



COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Jan Aramaki and Allison Rowland, Policy Analysts

DATE: July 31, 2018

RE: AMENDMENT OF SALT LAKE CITY'S ORDINANCES REGARDING DOGS IN CITY PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACES

Item Schedule:

Briefing: July 31, 2018
Set Date: July 31, 2018
Public Hearing: August 21, 2018
Potential Action: September 4, 2018

ISSUE AT-A-GLANCE

The Administration proposes repealing the City's regulations for the creation of new off-leash dog areas, with the goal of simplifying and expediting the process, as well as providing new safeguards when hazardous conditions or sensitive environmental resources warrant closure to dogs. This change would move the planning and management of off-leash areas into the existing framework used for other significant changes to parks and open space amenities, which do not require the Council to amend City code. *Staff note: by shifting the designation and creation process for new off-leash areas out of City ordinance, the Council would delegate one of its current roles to the Administration's proposed process.*

These proposed changes build on previous Council discussions about the challenges of balancing increased resident demand for off-leash dog areas with other City parks and trails uses. In 2014 and 2015, the Council agreed that the existing process—commonly known as Resolution 52—has proved cumbersome for adding and managing off-leash dog areas. In practice, few new spaces for recreation with off-leash dogs have been added since the resolution's adoption in 2004. As part of the current proposal, the Administration identifies a number of specific difficulties with Resolution 52:

- Each new off-leash area must be designated in Salt Lake City ordinance, a time-consuming process that requires Council approval.
- It is difficult to find a sponsor willing to adopt each proposed off-leash park, taking on the task of keeping the park reasonably clean of dog waste and related litter. Under Resolution 52, a signed letter of understanding to clarify sponsor roles is required for new off-leash areas to be approved.
- The "Parks for Dogs Advisory Panel" (which was intended to monitor off-leash area use, raise funds and work to make the off-leash areas successful for dog owners and non-dog owners) has never been established.



- Existing ordinances do not provide the authority to close specific areas to dogs in cases where public safety becomes a concern, or when sensitive resources need to be protected. The proposed changes would authorize the director of the Public Services Department to close certain areas to dogs under those conditions.

Goal of the briefing: *A straw poll to indicate whether the Council supports the proposals to repeal Resolution 52, delegating the process of creating new off-leash dog areas to the Administration, and allowing the Public Services director to close certain areas of parks, trails and open spaces to dogs.*

POLICY QUESTIONS

1. *The Council may wish to consider the following options in moving this conversation forward, after reviewing the policy questions listed below:*

- Adopt the Administration’s proposal to eliminate Resolution 52 (which would delegate the dog off-leash designation process to the Administration), and other proposed amendments
- Maintain existing Resolution 52 as-is.
- Preserve some role for the Council in the dog off-leash designation by, for example:
 - adopting off-leash dog areas into City code, but without the other Resolution 52 requirements;
 - asking the Administration to provide an annual status report on dog off-leash designations; or
 - asking the Administration to provide a regular inventory of all parks and open space uses.

2. *The Council may wish to request the Administration discuss the successes and challenges, including any increased budgetary needs, associated with the creation of new off-leash areas.* The number of new off-leash areas has increased substantially since Council discussions of the issue began in 2014 (see list in Attachment C1). In 2015, the Council supported creation of planned off-leash areas in Fairmont, Rosewood¹ and Rotary Glen parks, as well as testing a new concept for limited “off-leash hours” each morning and evening in seven different neighborhood parks. As part of an effort to minimize the need for residents to travel by automobile to a dog off-leash area, one park in each Council District was selected for a year-long trial period. Because staffing constraints in the Public Services Department make the evaluation of these new areas time-consuming, these part-time off-leash areas have been introduced on a staggered basis in recent years. The Administration also states in its transmittal that all of the new areas were developed outside the Resolution 52 process due to specific criteria in the guidelines that would have prevented them from being established in a streamlined timeframe. The Council suggested this approach in discussions in 2015.

As indicated in the table below, sections of Warm Springs and Wasatch Hollow Parks already have been approved administratively for permanent part-time off-leash use, following a one-year trial period. Parts of Jefferson and Parley’s Way Parks are nearing the end of their one-year trials and an administrative evaluation will determine their eligibility for permanent status. Areas within Madsen, Glendale and Richmond Parks are scheduled to go through the test phase in the future.

¹ The Administration continues to work with the community on design for this park, and estimates that a construction start date will be in mid-September or early October. The site identified within Rosewood Park for an off-leash area is a sludge pit Superfund repository site approved for open space recreational land use. There are restrictions regarding this site that make development costly and will extend the construction time to meet all required approvals. In January of 2017, the Council approved \$220,000 in impact fees for this park.

<i>Approved Part-Time Off-Leash Dog Areas</i>	<i>Part-Time Off-Leash Areas Currently in Trial Phase</i>	<i>Planned Part-Time Off-Leash Areas</i>
District Three: Warm Springs Park (since June 2016)	District Five: Jefferson Park (pilot program began in June 2017)	District One: Madsen Park
District Six: Wasatch Hollow Park (since August 2016)	District Seven: Parley's Way Park (pilot program began in September 2017)	District Two: Glendale Park
		District Four: Richmond Park

3. During discussions in 2014, the Council expressed informal support for an off-leash dog policy goal, and a number of supporting policy statements (see Attachment C2). ***Would the Council like to consider formal adoption (by straw poll or by resolution) of this policy goal and some or any of the policy statements?***
4. ***The Council may wish to consider how to best involve community groups, such as FIDOS, for education, policy input and actively encouraging self-policing.*** In previous Council discussions, community group involvement was considered necessary for the success of off-leash areas, given the City's limited resources for regulating compliance with leash requirements and providing waste clean-up. In fact, the majority of the 190 statements received from the public on Open City Hall expressed concerns about dog owners failing to respect on-leash areas or pick up dog waste.
5. ***The Council may wish to ask whether the City's Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry & Trails Advisory Board (PNUT) had any additional feedback on the topic of dogs in these areas.***
6. In a June 23, 2015 meeting of the City Council with Salt Lake County elected officials, several attendees expressed interest in creating new off-leash areas in cooperation with the County, as well as formulating shared off-leash rules and regulations. ***Does the Council wish to initiate, or request that the Administration initiate, another meeting with the County to consider these topics?***
7. Formal compliance with City ordinances regarding dogs in parks and other public spaces is contracted through Salt Lake County Animal Services. ***The Council may wish to ask whether the interlocal agreement that governs this relationship provides adequate funding and resources to meet current needs in off-leash areas, as well as planned expansions.***
8. Under the Administration's proposal, *Chapter 15.10, Parley's Historic Nature Park Use and Management*, which dates from 2011 and includes detailed off-leash dog regulations as well as other rules, remains in City code (Attachment C3). ***If the Council chooses to delegate the off-leash area processes to the Administration by repealing Resolution 52, would the Council also like to revisit Chapter 15.10, or request that the Administration do so?***
9. ***The Council may wish to inquire about the status of any of the new dog off-leash areas and additional items that the former Council supported in straw polls during the March 17, 2015 briefing.***
 - a. A potential off-leash area in Jordan River Par 3. In 2017, the Administration indicated that it was working with a consultant to develop a broader plan for Jordan River Par 3.

- b. A potential off-leash area Bonneville Shoreline Trail. In 2017, the Administration indicated that an application was submitted in April 2015 to create an off-leash area at Morris Meadows Reservoir, under the Resolution 52 guidelines. The proposed area is 453 acres owned by Public Utilities with the exception of 20 inaccessible acres, owned by Parks and Public Lands, near a heavily used section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. The land identified includes a future site for a reservoir adjacent to the existing reservoir. The area around the Morris Reservoir has been used as an unofficial off-leash area for many years. Parks and Public Lands has had discussions with Public Utilities to define a boundary area that will meet the goals of both departments. Ongoing maintenance for this type of Park, is estimated to be similar to the off-leash area at Parley's Historic Nature Preserve. Assuming that approximately 40 acres of land could be opened to off-leash dogs, an annual maintenance cost of about \$1,500/acre, or \$60,000 is estimated per year. Additionally funds for parking, restroom facilities, signage, waste bins and dog bag dispensers, and physical barriers (fencing) will need to be secured. A land use management agreement between Public Services and Public Utilities is also required.
- c. Off-leash use during off-hours at golf courses.
- d. Winter shifts in the location of some off-leash parks under icy conditions. *Staff note: this may be an issue that could be handled under the new provisions for closure in the proposed ordinance amendments.*

10. Some additional questions that Council Members may wish to ask about off-leash dog areas may include the following:

- a. Does the Administration perceive a need for additional off-leash areas, beyond those already planned?
- b. What is the annual cost of maintenance, signage, waste bags and receptacles, and other off-leash dog amenities?
- c. What kind of community outreach was undertaken when new Rosewood, Rotary Glen and Fairmont Park off-leash areas were created? How were any community concerns addressed?
- d. What kind of community outreach was (or will be) undertaken for the part-time off-leash hours in seven neighborhood parks? Were specific new items of concern uncovered during outreach or the pilot periods and, if so, how has the Administration addressed these? Are compliance problems substantially different in the part-time off-leash areas than in traditional (full-time) areas?

ADDITIONAL & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Chronology of Recent Actions Related to Dogs in City Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

April 2014	The City Council received a briefing regarding potential options for dog off-leash areas and potential next steps. By straw poll, the Council created a Council-led community Off-Leash Working Group to discuss options.
April, May 2014	Off-Leash Working Group meetings. The group consisted of select Council members, Administration staff and members of the public.
July 2014	Off-Leash Working Group's recommendations were presented to the Council. The public comment period began on Open City Hall and remained open through July 2016 (complete Open City Hall comments are attached to the Administration 2018 transmittal).

- January 2015** The Council identified the topic of dog off-leash areas as one of its ten “active projects” for 2015. The Council continued to explore options for how to meet its dog off-leash policy goal of creating new off-leash areas while minimizing potential negative impacts
- March 17, 2015** New off-leash areas in Fairmont, Rosewood and Rotary Glen Parks received support from the Council in straw polls.
- June 2015** In the Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget, the Council allocated \$10,500 for signage and dog waste supplies to support a pilot program of morning and evening dog off-leash times in one existing neighborhood park in each Council District.
- October 2015** The City Council agreed to re-evaluate options for Resolution 52 after additional information was gathered during the test periods of the proposed off-leash areas for Fairmont, Rosewood and Rotary Glen Parks and the part-time (morning and evening) off-leash hours in neighborhood parks.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment C1: Salt Lake City Off-leash Dog Areas

Attachment C2: Council Policy Goal and Statements

Attachment C3: City Ordinance for Parley’s Historic and Nature Park

Attachment C1: Salt Lake City Off-Leash Dog Areas

Updated: July 26, 2018

A. Off-leash dog areas codified in Section 15.08.070 of Salt Lake City Code

Designated areas of:

1. Memory Grove Park (known as the Freedom Trail section)
2. Herman L. Franks Park (except for the fenced youth baseball diamonds and playground area)
3. Jordan Park
4. Lindsey Gardens
5. Parley's Historic Nature Park, as set forth in Chapter 15.10 of Title 15 (*Staff note: The Administration does not propose to remove Chapter 15.10, Parley's Historic Nature Park Use and Management from Salt Lake City Code*)
6. Cottonwood Park
7. Pioneer Park
8. Experimental areas referred to in subsection 8.04390C of the code

B. Recently-designated dog off-leash areas not yet codified

Designated areas of:

1. Fairmont Park
2. Rotary Glen Park
3. Wasatch Hollow Park (limited hours)
4. Warm Springs Park (limited hours)
5. Rosewood Park (anticipated completion date in late 2018)

C. Neighborhood parks with limited hours currently in test period

1. Parley's Way Park
2. Jefferson Park

D. Planned neighborhood parks with limited hours

1. Madsen Park
2. Glendale Park
3. Richmond Park

Attachment C2. Dog Off-Leash Policy Goal and Policy Statements

1. Council's agreed policy goal

To expand opportunities for residents to enjoy outdoor activities with their off-leash dogs while minimizing impacts on other people, on health and safety, on parks and open space, on nature and wildlife, and on Salt Lake City's budget.

2. Agreed policy statements from the July 15, 2014 work session

- a. City parks and open spaces could change over time and adapt to appropriate new uses while considering historic assets, traditional uses, the natural environment and the surrounding communities. Education efforts are particularly important during any transitions to new uses.
- b. Every City park and trail is different. While some can include space for both unstructured activities and specialized uses, not all parks can encompass all uses. For example, while off-leash dogs are compatible with some parks and some open spaces, they are not compatible with all of them.
- c. People should not have to be exposed to off-leash dogs in all public spaces at all times. Predictability is important: people should be able to know when and where they are likely to encounter off-leash dogs in City parks and open spaces. Clearly established and communicated rules can help individuals adapt to variations in park and trail uses.
- d. City policy should consider dedicated areas for certain park uses at different times of year and times of day. For example, the City could allow golf courses to be used for off-leash dogs during the off-season or during certain hours.
- e. Peer education and reminders of the rules encourage dog owners to be responsible for their dogs.
- f. Even the best-trained dogs may react in unexpected ways to changes around them.
- g. To protect children, dogs should be prohibited from playgrounds. The City should consider accommodations for tethering dogs adjacent to playgrounds while their families use those areas.
- h. The City must consider a variety of public safety issues, including dog bites. The City must balance its obligations regarding public safety with residents' desire to enjoy outdoor activities with dogs in public spaces.
- i. The City should offer most park and open space opportunities to Salt Lake City residents for no charge.
- j. To resolve most complaints related to off-leash dogs, a balance of enforcement and education for pet owners, as well as community members who are not pet owners, is needed. Education can come from a variety of sources, including special events, signage, peers, and enforcement officers. Everyone deserves expectations of compliance.

- k. The City should explore and create opportunities for dog off-leash areas in neighborhoods within existing parks to conform to the goal of a walkable Salt Lake City. This includes taking advantage of part-time and unfenced options.
- l. The City should explore opportunities for water recreation features.
- m. To minimize impacts from off-leash use, the City should carefully design off-leash areas and consider their placement in relationship to other areas within parks and open spaces.

3. Additional statements captured from the Council's previous discussions

- a. The success of each dog off-leash area depends on building collaborative relationships with interested community members and organizations.
- b. Education and peer-to-peer enforcement should take precedence over increased enforcement by City employees and designees.
- c. A community group sponsor is desired for each off-leash area, but it is not *required* for each off-leash area.
 - i. These groups can help the City by identifying potential new off-leash areas, monitoring conditions in off-leash areas, and educating users about the benefits and responsibilities of off-leash areas.
 - ii. These groups can also provide valuable support to the City through volunteer maintenance activities, fund-raising for supplies and amenities, and peer-to-peer rule enforcement.
- d. Community members are allowed to propose additional new dog off-leash areas by way of a petition that includes at least twenty-five signatures from Salt Lake City residents.
- e. A new dog off-leash area may be terminated before the end of its test period should it lead to unexpected and significant deterioration in the quality of existing park or open space amenities. Should such termination occur, the area will not be reconsidered for dog off-leash use for the next **XXXX** years.
- f. Clear, frequent, and well-placed signs remind users of the rules and encourage dog owners to be responsible for their dogs. It can also support peer-to-peer enforcement and help minimize potential conflict among different user groups.
- g. The City should prioritize needed maintenance work at Jordan Park's existing off-leash area.
- h. The City should explore opening Parley's Historic Nature Park to off-leash dogs only on alternating days.

