City of Alexandria
Plan for Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas

Revised Winter 2011

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Guidelines for New Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks

City of Alexandria Dog Park Master Plan (2000)

The City of Alexandria is well known for providing areas for dog exercise within its park system. Leashed dogs have always been welcome in the city's parks, and in 2000 a Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Appendix 1) was approved by the City Council that defines areas for unleashed dog exercise and establishes guidelines for the creation of any new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas. The plan was submitted to City Council by the Park and Recreation Commission after a lengthy period of review and public involvement and responds to a community identified need for dog parks as well as addresses concerns raised related to unleashed dog activities in the city's parks.

Rules and Regulations

For the enjoyment of City residents and their dogs, the following rules apply at the Dog Parks and Exercise Areas:

- All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed.
- All dog handlers must have a leash in hand at all times.
- No female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed.
- Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed at any time. An aggressive dog is defined as a dog(s) posing a threat to human beings or other dogs. Owners(handlers) are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury caused by them. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting.

In addition to the above rules, the following applies at Fenced Dog Parks:

- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a Fenced Dog Park.
- Food is not allowed inside the Fenced Dog Park, nonalcoholic beverages are allowed.
- If people are not abiding by these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at 703.746.4774

Guidelines for New Dog Areas

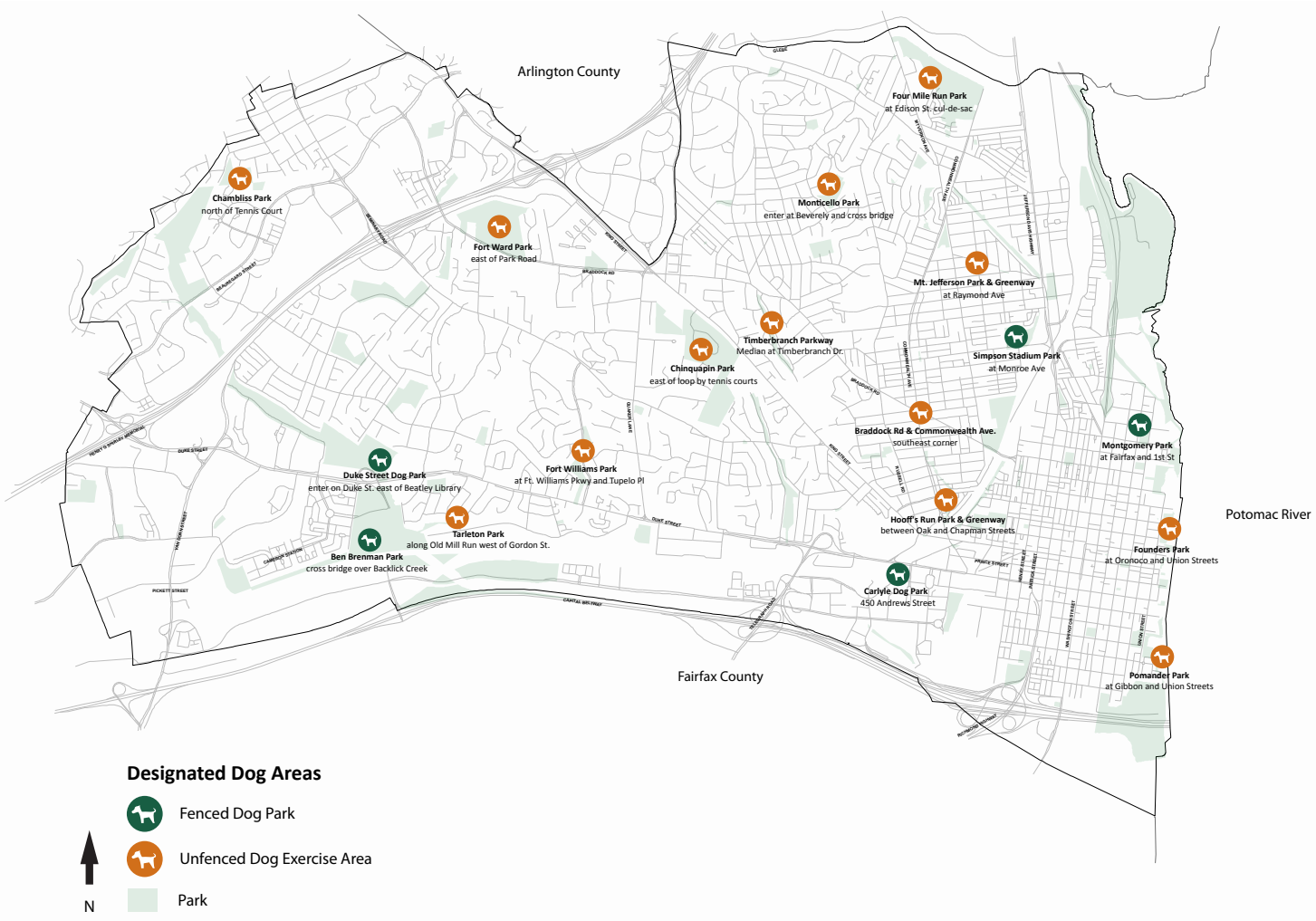
Per Section 6-1-2.2 of the City Code, the City Manager has the authority to designate new dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks. Since the adoption of the Master Plan, and in accordance with the Code, a fenced dog park at Carlyle has been added to the inventory and a new fenced dog park has also been approved though the agreement of the Potomac Yard Coordinated Development District and will soon be added to the city's fenced dog park system.

The following criteria were recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by City Council to be used by the City Manager as guidelines for the designation of future sites for new Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks:

1. Area must be at least ½ acre, or 21,789 square feet.
2. Area must be at least 50 feet from a residential property line, or 50 feet from a commercial/industrial structure.
3. Area must be at least 60 feet from the top of a bank of any stream bed or water source. It will be located to minimize the potential for wildlife and habitats, and is subject to normal environmental assessment procedures, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.
4. Area must be easily accessible for police and animal control protection.
5. Unfenced areas must be a safe distance away from roadways.
6. For fenced Dog Parks, there must be adequate monies available to establish landscaping and buffers around perimeter.

Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities provides Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks for the convenience and enjoyment of City residents. Off-leash Dog Parks are an important part of the City's park system. They provide designated areas for dogs and their owners to exercise and recreate without disrupting other uses of the parks. The City has 18 such areas, including those listed in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, as well as fenced dog parks designated by the City Manager subsequent to adoption of the plan.



