aggressive will be removed.
- Owners are responsible for any injury or damage caused by their dog(s).
- Children must be closely supervised at all times.
- Animal and human food or treats are not permitted.
- Use park at your own risk.

BASIC
RULES

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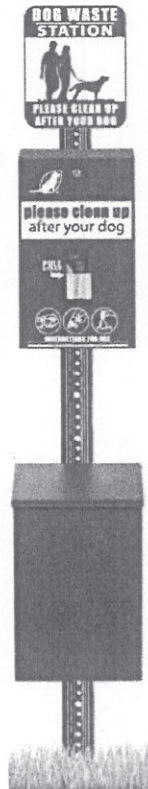
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Why Buy a Dog Waste Station?

Dog waste stations help keep parks, streets, apartments and multi-family properties and residential backyards clean by providing a spot for people to throw away dog waste. Dog waste stations ordinarily contain a waste can and a dispenser with plastic bags to be used to pick-up the waste. These convenient stations have several advantages for a community, from keeping innocent people from "stepping in it," to keeping people, open areas, and waterways safe from the health dangers of dog waste.

The stations keep dog waste from, at a minimum, ruining a nice walk or someone's busy day. Without dog waste stations, those walking their dogs might be tempted to not clean up after them, leaving an unattractive mess for everyone else, which leads to unhappy citizens and residents. Well placed stations also help stop a much more dangerous hazard. Improperly discarded dog waste can be more than annoying; it can also cause serious health and environmental problems.

The waste can carry viruses, bacteria and parasites harmful to humans and other animals. Dog waste left in parks, playing fields, playgrounds, and on the ground has the potential to spread those unhealthy bugs to people, especially the children who play there. Parasites such as roundworm, tapeworms, and a variety of bacteria and viruses that can cause flu-like systems, or worse, can be spread by pets, most often through their waste. And, you should never use dog waste being used as fertilizer. It is more likely to kill a lawn or garden than help it grow. A dog does not have the proper diet for its waste to be useful.

Instead, a dog's waste has the potential to wash into storm drains, then into lakes and streams. It harms fish and aquatic wildlife by depleting oxygen in the water and potentially releasing ammonia. It also destroys the aesthetics of the waterways by encouraging the growth of algae. The City of Dover reported on its website that they've traced surface water bacteria and much of it comes from dog waste.

These problems can be curbed by installing doggie waste stations in your community, which are convenient for both those using them and maintaining them. All dog waste stations provide bags that dog owners can use to clean-up during their walks. Providing stations and bags encourages compliance.

Besides the aesthetic and environmental issues, dog waste stations can help communities, apartment complexes and individuals economically. A relatively small investment in dog waste stations means crews don't have to clean it off the streets and yards, saving hours of manpower. And, for individuals, having a convenient place to throw away waste leaves them less susceptible to tickets and fines. Clean waterways, parks and communities means a higher quality of life, which helps a city or town attract businesses and industry, or an apartment manager attract good tenants. Dog waste stations are readily available across the United States.

DogWasteDepot.com is committed to helping communities develop pet waste programs to increase clean-up compliance.

The stations and the waste bags offered at DogWasteDepot.com are less expensive than all competitors. Even so, the stations are made from commercial grade, rust proof aluminum, with a post made of galvanized powder coated steel, ensuring the durability expected for an outdoors, public area. DogWasteDepot.com is able to provide low prices by selling direct, through its large volume and its specialization.

Complete with dog waste bags offered on DogWasteDepot.com, the stations make it easy for those walking their dogs to clean-up after them, helping to keep the quality of life in the community high for everyone. The stations from DogWasteDepot.com are easy to set up with simple tools.

It is irresponsible for a community to ignore the potential issues caused by dog waste. Well placed dog waste stations go a long way to solving those issues, keeping the entire community healthier and cleaner.

Product Categories

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CHAIN LINK FENCE MATERIAL QUOTE

VIA E-MAIL

TOMPKINS HOME HARDWARE
10 FRONT STREET
BOX 180
EMO, ON POW 1EO
Re: ATTN: RICK

Quotation Date : 04/15/15
Quotation Number: #0415-A-0390
Reference Number:
WORK Order # :
Phone: 1-807-482-2754/2485 F

Ordered: Actual:

CHAIN LINK FABRIC:

1,400 FT. - 2" KK X 9 GA. X 72" WGV CHAIN LINK FABRIC

PIPE:

67 - 1 11/16" X 21 FT. .079 WALL HD GALV PIPE
136 - 2 3/8" X 10.5 FT. .090 WALL HD GALV PIPE
8 - 3 1/2" X 10.5 FT. .116 WALL HD GALV PIPE
2 - 3 1/2" X 10.5 FT. SC.40 HD GALV PIPE

CHAIN LINK FITTINGS:

64 - 3 1/2" TENSION BANDS - GALV.
16 - 3 1/2" BRACE BANDS - GALV.
10 - 3 1/2" MAIN POST CAPS - ALUM
136 - 2 3/8" X 1 11/16" LINE POST CAPS - ALUM
16 - 1 11/16" RAIL ENDS - ALUM
63 - 1 11/16" SLEEVES GALV.
14 - 72" TENSION BARS - GALV.

WIRE PRODUCTS:

1,600 - 8" X 9 GA. ALUM TIE WIRDS
1 - 9 GA. GALV. BOTTOM/WIRE - 50 LBS
460 - 9 GA. GALV. BOTTOM/WIRE -

IND. GATE:

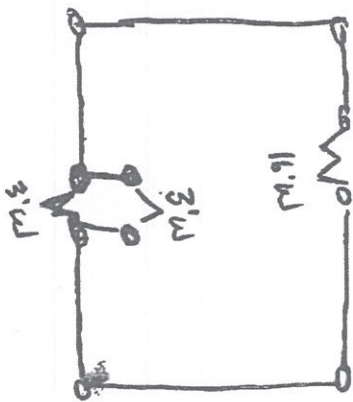
2 - 3 FT. (W) X 72" (H) FPM SGLR SW IND. GATE
1 - 16 FT. (W) X 72" (H) FPM DBLE SW IND. GATE

GATE FITTINGS:

8 - 3 1/2" X 3/4" GATE POST COLLAR - GALV. - IND.
10 - 1 11/16" X 3/4" GATE FRAME COLLAR - STEEL
8 - 3/4" X 6" HINGE BOLT - C/W NUTS
1 - 1 11/16" IND. MALLB. LATCH CATCH
2 - 3 1/2" IND. MALLB. LATCH CATCH
3 - 1 11/16" MALLB. DROP LATCH
1 - 3/4" X 24" GALV. FOOTBOLT

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