Attachment C3. City Ordinance Regarding Parley's Historic Nature Park

Chapter 15.10

PARLEY'S HISTORIC NATURE PARK USE AND MANAGEMENT

15.10.010: SCOPE:

In addition to the park and playground rules set forth in [chapter 15.08](#) of this title, the provisions of this chapter shall govern the use and management of Parley's Historic Nature Park. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of [chapter 15.08](#) of this title and this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall apply. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.020: PURPOSE AND POLICY OBJECTIVES:

This chapter is enacted to provide rules for the use and management of the Parley's Historic Nature Park and is intended to help achieve the following policy objectives:

- A. Protect the riparian corridor and water quality;
- B. Protect and restore cultural and natural resources, including water resources, plant communities, wildlife and habitat, biodiversity, and historical sites;
- C. Restore damaged areas, including historic features, appropriate user created trails, culvert erosion areas, eroded hillsides and stream banks, riparian corridor vegetation and habitat, and abate noxious weeds;
- D. Minimize potential for disasters, including fire, floods, threats to water quality, and extreme climatic variations;
- E. Maintain and enhance multiple park uses with minimal conflict, including off leash dog walking; walking, trail running and hiking, including ADA access where possible; regional trails and connections; BMX and cycling; water access; and nature appreciation and education;
- F. Identify dog off leash recreation areas;
- G. Maintain emergency and maintenance access;
- H. Limit undesirable impacts on neighboring property; and
- I. Encourage self-policing and volunteer education. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.030: PARK USE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Parley's Historic Nature Park comprehensive use and management plan, dated February 15, 2011, is hereby adopted by this reference and shall be used as an advisory guide for the use and management of the Parley's Historic Nature Park. Notwithstanding the advisory nature of the plan, the interim use plan map, dated February 15, 2011, illustrating and delineating current conditions, and current and future restoration and buffer areas, and the comprehensive use plan map, dated February 15, 2011, illustrating and delineating Parley's Historic Nature Park features referenced in this chapter, are hereby adopted. The use and management of the park shall be as shown on these maps and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.040: PARK ENTRANCE POINTS:

A. The Parley's Historic Nature Park shall be accessed only from the following four (4) places as shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter:

1. Entrance A: On the west boundary of the park, located adjacent to the east parking lot of Tanner Park, denominated as "Entrance A" on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps;
2. Entrance B1: On the west end of Parley's Trail, located adjacent to the west parking lot of Tanner Park, denominated as "Entrance B1" on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps;
3. Entrance B2: Near the east boundary of the park, located along Parley's Trail, east of I-215, denominated as "Entrance B2" on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps; and
4. Entrance C: On the south boundary of the park, located approximately at 2870 East, denominated as "Entrance C" on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps.

B. Dogs may enter the park only at entrances A, B1, and B2, except that the mayor may elect to allow dogs to enter the park at entrance C as permitted in subsection [15.10.060D](#) of this chapter. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.050: TRAILS:

A. Trails shall be established and maintained only as shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter and in accordance with the requirements of this section.

B. All approved trails shall be clearly marked.

C. Unapproved, user created trails existing as of February 15, 2011, shall be evaluated by the mayor, or the mayor's designee, as follows:

1. Trails identified as irreparable shall be closed and revegetated to a natural state.
2. Trails identified as appropriate and repairable shall be repaired and shall thereafter be deemed an approved trail.
3. Trails identified as appropriate and usable shall be deemed an approved trail.

D. Any trails approved pursuant to subsections C2 and C3 of this section shall be shown on the comprehensive use plan map adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter. Copies of the updated map shall be transmitted to the city council.

E. User created trails appearing after February 15, 2011, shall be closed and revegetated to a natural state. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.060: DOG OFF LEASH AND ON LEASH TRAILS AND AREAS:

A. Within Parley's Historic Nature Park dogs shall be on leash or off leash as provided in this section. The physical boundaries of dog on leash and off leash areas and trails shall be clearly marked and shall be

shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter.

B. Dogs shall be on leash, on trail within or immediately adjacent to the following places:

1. Any historic site area designated on the comprehensive use plan map;
2. Within the Parley's Trail right of way, except as otherwise permitted in subsection D of this section; and
3. Within the west Tanner Park Parking Lot to the Parley's Trail and the east Tanner Park Parking Lot to the Parley's Historic Nature Park regulation sign located at the first turn, top of the hill.

C. Dogs shall be prohibited on the south loop trail located between the pedestrian bridges over Parley's Creek and on the trail from entrance C to the south loop trail, except as otherwise permitted in subsection D of this section.

D. After riparian, wetland, and spring restoration is deemed successfully established and user compliance with park rules is assessed, dogs may be allowed on the following trails as determined by the mayor in accordance with applicable management policies of the comprehensive use and management plan:

1. The south loop trail;
2. The trail from entrance C to the south loop trail;
3. The trail connecting the central dog off leash area to Parley's Trail; and
4. That portion of Parley's Trail connecting the east and central dog off leash areas.

E. Dogs and public access and use shall be prohibited in protection, natural, restoration, and buffer areas shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter, except as shown otherwise on such maps and as permitted by the provisions of this chapter.

F. Dogs shall be permitted in designated off leash areas and on trails identified for off leash use on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.070: RIPARIAN CORRIDOR, WETLAND, AND NATURAL SPRING AREAS:

A. Riparian corridor, wetland, and natural spring areas shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter shall be maintained and protected in accordance with this section.

B. The provisions of section [21A.34.130](#) (riparian corridor overlay district) of this code shall apply to the Parley's Historic Nature Park except as follows:

1. Except as provided in subsection B3 of this section, there shall be no disturbance of land (trails or development) located within fifty feet (50') of the Parley's Creek annual high water level (AHWL).
2. Natural springs and wetlands shall be preserved and protected by twenty five (25) to fifty foot (50') buffer zones, boardwalks, and/or signage, as determined by the mayor or the mayor's designee. When use of boardwalks is not feasible, trails shall be aligned or realigned as needed to avoid encroachment within

natural spring and/or wetland buffer zones. If adverse impacts are not reasonably preventable, public use in or near springs and wetlands may be restricted consistent with management strategies set forth in the comprehensive use and management plan.

3. Designated Parley's Creek access areas, bridges, and boardwalks may be established, repaired, and maintained subject to applicable provisions of section [21A.34.130](#) of this code. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.080: PARLEY'S CREEK PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE AREAS:

A. Public access to and use of Parley's Creek shall be permitted as shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter. Such public access and use areas:

1. Shall be designed to prevent stream bank erosion, sedimentation, and pollution input to Parley's Creek, and
2. May be closed for maintenance and protection of water quality.

B. Dogs may run at large within the public access and use areas described in subsection A of this section, except:

1. Within a protection, natural, restoration, or buffer area as provided in section [15.10.090](#) of this chapter, and
2. As needed to maintain water quality. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.090: PROTECTION, NATURAL, RESTORATION, AND BUFFER AREAS:

A. Protection, natural, restoration, and buffer areas shown on the interim and comprehensive use plan maps adopted by reference in section [15.10.030](#) of this chapter shall be maintained and managed to avoid damage or degradation, and/or to allow restoration, as the case may be. Recognized best management practices shall be employed in such areas:

1. Riparian corridor, wetland, and natural spring areas except as otherwise provided in section [15.10.070](#) of this chapter;
2. Areas with steep slopes;
3. Areas and trails with soils susceptible to slope failure, erosion, and/or excessive sedimentation;
4. Highly vegetated areas which function as natural filters to prevent pollutants from being introduced in stream areas;
5. Areas with substantial native vegetation and habitat; and
6. Areas which, if not protected, would be likely to result in impaired water quality.

B. Public access to any area may be temporarily prohibited as needed to protect:

1. Public safety;
2. Water quality;
3. An overused area, as determined by the mayor or the mayor's designee, which may be severely damaged if public use and access is not temporarily prohibited to allow restoration and avoid further degradation and possible permanent closure; and
4. Any restored and/or revegetated area.

C. Protection, natural, restoration, and buffer areas shall be clearly marked. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)

15.10.100: CONFLICT OF LAW:

If any provision of this chapter conflicts with a provision of an applicable state or federal law or regulation, such law or regulation shall supersede the conflicting provision of this chapter. (Ord. 7-11, 2011)



CITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL

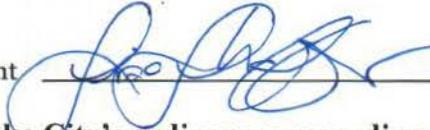

Patrick Leary, Chief of Staff

Date Received: March 22, 2018
Date sent to Council: March 27, 2018

TO: Salt Lake City Council
Erin Mendenhall, Chair

DATE: March 21, 2018

FROM: Lisa Shaffer
Public Services Department



SUBJECT: Amendment of Salt Lake City's ordinances regarding
dogs in city parks, trails & open spaces

STAFF CONTACT: Kristin Riker
Deputy Director Public Lands
Kristin.Riker@slcgov.com ; 801-972-7804

DOCUMENT TYPE: Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION: The Salt Lake City Council approve ordinance amendments to simplify and expedite the process by which City departments can designate areas as closed to dogs, open to leashed dogs, and open to unleashed dogs, including the repeal of Resolution 52 of 2004.

BUDGET IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Issue Origin

In the 1990s, the Salt Lake City Council enacted ordinances which established designated areas of certain city parks as open to off-leash use by dogs. Utilizing process recommendations from the Public Services Department, the City Council also passed Resolution 101 of 1999 – later replaced by Resolution 52 of 2004 – which specified a required process for the establishment and formalization of new off-leash areas.

In early 2014, a decade after the passage of Resolution 52 of 2004, a perceived unmet demand for off-leash recreation opportunities, and related challenges in implementing new off-leash parks, led the City Council to re-visit and analyze City processes related to off-leash facilities. The City's

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
P.O. BOX 145470
451 SO STATE ROOM 135
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-5470
www.slcgov.com

Parks & Public Lands Division (PPL) has engaged with City Council staff, the Mayor's office, and the Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry and Trails ("PNUT") Citizen Advisory Board to review challenges related to creation of off-leash facilities and management of off-leash use. Hundreds of public comments on the issue were collected and reviewed through Open City Hall's online platform. In late 2014, the Public Services Department and the PNUT Advisory Board identified certain city ordinances and Resolution 52 as responsible for producing hurdles and complications which delayed city efforts on off-leash improvements.

Since that time, PPL has continued to work towards appropriate dog-related use of city lands and recreation amenities, albeit outside of the Resolution 52 process by necessity.

- In 2016, PPL made several upgrades to existing off-leash facilities, constructed and opened a new off-leash area at Fairmont Park, and initiated several pilot parks for off-leash hours.
- In 2016, PPL opened the Wasatch Hollow Preserve open space area to the public for the first time. The northern portions of this preserve are closed to dogs per the area's Management Plan, while the adjacent park is a pilot area for off-leash hours.
- PPL and the Public Services Department have been in communication with the Public Utilities Department (SLCDPU) and its Watershed Division with regard to a proposed off-leash area on SLCDPU property in the upper Avenues.

Building from the recommendations of the Off-Leash Working Group (2014), citizen feedback, and the PNUT Advisory Board, PPL understands that there is a desire to more quickly respond to demand for off-leash improvements; for more inclusive and coherent public engagement around new off-leash amenities; and for more effective management of dog-based recreation in parks and open spaces citywide. PPL recommends several changes to City Code to facilitate the simple and efficient management of dog-related recreation:

- *Eliminate the requirement for inclusion of off-leash areas in Ordinance:*

Required inclusion of off-leash management areas in the City Code significantly reduces the flexibility and rapidity with which PPL can respond to changing needs and conditions. City Code sections 8.04.390 and 15.08.070 as written allow formalized off-leash use of Salt Lake City Parks & Open Spaces only when such areas have been listed specifically in City Code. This requires amending the City Code each time an off-leash area is added, relocated, or removed, which is a time-consuming process. Allowing the appropriate departmental director to designate off-leash areas with appropriate signage would allow City staff to respond more quickly to documented need, track shifting user demands, and protect the condition of park and open space resources.

- *Facilitate closures in sensitive or hazardous areas*

In some circumstances, it is necessary or advisable for reasons of public safety or for the protection of sensitive resources to prohibit dogs in specific areas of parks and open spaces. An example of one such area is the northern portion of the recently-restored Wasatch Hollow Preserve, which includes a narrow riparian area that is sensitive to habitat disturbance, and which was recommended for closure to dogs by the 2011 *Wasatch Hollow Use, Restoration & Management Plan*. Other examples include the City's three bicycle jump parks, where the presence of leashed or unleashed dogs anywhere on the "jump lines" could put the safety of both dogs and riders at serious risk. Enabling case-by-case designation by the relevant departmental director with appropriate on-site signage would facilitate flexible and responsive management.

- *Repeal Resolution 52 of 2004*

The City has never been able to fully comply with the process set out in Resolution 52 of 2004 to designate or implement new formal off-leash areas. The resolution creates a rigid process that is out-of-sync with the realities of establishing off-leash sites and amenities. The required Parks for

Dogs Advisory Council does not exist; required sponsor agreements for off-leash areas are not always feasible; and the required process provides no direction for situations where an off-leash area is inadvisable due to environmental, recreational, or financial considerations. Attempting to confine off-leash improvements to the Resolution 52 process has resulted in delay and confusion. Allowing dog park development to follow a "normal" public process - as would occur for the installation of any other significant recreational amenity, or substantial management change, in a city park or open space - would allow for a more collaborative and efficient process involving park and open space planners, appropriate stakeholders, and advocates for off-leash recreation opportunities.

PPL is currently developing a Needs Assessment for parks, natural lands, trails and other recreational amenities that will guide development and investment for the next ten years. An assessment of current and projected future need for off-leash parks, trails and facilities is included in this assessment. At the same time, off-leash dog use is increasing at many parks and open space areas, and proactive, flexible management will be required to accommodate use while protecting resources and visitor experience. Amending the City Code to remove barriers to effective implementation of new facilities and effective management of recreational use will position the City to take maximum advantage of available resources. It would also better position the City to implement the dog-related recommendations of the Parks & Public Lands Needs Assessment, to better serve Salt Lake City residents.

In short, PPL believes that responding to demand for off-leash improvements; incorporating coherent public engagement around new off-leash amenities; and implementing effective management of dog-based recreation requires simplification and expedition of the process by which City departments can designate areas as closed to dogs, open to leashed dogs, and open to unleashed dogs.

Next Steps

In order to implement the recommendations, City Council must approve the proposed changes to two sections of City Code, as well as repeal of Resolution 52 of 2004.

PUBLIC PROCESS:

- Review of Issues by Council's Off-Leash Working Group. (2014)
- Public Comment opened on Open City Hall. (190 comments received from 2014 to 2016)
- PNUT Board review of Off-Leash Working Group and PPL recommendations.
- PNUT Board review of FY17 and FY18 PPL funding recommendations for dedicated off-leash areas at Rosewood Park, Fairmont Park, and Rotary Glen Park, and improvement of the off-leash area at Jordan Park, as well as recommendations for trial implementation of off-leash hours at select city parks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Ordinance
- B. Legislative Version of Ordinance.
- C. Full text of Resolution 52 and attachments.
- D. Open City Hall comments

ATTACHMENT A

Ordinance

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE
No. _____ of 2018

(Off-leash dog areas in parks and public spaces)

An ordinance amending Sections 8.04.390 and 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, and repealing Resolution No. 52 of 2004, each relating to off-leash dog areas in parks and public spaces.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, desires to amend Sections 8.04.390 and 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, each relating to off-leash dog areas in parks and public spaces, and to repeal Resolution No. 52 of 2004, Approving Modified Process and Evaluation Guidelines Developed by the Public Services Department Regarding the City's Dogs Off-leash Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah that:

SECTION 1. Resolution No. 52 of 2004, Approving Modified Process and Evaluation Guidelines Developed by the Public Services Department Regarding the City's Dogs Off-leash Program, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Section 8.04.390 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to animals running at large, is amended as follows:

8.04.390: ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE:

A. With the exception set forth in subsection B of this section, it is unlawful for the owner or person having charge, care, custody, or control of any animal to allow such animal at any time to run at large. The owner or person charged with responsibility for an animal found running at large shall be strictly liable for a violation of this section, regardless of the precautions taken to prevent the escape of the animal and regardless of whether or not such owner or person knows that the animal is running at large. Any violation of this section shall constitute a civil violation and will be penalized pursuant to the criteria set forth in sections 8.15.020, 8.15.025, and 8.15.027 of this title.

B. 1. Dogs shall be permitted to run off leash only in areas of parks and public spaces specifically designated in city ordinance or specifically designated by the department director

with management jurisdiction over the applicable park or public space as “off leash areas” or “off leash trails,” and clearly identified by signage as such.

2. While in such areas dogs shall at all times remain under control of the dog's owner or custodian. "Under control" means that a dog will respond on command to its owner or custodian.

SECTION 3. Section 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to interference with animals or fowl, is amended as follows:

15.08.070: INTERFERENCE WITH ANIMALS OR FOWL; CONTROL OF ANIMALS:

A. Unlawful Acts: No person shall annoy, injure, release from confinement, feed other than with city provided appropriate food at designated locations, or in any manner interfere with any swan, duck, goose, bird, or animal on the property of the city.

B. Dogs:

1. Except as set forth in subsections B2 and B3 of this section, no person shall suffer or permit any dog to enter or remain in a park unless it be led by a leash of suitable strength, not more than six feet (6') in length.

2. Dogs shall be permitted to run off leash only in areas of parks specifically designated in city ordinance or specifically designated by the director of public services as “off leash areas” or “off leash trails,” and clearly identified by signage as such.