Ben Brenman Dog Park

Features:

- 13,609 sq. ft.
- Double fenced entrance
- Stone dust surface
- 3 Benches
- 1 Trash can
- Off-street parking available

Dog Run Park at Carlyle

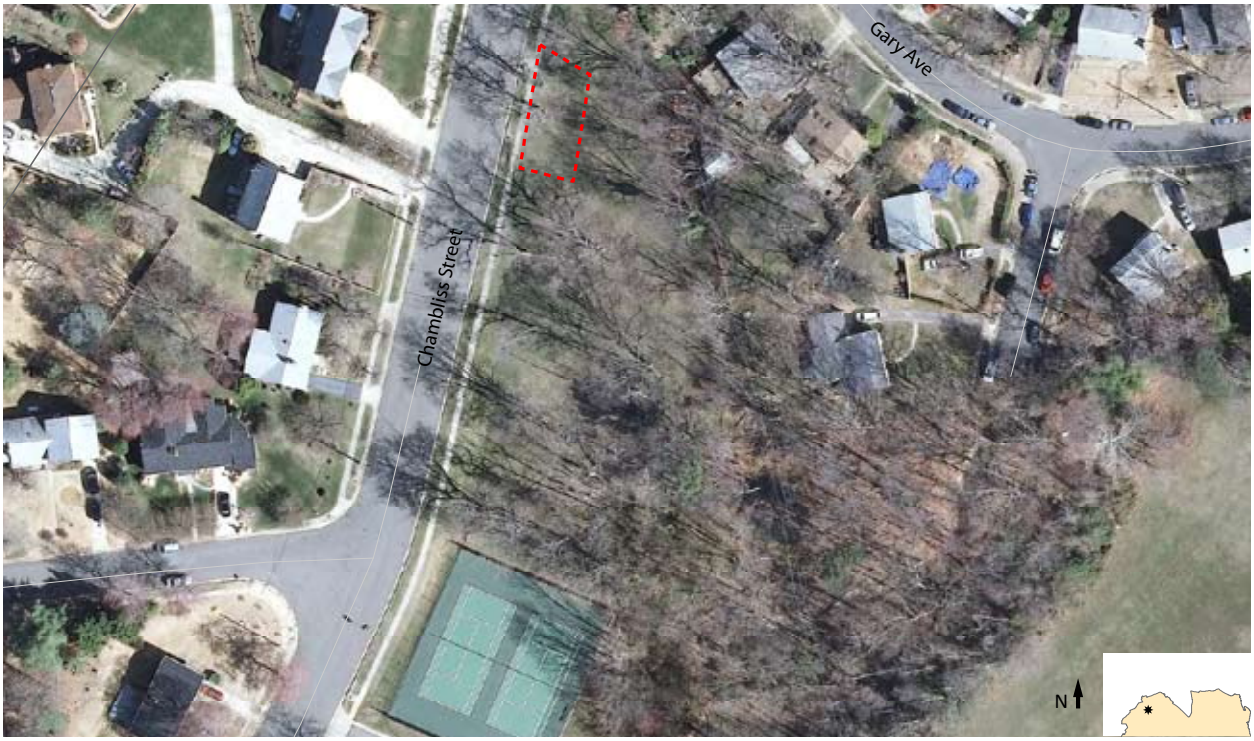
Features

- 30,166 sq. ft.
- Area for large dogs and area for small dogs
- Double fenced entrances
- Grass/dirt surface in large dog park
- Pea gravel in small dog park
- 2 Water fountains
- 10 Benches
- 3 Trash cans
- Overhead lights
- Parking available

Chambliss Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 2,676 sq. ft.
- Grass surface
- 1 bench
- 3 Trash cans
- Signage
- Parking available
- Unfenced area marked by bollards



Chinquapin Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 10,453 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Overhead lights
- Parking available
- 1 Trash can

Duke Street Dog Park

Features

- 42,580 sq. ft.
- Double fenced entrance
- Grass/dirt surface
- 3 benches
- Signage
- 2 Trash cans

Fort Ward Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 12,085 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can
- Parking available

Founders Park Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 11,232 sq. Ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 2 Trash cans
- Overhead lighting

Four Mile Run Dog Exercise Area

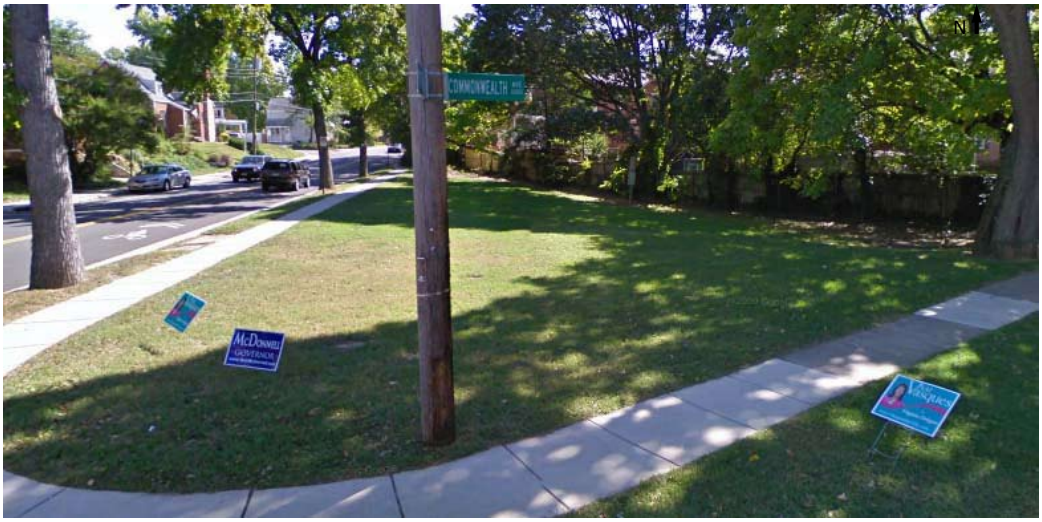
Features

- 7,261 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 3 Trash cans
- Overhead lighting

Braddock and Commonwealth Dog Area

Features

- 9,434 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can



Fort Williams Parkway Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 2,570 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can

Hooff's Run Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 8,718 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area marked by bollards
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can
- Parking available

Montgomery Park Dog Park

Features

- 4,328 sq. ft.
- Fenced dog park with single gate entrance
- Gravel surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can
- 1 Bench
- Parking available

Monticello Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 5,167 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area unmarked
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can
- 2 Benches

Mt. Jefferson Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 9,434 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 1 Trash can

Pomander Park Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 26,323 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area
- Grass surface
- Signage
- 2 Trash can
- 1 Bench

Simpson Dog Park

Features

- 35,868 sq. ft.
- Double fenced entrance
- Granite fines/stone dust surface
- 1 Water fountain
- 5 Benches
- Signage
- 3 Trash cans
- Parking available

Note: Aerial image was taken before construction on Monroe Avenue had been completed.

Tarleton Park Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 5,661 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area
- Grass surface
- 2 Trash cans
- 5 Benches

Timberbranch Park Dog Exercise Area

Features

- 705 sq. ft.
- Unfenced area
- Grass surface
- 1 Trash can

Issues and Concerns:

- No bollards
- No rules and regulations signage
- Under 10,000 sq. ft. (well below recommended 21,780 sq. ft.)

2000 Master Plan Recommendations:

- Clearly define area and avoid areas covered by poison ivy (unmet).

City of Alexandria

16
9-27-00

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER PS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS

ISSUE: Approval of the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended based on input from the September 16 Public Hearing (Attachment 1) and incorporating guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council approve the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended to include the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas and the following changes to specific areas:

A) Area 1 - Founders Park - The Founders Park dog exercise area will remain located where it is currently delineated near Union Street, and staff will continue to monitor this area. Staff will recommend to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.

B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS was originally recommended as a new dog exercise area. It is now recommended that this area not be included at this time on the list of proposed new dog exercise areas.

C) Area 17 - New area behind George Mason School - Staff will return to Council with a recommendation regarding the proposed new designation or the use of fencing in this area by December, 2000 after reevaluating this area with all area users.

D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place - The language in the Master Plan has been changed to read: "When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park will be reevaluated."

These amendments were discussed with the Park and Recreation Commission at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission concurs with changes A, B, and C. As to recommendation D - Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place, the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that if another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

BACKGROUND: After receiving testimony on the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks at its September 16 Public Hearing, City Council requested that staff reevaluate several sites, evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library fenced dog park as well as other fenced dog parks, and clarify which City staff in the future will be enforcing the ordinances pertaining to the off-leash dog areas.