3. While in such areas dogs shall at all times remain under control of the dog’s owner or custodian. “Under control” means that a dog will respond on command to its owner or custodian.

4. From time to time, and for reasons of public safety or the protection of wildlife or other sensitive resources, the director of public services may specifically designate certain areas as closed to dogs by clearly identifying them by signage as such. It is unlawful for any person to take a dog into such areas, whether loose, on a leash, or in arms.

C. Animals To Be Controlled: No person shall ride or drive any horse or animal not well broken and under perfect control of the driver.

D. Livestock And Animals: No person shall lead or let loose any cattle, horse, mule, goat, sheep, swine, dogs, or fowl of any kind.

E. Tethering Animals: No person shall hitch or fasten any horse or other animal to any tree or any other place or structure not especially designated and provided for such purpose.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, this _____ day of _____,
2018.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST AND COUNTERSIGN:

CITY RECORDER

Transmitted to Mayor on _____.

Mayor's Action: _____ Approved. _____ Vetoed.

MAYOR

CITY RECORDER

(SEAL)

Salt Lake City Attorney's Office
Approved As To Form

By: _____

Boyd Ferguson

Date: 3-20-18

Bill No. _____ of 2018.

Published: _____.

HB_ATT#54803-v4-Off-leash_dog_parks_amendments_2016.docx

ATTACHMENT B
Legislative Version of Ordinance

1 SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE

2 No. _____ of 2018

3
4 (Off-leash dog areas in parks and public spaces)

5
6 An ordinance amending Sections 8.04.390 and 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, and
7 repealing Resolution No. 52 of 2004, each relating to off-leash dog areas in parks and public
8 spaces.

9 WHEREAS, the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, desires to amend Sections
10 8.04.390 and 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, each relating to off-leash dog areas in parks
11 and public spaces, and to repeal Resolution No. 52 of 2004, Approving Modified Process and
12 Evaluation Guidelines Developed by the Public Services Department Regarding the City's Dogs
13 Off-leash Program.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah that:

15 SECTION 1. Resolution No. 52 of 2004, Approving Modified Process and Evaluation
16 Guidelines Developed by the Public Services Department Regarding the City's Dogs Off-leash
17 Program, is hereby repealed.

18 SECTION 2. Section 8.04.390 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to animals running at
19 large, is amended as follows:

20 **8.04.390: ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE:**

21 A. With the exception set forth in subsection B of this section, it is unlawful for the owner or
22 person having charge, care, custody, or control of any animal to allow such animal at any
23 time to run at large. The owner or person charged with responsibility for an animal found
24 running at large shall be strictly liable for a violation of this section, regardless of the
25 precautions taken to prevent the escape of the animal and regardless of whether or not such
26 owner or person knows that the animal is running at large. Any violation of this section shall
27 constitute a civil violation and will be penalized pursuant to the criteria set forth in sections
28 8.15.020, 8.15.025, and 8.15.027 of this title.

29 B. 1. Dogs shall be permitted to run off leash only in areas of parks and public spaces

30 specifically ~~designated in authorized~~ by city ordinance or specifically designated by the
31 ~~department~~ director ~~with management jurisdiction over the applicable park or public space of~~
32 ~~public services~~ as "off leash areas" or "off leash trails," and clearly identified by signage as such.
33 Said areas shall be — as follows:

34 a. ~~Designated areas of Memory Grove Park known as the Freedom Trail section;~~

35 ~~_____~~ b. The municipal ballpark, also known as Herman Franks Park, except for the ~~_____~~
36 ~~_____~~ fenced youth baseball diamonds and playground area;

37 ~~_____~~ c. Designated areas of Jordan Park;

38 ~~_____~~ d. Designated areas of Lindsey Gardens;

39 ~~_____~~ e. Designated areas of Parley's Historic Nature Park, as set forth in title 15, ~~_____~~
40 ~~_____~~ chapter 15.10 of this code, or its successor;

41 ~~_____~~ f. Designated areas of Pioneer Park; and

42 ~~_____~~ g. Designated areas of Cottonwood Park.

43
44 2. While in such areas dogs shall at all times remain under control of the dog's owner or
45 custodian. "Under control" means that a dog will respond on command to its owner or custodian.

46
47 ~~C. The foregoing notwithstanding, the public services department may conduct additional~~
48 ~~experiments in other areas of the city for possible future legislative enactment establishing such~~
49 ~~areas as "off leash areas", provided such experiments are conducted in accordance with the~~
50 ~~guidelines approved by the city council in its resolution 52 of 2004.~~

51
52
53 SECTION 3. Section 15.08.070 of the Salt Lake City Code, relating to interference with animals
54 or fowl, is amended as follows:

55
56 **15.08.070: INTERFERENCE WITH ANIMALS OR FOWL; CONTROL OF ANIMALS:**

57 A. Unlawful Acts: No person shall annoy, injure, release from confinement, feed other than with
58 city provided appropriate food at designated locations, or in any manner interfere with any
59 swan, duck, goose, bird, or animal on the property of the city.

60 B. Unleashed Dogs:

61 1. Except as set forth in subsections B2 and B3 of this section, no person shall suffer or permit
62 any dog to enter or remain in a park unless it be led by a leash of suitable strength, not more than
63 six feet (6') in length.

64 2. Dogs shall be permitted to run off leash only in areas of parks specifically authorized
65 designated in by city ordinance or specifically designated by the director of public services as
66 “off leash areas” or “off leash trails,” and clearly identified by signage as such. ~~Said areas shall~~
67 ~~be as follows:~~

- 68
- 69 ~~a. Designated areas of Memory Grove Park known as the Freedom Trail section;~~
- 70 ~~b. Herman L. Franks Park, except for the fenced youth baseball diamonds and playground area;~~
- 71 ~~e. Designated areas of Jordan Park;~~
- 72 ~~d. Designated areas of Lindsey Gardens;~~
- 73 ~~e. Designated areas of Parleys Historic Nature Park, as set forth in chapter 15.10 of this title, or~~
74 ~~its successor;~~
- 75 ~~f. Designated areas of Cottonwood Park;~~
- 76 ~~g. Designated areas of Pioneer Park; and~~
- 77 ~~h. Experimental areas referred to in subsection 8.04.390C of this code.~~

78 3. While in such areas dogs shall at all times remain under control of the dog’s owner or
79 custodian. “Under control” means that a dog will respond on command to its owner or custodian.

80 4. From time to time, and for reasons of public safety or the protection of wildlife or other
81 sensitive resources, the director of public services may specifically designate certain areas as
82 closed to dogs by clearly identifying them by signage as such. It is unlawful for any person to
83 take a dog into such areas, whether loose, on a leash, or in arms.

84 C. Animals To Be Controlled: No person shall ride or drive any horse or animal not well broken
85 and under perfect control of the driver.

86 D. Livestock And Animals: No person shall lead or let loose any cattle, horse, mule, goat, sheep,
87 swine, dogs, or fowl of any kind.

88 E. Tethering Animals: No person shall hitch or fasten any horse or other animal to any tree or
89 any other place or structure not especially designated and provided for such purpose.

90 SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

91 Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, this _____ day of _____,
92 2018.

93 _____
94 CHAIRPERSON

95 ATTEST AND COUNTERSIGN:

96 _____
97 CITY RECORDER

98

99 Transmitted to Mayor on _____.

100 Mayor's Action: _____ Approved. _____ Vetoed.

101 _____
102 MAYOR

103 _____
104 _____
105 CITY RECORDER

106 (SEAL)

Salt Lake City Attorney's Office
Approved As To Form
By: _____
Boyd Ferguson
Date: _____

107 Bill No. _____ of 2018.
108 Published: _____.

109
110
111
112 HB_ATTU-#54803-v3-Off-leash_dog_parks_amendments_2016.docx

ATTACHMENT C
Full text of Resolution 52 and attachments

RESOLUTION NO. 52 OF 2004
APPROVING MODIFIED PROCESS AND EVALUATION
GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE
PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT REGARDING
THE CITY'S DOGS OFF-LEASH PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City Council has heretofore enacted ordinances establishing designated areas of certain city parks as areas where dogs may run without leashes under controlled conditions and has heretofore enacted Resolution No. 101 of 1999, approving process and evaluation guidelines developed by the Public Services Department regarding the City's dogs off-leash program; and

WHEREAS, the City's Public Services Department ("the Department") has developed modified process and evaluation guidelines from those previously developed in determining the propriety of establishing additional off-leash areas within the City in the future as well as a form letter of understanding to be entered into between the City and sponsors willing to accept certain responsibilities regarding off-leash parks/areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

That it does hereby express its approval of the modified process and evaluation guidelines developed by the City's Public Services Department ("the Department") regarding establishing additional areas within the City for dogs to run off-leash, as set forth in Attachment "A" and the *Salt Lake City Letter of Understanding - Off-leash Dog Park/Area* set forth as Attachment "B," attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, this 9th day of September 2004.



SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL

By [Signature]
Acting CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CHRISTINE MECKE
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Salt Lake City Attorney's Office

Date 4/23/2004

By [Signature]
Senior City Attorney

ATTACHMENT "A"

Public Services Department Modified Process and Evaluation Guidelines Regarding Future Dogs Off-Leash Areas

The Public Services Department proposes the following modified process and development guidelines:

PROCESS

1. The process is a community friendly process directed at serving the interests of Salt Lake City residents. A Salt Lake City resident, city official, or other interested party must provide Salt Lake City Public Services a petition signed by at least 25 Salt Lake City residents in order to initiate the process to designate an area as off-leash. If the location is in an area represented by an active Community Council, the request must be forwarded to that Community Council for comment and recommendation.
2. City Parks Division personnel will receive and evaluate the proposal. Staff will meet with interested parties and address any issues related to the request. Staff will make final recommendations to the Public Services Department Director.
3. Requests that meet development guidelines will be recommended to the City Administration for review and endorsement.
4. A community based "Parks for Dogs Advisory Panel" will be established that will meet as needed to discuss issues relating to the off-leash areas and to solve community problems. The panel will monitor off-leash area use, develop education programs, raise funds, and work to make the off-leash area successful for both dog owners and non-dog park users. The panel should consist of a representative from each community council having an off-leash area within its boundaries; a Public Service Department representative; and a County Animal Services representative. The panel's recommendations shall be advisory only and in no way binding upon the City staff, administration, or Council.
5. Each new off-leash site must pass through a 12-month test period before it can be permanently established.
6. During the trial period City parks staff and animal control services will monitor the activities within the off-leash area.
7. At the conclusion of the trial period City parks staff will make a final recommendation to the City Administration and City Council on whether to make the off-leash designation official. Each new site will be considered for establishment by ordinance after the 12-month test period.
8. Official designation will be included in the City code.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The criteria used by the City to establish an off-leash area in a City park will be as follows:

1. The prospective off-leash area must exist within property owned by Salt Lake City or other consenting governmental entity.
2. The off-leash area must be appropriate in size in relation to the size of the area and historical uses. The off-leash area will not unduly occupy, interfere, or displace existing activities, facilities, or other historical factors or areas in the park.
3. Areas within Liberty Park, City Cemetery, public squares, plazas and designated watershed areas will not be considered appropriate sites for an off-leash area.
4. An area proposed as an off-leash site must be consistent with established use and/or must meet arising community needs. Special care will be taken to avoid children's play areas.
5. An off-leash area must be accessible to support enforcement.
6. Salt Lake City will provide appropriate signage, waste facilities, and, when budgets allow, other amenities relating to dog use.
7. The need for physical, topographical, or other constructed barriers to assist in avoiding conflict between park users will be considered.
8. The potential conflicts with the park master plan or other restrictive covenants will be evaluated.
9. Any public health, environmental and safety concerns will be reviewed.
10. Consideration will be given to park accessibility (Americans with Disabilities Act issues) where feasible.
11. Evaluation will be made of other sites in the community that might be more compatible.
12. No off-leash area may be located next to a school.
13. The ability of the park to support the activity will be reviewed.
14. A "sponsor" (including, but not limited to, individuals who signed a petition, FIDOS, a business, community council, or private citizen) must be willing to adopt the off-leash park with the task of keeping the park reasonably clean of dog feces, litter related to off-leash activities, etc. A "Letter of Understanding" will be signed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Salt Lake City and the sponsor group at each off-leash area.

ATTACHMENT "B"

Salt Lake City Letter of Understanding Off-leash Dog Park/Area

I. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to outline the duties of Salt Lake City (SLC) and _____ (sponsor) for the operation of the _____ (site name) off-leash area. This agreement lays out the responsibilities a sponsor will carry out in support of the program, describes the limits of a sponsor's responsibilities, and clarifies the roles of SLC. If a site sponsor fails to meet the responsibilities outlined in this agreement, the City retains the right to eliminate the off-leash designation of the site.

II. Effective Date

This agreement will be in effect upon signature by the Salt Lake City Public Services Department Director and the off-leash area sponsor. It shall continue, with amendments or revisions as necessary, unless terminated by the City.

III. Responsibilities

Administration of Agreement: Sponsors from each Salt Lake City Off-Leash Area and a representative from SLC Parks Division will meet on a regular basis, but at least bi-annually, to discuss off-leash areas managed by SLC and supported by the sponsor. Such meetings shall be open to the public. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss clarifications, additions or amendments to this agreement. City staff from the Parks Division and the Mayor's Office shall provide oversight required to carry out duties under this agreement, and shall monitor and administer it.

1. Operations. SLC has primary responsibility for maintenance of all off-leash areas. Parks staff will ensure that maintenance and improvements initiated and carried out by the park sponsor are done according to SLC specifications. SLC Parks will inform individual site sponsors of issues relating to the maintenance or operation of off-leash areas, and may request the sponsor's help in resolving them.

SLC Parks staff will ensure that all responsibilities and duties under this agreement are carried out according to City policies, rules and ordinances, and will provide the off-leash area sponsor with copies of all such off-leash areas policies, rules and ordinances.

A single person or group will be assigned by the sponsor to carry out duties at each off-

leash site. Each person or group will provide SLC Parks with a number where the City can reach, or leave a message for, the designated representative. The designated representative will respond to City inquiries within a reasonable time. SLC shall respond to the sponsor and its site stewards' inquiries within a reasonable time. If there is a change in the lead site sponsor, the sponsor will notify SLC staff by telephone, written correspondence or another mutually agreed-upon method.

2. Education, Training and Information. On a bi-annual basis, the City expects sponsors and their volunteers to provide, with prior notice to and approval from SLC, education events for dogs and their owners. Topics may include issues reasonably related to off-leash dog areas or dogs and their owners.

Sponsors and their volunteers may provide the public with written materials regarding off-leash areas and other information of interest to dog owners without prior notification to the SLC Parks Division staff. Written materials may not unduly litter an off-leash area.

3. General Maintenance (Cleanup) of Off-Leash Areas. Sponsors and their volunteers will provide for general cleanup and maintenance activities relating to the implementation and operation of off-leash sites. These duties include, but are not limited to, clean-ups of a frequency necessary to keep the site reasonably clean of feces and litter, and refilling "poop" bag dispensers.

SLC will provide each site with relevant signage regarding off-leash park policy and site maps, adequate number garbage cans, garbage bags, bag dispensers and bags for cleaning up dog feces and reasonable maintenance of grounds. SLC will be responsible for trash removal from off-leash areas.

4. Off-Leash Site Improvements. Sponsors may help with improvements to an off-leash area. SLC and off-leash area sponsors may work together on such improvements. All improvements must be to SLC specifications, which shall be provided to the off-leash area sponsor. Improvements may include:

- Installation of lighting;
- Installation or maintenance of fencing and gates;
- Installation or maintenance of signs;
- Trimming of weeds or other undesirable vegetation;
- Maintenance of paths or trails;
- Rehabilitation of lands, turf and vegetation; and
- Adding park furniture or other amenities mutually agreed upon by SLC and area sponsors.

SLC will not unreasonably withhold consent for improvements done at the sponsors expense, and will provide a written reason for denial of permission if it opposes the sponsors proposed improvements.

5. Monitoring Off-Leash Areas: Sponsors duties include performing monitoring activities that may include:

- Inspecting off-leash sites to identify and report to SLC maintenance staff any damage to fencing, signs or other fixtures that may impair operations;
- Notifying SLC maintenance staff of hazardous materials, debris or conditions in or around the site.

6. Fundraising. Sponsors and their volunteers may engage in private fundraising efforts for the purpose of making improvements to off-leash areas or carrying out other duties outlined in this agreement.

IV. REPRESENTATION REGARDING ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND FORMER CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Sponsor represents that it has not: (1) provided an illegal gift or payoff to a city officer or employee or former city officer or employee, or his or her relative or business entity; (2) retained any person to solicit or secure this agreement upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, other than bona fide employees or bona fide commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business; (3) knowingly breached any of the ethical standards set forth in the city's conflict of interest ordinance, Chapter 2.44, Salt Lake City Code; or (4) knowingly influenced, and hereby promises that it will not knowingly influence, a city officer or employee or former city officer or employee to breach any of the ethical standards set forth in the City's conflict of interest ordinance, Chapter 2.44, Salt Lake City Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement by having their respective representatives affix their signatures in the spaces below:

Rick Graham, Director
Department of Public Services

Date

Off-leash Area Sponsor

Date

ATTACHMENT D
Open City Hall comments

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of January 18, 2018, 8:02 AM



Open City Hall is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Introduction

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

The Salt Lake City Council's goal is to expand opportunities for residents to enjoy outdoor activities with their off-leash dogs while minimizing impacts on other people, on health and safety, on parks and open space, on nature and wildlife, and on Salt Lake City's budget.

To help move toward that goal, the Council organized a community working group that met throughout May 2014. It included community stake holders in addition to Council members Charlie Luke, Luke Garrott and Erin Mendenhall. Relevant City department officials and Salt Lake County Animal Services provided their expertise as well. Together, the working group developed recommendations that aim to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses.

On July 15, the Council will discuss the working group's policy recommendations and determine the Council's next steps.

The working group's recommendations do not imply changes to any particular park or trail. Instead, they are designed to guide City efforts to respond to the public's interest in more off-leash options. During extensive discussions, members of the group, which included both advocates and critics of current off-leash areas, came together in agreement on a list of concepts to guide their recommendations. Called 'underlying agreements,' the list includes:

- City parks and open spaces can change over time and adapt to appropriate new uses while considering historic assets, traditional uses, the natural environment and the surrounding communities. Education efforts are particularly important during any transitions to new uses.
- To resolve most complaints related to off-leash dogs, a balance of enforcement and education for pet owners, as well as community members who are not pet owners is needed. Education can come from a variety of sources, including special events, signage, peers, and enforcement officers. Everyone deserves expectations of compliance.
- ([Click here to see the complete list of underlying agreements](#))

The working group also developed the following options for advancing the Council's goal. These options are ranked based on anticipated costs, ease of implementation, and time needed to bring them to completion:

1. New off-leash areas in existing parks, trails and open space.
2. Off-leash areas in existing trails and open space during certain designated times.
3. Off-leash areas in existing parks during certain designated times.
4. New off-leash dog parks.
5. Potential use of golf courses during off-season.

The working group also recommended a set of policy tools for any new off-leash areas to help ensure their success:

- Volunteer programs organized by community groups that enter formal agreements with the City.
- Improvements to design, development and implementation processes for off-leash areas.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail

uses

- Improved signage on site.

- Ongoing education.
- Increased enforcement of rules inside and outside off-leash areas.
- Pilot programs designed to test new locations and processes, and provide measurable results to determine whether or not each should be implemented permanently.

Other ways to provide feedback to the City Council:

- Write: Salt Lake City Council, P.O. Box 145476, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5476
- Phone: (801) 535-7600
- 24- Hr Comment Line: (801) 535-7654

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

As of January 18, 2018, 8:02 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 1264

All Statements: 190

Hours of Public Comment: 9.5

This topic started on July 10, 2014, 5:51 PM.

This topic ended on July 27, 2016, 2:24 PM.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Natalie Hart inside Council District 2 (registered)

July 10, 2016, 2:49 PM

I agree that people not obeying the leash laws that are currently in place is a big problem. I am a regular up Millcreek canyon and on even days (leashes required), I bet almost 50% of the dogs I pass are off leash and some of those dogs aren't even under the direct supervision of their owners. This creates a dangerous situation for my dog who reacts badly when another dog gets in his personal space. "Off leash" is too often viewed as a right rather than a privilege where dogs are allowed off leash who are poorly trained and not dependable in their interactions with other dogs. However I don't think that limiting off leash opportunities is the solution. I think owners should be held responsible for following the leash laws, only allowing trained and reliable dogs off leash and cleaning up after their dogs. Hiking with off leash dogs can be a great joy for dogs and their owners when it is done on designated trails/days and when everyone is behaving responsibly.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (unverified)

July 4, 2016, 3:39 AM

I think they should have to pay for and get there dog licened to be off leash at anytime to see how they react or treat bad behavior i see bad dogs jumping on people or rushing up to them i do not know if your dog attack me or kidss if you have leash licence then i am more likely to show fear because i know uyour dog has passed and behave well under rigorous testing if it is important enough to take off leash then the traing would be worth it kind of like service dogs if not keep them leashed

Barbara Burt inside Council District 3 (registered)

June 30, 2016, 12:31 PM

While I respect the need for places people need to take their dogs, unfortunately, there are irresponsible dog owners.

I would like the city to change the ordinance regarding how many dogs per single family residence. My neighbor just got knocked over, and broke her hip, by off-leash dogs. This, on the Shoreline trail. Dog owners do not rule. I'm sick of seeing little dog poop bags on the side of the trails. Raise the fee for licensing dogs, then maybe you can afford to have someone monitor the off leash dog areas for irresponsible dog owners. I think there are many,

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

June 27, 2016, 3:32 PM

Less dogs on trails and parks. Owners are awful about picking up waste...sorry...true story.

Name not shown inside Council District 4 (registered)

June 26, 2016, 11:21 PM

Let's make sure it is easy to know when off-leash dogs will be present in an area. Some people are afraid of dogs or have small children who might be knocked over or otherwise hurt by an overly-playful dog.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I really like the idea of using golf courses for off-leash dogs. Golfing is on the decline and will give us an ever decreasing return for our investment over time. The more uses we can find for that green space, the better.

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 21, 2016, 6:39 AM

Dogs off leash above 18th Avenue greatly impact the bird population, affecting the grouse habitat and assisting in the decline of the grouse population. Dogs are also occasionally threatening as most owners do not have their dogs under any voice control. Dogs off leash are threatening to some of the youngest and oldest in our city. Please have fenced areas to allow dogs off-leash, so we humans that are not dog owners do not have to interact.

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 20, 2016, 9:31 AM

I'm all for people allowing their dogs off leash in approved areas. My perception, however, is that the guidelines aren't enforced. I am terrified just to take our small dogs on a walk in our neighborhood--let alone allowing them to enjoy some open space. It appears to me that people who want to let their dogs off leash just do it anyway. If the guidelines aren't enforced, why have them?

Name not shown inside Council District 4 (registered)

May 24, 2016, 10:56 AM

Please don't add off leash dog options to the already difficult bicycle obstacles.

Name not available (unclaimed)

April 27, 2016, 3:42 PM

The existing enforcement problem for on-leash areas needs to be properly addressed and corrected. Expanding off-leash areas alone will not solve the problem of dog owners not following the law and causing both a disturbance to other citizens as well as a risk to our city's watershed. As an example, the Bonneville Shoreline trail above 18th Avenue prohibits dogs off-leash under city ordinance 17.04.170 (Watershed Areas). Yet, the majority of dog owners who use the Bonneville Shoreline trail ignore this law despite the clear signage in place (see attached photos). Salt Lake City Animal Services claims that this area is patrolled for compliance but I have never witnessed their presence while on this trail. Instead, I am bothered by a multitude of strange off-leash dogs EVERY time I try to enjoy this on-leash trail. The Salt Lake City Council is actively seeking more options for off-leash areas but the fact of the matter is, the existing designated on-leash areas have been taken over by noncompliance and, due to a lack of enforcement, have been illegally turned into off-leash areas. I ask that the Salt Lake City Council please address the concerns and needs of on-leash and off-leash trail users equally.

2 Attachments

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13zc7rmsggm8.34m/IMG_9636.JPG (172 KB)

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13zc7rz7523k.1t4/IMG_9635.JPG (131 KB)

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered)

April 26, 2016, 9:02 PM

All Statements sorted chronologically

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

There does need to be balance of users and dogs. If Odd/ Even Day programs are not working, perhaps create a fenced area that serves people and their pets in a way that still provides a quality outdoor experience, not just a small penned ball field environment. Also, trash receptacles and bags on post along the route are a must, along with a clear "Pack it in, pack it out" policy, and parks/recs officers taking time to police these areas and citing dog owners when they violate it. Remember, generally, there are no bad dogs, just bad owners. What is experienced more often than not are those plastic bags never getting retrieve from trailside and disposed of... it becomes everyone problem.

In town Dog-only parks exist. Even given the fact that there is an off-leash area immediately adjacent to Liberty Park, dog owners insist to walk with dog(s) on the concrete shared public pathway in Liberty park, and even with dogs on-leash they still pose problem to others using Liberty Park's paved path: leashes longer than 4' or 6' pose safety issues, owners with multiple dogs pose conflict of use issues, dog piles left un-cleaned up pose public health issues, etc. The paved parkway area at Liberty Park is impacted as it is, and dog use issues just amplify the problems. I will suggest Liberty Park BAN dogs from the concrete shared use pathway on it's perimeter. The entire remainder of Liberty Park is wide open for use, and there is an interior sidewalk that also parallels and wraps the parks perimeter less than a mere 65' feet away, that if used by dog walkers would alleviate the problems of safety and conflict of use the on the larger paved parkway. Currently dog owners with their dogs are presenting conflict of use, safety, and health risks to others who are using the park pathway. They could use other areas of the park to walk dogs, but chose to interface with other parkway users and most are disrespectful about sharing the parkway, and not picking up dog waste. These problems have been escalating, and it's a matter of time before someone is bit, injured due to irresponsible dog owners. Please take pro-active action to remedy this percolating situation in Liberty Park.

Mill Creek and other places seem to do fine with the on/off leash day programs. That is a good place to start, and making sure dog owners are also doing their part, but having parks/rec patrol these areas a bit more frequently as weather warms.

Name not shown inside Council District 2 (registered)

March 20, 2016, 1:51 PM

I use the trails extensively and am regularly aggressively "approached" by dogs. I routinely hear the dog owner say its friendly but I have no guarantee the dog will not harm me and there is nothing to restrain the dog. When I quote leash laws or ask them to restrain their dog, I mostly get an abusive response that displays priority of a pet over a person. If the purpose of off-leash areas is for the enjoyment of the dog, they should be completely separate and cordoned off to ensure people's safety.

Another reason off leash should only be allowed in separate areas is that dog excrement is toxic and too frequently not disposed off properly. A contained off leash area would naturally lead to self-enforcement. Today, March 20th, I hiked in the foothills near Avenues Twin Peaks and was confronted by dog and dog owner alike. Only one of the roughly 80+ dogs I encountered was on a leash. All others were off leash and freely allowed to approach and with some dogs being allowed to relieve themselves w/o proper disposal. To cap it off, I was taking pictures of the trailhead signs and was laughed at as a few dog owners were passing by. My take is that I experienced a blatant disregard for the current laws; so for people's health and safety, both immediate and incremental; enforcement of the current laws are needed and only separate, enclosed off leash areas in the public domain be allowed.

3 Attachments

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13w3mlt4xsw.3rj/image.jpeg> (197 KB)

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13w3mm74ezog.6ph/image.jpeg> (189 KB)

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13w3mmo3pp28.459/image.jpeg> (244 KB)

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (unverified)

March 11, 2016, 3:19 PM

Off leash parks are not good for dogs or owners in SLC. I am a dog parent and have personally had my dog attacked more than once, requiring stitches, while at dog parks in SLC and a friends dog contracted Giardia while visiting the same park. There is no way to enforce rules at dogs parks or place restrictions on dogs that are aggressive. Many times dogs are unsupervised by owners who use the parks as a chance to let their dogs go wild. I have personally asked dog owners to clean up after their pet or take charge of an unruly dog while they are either socializing or on their phone completely ignoring the situation. It seems like a great idea but according to most veterinarians dog parks are a breeding ground for illness and injury due to attacks from other dogs.

Jake Garfield inside Council District 3 (unverified)

March 11, 2016, 8:50 AM

Any addition of off-leash parks should be done in conjunction with added enforcement of the rules in on-leash parks. Many dog owners completely ignore the rules, playing fetch and letting their dogs run at will through on-leash areas. Enforcement seems non-existent, and SL County Animal Control appear to be under-staffed to enforce the rules.

Memory Grove park has a particular problem. Despite adjoining a very large off-leash area, the on-leash area has a number of off-leash dogs running through the grass in the pond virtually every single evening when the weather is good. Many dog owners fail to clean up after their dogs. I've tried having picnics on the grass in the park, it is virtually impossible between dogs running through our picnic and dog poop on the grass.

By all means, create some new fenced dog parks, but don't allow irresponsible dog owners to flaunt the on-leash rules with almost no consequences.

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 8, 2016, 4:43 PM

Large open areas contained by chain link fences are not desirable. Therebare contaminants from dogs and also dogs that are not in control of their owners in my dog hates them. They are a waste of space.

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

March 8, 2016, 2:46 PM

We definitely need more off-leash areas for dogs! Good work guys, these ideas sound great!

Patric Dean inside Council District 1 (registered)

March 7, 2016, 8:45 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Still waiting for a west side off leash dog park. Rose park.

Name not shown inside Council District 1 (registered)

March 6, 2016, 1:47 PM

I suggest that we use the baseball (enclosure...completely fenced area) at Rosewood park as an off leash area for dogs rather than its current use of baseball....
as the park also has a baseball (actually 2) field(s) that are not enclosed...
Therefore it wouldn't impact on the baseball players..
And there are pet owners that do appreciate a place that their dogs can run free of restraints...
But restrict the surrounding walkways to public use and then those of us who choose to walk our dogs around the park and in and among children/adults that may have a fear or dislike of free roaming pets...can expect that those animals are on leash with their humans...
And that the park provide a drink station for dogs and baggies for waste clean-up...(and plenty of waste cans to empty the waste into!!!)
Thank you for letting me share.. :)

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

December 22, 2015, 11:14 AM

I think there are two locations where the on-leash / off-leash signage needs to be clearer. One is Memory Grove. There are maps but it takes some skill to understand that the maps are showing that the trail on the east side of the creek is off-leash while the road on the west side of the creek is not. It would be better to have some sign that said "Hey dummy, the trail over there is off-leash but this road is on-leash." The other location is trailheads to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and related trails in the area extending from the city limit in the northwest to the Sunnyside Ave./Zoo trailhead in the southeast. There are some spots that are clearly signed (e.g., around UMNH/Red Butte, and one of the trailheads on Tomahawk Dr.) but others aren't signed or are unclear. For example, the Zoo Trailhead has a sign with an image of a person with a dog, but no text to explain what the sign is trying to communicate. People interpret it as "Dogs are allowed" rather than "Dogs are allowed only if on-leash." I am on that length of trail frequently, and in general, fewer than half of the dogs I see on the trail are on-leash. On most days it's fewer than a quarter.

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

November 17, 2015, 1:55 PM

I worked at veterinary hospitals for 19 years--so I like dogs. That said, off-leash is a terrible idea. 1. People don't mind any sign in the first place--it's the MY dog is good mentality. 2. You can't ensure every dog is properly vaccinated, dewormed, and has a good health status. 3. Any dog has the potential to have negative behaviors in various situations. Dog fights, aggression toward people/children, and environmental impact are all factors.

Name not available (unclaimed)

October 30, 2015, 12:52 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

test

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 18, 2015, 9:28 PM

First, let me say I love dogs, cats...all animals. But this is the current situation: we hike extensively and wherever dogs are allowed you will find bag after bag where the dog owner failed to properly dispose of the dog waste. They bagged it, but didn't dispose of it. So, if the situation is this bad with dogs who are leashed, imagine the poo problem unleashed. I do love the sign that was at the base of Grandeur Peak. To paraphrase "there is no poo fairy, so please clean up after your dog". Shame is pretty effective at altering behavior. The problem is not the dogs. The problem is the owner.