DISCUSSION: Following the City Council Public Hearing on September 16, 2000, staff reevaluated the following sites:

A) Area 1 - Founders Park Dog Exercise Area:

In the Master Plan, this area was described as being at the northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac River. After the Master Plan was disseminated in June, users of Founders Park asked that this site be changed to a 100' x 100' area on the north side of Founders Park near Union Street. The users and the Animal Control officers stated that this was the area that had been used during the past several years, not the signed area in the northeast corner of the park.

Staff reevaluated the area in June and found that the proposed 100' x 100' area in the northeast corner of the park would impact both the walking path and the volleyball court. Staff installed bollards designating a 100' x 100' area near Union Street as an alternate site, with the understanding that this site would be reviewed over the summer and addressed when the Master Plan came back to Council for approval in the fall. Staff did hear from one individual that he preferred the original location at the northeast corner, but the majority of comments, including residents of the Founders Park area testifying at the September 16 public hearing ~~and numerous~~, favored the site near Union Street.

It should also be noted that the Waterfront Committee at their June 15, 1999 meeting passed a resolution that the "Dog Exercise" sign be removed from Founders Park and that the leash laws be strictly enforced. The Committee believed that there should be no off-leash area at Founders Park. At their March 21, 2000 meeting, the Committee addressed the lack of enforcement for dogs off leash at Founders Park and asked that the City Manager call a meeting of key city staff to address this problem. Staff reported to the Waterfront Committee at their May 16 meeting that as a result of a meeting with the City Manager on April 19, three parks, Founders Park, Ft. Ward Park and Simpson Park were selected for increased attention for enforcement of leash laws.

Between April 19 and June 9, Founders Park was visited 70 times for a total of 41 hours of patrol time. Twenty five warnings were issued with no summonses issued. Currently Animal Control Officers visit Founders Park at least twice a day and often, more frequently. At the Waterfront Committee meeting May 16, members continued to express the opinion that Founders Park was an inappropriate place for dogs off leash. Staff has also requested input from the Founders Park Civic Association; however, staff has yet to be informed of the outcome of a vote by the Civic Association on this issue.

In light of the public hearing testimony and staff review, staff recommends that this dog exercise area be located where it is currently delineated near Union Street. Staff will continue to monitor this area, and staff will make a recommendation to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.

B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind CVS:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. Since the Master Plan was disseminated to the public, the fenced dog park at Beatley Library has become very popular, and an additional new fenced dog park will be opened this fall in Ben Brenman Park. Considering the addition of these two areas, and based on comments at the public hearing, staff concurs that a dog exercise area at Pickett Street behind the CVS not be included at this time.

Staff recommends this area be removed from the listing of proposed new dog exercise areas in the Master Plan.

C) Area 17 - Area behind George Mason School:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. In response to a petition from 14 residents stating that they would only support this area for dogs off-leash if it is fenced, staff will reevaluate this area. In order to receive input from all area users, a neighborhood meeting will be held and staff will return to Council by December, 2000 with a recommendation for this area.

D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:

The Master Plan recommended this fenced dog park be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park is opened and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located. Many users of this area asked City Council that the word "eliminate" be reconsidered as this dog park is currently a favorite place in the neighborhood.

The Park and Recreation Commission discussed this issue at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should

be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that when another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

Staff also concurs that the Chetworth Park area is too small for a fenced dog park, and staff recommends that the word "eliminate" be changed to "reevaluate" in the wording of the Master Plan as it relates to this fenced dog park.

Area 19 - Beatley Dog Park Lighting Request:

City Council asked staff to evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library site and to discuss what other parks have lights. There are no lights at any of the Fenced Dog Parks with the exception of Simpson. Simpson Park currently has a light in the Fenced Dog Park, which was installed on an existing light pole at a cost of $350. There are currently no plans to install a light in the Simpson Fenced Dog Park near Monroe Street when we move the area from its current location. Staff will look into costs for lighting all the fenced dog parks in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, staff caution that depending upon the site improvements that could be required at various dog parks, the cost to install wiring and lighting may significantly exceed $350. Such improvements will need to be considered in light of the many competing priority needs in the City's budget.

Enforcement:

City Council asked for further clarification as to which City staff, in the future, will be enforcing the ordinances. The Animal Welfare League has four Animal Control officers who provide service from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. Police officers will respond to specific calls from the Animal Control officers and the public if available. The Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department will designate the following positions to be trained by the Police Department to help enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks and issue citations: Deputy Director of Parks and Natural Resources, Park Superintendents, Assistant Park Superintendents, and Park Facility Specialist. This will provide an additional six positions authorized to enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog parks Monday through Saturday.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost for installing lights at the fenced dog parks will be considered in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, additional funding for these improvements will need to be considered in the context of the many competing needs in the City's budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1) Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, including recommended amendments

2) Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines to establish new Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes. (City Council Docket Item from September 12, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Attachment 1

MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA (including recommended amendments)

The City of Alexandria has had 26 designated dog exercise areas for over twenty years, none of which were fenced until 1996. Fences were installed at the existing dog exercise areas in Simpson Park in 1996, Chetworth Park in 1997, and Montgomery Park in 1998. The new fenced dog park near Beatley Library on Duke Street was opened in 2000. These fenced areas have become very popular and citizens are asking for more such areas throughout the City. In addition, citizens have requested that dog exercise areas, where dogs can be off leash but the area is not fenced, should be improved by providing well defined areas, trash receptacles and posting established rules.

Definitions:

Owner:	A person having right of property in a dog.
Running at Large:	Any animal that is off its owner's property and is not restrained by a physical leash, which is held by a handler, attached to a collar.
Handler:	Any person having a dog(s) under their care, custody or physical control.
Dog Exercise Areas (DEA):	Areas of open space set aside for the specific use of dog owners/handlers to allow dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside DEA.
Fenced Dog Parks (FDP):	Fenced areas set aside for dog owners/handlers to allow their dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside a FDP.

Rules:

The following rules will be posted at all areas:

- All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed in FDP or DEA.
- All dog handlers must have a leash in hand at all times.
- No female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed.
- Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and all parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed at any time inside a DEA or FDP. An aggressive dog is defined as a dog(s) posing a threat to human beings or other

dogs. Owners (handlers) are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury caused by them.

- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting a DEA or FDP.
- If people are not abiding by these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at (703) 838-4775.

In addition to the above rules, the following rules will be posted at Fenced Dog Parks:

- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a FDP.
- Food is not allowed inside a FDP, non-alcoholic beverages are allowed.

City Ordinance: One of the first items that needs to be addressed is the preparation of a new ordinance amending the City Code to limit, to three, the number of dogs per handler at both the Dog Exercise Areas and the Fenced Dog Parks. The Commission believes that for the safety of the animals and the handlers that one person cannot adequately control more than three animals at one time. This ordinance will be enforced by Animal Control or by the Police Department. Based on the City's current civil penalties provisions, a written civil citation would be issued in the amount of $50 for the first offense and $100 for each subsequent violation. It is recommended that the civil penalties be raised to a class four civil penalty which would be $100 for the first violation, $250 for the second, and $500 for each additional violation.

Enforcement: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that the animal control officer issue a written warning on the first offense. The City Attorney's Office advised that this should be left to the discretion of the officer. If a violation is of great magnitude, a ticket should be issued on the first offense. It is recommended that in addition to the City's animal control officers, the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities may delegate authority to her employees to enforce these code provisions and issue notices of violations.