DIANE GUNNELL outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

October 11, 2015, 6:07 PM

We need more places where people and their dogs can walk off leash; not just a small patch of ground where the dogs stand around and sniff another dog. Dogs and people need to move. We need places for people to walk, jog, or ride their bikes with their dogs along their side. The JRP Trail has locations where the trail is located along both sides of the river. At these locations I think having one of the sides for off leash dogs would work. When people jog or ride bikes, roller blades, etc. the dog will be more likely to want to stay with their owner because the owner is on the move. Esp. in the winter, because I have walked the JRP many times in the winter and the vast majority of the people on it are there because they are taking their dog for a walk. Maybe the JRP should be off leash on even days, at least in the winter. I also believe the Bonneville Shoreline Trail should be off leash at least on odd or even days. People complain that they are bothered by dogs when they are at parks, etc. That has not been my experience. I realize that you find irresponsible people no matter where you go. But you should not let the few people who are irresponsible skew your opinion of the rest. No one notices the dog owners who are being responsible. There are a lot of them out there. I actually feel safer at a park where there are dog owners. They tend to be more friendly. I feel that if I needed help, a dog owner would be easier for me to approach than someone without a dog. Dogs bring that out in people. Another idea is the vast sections of grassy areas that are located along the western side of the JRP. I believe it is owned by the power company because it is where all of the tall white power line poles are located. Maybe something could be arranged to have those long stretches used for off leash. Of course, trees (or some type of shade) and drinking fountains would be needed. Restrooms would be nice too. Anyway, dog owners are tax payers too. They pay for parks and recreation areas and deserve to have their tax dollars spent for their interests just as much as people without dogs do. We need to share. Many dogs don't need to be tethered to their owners. And I believe it is dangerous to have people ride bikes with their dogs tethered to them. When a person rides their bike or is moving fast, the dog wants to stay with them. In those cases, it seems more logical and safer for the dog to be off leash. The dogs may stop to sniff something for a few seconds, but when they see their owners leaving them behind, they always start running to catch up with their owners. I am disappointed that it has taken so many years for SLC and SL County to provide more off leash areas. It has been several years since 85% of Parleys Park was changed from off leash to on leash with a promise that more space for dogs to walk off leash would be found.

Name not available (unclaimed)

October 11, 2015, 5:22 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I have commented in the past, but I am a little unsure why I continue to bother. From my perspective there are a great many negative comments being posted (and discussed outside this forum) concerning off leash park users but these dog owners must have an especially strong lobby as problems seem to be ignored and the process of providing increased off leash areas marches forward without abatement. Just open all parks to off leash, all the time. That is what dog owners want, and from all appearances that is what they will ultimately receive. I don't need to rehearse the well worded comments urging moderation in continued park opening and better enforcement of existing rules. The Council's direction seems to be set.

Samantha Heusser inside Council District 4 (registered)

October 9, 2015, 4:57 PM

The existing enforcement problem for on-leash areas needs to be properly addressed and corrected. Expanding off-leash areas alone will not solve the problem of dog owners failing to follow the law and causing both a disturbance to other citizens as well as a risk to our city's watershed. As an example, the Bonneville Shoreline trail above 18th Avenue prohibits dogs off-leash under city ordinance 17.04.170 (Watershed Areas). Yet, the majority of dog owners who use the Bonneville Shoreline trail ignore this law and allow their dog to be off-leash despite the clear signage in place at the trailhead. Salt Lake City Animal Services claims that this area is patrolled for compliance but I have never witnessed their presence while on this trail. Instead, I am bothered by a multitude of strangers' off-leash dogs EVERY time I try to enjoy this on-leash trail. The Salt Lake City Council is actively seeking more options for off-leash areas but the fact of the matter is, the existing designated on-leash areas have nearly been taken over by non-compliant dog owners and, due to a lack of enforcement, have been illegally turned into off-leash areas. I ask that the Salt Lake City Council please address the concerns and needs of on-leash dog owners, specifically in relation to the Bonneville Shoreline trail above 18th Avenue (Hilltop Road).

The lack of enforcement in existing on-leash dog areas is an issue of both health and safety. Leftover pet waste is a city watershed issue and it is a safety hazard to allow an off-leash dog to approach an on-leash dog with no set boundaries. Owners who wish to have their dogs off-leash need to respect the health and safety of other citizens and take their off-leash dog into designated areas.

Name not available (unclaimed)

October 9, 2015, 4:54 PM

I strongly support any efforts to increase the opportunities for responsible dog owners to recreate with their dogs. During the 16 years that I've lived in Salt Lake City the opportunities to exercise with my dogs have declined significantly. Dog owners have been repeatedly told that we will be given more space, only to find our available options decrease year after year. I have friends that have relocated out of state because the Salt Lake valley is becoming so dog unfriendly. Dog owners are a valid user group, who deserve to have access to open space as much as any other user group.

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

September 29, 2015, 7:26 AM

I have unfortunately had to deal with many off leash dog scares when my four young children and I play in

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

parks. I would like it if there could be some sensitivity to the fact that parks were intended for people and not everyone likes dogs. The boundaries of the off leash dog areas at memory grove and Lindsay gardens have been abused as long as I've lived here (5 years), and I'm not optimistic that somehow dogs owners will get better at respecting off leash boundaries. Thank you.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 25, 2015, 4:05 PM

short and simple. we need more places to be outside with our dogs off leash hiking in the mountains is the best. With the possibility of an exchange with the Boy Scouts land in Mill Creek this is an excellent opportunity to create more hiking venues to be with our off leash companions. Please do everything to make more places in and around the valley places where we can recreate with our canine companions thank you

Name not shown inside Council District 1 (registered)

September 20, 2015, 3:58 PM

Yes, we need more off-leash areas. Please, however, consider enforcement in spaces where leashes are required. My dog is afraid of other dogs, and we have a right to enjoy our outdoor experience as any other City resident. It's infuriating when I specifically travel to on-leash areas such as Liberty Park or the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and am verbally chastised by dog owners breaking the law when I request that their off-leash dogs stay away from mine. Unbelievable.

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 10, 2015, 12:50 PM

Test

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 10, 2015, 10:13 AM

test feedback

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

August 4, 2015, 11:15 PM

I strongly oppose off-leash hours for existing parks. Every day I see dog owners who flout rules and ignore signs about leashing dogs and picking up after their messes. If the city gives them an inch, they'll take a mile. Most dog owners seem to think that dog rules apply to everyone else's dog except theirs. We generally don't allow kids to behave in public like most dogs do (poop and pee all over the place, run up to strangers and try to lick them--or worse, threaten them, yell and scream (bark) at all hours of the day and night, so why should we put up with this behavior from dogs, much less encourage it? Why should I have to schedule my walks in the park around off-leash dogs? Why should children and other people have to wait to use the park while dogs get the run of it?

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 7, 2015, 10:30 PM

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of January 18, 2018, 8:02 AM

<http://www.peakdemocracy.com/2014>

Page 12 of 55

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

For all intents and purposes the Bonneville Shoreline trail is already an off leash area! There is no enforcement of the leash laws, I am a dog owner and I also use the trails for hiking and mountain biking. I cannot take my dogs up there on leash any more because they get aggressive when rushed at by off leash dogs. Professional dog walkers should be ashamed for letting their clients dogs run loose in leash areas. This is a huge safety concern for me and my small child, as well as my dogs. Why don't we enforce the leash laws that currently exist? We could easily fund some more off leash parks by simply sending an officer or two to problem areas regularly and fining violators. No warnings, these people know what they are doing. I feel like we all forget we actually live in a big city and we are lucky enough to have lovely off leash areas like City Creek and Parley's. I would be all for making an off leash park within the natural boundary of the meadow near the Hilltop and 18th trailhead, but I would really like to see some animal control officers present. As far as my personal situation, people who let your dogs off leash in leash areas beware! If your dog is aggressive toward my toddler I will stop it (and you might not like the results), if your dog runs in front of my mountain bike and I get in an accident, I will go after you in court. When you let your dog loose in a leash area you are breaking the law!

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

May 16, 2015, 6:52 PM

Variable off-leash hours will quickly translate to constant and forever 24-7 off-leash hours in the minds of dog owners. That's because nobody, including myself, is rational about their beloved furry member of the family. The only solution is constant enforcement and that will: a) cost a lot of money, and b) primarily elicit angry demands that "the dog police" back off and let Americans exercise their civil liberty to let their dog run free. As a jogger and a 4-season commuter cyclist who has had to face down snarling dogs I strongly object to partitioning off-leash privileges in the time domain. The only feasible partitioning of off-leash dogs is in the spatial domain. Off-leash parks for off-leash dogs. Period.

Kristi Collins outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

May 16, 2015, 12:00 PM

I think dogs off leash should only be in the dog parks that are fenced.

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

May 12, 2015, 10:27 AM

Look to Boulder, Colorado Voice and Sight Tag program as an inspiration for regulating off-leash users in sensitive areas and trails to only responsible dog owners. I love dogs but don't own any. Irresponsible owners ruin things for everyone. Running your dog off-leash needs to be a privilege that requires the added responsibility of adequate training and cleaning up after the dog. Golf is a lifestyle that requires special facilities that are partially funded through user fees. Dogs require special facilities in parks that need to similarly be partially-funded through user fees. The dog-ownership community needs to more pro-actively self-regulate nuisance owners that cause greater restrictions for all dogs.

Name not available (unclaimed)

May 12, 2015, 10:26 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Look to Boulder, Colorado Voice and Sight Tag program as an inspiration for regulating off-leash users in sensitive areas and trails to only responsible dog owners. I love dogs but don't own any. Irresponsible owners ruin things for everyone. Running your dog off-leash needs to be a privilege that requires the added responsibility of adequate training and cleaning up after the dog. Golf is a lifestyle that requires special facilities that are partially funded through user fees. Dogs require special facilities in parks that need to similarly be partially-funded through user fees. The dog-ownership community needs to more pro-actively self-regulate nuisance owners that cause greater restrictions for all dogs.

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

April 13, 2015, 1:18 PM

I am completely opposed to creating any more off-leash areas near our streams, and creeks, particularly Wasatch Hollow. I ask that the City also remove off-leash areas that currently exist nears streams in Memory Grove, Rotary Glen Park, and Tanner Park, although I recognize that the complaints from the pro-leash crowd would make this nearly impossible.

We live in a desert, and our water resources are scarce, precious, and seem to become shallower and weaker every year. Streams need to be protected, particularly from dogs, whose urine and feces are major sources of contaminations in our city's streams.

Many commenters to this forum bemoan the lack of dog parks with access to water. Unfortunately, everything in Utah could use more water. There is simply not enough to go around. Millcreek and Parley's Creek, the two streams to which dogs have the greatest access, are demonstrably two of the dirtiest streams in the Salt Lake valley.

Streams that currently have some protection from dogs, their urine and their feces, such as Emigration Creek that runs through Wasatch Hollow, or Red Butte Creek that runs through Miller Park should at least have this protection maintained. A better solution would be to make these riparian natural areas off-limits to all dogs, leashed or off-leash.

I realize that there is a great demand for off-leash parks, and fully support the opening of more off-leash parks in areas away from streams. The former Jordan River Par-3 course appears to be an excellent candidate for a later off-leash park (since the pollution level in the Jordan River is already beyond hope.

The soon-to-be-closed Glendale Golf Course would be another excellent option for an expanded dog park.

But keep dogs away from our streams and out of our watersheds. If dog owners are upset by the lack of dog parks with access to water, I invite them to move to other states that aren't located in a drought-stricken desert.

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

March 26, 2015, 12:27 PM

I second the points made by Ms. Broadwater. Dog-usable parks should be set up to involve owners taking on responsibility for their dogs. Large flat fenced spaces encourage poor socialization and inattentive owners. SLC needs additional spaces for dogs that include water, shade, and variable terrain.

Sarah Behrens inside Council District 7 (registered)

March 23, 2015, 9:54 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I am a regular user of dog parks, especially Herman Franks and Tanner Park. In general I am in support of many of the ideas being discussed. My greatest disappointment is the lack of consideration for both people and animals with the design and access in more natural areas. When access was limited and moved away from the wooded areas of Tanner, the lack of shade and reduced access to water makes the park almost unusable during warmer months. Temperatures above 75 degrees can become dangerous for dogs and limits humans as well as temperature rise. I have MS and the inability to find cooler options, even for part of my walk prevents me from using the parks. It is particularly difficult to support the restrictions when the fenced off areas are not being utilized by people without dogs.

I am asking the council and the city to consider the health of animals when designing off leash areas to provide shaded areas. Dogs where fur coats all year round, that sounds silly but it is a serious consideration for owners when exercising thier dogs. Thank you

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 17, 2015, 12:10 PM

If people want to have dogs fine. I have one but it and it's poop stay in my yard. No one has the right to bring their barking pooppy dog on trails that I want to walk on. I don't want horses on my trails either. Keep you dogs and horses at home. You want your dog keep it at home. I don't like your dog. If you do take your dog and it poops clean up your mess.

Karleen Broadwater inside Council District 3 (registered)

March 17, 2015, 11:42 AM

I believe I may have some unique insight into the creation of dog parks. I was one of the founding members of a 501c3 nonprofit called Englewood Unleashed in Colorado in 2005. We worked with Englewood city council to establish dog-only parks as well as off-leash areas, hours, and rules for multi-purpose parks. We were also involved in discussions involving breed-specific legislation. As a nonprofit, we raised funds for park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, weather proof bulletin boards, poop bag stands, cigarette butt containers, trash cans, trees, water dishes, as well as park improvement and clean-up events. We tracked adverse incidents and educated our members (and non-members) to prevent such incidents in the future. We surveyed residents adjacent to one of the original parks to solicit feedback, preferences, and objections so that off-leash dog privileges in a multi-purpose park would not infringe on the quality of life in a residential neighborhood. I would like to offer my observations and recommendations as Salt Lake City considers the creation and management of dog parks.

My advice is design or construct a dog park in an area that requires that the owner walk with their dog. This can be addressed by having a certain "wild terrain" like in the off-leash area located above Memory Grove. Simply fencing a flat area which, in theory, can be viewed in its entirety from a sitting vantage point attracts owners who let their dogs roam free and prevents the dog from running away. Some owners perceive that their responsibility is relieved by the presence of a fence. Dogs who run away are not appropriately trained to be off-leash. Owners, like parents of children, must always remain relatively close to their dogs and keep them under continuous observation. Owners who are not actively monitoring their dogs are less likely to pick up after their dog because they do not see the dog defecate, they cannot identify and defuse conflicts between dogs, and they cannot ensure that their dog is not engaging in possible injurious behaviors such as jumping on a child.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I would also recommend that most multi-purpose parks in neighborhoods have designated off-leash times or days. For example, on odd-numbered days dogs may be allowed off-leash and on even-numbered days dogs would be prohibited. During the winter when parks are not used for sports practice or play (such as lacrosse practice, t-ball, ultimate frisbee, etc.) and playgrounds are mostly deserted, dogs may be allowed more hours or every day. In the summer, when parks are more actively used by a variety of people, hours can be reduced and altered to work around sports and activities. My rationale for this is that by creating only a few official dog parks, we would be concentrating a lot of dogs in just a few areas. The more dogs in an area, the greater chance of trouble between dogs, owners, adjacent residents, and other park users. Given our air quality issues, the less driving the better. I live a block from Warm Springs Park and I would like to be able to walk my dog (on leash) to the park and then have a space to play fetch and allow him to engage with other appropriately socialized and owner-monitored dogs. I do not think we want to invite citizens to drive their dog somewhere to play and exercise.

Dog parks need to be rigorously monitored by enforcement officials. Good owners welcome enforcement. Enforcement should show up on an erratic schedule particularly during peak hours between 4PM and 7PM on weekdays as well as on some Saturdays and Sundays. Enforcement officials need to see that dogs are licensed and vaccinated, that female dogs are not in heat, and that male dogs are neutered. I believe that it is completely appropriate in unfenced dog areas to ask owners to demonstrate that their dog will come when called. Enforcement needs to observe activity at fenced parks and if, by simple observation after several minutes, the officer cannot determine the dog's owner because the owner is not attentive or in proximity to the dog, the owner needs to be verbally prompted to be more attentive or given a warning ticket. These unmonitored dogs are the ones who have the potential to get into trouble and a warning ticket establishes a precedent of owner inattentiveness.

To support these standards, I believe that the city can work with local businesses, animal-related nonprofits, and trainers to have cost-reduced or free training for owners about how to manage their dogs in off-leash. The dogs who have mastered a "come" command and a "stay" command might be awarded with a special tag. Owners who can show documentation that their dog has passed a rigorous national test such as Canine Good Citizen, or a national pet therapy or service animal program may be offered a licensing discount or even increased privileges to use parks. Note that there is an enormous difference between an emotional support dog and a therapy or service dog. Emotional support dogs are not required to have any training to be designated as such, therefore they would not enjoy any benefits offered to dogs who have been through a rigorous training program.

A side note—as cities adjacent to Englewood, Colorado, such as Denver and Aurora enacted breed-specific legislation, Englewood dog parks became a mecca for these breeds. Whether breed-specific legislation is right or wrong, it is worth noting that it does have an effect on dog parks. I, personally, am against breed-specific legislation.

As you can tell, dog parks are not about managing dogs—they are about managing the owners. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways from making the terrain inhospitable to uninvolved dog owners, clear rules that allow all park users to enjoy the space, regular enforcement of these rules, and incentives or encouragement to create responsible dog ownership.

I hope that all involved can think creatively about this topic and create community-based solutions that allow for

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

the sharing of parks in our own neighborhoods--which we all support through our taxes.

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 17, 2015, 11:05 AM

I love dogs and have two in my family. That said, while I appreciate dogs being removed from a portion of Parley's Nature Park (Tanner Park); I think they should be removed from the entirety of the Park. It was never intended to be a dog park. Dogs like to run around and exercise but unfortunately the majority of owners don't have control over their dogs and fail to clean up their messes. Even when poop bags are supplied free of charge many don't use them. I still think dog parks should be developed privately and those who use them pay for them. That way dogs and their owners will be happy because they can make the rules for their private entity. I don't support water parks on public grounds for dogs - or people. Utah is desert and water is in limited supply. There are more important water uses than recreation for dogs and people - like fisheries and drinking water. Dog parks are not a right; just as livestock grazing on public lands is not a right. If it occurs responsibilities go with that privilege. I think one walk through Tanner Park demonstrates the failure of responsibility by dog owners. They need to demonstrate responsibility before given more privileges.

William Brass inside Council District 7 (registered)

March 16, 2015, 6:53 PM

As a former dog owner and supporter of off leash areas, I would like to see the Council adopt a more streamlined process for consideration of off leash areas. Resolution 59 is contradictory to opening more off leash areas by the city. I strongly support the pilot programs of off leash times in our parks and would encourage adding Sugarhouse Park to the list of proposed parks for the pilot off leash program times at city parks.

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered)

March 16, 2015, 3:50 PM

Dog owners in the neighborhood already have created their own off-leash area in the Highland Park Elementary school field. In order to take my young daughter to the playground we must walk on the street to avoid the off-leash dogs. The City might as well create more off-leash areas because many dog owners disregard leash laws anyway. It's better they have a specific area to go than use the school playing fields.

Dana Cook outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

March 16, 2015, 2:30 PM

Hello,
Thank you for considering this much needed program.

In considering how to balance the off-leash dog issue with other parks and trails, the first suggestion would be to use the odd / even calendar day method for these areas as well, but to offset them with each other. For instance if the trails are off leash on odd days, then make the parks in that vicinity off leash on even days. Same with major parks like Liberty and Sugarhouse, (if they are being considered, and I hope they are), make

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

them opposite each other. That way, there is always a park or trail available 7 days a week for off leash play. Or to simplify it we could specify parks North of 1700 S. opposite those south of 1700 S. That way the program can hopefully extend somewhat evenly into the west side and east bench areas (which have the canyons and hiking trails), and will hopefully offset the more densely populated west & south valley's number of parks.

Obviously, as dog owners with 3 licensed dogs in the county, my husband Mike, and I, are in full support of the proposed "Off Leash Dog Park Pilot Program" being considered by the Salt Lake Parks and Rec department. We are asking that this pilot program be approved by the council.

There is a great need for parks in Salt Lake to have designated areas as "off leash", which are more easily accessible than hiking trails currently included in the alternating days program. Sometimes, you just want to take your dog to the park for some quick fun and exercise and not have to plan such a big ordeal, like a drive up the canyon, in order to do this. Tanner Park and Memory Grove are great places for this, but we need more options.

Giving dog owners more access to public play areas, will have a direct affect on the adoption rate from the shelters and rescue organizations. One of the reasons people don't own dogs, is that they live in apartments and other restrictive areas, and they feel it's too difficult to have to drive, in some cases, a fair distance just to be able to play with their dog. Providing more dog friendly areas throughout the county, will help increase adoption rates.

I hope you will positively consider my points when making your decision.

Sincerely,
Dana Cook
Bernada Drive,
Salt Lake City, UT 84124
801-278-7234

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 16, 2015, 11:55 AM

I am all for as many off-leash dog areas as possible. Salt Lake City and County should require of users of public areas that people clean up and properly dispose of dog waste or be told they cannot use the park. I have cleaned up a good deal of someone else's dog waste. I have stepped in it numerous times. Use of public parks and areas to let our dogs off-leash is a privilege. Trash receptacles are vital and, for some who neglect to bring their own clean-up bags, a supply should be made available. This is a two-way street and proper use and care of is the responsibility of dog owners who use these areas.

Matthew Crouse outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

March 15, 2015, 8:16 PM

An off-leash dog park in or near Cottonwood Heights would greatly improve the quality of life for our dog and our family overall. Our family has a busy schedule and finds it difficult to find time to get away to dog parks across the city, particularly during weekdays, yet our dog needs to run and sniff around. If financing a park is

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

problem, we would be happy to chip in a donation to help with that.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Best regards,
Matt Crouse

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

March 13, 2015, 1:25 PM

Even if a park is an on-leash designated area, half the dog owners still don't abide by the rule. And I have personally experienced confronting several dog owners about cleaning up after their dog and they either act put off by it or just don't do it. My kids are afraid of dogs and I can't stand that I can't take them to a park without having off-leash dogs come run around them and scare them. I've had dogs chase my kids on their bikes in a parking lot next to a park and dogs chase my kids down sledding hills. The dog owners just assume that everyone loves their playful dogs. I do not. My kids do not. I am not ok with any park intended for kids and family to be run over by off-leash dogs. And I hate how trails like the parley's trail by Tanner park has become exclusive to dogs. These trails and parks were intended for people use, not dog free-for-all. I am very much against more off-leash proposals!

Name not available (unclaimed)

February 18, 2015, 8:03 PM

I have had dogs most of my life, I have also been a golfer most of my life, as a kid my dog and I grew up on a local golf course we had a lot of fun times running thru the gullies and hunting balls, we stayed out of the golfers way because we had respect for the people that played the game. That's not the case anymore with dog owners now. They have no respect for anything, some, but not many clean up after their dogs and leave the poop bags for others to dispose of.

I am considering getting a concealed weapons permit because of a few incidents I have had in areas posted as no dogs allowed, these dogs have been aggressive and scary at times. Dog owners need to wake up and be responsible for there actions.

Barb S inside Council District 6 (registered)

February 18, 2015, 7:35 PM

comment by BarbS, SLC - A very simple solution is to take existing city parks, and allocate a section for Off-Leash dogs. That way our parks are useful to everyone, not just people, kids, and dogs on leash. This can be implemented immediately, with virtually no / minimal \$\$ cost. That will provide areas for dog owners to right away - and then looking for further new park locations can be ongoing and still pursued. HappyHealthyDogs are good for everyone! Keeping our dog parks clean is imperative!

1 Attachment

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12yfouoxxjk0.om/HappyHealthyDogTaffy_pose_small_.jpg (57.2 KB)

Kristen olsen outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

February 17, 2015, 9:58 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Please provide more off leash areas that include trees and water areas for the dogs, many dogs need the space to run, smell, explore. Places like Tanner park have taken away much of the freedom for a dog - basically saying the dogs just like to walks gravel path fenced on both sides, but with that they might as well be on a leash! Not all dogs want a flat field to chase balls (many can do that in back yards) the dogs need places to be free to explore all types of terrains and vegetation. As it is now there are many dogs being smashed into smaller and smaller off leash areas. This is harder on the environment in those areas and harder on the dogs because they need more space to be individualized in their exploration. It seems that through the years the rights of dogs have been diminished so much that they have very little true freedom to be a dog!

Linda Gregersen outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

February 17, 2015, 9:30 AM

First of all, in response to all of the people who don't like dogs and are opposed to off-leash dog parks, consider this...you will benefit from designated off-leash areas as well. If dog owners have someplace to take their dogs to let them play off-leash, you can avoid these areas altogether and don't have to be bothered by our dogs. Dogs need to be able to run off-leash, especially large and high energy dogs who can't get enough exercise by walking or even jogging with their human. A well-exercised dog is a happier and better behaved dog, and that is why dog owners are so animate about having off-leash areas. If we have plenty of convenient, well-maintained areas for dogs to play off-leash, dog owners will be much more likely to take their dogs to those parks rather than let them off-leash in areas where they shouldn't be, and since you will know exactly where the off-leash areas are, you can avoid them. It really is a win-win for everybody to provide these areas for dogs.

My second point is, I am a dog walker in the Salt Lake Valley, and I'd like the Council to consider allowing dog walkers to utilize the off-leash parks for our businesses. Dog walking is a growing business in this valley because dog owners need it! They are usually people who work long hours, and their dogs need to get out and run off-leash and get exercised just like every other dog. It is important for them and for us to be able to conduct business in off-leash areas of the city so that they can get properly exercised. Also, in order for our business to be profitable, we have to be able to take more than just 2 dogs at once. Perhaps we could be required to get a permit in order to use the dog parks as professionals and to be allowed 5-6 dogs at once. I would be even be willing to be part of a "dog walking volunteer group" that is required to dedicate a couple of hours a month to cleaning and maintaining the dog parks I would like to use so that I could have these privileges. Dog walkers are usually more conscientious, in general, about picking up after their dogs than a lot of other dog owners, because we are professionals and know that our businesses are on the line if we don't follow the rules. I would be open to creating and following regulations that would make the public more comfortable with allowing us to do our job on City property, and I know many other dog walkers who feel the same way.

Dog walking is a legitimate business and provides a much needed service to our community. We need to be able to take several dogs at once to a safe off-leash area in order to be able to continue to offer this service. Please take this into consideration when planning how to utilize off-leash areas. Thank you.

Jeremy Beckham inside Council District 2 (registered)

December 29, 2014, 2:24 PM

Thank you to the Salt Lake City Council for giving this issue consideration! I have just a couple points to add:

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

1. The options for off-leash areas on the west side of Salt Lake are slim. Despite what the city says on its website, the "dog park" in Jordan Park is not fully enclosed and has not been for all three years that I've lived in this neighborhood. It would be nice if that dog park could actually become fenced in.

2. I know this isn't directly on topic, but there is a recurring pattern/problem in my neighborhood of people allowing their dogs to roam. I see stray dogs on an almost-daily basis (no exaggeration). I've seen dogs get hit by cars, and I've also seen loose dogs really scare children walking home from school (some people are afraid of dogs and that should be respected). Dogs should never, ever be off leash in public, except in designated off leash areas, and I would really like to see increased enforcement of leash laws/roaming at large laws.

Thank you.

Name not available (unclaimed)

December 15, 2014, 2:24 PM

Hello Salt Lake City:

I am repeating here a recommendation I have made to other groups pertaining to dog parks. Please consider using the open space within the vast utility corridors which criss-cross the Salt Lake Valley to multiple-purpose as sites for A) dog parks; B) community gardens and C) as solar panel sites. These open corridors provide numerous locations which could serve multiple purposes. No land purchase necessary, only modest capital improvement.

As an avid hiker, given anticipated population growth, I see a time when dogs will be barred from Wasatch Front canyons for water quality reasons;and ergo, as a dog-lover I reason we need to make space for our canine buddies within the valley. Configuring sites within existing utility corridors makes sense to me. Thanks.

Elliott R. Mott

Name not available (unclaimed)

December 15, 2014, 9:35 AM

Please fence off a small dog area at the 700 East & 1300 South dog park.

Name not available (unclaimed)

December 3, 2014, 3:28 PM

Thank you for this. We NEED more places for off leash.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

November 22, 2014, 1:35 PM

I am a dog owner and he is part of our family. That being said I do not like running on trails or skiing in Millcreek when dogs are off leash. I have altered when and where I go based on what I have observed when more dogs

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

are off leash (and more weekend warriors biking out of control) are on the trails and roads, because it is dangerous when running. I agree with more off leash areas, but not where running trails have previously existed. Additionally, the lack of clean up after dogs is unacceptable. I just love it when an owner looks at you and gives you a kind smile after their dog has jumped up on you or left a pile, I don't understand the lack of responsibility that could ultimately lead to less off leash areas. One idea for off leash area in summer; could you use school grounds at least for a couple of months? Big signage with dates and rules would be needed. The pocket parks in neighborhoods are being used as off leash areas, and that is not what they are intended for.

MARY AMANDA FAIRCHILD inside Council District 7 (registered)

November 14, 2014, 7:49 AM

As a long time neighbor of Forest Dale golf course and an owner of two dogs I believe that winter use of Forest Dale and all public courses is a great opportunity for the city to make extra money by charging a fee via licensing (extra tag or ID on tag). Also, as I pick up any trash and monitor the golf course, it's a perfect opportunity to utilize us to help maintain the park. Otherwise, it's just completely wasted space all winter! Please consider this. Thanks.

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

November 2, 2014, 10:10 AM

SLC has lots of open space in the far west reaches. It makes sense to open this land to dogs, and those who collect them. My neighbors can take their 6 dogs there for an all day outing, and I will never have to listen to their daily barking ever again. Win win for all. SLC has no limit on the number of dogs one may have. This administration seems to have a penchant for creating bad policy.

Name not shown inside Council District 2 (registered)

October 28, 2014, 6:33 PM

I am another person who does not care for dogs. I don't like their sniffing, licking, slobbering, jumping up, barking, charging, or defecating. Unfortunately, it seems like many of the dog owners I know have very little understanding of what it means to train their animals to be around people who don't care for any of the aforementioned attention. Dogs can often be unpredictable and when off leash, there is no one or no way to control them if they should go after another canine, an adult or more distressing, a child. Having had a couple of close calls this distrust has been born from personal experience. I also greatly hate having to watch where I put my foot with each step so as not to acquire a most unwelcome addition. I don't want to share park space with dogs. Off leash areas are accidents waiting to happen.

Liz Steele inside Council District 7 (registered)

October 27, 2014, 8:52 PM

I believe you should allow dogs the opportunity to walk during the winter season. I pay taxes for this green space and I do not golf. I feel I should get some benefit from these beautiful spaces that I help water. I always pick up after my dogs but realize some people are very lax about this. I propose hefty fines for people who don't clean up after their dogs. I know this is difficult to monitor but just the threat of a large fine might help. Thanks

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Liz Steele

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 27, 2014, 9:09 AM

If by chance the Mayor and Council approve a plan to use golf courses as dog parks I hope they will be the first ones to show up in the spring with bags and shovel to clean up the mess left behind by the responsible dog owners. And please don't leave the bags on the sidewalks on next to where you scooped the poop, take them home and put in your own trash containers..

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 24, 2014, 9:18 PM

I don't have a dog and I don't like dogs. No matter how well behaved owners think their dogs are, I have a right not to be jumped on, sniffed, or attacked. Dogs don't pay taxes, but people do. Dogs should be exercised in owners yards not my backyard. Many dog owners seem to think everyone loves their dog. I am tired of dogs dedicating and urinating on my lawn which happens often. Even those owners who pick up poop don't seem to mind the urine in my yard. Responsible dog owners should restrain their dogs in public. PERIOD. Children may use playgrounds and parks but they do not dedicate on them. Leave the dogs in their own property not in public.

B Ankrom inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 20, 2014, 2:39 PM

The fastest way to get me to NOT use a city open space is to turn it into a dog park. I like dogs, I have 4 direct neighbors left a right and two the rear that all have dogs. Two dogs are very nice and well trained, two dogs are completely out of control. I find any time I walk in a "dog park" such as Parley's the stench on a Saturday afternoon is unbearable and further dogs are always running out of control and often come up to smell me or jump on me. I know its "not all dogs" but its enough to be an annoyance and as I said to keep me far away from an off leash park. A few have made the comparison between children and dogs... I have never had a child run up to me with muddy paws and try to lick me.

Name not available (unclaimed)

October 19, 2014, 1:47 PM

Thank you for the response to the need for more off leash dog areas. parks need to be shared by all who use them. Some people dont like dogs and some people dont like children, but we need to be respectful of each other. Dog owners need to now when to put their dogs on leash even in an off leash park, and some dog owners need to learn to take thier dogs off leash. Dogs off leash are actually less likely to bite, as they can move away from perceived threats and dont feel constrained. The more space the better...Tanner is a joke. All dogs go there becuae ther is no where elst to go! So lessen the impact on places like Tanner by giving dog owners more options! Thanks!