What the City will provide:

Fenced Dog Parks

Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Posted Rules
Fencing and Gates
Water if feasible
Shade where possible

Dog Exercise Areas

Posted Rules
Defined Boundaries
Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Shade where possible

Additional Amenities

Additional amenities such as benches and bulletin boards will be added if outside funding (citizen's support) is available.

I. Recommendations for Existing Dog Exercise Areas: (Attachment 5)

Area 1 - Area at northeast corner of Founders Park at ~~Oronco Street and the Potomac~~ Union Street:

This area should be retained in the short term with clear delineation of the area with signs and bollards. Stricter on-leash enforcement should be attempted in the remainder of Founders Park. If it is later determined that results are unsatisfactory, an alternative location should be considered.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles and additional signs directing people to dog exercise area.

Meeting with interested citizens in June, a site adjacent to Union Street was found to be more appropriate. This site was staked off over the summer months and after further review it is recommended to replace the northeast corner location with this site.

Area 2 - City property at southeast corner of Gibbon and Union Streets (Pommander Park):

Recommend a small ornamental fence be installed on western edge as a buffer between the park and the sidewalk on Union Street.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 4 - Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth:

Recommend ornamental fencing on Braddock and Commonwealth

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 5 - Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets:

Recommend reducing parking area if possible and enlarge exercise area.

Install ornamental fence along Commonwealth/Oak/Chapman for safety of dogs

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 6 - Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway:

Area is located on top of hill in slightly wooded area. Identify area with signs and add trash cans.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 7 - Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park):

Recommend moving DEA to area along the dry streambed and away from tot lot.

Make a clear delineation of the area with bollards and signage.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles in addition to posting the area near tot lot - "Dogs Must Be On Leash"

Area 8 - Southeast Corner of Armistead and Beauregard:

Although the area is hilly and not suitable for Frisbee and other such dog activities, it is wooded and still is a desirable location for people to walk dogs off leash.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 9 - Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts:
Post signs designating DEA. Also need signs on either end of Chambliss Park identifying the park.
Recommend boundary fencing along Chambliss and walking path up hill.
Pick up bags and receptacles

Area 10 - East side of entrance to Fort Ward Park:
Provide pick up bags and receptacles
Move area further away from Braddock Road and the Fort Ward Road, and clearly delineate. Area should remain unfenced.

Area 11 - Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place:
Provide pick up bags and receptacles at both ends
Clearly define area and avoid areas covered by poison ivy.

Area 12 - Chinquapin Park east of loop:
Move DEA to wooded area off loop. Opportunity for larger designated off-leash area which could be delineated with bollards and signage.
Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 13 - East entrance to Monticello Park:
Delineate a specific area to be used as DEA with bollards.
Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 14 - Edison Street cul-de-sac:
Unless use of entire area as DEA is acceptable, delineation is recommended.
Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 15 - 200 ft. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue:
Recommend fencing at Raymond Avenue
Provide pick up bags and receptacles

II. Recommendations for New Dog Exercise Areas (Attachment 5):

~~**Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS.**~~

Area 17 - Area Behind George Mason School - ~~Currently not designated as DEA but is in a desirable area. Recommend a barrier fence along the old foundation wall to keep dogs off the soccer field.~~ Site to be reevaluated and a recommendation given to Council by December, 2000, after meeting with neighborhood residents.

III. Recommendations for existing Fenced Dog Parks: (Refer to Attachment 5)

Area 18 - Simpson Stadium Park at Monroe Avenue:
Move the area from the Duncan Avenue side of the park to the Monroe Street side of Simpson Park
Install water for irrigation
Provide a covered trash receptacle inside the park

Area 19 - 5000 block of Duke Street east of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library:
Reinstall fence and gates so they are correctly aligned with cement entry pad.
Provide covered trash receptacle
Reinstall fence to include tree area

Area 20 - Montgomery Park at the corner of Fairfax and 1st Streets:
Enlarge area, provide additional shade through the planting of trees and landscape fence line.

Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:
This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park ~~should be eliminated~~ will be reevaluated. In the meantime, fencing and gates should be installed to ensure the children entering the play area do not have to pass through the dog area.

Area 22 - Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run:
Provide covered trash receptacles.

IV. Recommendations for New Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 5):

Area 23 - Southeast corner of Wheeler and Duke Street:
Recommend fencing the entire existing dog exercise area
Cover drain with grate
Provide covered trash receptacles

Area 24 - Potomac Yard:
A new three acre area park between the two rail lines just west of Potomac Greens to be developed by Commonwealth Atlantic Properties as part of the overall development of Potomac Yard.

Area 25 - Carlyle:
A new two plus acre park at the north end of Mill Road. Developers will fence area, provide water, benches, receptacles and trees.

V. Recommendations for Elimination of Areas that are no longer Appropriate (Attachment 5):

Area 26 - Jones Point Park - The National Park Service does not allow dogs off leash at any National Park. Jones Point Park is leased to the City of Alexandria by the National Park Service and we must adhere to their regulations.

Area 27 - Loop at Duke Street - Telegraph Road Interchange - Due to traffic this area is unsafe for dogs to run off leash.

Area 28 - Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge (Recommend new area be added behind CVS on Pickett St.)

Area 29 - Loop to Van Dorn from Duke Street - This area has no parking, no access, and with heavy woods and bramble it is not a safe site.

Area 30 - Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - Area is small and in high traffic area.

Area 31 - Park at Rynex Drive - The vehicular entrance to the Rynex Natural Area is between the park and Fairfax County in a very remote area. It is hilly and very wooded.

Area 32 - Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - High traffic area and lack of access makes this an unsafe area.

Capital Costs:

For Each Fenced Dog Park:

Fencing	
6' High - 6 gauge Chain link	$16 lin. ft.
includes two air lock gates and posts required	
Ground Cover	
Enkamat	$1.18 s.f.
3-D reinforcement of heavy nylon monofilaments	
Turfgrids	$ .76 s.f.
Polypropylene fibers rototilled 4" - 6" deep	
Grassy Pavers	$1.48 s.f
Flexible polyethylene plastic	
Grassing	
Bermuda sod	$.33 s.f.
Bermuda sprigging	$.20 s.f.
Irrigation	$.13 s.f.
Furnishing and installing	
Trash Receptacles	$500
Water	$3,000
includes copper service, approximate cost of meter, hose bib and fixture	
Signage	$300 each
Brown metal signs with white lettering	

Capital costs for a 20,000 s.f. fenced dog park (similar in size to Simpson)

Fencing	(100'x 200')	$ 9,600
Enkamat	with sod	$29,600*
Turfgrids	with sod	$15,800*
Grassy Pavers	with sod	$33,600*
Trash receptacles, water service and signage		$ 3,800
Irrigation		$ 2,600
Total costs		$31,800 - 49,600

* subtract $2,000 if Bermuda grass is sprigged

For Each Dog Exercise Area:

Bollards 2' high constructed of recycled plastic with dog paw insignia	$80 each
Trash Receptacles	$498 each
Signage Brown metal signs with white lettering	$280 each
Total capital costs for Dog Exercise Areas (assuming 4 bollards)	$1,100

Maintenance Costs for both Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas:

Maintenance including aeration, overseeding and fertilization	$.22 s.f.
Maintenance including grass mowing and trimming	$.006 s.f.
Bags and Liners for trash receptacles (approximate one year supply)	$175

Fees: In order to assist with the capital costs and maintenance, it is recommended that the animal license fees be increased, with a portion of these fees set aside for dog park initiatives. Currently, there is a state mandated maximum of $10.00 per dog on license fees.