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered)

October 19, 2014, 1:37 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Thank you for considering more open space for the four legged furry children of the city. I agree some people dont like dogs, but all in all, an off leash dog is actually less likely to bite as it does not feel constrained and can move away from a threat. Owners and non owners need to be respectful of each other. Soem people dont like children, but they are part of the park environment. Owners need to know when to put their dogs on leash even in off leash areas. I steerr my dogs away from kids and people. Bags and pop receptacles help with dog waste clean up. The more space the better, as having only a few spaces means all the dogs are going to the limited areas. tanner park is a joke, for example. There are too many dogs at one time, as dog people have no where else to go

Michael Dodd inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 8, 2014, 1:46 PM

First, I attended the city council working session in which the topic was presented to the council by the sub-committee. It seemed one of the most balanced discussions I've heard on this subject. I was encouraged by statements from the councilmembers about not putting off-leash areas in the worse part of the park, about safety through predictability, about the need for dogs and owners to have meaningful interaction in non-fenced areas and about water being an essential item for both play and health.

In general, I think we can share existing parks and that this is not an all or nothing discussion. Off leash hours in the early morning and evening, when cothers aren't generally present are a great idea. Also, the Millcreek model of odd/even days would be another way to share. And then relegating specific sections of parks, much like the trail in Memory Grove, is another great way to share.

Also essential to sharing existing space would be signage, education, enforcement and a means to pick up and dispose of feces. The current system of plastic bags is great, but more trash recepticals would be nice and would cut down on bagged feces being left at curb and trail side.

I am not in favor of additional fees, as I feel that as a homeowner and Salt Lake resident I pay enough taxes and that facilities for a demographic as large as dog owners (one out of three to five houses with one dog according to Human Society and SPCA estimates) should be on the same order of need as facilities for people with children or facilities for people with special needs. Also, if additional fees were required for area usage I wonder about enforcement? Would officers routinely stop me, as a paying member, and ask to see proof? This would not be a pleasant user experience in my mind.

Fenced areas, while needed in some parks, are not desirable in my mind on a larger scale. They generally promote laziness of dog owners who bring their dogs and just stand there. The enclosed space also seems to raise the level of aggression of some dogs. I have actually seen people drop their dog at a fence off leash area and then leave the dog unattended.

Walkability and air quality are othe issues extremely important and germain to the discussion. Salt Lake is building a reputation for walkability, and yet in most neighborhoods (I live in Sugarhouse) I must drive to an off leash area, as there are two parks near my home, but no off leash areas. The need to drive then contributes to poor air quality, and at times contributes to already unhealthy air.

In closing, I am encouraged by the way the council is handling this issue and think the worse thing that could be

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

done is to maintain the status quo.

Rachel Legree inside Council District 6 (registered)

October 7, 2014, 7:48 PM

I recently moved to Salt Lake City from the west coast and find the lack of off-leash areas incredible - 6, 3 with water? Wasatch Hollow should have off-leash hours as well as many other parks. Look at the strategies implemented with other cities that vary times or areas. To drive your dog to a dog park is ridiculous. Considering there are 52 city playgrounds there are plenty of spaces for children. The off-leash areas need immediate implementation.

Name not available (unclaimed)

October 1, 2014, 3:12 PM

If pet is not fixed; remain on leash - viewable by any ACO from afar with binoculars - especially when and even if with or without other people or dogs around, respectively. NO BRAINER.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 28, 2014, 4:11 PM

Large dogs should be leashed in all but fenced in areas. Smaller dogs should be able to run free, everyone cleans up after their dogs.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 22, 2014, 8:18 AM

People have walked their dogs on the golf courses for years with few problems. It is a great use of the open space which belongs to all of us. It is a great idea.

Nick Daskalas inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 17, 2014, 5:11 PM

I am a dog owner and a golfer. I would love to have a park close by where my dog could run and play in the winter. However, being a golfer I would hope that some kind of notice can be made to encourage those not so conscientious dog owners to clean up after their pet. Unfortunately there are many of those who don't take this responsibility serious.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 17, 2014, 4:52 PM

I think dogs on or off leashes on golf courses is a very bad idea.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 17, 2014, 3:44 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

my personal opinion is that I would not a golf course to become a litter box for off leash dogs especially in the winter months as most owners do not pick up after their animals and cannot or do not control their animals when other persons are in the area and using the facility for snow shoeing or cross country skiing..my personal experience...

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 17, 2014, 5:49 AM

I think off-leash areas on golf courses during the off-season would be great! Unfortunately, a great deal of education would have to take place. I'm a golfer and would not like to see the pristine courses ruined by an irresponsible dog owner. However, I am also a dog owner, and know my dog would love the open space to run in and enjoy the snow. There needs to be a balance; I'm not sure how you will achieve that, not because of the dogs, but because of the owners who think they don't need to clean up after their dogs.

Doug Sampson outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 16, 2014, 11:06 PM

If you want to ensure that the golf courses have a more rapid decline, go ahead and allow dogs on the course during the "off" season. There are many mild winters when golf can be played year round. How many of these dog owners would really show up in the spring to clean up? Based on the frequent doggie treats left on my lawn, you should plan for zero help with that.

Dogs off leash are better suited in less populous areas, not in a city environment. It may be inconvenient for dog owners to have to travel with their pets, but they made the choice to have the dog in the first place. No one is forcing them to be pet owners, nor should a non pet owner be forced to deal with the byproducts. Dogs off leash on golf courses, worst idea ever...

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 16, 2014, 9:36 PM

I do not understand why any dog ever "needs" to be off a leash in a public area.
If the dog is off the leash, it is out of your control...

Are we really suggesting that it is somehow unfair for people to have to control their animals? Is it somehow more enjoyable for the dog to be able to run wild?

I would agree that there should probably be more designated areas for dogs to be "off leash". In my opinion this would need to be an enclosed area where only dogs and their owners would be allowed. No other public use (kids, golfers, ect.).

It would be just like a golf course...

Open up a couple "dog courses" and let the "doggers" pay for it. Then, when they are struggling financially, jack up the rates while cutting staff, maintenance and improvements.

If that doesnt work, threaten to close the place. Sound familiar??

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

No tax dollars are used for golf courses, the current rates are almost \$50 for 18 holes w\cart. If there is truly a need for such areas, let the dog owners pay for it just like the golfers do... Why should I or anyone elses green fees and tax dollars be forced to pay for a "dog course"?

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 9:20 PM

People who insist on having dogs and no place to run them should not have to ask for permission to run their dogs out on public places such as golf courses.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 8:49 PM

I have taken my dog with me while I have been golfing. She stays in the cart. When she does want out, we know she has something in mind. We take doggie bags with us when we golf. We always pick up after her. I am not sure everyone would so there should be some pretty STIFF FINES in place should someone not pick up after their dog. Just the fact that they don't have a doggie bag with them should be enough to show they have no intent of picking up after their dog!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 6:36 PM

I quit playing golf on city courses years ago due to poor management by non golfing officials. Might as well let dogs be hit by golf balls and golfers be bitten by same dogs. It will give the City Attorneys office a lot to do. I assume the dog owners will pay a fee just like the golfers to use the course.Shame!

Nancy Halden outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 16, 2014, 5:47 PM

Salt Lake definitely needs more off-leash areas for dogs! People live here, in part, because they love the proximity to the outdoors. With so many of our trails limited by watershed restrictions, we need other places where we can walk/hike with our dogs. The off-leash dog parks that exist work for some, but end up being overcrowded and not a good choice for many dogs and their owners.

nancy sakahara inside Council District 2 (registered)

September 16, 2014, 4:20 PM

I attended "Yappy Hour" in Pioneer Park, Sept. 10th. What a great event!! Thank you Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Millcreek Fidos, Mayor Becker , Volunteers, City workers. People and Dogs had a wonderful time, no major scuffles or problems. Could we do this on a regular basis? Families with small children were there in the playground area, seems it made the whole area safe and fun.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 16, 2014, 3:30 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I think this is a bad idea! How do you intend on defining "Off-season"? One of the great things about SLC is the opportunity to play golf year-round. Dog owners are notoriously bad about cleaning up their dog's feces, and I for one do not want to come face to face with it as I am trying to enjoy walking a nice round of golf.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 2:19 PM

When there is snow on the ground or when the courses are closed I would be in favor of using the courses for off leash. However, several courses remain open in the "off season" and I believe it would be hazardous for non golfers to walk on the course when golfers are hitting balls.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 2:19 PM

Please do not change the ordinance about dogs off leash. I'm a dog owner but I keep it on leash outside my fenced yard. I already have a neighbor that won't abide by the law and his dog bit my daughter and leaves poop on my lawn. Let's restrict dogs more, not less.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 1:10 PM

Hey Folks, Lets get rid of all ducks, geese & dogs with the poop as well as all the promoting like minded politicians FROM ALL GOLF FACILITIES!!!!!!papabugs.....

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 12:56 PM

HEY FOLKS, I prefer golf without poop of any kind to have to deal with at any time during the year. And I would like not to have it left on my yard by uncaring dog owners. Thank you sincerely
BUGS R.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 11:29 AM

Terrible idea!!

David A Gardner inside Council District 4 (registered)

September 16, 2014, 10:31 AM

I'm not a dog owner. I find that dog owner don't follow the rules. I see signs at the schools no dogs, half the time I walk by there are dogs on the fields. I find dog waste almost every week on my lawn. So when you expand

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

such to my golf courses i will be wading in dog waste. that is not appatising to me. What do the grounds keepers think?

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 8:57 AM

During golf hours? Who's cleaning up after the pooches and how r u keeping them off the greens?

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 16, 2014, 6:53 AM

Oh please No... I love dogs but there is already distractions enough along with dealing with the already over abundant geese droppings that aren't being addressed. There is enough parks throughout the valley that could be used as an off leash areas.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (unverified)

September 15, 2014, 11:22 PM

I love the idea of expanding off-leash areas for dogs, there is most definitely not enough. I just returned from San Francisco where the enlightened citizens there realize that allowing dogs to have space to exercise and socialize is the way to have happy dogs. Concentrating the number of dogs and restricting them to small places or preventing people from exercising their dogs due to no access is the worst possible scenario and the very reason there are people who complain. I can see absolutely no reason to restrict dogs from golf courses, it is the perfect place for them to enjoy the open space. There are many of us who own dogs, pay taxes and should be able to have use of these city and county owned properties. No brainer.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 9:14 PM

Unbelievable. We get our green fees raised, and now you want to turn our golf courses into dog bathrooms? Who came up with this brilliant idea? Have any of the city council members taken a walk around Bonneville after the snow melts? People already use it as a doggie poop park all winter. There's nothing less enjoyable than getting back to my car after the round and getting to clean dog poop off my golf shoes....and trust me, you can never get it all off. I can guarantee that this is an idea that will garner national attention, just not the kind Salt Lake is looking for.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 8:42 PM

I have a dog and I do not golf. I love to let my dog run, dogs need daily exercise to be healthy, well-behaved pets. Having said that, I don't think letting dogs use golf courses in "off season" is a good idea because unfortunately, too many people do not pick up after their dogs and this is going to lead to a lot of anger between golfers and dog owners. A better solution may be to have designated times for dogs to use existing parks off-leash. I know a lot of dog owners (myself included) like to walk their dogs early in the morning or late in the day

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

to avoid the summer heat and rarely are there families or children at the park at these times. Why not make these "official" off-leash times with the appropriate signage and available poop bags to encourage owners to clean up. It would be particularly helpful to designated off-leash times at parks with water availability because dogs can not handle summer heat as well as humans. I walk my dog at a local park early in the morning when the sprinklers are running and it is the perfect solution to the water/heat issue. Finally, it might be useful to have a public awareness campaign to encourage poop pick-up. I just heard about a recent city having a dog costume event with the theme "There is no such thing as the poop fairy" to educate owners about pick up.

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 7:38 PM

Yes we need more open areas for Dogs to run around with other Dogs. Make use of the land thats not in use during off seasons. Could even charge a small fee as a 'season pass' to use the golf course as Dog park which will also help fund the problem of losing money in the City Courses. Folks with a Off leash season pass would have read and understood the requirements which helps maintain the open area and will abide by the rules.

However that amount of dogs can destroy the course with poop that doesn't de-solve over winter. Come spring there will be a poop madness on the course.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 7:11 PM

I do not have all the facts because I do not know what damage a golf course incurs by dogs using it during the off season other than the dog messes that some owners do not pick up. That said, I use our nearby golf course to let my border collie run during the winter months and I am grateful to have access to it. If the golf courses can operate 100% on greens fee, then perhaps they should get the choice of what golfers want. If taxpayers are subsidizing the golf courses, then it should be open to all taxpayers. In addition, there is always the huge health benefit for walking a golf course for golfers and dog walkers alike.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 7:01 PM

A golf course is for golf. Dogs are not welcomed, they do not pay green fees. Other land uses include, hikers, joggers, etc. As a avid kiter(one who flys kites) golf courses would be a great place to fly my recreational and stunt kites on the seldom used areas of golf courses. No dog barking or UN picked dog poo. However, a golf course is for golf only.

Mr. Williams outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 6:58 PM

What a bunch of "crap" literarily. Why do I as a golfer want to compete with a bunch of dogs running around the fairways crapping all over the lawns twhile their owners won't take accountability to pick it up. I've seen this at countless other public parks so you can't tell me it won't happen on the golf coarses if this is allowed. If this is where the Salt Lake Council wants to go with this, you can count me out.... and my revenue. I'll find or join a

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

private coarse that will cater to the golfer and you can just make golf courses doggy courses.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 6:58 PM

I don't think its a good idea to allow off leash dogs on city golf courses. Removing dog waste from standard shoes is agravating imagine what it would be with cleated shoes. Golfers pay to use the space, do you intend to charge dog owners?

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 6:53 PM

You charge golfers! If you allow dogs on the golfcourses, you should charge the dog owners as well!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 6:46 PM

What a bunch of "crap" literarily. Why do I as a golfer want to compete with a bunch of dogs running around the fairways crapping all over the lawns that their owners won't take responsibility to pick up. If this is where the Salt Lake Council wants to go with this route, you can count me out.... and my revenue. I'll find or join a private coarse that is will cater to the golfer.... so I don't have to go around dodging "dog bombs".

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 5:06 PM

Hell No! They don't clean up after their pets as it is. Why should they respect a golf course.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 4:53 PM

No dogs on golf courses. The city will just use the maintenance expenses to up the golf prices again. Plus ---- many dogs are not nearly as friendly as the owners suggest.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 4:41 PM

Most courses are already repositories for animal waste that pet owners (who already illegally trespass on golf course properties after hours) fail to properly dispose of. Additionally, golf's off-season in SLC sometimes lasts 8-weeks or less, so why permit pet owners to grow accustomed to an activity that could be off limits 44-weeks or more each year?

Chuck Lytle inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 4:31 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

This is a complicated issue. I have dogs and I play golf. I live near Bonneville, so it is rarely open past mid-November Through January and that is when you see dogs off leash on the course. If you don't allow dogs on the course, how much does that cost to enforce, especially in the winter? I have a few suggestions.

1. Have dog owners donate clean-up money by buying special bright colored collars.
2. Have a kick-off party in November to go over rules, sell collars, and raise money.
3. Have a volunteer spring clean-up and dog party get together in March.

Make dog owners part of the solution, not the enemy.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 4:15 PM

I like the idea because I have a dog, however, I know that many dog owners of both small and large dogs never bother to pick their animals droppings. Why, I don't know. Obviously they are lazy, trashy and not responsible. As a golfer, I would say NO, absolutely not. The courses will be a mess come spring and I have to walk around enough dog crap in other parks and neighborhoods. I am sick of it.

I vote NO to off leash on our golf courses

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 4:03 PM

I consistently use the City's golf courses. I prefer them over the rest of the courses in the County. Allowing dogs, whether leashed or not, on a golf course is not a good idea. Besides the dog poop, which would be on the course and ruining the greens and fairways, (and I might add that I walk most all courses and stepping in dog poop is not something I want to encounter) the dogs would be a hazard to golfers, who like me, play almost year round. I know that there are many responsible dog owners, but there are too many who are not responsible for their dogs. The issue would always be there of how is the City going to enforce a dog owner to pick-up after their dog and to not let the dog damage the fairways and greens. The courses need help to keep them in great shape. Having dogs on the courses would do nothing but damage them.

Golfers pay a lot to play the courses. Dog owners are not going to be paying anything for the use of and the damage caused to the courses.

Please don't allow the dogs on the courses.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 4:02 PM

I consistently use the City's golf courses. I prefer them over the rest of the courses in the County. Allowing dogs, whether leashed or not, on a golf course is not a good idea. Besides the dog poop, which would be on the course and ruining the greens and fairways, (and I might add that I walk most all courses and stepping in dog poop is not something I want to encounter) the dogs would be a hazard to golfers, who like me, play almost year round. I know that there are many responsible dog owners, but there are too many who are not responsible for their dogs. The issue would always be there of how is the City going to enforce a dog owner to pick-up after their dog and to not let the dog damage the fairways and greens. The courses need help to keep them in great shape. Having dogs on the courses would do nothing but damage them.