Current Fees: $10 - non-neutered dog
$2 - neutered dog

Recommend: $20 - non-neutered dog
$10 - neutered dog

Additional Recommendations:

It is also recommended to add a box on the license application requesting donations to help maintain Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

Information on dog licensing should be sent to all households via some mechanism (car tax bill, utility bill, or other method) to be determined at a later date.

Environmental concerns: The Park and Recreation Commission also recommends that due to environmental concerns and to ensure the water quality in the area any new DEA or FDP must be set back an appropriate distance from a body of water.

Implementation of the recommendations will be prioritized and budgeted appropriately after the Master Plan has been adopted.

EXHIBIT NO. 1

20A
9-12-00

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSED GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH NEW FENCED DOG PARKS AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS AND PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES

ISSUE: Receipt of the Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

1. Receive the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (as discussed on page 2 of this memorandum);

2. Pass the proposed ordinances that make changes to the City Code consistent with the recommendations set forth in the Master Plan on first reading and schedule them for public hearing on September 16, and second reading and final passage on September 26; and

3. Thank the members of the Park and Recreation Commission for their work on these matters.

BACKGROUND: At its June 27 legislative meeting, City Council received the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1) from the Park and Recreation Commission and draft ordinances amending the City Code. Council requested that the Master Plan and ordinances be docketed for public hearing on September 16, and for adoption on September 26.

In accordance with Council action in June, the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks was released for review by the public over the summer. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities mailed copies of the proposed Master Plan to veterinarians, animal hospitals, civic associations, pet supply stores, the Alexandria animal shelter, the Alexandria Animal Welfare League and numerous interested citizens. In addition, the Department will post notices of the September 16 Public Hearing at all current dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks prior to the public hearing.

At its June 27 meeting, Council also requested that the Park and Recreation Commission develop proposed guidelines, for inclusion in the Master Plan, that can be used by the City Manager when designating future Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

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DISCUSSION: The following criteria are recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission to be used by the City Manager as guidelines for the designation future sites for new Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks:

1. Area must be at least ½ acre, or 21,780 square feet.
2. Area must be at least 50 feet from a residential property line, or 50 feet from a commercial/industrial structure.
3. Area must be at least 60 feet from the top of a bank of any stream bed or water source. It will be located to minimize potential problems for wildlife and habitats, and is subject to normal environmental assessment procedures, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.
4. Area must be easily accessible for police and animal control protection.
5. Unfenced areas must be a safe distance away from roadways.
6. For Fenced Dog Parks, there must be adequate monies available to establish landscaping and buffers around the perimeter.

Recreation staff concur with these guidelines, and have indicated that all of the criteria would need to be met to designate a future site.

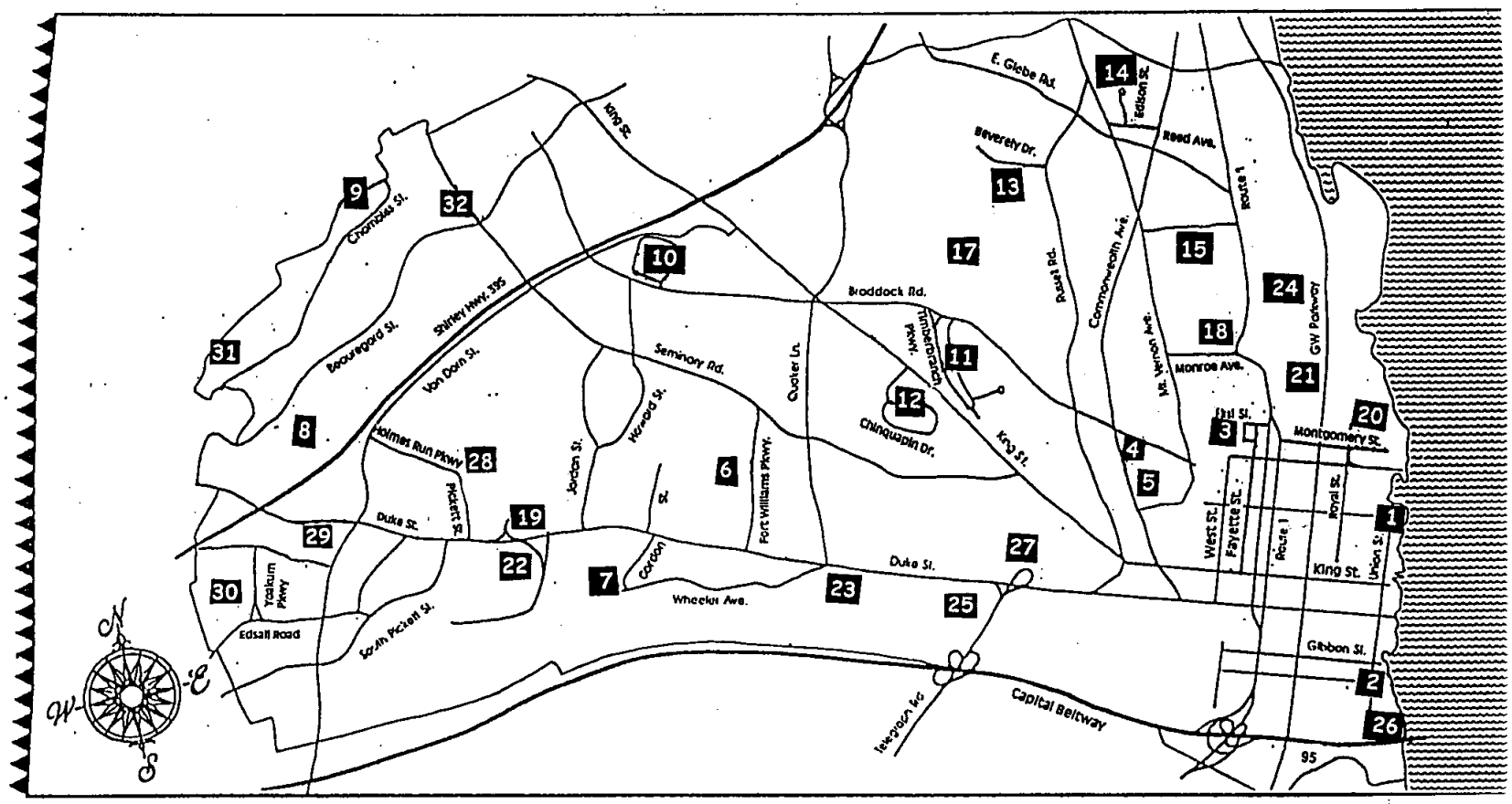
FISCAL IMPACT: Upon review and acceptance of the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, staff will recommend that Council increase dog license fees for spayed and neutered dogs from the current fee of $2 to $10, and for other dogs, increase the fee from the current $10 fee to $20. There are currently 2,950 dog licenses in the City, comprised of 2,500 for spayed or neutered dogs and 450 are for other dogs. If all of the current licenses are renewed at the proposed higher rates, the increase in revenue would total $24,500 per year. However, an increase in fees of this magnitude will likely result in fewer dog owners renewing their licenses, and as a result, the actual net additional revenue received is likely to be less than $24,500. It should be noted that there is no change recommended in the license fees for cats, which will remain at $2 for spayed and neutered cats, and $10 for other cats.

The new dog license fee annual revenue will help offset part of the operating costs of implementing the Master Plan. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities projects that the additional operating costs of implementing the Master Plan would be between $25,000 and $30,000 per year. Capital costs would be additional (beyond the $25,000 currently funded in the capital budget), and would vary based upon the particular capital plans developed for each fenced dog park or dog exercise area. If City Council approves the Master Plan, City staff will develop a schedule for implementing the proposed improvements to the fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas. This schedule would be used to develop operating and capital budget plans, and the pace of implementation of the schedule would be subject to annual funding considerations.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (City Council docket item from June 27, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities



City of Alexandria Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Areas:

1. Northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac
2. City property at southwest corner of Gibbon and Union Streets
3. City property at northeast corner of First Street and Payne Street
4. Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth
5. Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets
6. Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway
7. Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park)
8. Southeast corner of Armistead and Beauregard
9. Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts
10. East side entrance to Fort Ward Park
11. Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place
12. Chinquapin Park east of loop
13. East entrance to Monticello Park
14. Edison Street cul-de-sac
15. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue
16. ~~Holmes Run on Pickett St behind CVS - PNE~~ This area has not been included at this time.
17. Area Behind George Mason School - PNE
18. Simpson Park along Duncan Avenue - F
19. Duke Street east of the Beatley Library - F
20. Montgomery Park at Fairfax and 1st Street - F
21. Chetworth Park - F
22. Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run - F
23. Southeast corner of Wheeler and Duke Street - PNF
24. Potomac Yard - PNF
25. Carlyle north of Mill Road - PNF
26. Jones Point Park - PE
27. Loop at Duke Street - PE
28. Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge - PE
29. Loop to Van Dorn St. from Duke Street - PE
30. Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - PE
31. Park at Rynex Drive - PE
32. Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - PE

EXHIBIT NO. 2

16
9-27-00

ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM #16 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2000
MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS

The Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas before the council for approval at this meeting proposes the retention of an UNFENCED dog exercise area "at the northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac". This area, unfenced and delineated by four "bollards", 2' high plastic posts, is actually the northwest portion of the park, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Union and Oronoco Streets.

On June 15, 1999, the Waterfront Committee unanimously agreed that having unleashed dogs running loose anywhere in Founders Park was inappropriate and hazardous to visitors, tourists, joggers, picnickers, and other park users, particularly children A motion by Ken Foran, seconded by Myra Halpin, that the existing "Dog Exercise " sign be removed from Founders Park and that the leash laws be strictly enforced was passed unanimously.

Establishing a legal, authorized unfenced dog exercise area (DEA) in Founders Park is an open invitation to anyone in the metropolitan area to come and turn their dogs loose, regardless of size or temperament – dobermans, rottweilers, pit bulls, shepards, standard poodles – and regardless of who else is in the park. This situation is made more acute as other jurisdictions tighten their dog laws.

Tourists. Founders Park is the crown jewel in Alexandria's necklace of waterfront parks, a major gateway to Alexandria. Directly across Oronoco Street from this unfenced DEA is Robinson Terminal, where visiting cruise ships load and unload. Across Oronoco the next block of Union Street is the designated tour bus parking area. On any nice day in season, particularly on week-ends, Founders Park is thronged with visitors from many nations, many in their native dress and speaking their native tongues. Many have children. The committee feels it does not make sense to add unleashed dogs to the mix.

Other visitors. In nice weather in season Founders Park is literally wall-to-wall people, people from all over Alexandria, and elsewhere, sun-bathing, reading, watching the river, and picnicking, lunch and dinner from home or the near-by food courts and King Street. Most are unaware of the DEA and spread over the park. Many are young families with small children. The dogs, of course, are not always aware of the boundaries. The committee feels it is an inappropriate and unhealthy mix.

Other events fill Founders Park with people of all ages. The Red Cross Festival, although at Oronoco Bay, begins at Union and Oronoco Streets and fills Founders Park with visitors, particularly when the fireworks begin! Visiting Navy ships and tall ships bring more visitors. When the tall ships were here last year school buses from five jurisdictions disgorged hundreds of school children across Founders Park. The committee feels an open invitation to turn large dogs unleashed in this area is ill-advised.

Joggers. Founders Park was specifically designed for jogging. So that joggers can circle

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the park, a jogging track runs next to the brick sidewalk all along Union Street. This unfenced DEA is immediately adjacent to that jogging track. Given the propensity of dogs to chase people that run from them, the committee felt this proximity ill-advised.

Volley-ball court. While the Union Street side of this unfenced DEA abuts a jogging track, the other side abuts a volley-ball court! Not only is this court popular for volley-ball, pick-up and otherwise, the sand-filled court is very popular, when volley-ballers aren't there, as a tot lot! Young mothers and 'nannies" bring toddlers and others, singly and in groups, to play in the sand. Although a half-dozen dogs of all sizes were recently seen happily playing in the sand (with no children present at the time), the committee feels it is neither safe, healthy, or appropriate to mix these activities.

Dogs. Unfenced, the proposed DEA is also hazardous for dogs. The Union Street side of the area is only the width of the sidewalk and jogging path, a scant nine feet, from Union Street, a busy street that has no stop signs or cross streets for the three blocks between Queen and Oronoco. It does not meet the criteria proposed in the plan: "5. Unfenced areas must be a safe distance away from roadways." (I have personally observed one unleashed dog hit and killed by a speeding car on Union Street.)

It is also unfair and hazardous to dogs whose owners want to enjoy the park and to keep their pet safely on a leash to have these big dogs running loose. There are two dozen other exercise areas proposed for dogs to run unleashed. And there is nothing to prevent dogs from exercising on a leash with their owners in the park, as many owners do, to both of their benefit.

The proposed master plan further states, with regard to this DEA, "If it is later determined that results are unsatisfactory, an alternative location should be considered." What does this mean? Presumably it means that the unleashed area should stay as it is until something bad happens – as, a child gets mauled, or worse. Then the city should "consider" remedial action!

> *by the way, carleen was jogging in the park and observed three unleashed dogs run out of the exercise area and knock down a little boy. he wound up with a bleeding lip. the dog owners did nothing(!)*
>
> e-mail – 30 Jun 2000

How much blood is enough?

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee encompasses a broad spectrum of the various stakeholders in the Alexandria Waterfront. It is composed of representatives from commercial and business interests, civic and non-profit associations and foundations, parks, archeology, and environmental commissions, pleasure boat owners, citizen representatives from four differing residential areas, and one member of the City Council,

The Waterfront Committee strongly recommends that this DEA be deleted now, before "something bad happens."

James A. Dorsch, Chairman

FROM: Waterfront Committee Members M. Halpin, C. Hamel and K. Foran

Subject: City Council Agenda Item #16 – September 27, 2000

James A. Dorsch, Chairman of the Waterfront Committee has sent you a strong recommendation from the committee "that this DEA be deleted now before something bad happens." He has included the June15, 1999 unanimously approved motion to City Council: "that the 'Dog Exercise' sign be removed from Founder's Park and the leash laws be strictly enforced". The motion was made by the committee member representing the Parks and Recreation Commission and seconded by the member representing the West End. (Note: Councilwoman Lois Walker and Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Judy Guse-Noritake were in attendance.)

At virtually every Waterfront Committee Meeting since that motion was passed, discussions related to this issue have continued. A special sub-committee was appointed to work on this issue and has done so.

During the September 19, 2000 meeting of the Waterfront Committee, Charles Hamel asked the Committee's City Council Member and the city staff who were present, if the members of City Council had been made aware of the Waterfront Committee's motion and subsequent discussions which have gone on for over a year. Myra Halpin and other committee members supported Mr. Hamel in requesting a response. No answer was received.

Members of this committee take their responsibilities seriously and spend many hours prior to and following our meetings working to assure that our "Waterfront" remains the "jewel"of the "fun side of the Potomac" -- one with a safe environment for all, as well as continuing to bring to Alexandria business which greatly contributes to our tax support base. We want to know that our concerns through our approved motions are brought forward.

We have learned that no reference to the Waterfront Committee's expressed concerns and opposition to a dog exercise area in Founder's Park was included in the transmittal of the proposed Master Plan For Dogs transmitted to the Mayor and Members of City Council by Mr. Sunderland's office.

Therefore: We request that whenever there exists an issue which falls under the responsibility of the Waterfront Committee, that city staff be required to properly inform the Mayor and City Council of deliberations and recommendations of the Waterfront Committee on said issue. As the elected representatives of all of the citizens of Alexandria, we want you to be informed of your citizens' advisory group -- the Waterfront Committee.

Respectfully yours:

Myra B. Halpin Charles Hamel Ken Foran

Myra B. Halpin	Charles Hamel	Ken Foran
Committee Member	Committee Member	Committee Member

CC: Philip Sunderland, City Manager
Sandra Whitmore, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Janet Barnett - Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities

9-27-00

September 23, 2000

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley
Mayor of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Donley:

We, the undersigned residents of the neighborhood surrounding a proposed official dog exercise area, are writing to thank you and the City Council for addressing an issue that concerns so many Alexandria residents and to express our opinions regarding the elements of the dog exercise area as envisioned for our community, at Chambliss and Grigsby Streets in Alexandria. Though not all of us own dogs, we all enjoy using the park throughout the year, and we hope you find our observations useful.

First, although we are in favor of some structure designating the area as an official dog exercise area—preferably a pillar with a paw print, such as the one at Founders Park in Old Town—we oppose the erection of a "boundary fence" along the path that transects the park and along Chambliss Street. We feel that a fence of any sort is unnecessary. A fence would not only mar the natural beauty of the setting but also interfere with the normal uses of the park. The location of the exercise area—at the end of a street and at the beginning of a nature trail—is inherently safe, and, because there is no children's playground at the site, there is no need to demarcate children's from canines' play space.

Moreover, for several years dogs and their owners have shared the area amicably with other community members who hike on the nature trail and cut through the park to get to and from their homes; there have been no hostile encounters. Indeed, we want to emphasize that the dogs and their handlers who regularly use the exercise area have proved to be excellent neighbors. Many dog owners who use the area go beyond cleaning up after their pets: They have also worked to keep the Dora Kelly Nature Trail safe and litter free, efforts that we who live nearby very much appreciate. Homeowners, dogs and their owners, hikers, bikers, tennis players, and others share their space here with remarkable equanimity and goodwill.

Second, we strongly favor the installation of a plastic bag dispenser to enable convenient, hygienic disposal of dog droppings. Regular users of the dog exercise area reliably dispose of their pets' waste, but more occasional users might benefit from a visual reminder—a bag dispenser—that this community takes its responsibilities to its pets and neighbors seriously.

Third, we strongly urge the City Council to consider the installation of a water spigot at the site.

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The dog exercise area abuts both tennis courts and a nature trail, and users of those resources certainly would join dog owners in applauding a water source at the site. Perhaps city funds that would have gone toward fencing might better, more usefully be spent to install a water spigot, which would benefit all those in the community, human as well as canine.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and for taking our concerns into account as you deliberate on the structure of our community's dog exercise area.

Name	Address
Barbara Johnson	2302 Sibley St, Alexandria Va 22311
Joyce McDowell	5600 Harding Av 22311
David Depler	5600 Harding Ave 22311
Andrew Williams	2304 N. Sibley St. Alex. VA 22311
William R Zafa	2314 N. Sibley St Alex, VA 22311
Barbara York Taylor	2314 N Sibley St. Alex VA 22311
George Wargo	2307 N Sibley St Alex 22311
Sara Fain	5818 Dawes Ave Alex. 22311
Harvey H Pettit Jr	2508 ST. John Pl. Alex 22311
[illegible]	2291 TRACY Alex 22311
[illegible]	2313 N Chambliss St Alexandria VA 22311
Tessa Reeves	2301 N. Chambliss St. Alexandria VA 223[illegible]
Robert Reeves	2301 N Chambliss St Alexandria VA 22311
Joyce Elliott	6054 Morgan Court Alexandria, VA 22312
Jean Adams	2313 N. Chambliss St. Alexandria, VA 22311
Ellen Schwartz	5654 Gary Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311
Richard Schwartz	" " " " "
Donna Daniels Verdier	3900 N. Stevens St., Alexandria, VA 22311
Walter J Verdier	" " " " "

2

Copies: Vice Mayor William C. Cleveland
Councilwoman Claire M. Eberwein
Councilman William D. Euille
Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager
Beverly I. Jett, City Clerk
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Ignacio Pessoa, City Attorney
Councilman David G. Speck
Phil Sunderland, City Manager
Councilwoman Joyce Woodson

3

Internet Message

DATE: September 21, 2000 10:46:57 AM
TO: Sandy Murphy@Alex
FROM: MIME:MayorALX@aol.com
SUBJECT: Fwd: dog park

Sandy -

Dog park letter for our files. copy and give to the members and Parks and Rec.

Kerry
Dear Mayor Donley:

It has come to my attention that the City Council is about to approve the establishment of a dog exercise area in the area situated near the tennis courts behind John Adams School.

I am writing as the owner and resident of 2333 Sibley St. My property backs up this proposed exercise area. I am very opposed to this plan for the following reasons:

(1)The erection of the required fencing will destroy a unique and quite pretty setting.(2)there will almost certainly be an increase in the noise level in a neighborhood which is already experiencing overcrowding issues. (3) The potential for abuse is large. Enforcement of rules is nearly impossible. (4)While I am a dog owner, none of my immediate neighbors is. They will get no benefit from this addition.

Please reconsider this plan. It is not necessary, and will almost surely lead to problems and at a minimum, result in a reduction in the quality of neighborhood life.

Thank you.

Patrick W. Schenning
2333 Sibley St
Alexandria, Va. 22311

CC received, Sent to CMO, S. Whitmore
16
9-27-00

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Mr. Mayor and Members of Council

I appologise for the lateness of this note concerning current docket item #17 and prior docket item #25 from 9/16/00

I can tell you that we support the concepts of these plans and urge you to adopt them.

Our concern and exception is based on the Exhibit "1" from your 9/25 docket.

Page 6, "area 30" Median of Yoakum Parkway.

Yoakum Parkway is a residential street not unlike any other in the city. The existing dog walk has been in this median over 20 years that I have been there. I can assure you that residents of "Watergate at Landmark", Alexandria Knolls," "Edsall Bluff", "South Port" and others all use this area and the parkland East of Yoakum. to exercise our pets. Those of us that usually monitor issues in the West end never assumed that our dog walk area would be slated for removal. To the contrary we thought that

based on the safety issues we would be among those areas that would be fenced for greater safety. Based on the sheer number of residents and pets we ask that Council reverse the decisions on area 30 Yoakum Parkway and direct that it be included among the "Pet Walk" areas to be fenced.

Thank You for Your consideration

Larry Slansbury
Alexandria Knolls West.
703-370-6107

#16 9/27/00

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2000

TO: COUNCILWOMAN REDELLA S. PEPPER

THROUGH: ROSE WILLIAMS BOYD, DIRECTOR
CITIZEN ASSISTANCE

FROM: SANDRA WHITMORE, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: JUST CURIOUS
(COUNCIL REQUEST #00-106P)

This is in response to your request for staff comment on the email from Don Kula requesting clarification on the proposed Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, which was on the docket for final discussion at the September 27 City Council meeting. He is specifically concerned about the potential for a new off-leash area in Holmes Run Park and the funding of new dog parks.

At this time, there are 27 off-leash dog areas within the City. Many of these areas were established as off-leash areas over twenty years ago. Over the course of the past two years, the Park and Recreation Commission and staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities have been developing a Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks. The Master Plan has been presented and discussed at several public hearings held by the Park and Recreation Commission and also at the City Council Public Hearing on September 16. The plan has been amended during this process to incorporate public comments and concerns regarding these areas.

City Council approved the Master Plan which includes one new dog exercise area and three new fenced dog parks. There are four existing fenced areas and a fifth in Ben Brenman Park, which will open this fall. All other off-leash areas will remain as dog exercise areas, which will not be fenced. The four proposed new off-leash dog areas are all east of Quaker Lane, and the area between Pegram and Pelham is not going to be an off-leash area.

The Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks is designed to be a working document. The Park and Recreation Commission and Recreation Department staff believe the

plan will need future adjustments and updates as new public demands arise and they intend to incorporate new areas and eliminate inappropriate areas as needed within the Master Plan.

Regarding the issue of funding for the off-leash areas, the approved ordinance changes, which received final approval by City Council, will raise the City license fees for dogs to $30 for non-neutered dogs and $10 for neutered dogs. This increase from the current fees of $10 for non-neutered dogs and $2 for neutered dogs will raise additional revenue to assist with the costs involved in supporting the off-leash areas.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (703) 838-4842.

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Philip Sunderland, City Manager

City of Alexandria, Virginia
EMAIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 22, 2000 12:00:46 PM
TO: Rose Boyd/Alex@Alex
FROM: Joanne Pyle
SUBJECT: Just Curious...

Hi Rose,

I am forwarding to you an e-mail Del received from Mr. Don Kula expressing his concerns with dog exercise areas and, in particular, his objections to such an area being designated between Pegram and Pelham. Del would appreciate you asking the appropriate city staff for a response to Mr. Kula's concerns.

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance.

Joanne

---------- Forwarded by Joanne Pyle/Alex on 09/22/2000 12:00 PM ----------

Internet Message

DATE: September 18, 2000 04:01:16 PM
TO: Joanne Pyle@Alex
FROM: MIME:kulahouse@erols.com
SUBJECT: Just Curious...

HI Joanne...a very cheery Monday to you and Mrs. Pepper.

Was just wondering about something. As I was doing my daily walk through Holmes Run Park area, I noticed some city posters discussing a "dog exercise area" proposal with a meeting on the 16th of this month. My wife and I are both avid Message Attachmentusers of the open area along Holmes run and wondered what this proposal was all about. We want to make sure that you know of our objections to anything being built in the large grassy areas between Pegram and Pelham.

The decision to own a dog is a very personal thing; not the city's and certainly not the taxpayers. Using city funds for a dog owner benefit is down right wrong. A dog exercise area was recently created across from Cameron station down from the new Library. Is there a demand for another one? I frankly think the new exercise area is ugly and an eye sore. Are dog owners charged an extra fee for building these "cages"? I really hope you don't tell me that city funds are paying for the exercise areas; that borders on waste fraud and abuse of my taxpayers dollars.

Anyway, just want some clarification on what is being proposed, and what a "precious few" want to dictate to the silent majority.

Thanks,

Don Kula
kulahouse@erols.com

Sec. 6-1-2.2 Same--dog exercise areas; designation by city manager; prohibited conduct.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) Commercial dog handler shall mean any person who boards, keeps, handles or walks dogs owned by another person for compensation.

(2) Dog exercise area shall mean an area of open space, owned or controlled by the city and fenced or unfenced, which has been designated and posted as a dog exercise area by the city manager, pursuant to this section.

(3) Owner shall mean any person having a right of property in a dog, and any person who keeps or harbors a dog or has it in his care or control, or who acts as its custodian, including, but not limited to, a commercial dog handler, and any person who permits a dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

(4) Aggressive dog shall mean a dog which is capable of inflicting death or serious injury on a person or another animal and which:

(i) has, without provocation, attacked or bitten a person engaged in a lawful activity;

(ii) has, while off the property of its owner and without provocation, killed or seriously injured another animal;

(iii) has, without provocation, chased, confronted or approached a person on a street, side walk or other public property in a menacing fashion such as would put an average person in fear of attack;

(iv) has exhibited a propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, cause injury or threaten the safety of persons or other animals without provocation; or

(v) has acted in a manner that causes or should cause its owner to know that it is potentially vicious.

(b) The city manager may designate and post dog exercise areas in the city, in accordance with the provisions of this section and of the "Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks Master Plan," adopted by city council on September 27, 2000, as such provisions may be amended by the council from time to time.

(c) Within a dog exercise area, dogs under the care, custody and control of an owner are permitted to run free, without a leash, lead or other restraint, but subject to the provisions of this section, and to any rules or regulations promulgated by the city manager pursuant to this section, and applicable within such dog exercise area.

(d) No such owner shall have in a dog exercise area:

(1) more than three dogs;

(2) a dog that is not in such owner's view and under his or her voice control;

(3) a dangerous dog as defined in section 5-7-31(c);

(4) a vicious dog as defined in section 5-7-31(m);

(4.1) an aggressive dog as defined in subsection (a) of this section;

(5) a female dog in season;

(6) a dog that is less than four months old;

(7) if such owner is a resident of the city, a dog that is not inoculated and licensed in accordance with sections 5-7-38 and 5-7-47 of this code;

(8) if such owner is not a resident of the city, a dog that has not been inoculated with an anti-rabic vaccine that is in accordance with the latest edition of the "Compendium of Animal Rabies Control" issued by the National Association of State Public Health

Veterinarians, Inc., and evidence that such dog has been inoculated.

(9) The prohibitions established by paragraphs (3), (4) and (4.1) of this subsection shall apply to any dog which meets the respective definition, without regard to the jurisdictional residence of the dog's owner or of the dog, or to whether the dog has been declared to be a vicious, dangerous or aggressive dog under Virginia law, or the similar laws of any other jurisdiction. The director of recreation, parks and cultural activities, with the concurrence of the chief animal control officer, may notify, in writing, the owner or custodian of any such dog found in a dog exercise area that such dog is subject to the prohibitions of this subsection.

(e) No child less than 16 years of age shall be permitted in a dog exercise area which is fully enclosed by a fence unless accompanied by an adult.

(f) The city manager may promulgate such additional rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this section and of the "Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks Master Plan," as he deems necessary and appropriate to implement or enforce the provisions of this section.

(g) The director of recreation, parks and cultural activities shall cause one or more signs to be posted in a visible location in any dog exercise area. Such signs shall inform the public of the existence of the dog exercise area, the geographic limits of the area, the limitations imposed by subsection (d), subsection (e) if applicable, and such other rules and regulations promulgated by the city manager as may be applicable.

(h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be liable for a class four civil penalty, as prescribed in section 1-1-11 of this code. (Ord. No. 4162, 9/27/00, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4520, 2/23/08, Sec. 2)