Golfers pay a lot to play the courses. Dog owners are not going to be paying anything for the use of and the

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

damage caused to the courses.
Please don't allow the dogs on the courses.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 3:55 PM

I do not believe any dog should be off leash mostly for their safety & responsible owners may pick up pets poop but more don't pick up own poop

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 3:17 PM

I am opposed to letting dogs use golf courses off leash. I am a dog owner and an avid golfer. I know what my yard looks like in December through March and it isn't pretty. Let dogs be dogs elsewhere and let's have more pride in our wonderful municipal courses. They are a gem and should be better maintained rather than worse which is how dog use would affect them. I often like to try to play once in December, January, and February anyway so if the conditions permit they should be open. Winter rules should not be that you get a free drop if your ball is on a pile. TR

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 3:16 PM

Using golf courses for open space for dogs is a bad idea. Their urine and traffic will destroy the grass. Feces will not be picked by their owners, we all know that "cleaning up after your dog" is not enforced! The off-season is not predictable, how are you going to avoid golfers and dogs on the course at the same time? Also, I'll pay to golf.....Will dog owners pay to walk their dog? I doubt it!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 3:15 PM

Do that will quit golfing at any slc golf corce

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 3:04 PM

1. Please get rid of this idea before it hits the national news and we become the laughing stock of the country. White golf balls and brown dog poop do not mix. And I can't imagine cleaning it out of my golf shoes. The comedians will have a great time with that one.
2. On a more serious note, do you intend to hold the golfer harmless when they "yell four" and the dog fails to duck and gets hit in the head? Isn't that animal abuse? No, golfers who pay to use the facility are held liable for damage or injury. But on the other hand, I guess I could have a slip and fall accident as a result of slipping on a material that should not be present in the area of play, that I have paid to use, and you would be looking at a slip and fall injury claim.
3. And would the dog owners get charged \$45+ dollars for a days use of the facility?

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

4. Perhaps we can provide off leash indoor time at the City Library.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 2:48 PM

Is someone forcing these people to have dogs? And those with no yard or a small yard have the largest dogs. It's back to personal responsibility. And it is absolutely NOT the responsibility of "someone" to enforce rules. The most irresponsible people I see are large dog owners. I love my smaller 35#dog but walk her on a leash and somehow she still gets exercise on a leash. Imagine that. I like the idea of a off leash before 9 am and after 9 pm. It's the only way those if us with dogs on a leash don't have large dogs running up, unrestrained, to snap at our dogs. I would love that system. Those hours don't work? Don't get a dog!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 2:37 PM

As a golfer and a dog owner I feel I have a dog in this fight. I think golf courses are far too restricted in their use, especially between Thanksgiving and President's day. But I respect golfer's concerns about course conditions and damage to greens. My suggestion is to use half of a course, such as Nibly Park, as an off leash facility - perhaps holes 5, 6, 7, and 8. Then do an objective comparison to the condition of holes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 as the spring season opens for the effect that the open policy has had. Oh, and make sure the evaluators don't know which holes were open and which were closed before they begin their analysis.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 2:24 PM

Generally, I have no objection to dogs being off leash just about anywhere. That applies only to well behaved, trained dogs with responsible owners. Unfortunately that has not been my experience. I have been barked and growled at by off leash dogs on the Jordan river parkway. -Where a leash law is in force, but not enforced- Butterfield Canyon is a dog fecess cesspool because people don't clean up after their animals. During mountain bike rides I often encounter small plastic bags of dog poop trailside which baffles me. They made the effort to pick up the mess and yet are too lazy to carry it to a receptacle?

So now the city council thinks it's a good Idea to use golf courses in the off season? Do you people ever think before you make these inane suggestions?

Bigger fenced in dog areas in public parks makes sense. I'd suggest that the dog owners who frequent those areas pay a fee for their upkeep unless they are willing to police their own. I've had a Herman Shepherd, A Brittany Spaniel and a Golden Labrador in past years and never had any trouble finding off leash areas. They weren't always just around the corner, but then I didn't expect that.

To ask me to share the golf course which I pay for, is asking me to play a hazard that I'd rather not.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 2:21 PM

Please do NOT permit off leash dogs on any of the Salt Lake City golf courses. They would be a nuisance, leave dog droppings, interrupt play and at very best be a distraction. Other than guide dogs or other personal

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

assistance animals, dogs have no place on Salt Lake City golf courses. Activation of a dogs of leash policy on Salt Lake City courses will definitely impact my choice of the courses over other courses.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 2:13 PM

I did'n know there was actually an "off season" for golf. I have golfed every month of the year at our city and county courses. PLEASE, PLEASE do not allow off-leash at our golf courses! The green fees are high enough without additional fees for poop pick-up! Golfers have to deal with plenty of duck & goose poop, we DON'T need to deal with dog poop too!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 1:55 PM

I am fed up with many animal owners feeling that their pets should be free to do their business on others property. There should be designated areas for people to take their dogs, and other animals to do their business rather than it being open season at any spot that is convenient.

As far as golf courses go, a lot of time and money is spent to keep golf courses in good condition. The last thing that should be allowed is for dogs and other animals to roam around and destroy the property. It should be no more accepted than if I or my children did our business in those places.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 1:48 PM

I agree it makes sense to figure out how to use existing parks for off-leash activities. It makes NO sense to use golf courses. Parks are designed for many uses, and the choice of turf and layouts already accommodate different activities and differently shod feet (and paws). Not so for golf courses. Turf is specially chosen for different parts of the game. Greens in particular have very fine grass and are graded with precision. In fact, when a golfer inadvertently nicks the turf on a green, or takes a swipe that lifts a divot on the fairway, he or she is required to replace the divot and repair the ball mark on the green. I don't see dog owners, however responsible, being able to direct their pets to stay off the greens, and further, to repair damage left by running, chasing, digging and otherwise frolicking as off-leash areas are needed for. Sledding and cross country skiing on golf courses when snow covered does not do the same type of damage. I would encourage some creative thought be applied to existing parks that would accommodate city dogs that need to run off-leash.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 1:47 PM

No! Goose droppings are enough!!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 1:44 PM

Golf is a difficult sport and takes mental skills as well as physical skills. The last thing a golfer should worry

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

about is stepping in dog poop. Create one east side and one west side part dedicated to animals instead.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 1:38 PM

No to off leash dogs in city golf courses! This idea seems like it comes from the same people that keep adding more and larger bike lanes at the expense of safe automobile use in the city--or the newly added "wonderful downtown parking lanes" and meters that are driving small businesses out of the area, because of the loss of business caused by the hassel inflicted on potential customers.

ART TICE outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 1:35 PM

FORGET ABOUT AN ACADEMY AT BONNEVILLE.

TAKE THE MONEY FROM THE STUPID BIKE LANES IN DOWNTOWN AND CHANGE THE WATER SYSTEM
ONE TIME COST WOULD BE QUICKLY PAID FOR BY REDUCED COST OF WATER

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 1:15 PM

Would love to see more off leash opportunities. Organizers should look at Colorado (Boulder, Lafayette) area for model parks. SLC parks are so small that they create aggression in both the dog and the owners. This is a huge issue for thousands of dog owners and any expansion of areas would be welcome.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 12:48 PM

I am opposed. Please do not allow dogs on the golf course, off or on season. Make up your mind... either close one of the courses permanently and make it a dog park, or leave it alone. I will not golf at a course that allows dogs. 99% of owners clean up after themselves... the other 1%...? Well, let's just say you better watch your step or HOPE your ball does not end up lying in a pile of.... Well, I am sure the people in favor have a response to this one, but I have yet to go to any park, dog friendly or not, and not see a gift Fido left for me.

Mark Curtz outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 12:41 PM

Seems like every few years someone suggests using golf courses as backup dog parks. I think most everyone recognizes that it's not smart for people to walk with or without their dogs (on leash or off) on golf course fairways while golfers are playing. Golfers can't always control where their ball is going, and even when they do, there are many blind corners into which they are aiming. People and dogs are in danger of getting hit. Moreover, golfers are not expecting to deal with dogs. As many people have commented in this forum, not everyone likes dogs and some people are even afraid of them. As such, some golfers might be uncomfortable sharing the space they pay to use with dogs. I think this is why the committee is proposing this alternate use during the "off-season" when there are no golfers and no risks. But I have to wonder what this committee

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

means by "off-season." All of the city courses are open year round, closing only where there is no snow on the ground. So are these people suggesting that dog owners should be able to walk their dogs off leash on the snow covered golf courses? That doesn't seem very practical. Do people really trudge through knee deep snow with their dogs? I would think in the "off season" people would be better off using a leash and the public sidewalks, which are typically clear of snow.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 12:27 PM

My green fees have consistently increased with little, or no upgrade in service, or amenity. Now this? How are you going to keep dogs, and their owners off the greens? I pay a lot of money to golf, and shouldn't have a round ruined by dog crap in my putting line, on my ball, or on my shoe... Yeah I know, responsible dog owners... Hey! we could just implement lift, clean, and place at all SLC courses. Pass! I'll just golf somewhere else.

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 12:16 PM

Absolutely NO. Half of the pet owners are responsible owners. Meaning, they pick up after their pets. The other half will not do it. My wife and I used to be pet owners and we will ask these pet owners to clean after their pets and like I said, half them will completely ignore us or tell us to mind our business. Thank you Marco Serrano

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 12:11 PM

I honestly don't see how you can have golfers mixed with dog owners walking their dogs and their dogs not being on a leash.

Think about it! I personally don't want a dog walker walking his dog on a course I'm playing with the possibility of me hitting them with a golf ball. I understand that we must share the space but I don't want them walking their dogs while I'm golfing.

I think it is a bad idea to open up the golf courses to dog walkers!
Golf Courses are not public parks!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 12:10 PM

Is someone forcing these people to have dogs? And those with no yard or a small yard have the largest dogs. It's back to personal responsibility. And it is absolutely NOT the responsibility of "someone" to enforce rules. The most irresponsible people I see are large dog owners. I love my smaller dog but walk her on a leash and somehow she still gets exercise on a leash. Imagine that. I like the idea of a off leash before 9 am and after 9 pm. It's the only way those of us with dogs on a leash don't have large dogs running up, unrestrained, to snap at our dogs. I would love that system. Those hours don't work? Don't get a dog!

Mike Larsen outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

September 15, 2014, 12:07 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I highly favor early morning hours allowed for off leash usage of parks. Small fenced in areas are not dog or owner friendly. We need space to let the dogs run but still be under control, or to work on training without dogs and owners forced into overcrowded, small areas. Walkers and joggers have access to endless spaces to run, walk cycle. They cannot be said for dog owners. You can't just turn your dog free in the neighborhood or on city streets or bike paths, etc. Give us from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. in parks to walk/run our dogs without constant fear of being cited. I have had labs for over 15 years, I walk daily with other dog owners and see others and we never have a problem when the dogs are off leash. It is only fair that we have places to go where we are not viewed as an annoyance to others. I was recently in Sun Valley and it is such a pet friendly place. The restaurants allow dogs on the patios, provide a bowl for your dog, voice control or leash in public areas, swimming allowed in ponds, etc. That is more than we can realistically hope for here, but please give us some options where we can enjoy these wonderful animals and they can get some much needed and beneficial exercise.

Mike Larsen

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 12:06 PM

dogs should be on leashes all the time .

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 12:06 PM

Bad idea allowing dogs to dig up the sod and leave crap all over.....

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 12:03 PM

Why is the campaign continually to infringe on golfers....No dogs, leash or no leash; I can't get dog owner to respect my front yard let alone my golf courses.
you may also want to add....unleashed children!

Name not available (unclaimed)

September 15, 2014, 11:54 AM

I'm not allowed to hit golf balls at a public park, and un-leashed dogs aren't allowed at a city golf course. Seems like there are equal opportunities for both. If people want to bring their un-leashed dogs to a golf course they should:

1. pay the full green fee for use of the facility like us golfers due (in addition to our taxes)
2. Be hit with excessive fines when they don't clean up after their dogs which ruins the value and playability of our golf courses.

Mike Gabel inside Council District 7 (registered)

September 15, 2014, 11:53 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I am opposed. Golf courses frequently open in the winter months and i think there would be too great a conflict if there were a dual use.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered) September 15, 2014, 11:49 AM

Here is just another example of how Ralph Becker is trying to further his agenda and slowly get rid of Salt Lake City golf courses. If he had any idea what these golf courses mean to golfers in the area, even his own constituents, he would act differently. Allowing off-leash dogs on these courses will only cause damage and make them less desirable to play... which is just what he wants.

Mike Thomas inside Council District 7 (registered) September 15, 2014, 11:40 AM

Absolutely NO dogs on a golf course AND baseball fields. Why should dogs be allowed in those areas? I control my dog. Others can control their dog. (I also don't bring my dog into Home Depot.) This is the age of no restraints. Good grief...

Name not available (unclaimed) September 15, 2014, 11:38 AM

Hmmm. I think simply asking the golf course maintenance staff would provide a quick answer. If allowed, a no tolerance policy towards cleaning up after your own messes should be enforced. They are all of our parks to use, enjoy, respect, and preserve for others.

Name not available (unclaimed) September 15, 2014, 11:35 AM

As a golfer, I find that there is already an off-leash on many golf courses. It is bothersome to have to wait until the dog and owner leave the fairway to hit.... and avoid the dog poop. If owners are permitted to use the golf courses in the off-season (there is really no off-season as some of us play year round) then it will be harder to police the golf courses when the golfing season begins.

Name not available (unclaimed) September 15, 2014, 9:43 AM

I would love to see more off-leash opportunities. At the samet ime, I'd love to see more enforcement of people who break the rules and have their dogs off-leash in places they shouldn't, i.e. Liberty Park and Sugarhouse Park.

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered) August 15, 2014, 11:30 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

We need more dog parks in the city. I know many believe we have enough, but based on the use those get it is clear we need more. Dog owners have just as much legitimate use to parks as others, yet it is presumed we should pay extra for the privilege. Off leash dog areas should be part of every park in the city. I will never use the play ground equipment, but am expected to pay for it. My use is no less needed or legitimate. We should not be taxed and extra fee to use open space we pay for through our taxes.

I believe every off leash area should be fenced to clearly designate space and I believe enforcing the leash rules is needed.

Will Deutschman inside Council District 3 (registered)

August 12, 2014, 12:02 PM

In addition to thinking about how many dog parks there are and where they are, there needs to be some thought about the seasonal usage of park areas. Those things that make a good dog park in the summer (lots of shade, access to water) are exactly what make it a poor dog park in the winter. I know that my local park (Lindsey Gardens) is a great place for dogs to play in the summer. Come winter, it is dark, cold, and icy. because of those seasonal hazards, I effectively lose use of both dog parks in my area over the winter months. Both become dark, cold, muddy, and icy. At the same time, the adjacent fields see little or no use at all, but are open, sunny, dry and safe.

I saw a great example of seasonal park use in Portland (Council Crest Park), where the dog park location moved during the winter. Since the park as a whole is lightly used by non-dog owners in the winter, the off-leash area was expanded outward to sunnier and drier places over the winter months. It also gave some of the more heavily used areas a chance to heal up a bit over the "off" season.

Could the city council and working group look at the possibility of using areas adjacent to established off leash areas during the off season to give dog owners a more pleasant and usable area during the winter months?

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 5, 2014, 8:31 PM

This is what I put up with constantly on Parley's Trail -- see these two guys with three off-leash dogs giving me the finger.

1 Attachment

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12hocfs1o6f4.1fy/Dog_Owner_on_Parleys.JPG (73 KB)

Rod Stone inside Council District 3 (registered)

August 2, 2014, 1:29 PM

One of the things that impressed me when I lived in the Bay area was that every park had part of the area established for off leash. One way you can tell if you have enough off leash areas is by looking at them for wear. If they are too small they will have lots of the grass worn down. Lindsey gardens is an example. The off leash area needs to be expanded by taking out the tennis courts, letting the off leash area go up the hill to the edge of the ball field and fence all of the area. This would help keep the dogs in the off leash area and provide enough space to take care of current needs.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Regards, Rod Stone

Meridith Perkins inside Council District 5 (registered)

August 1, 2014, 12:47 PM

Dogs in cities create unique challenges. However, I believe that dogs help promote healthy lifestyles and positive social interactions. Therefore I am in favor of exploring creative ways to address off-leash options in Salt Lake City and think it is worth the added expense and oversight. As a previous dog owner I know the critical need to exercise dogs in the city; especially during the week when it is difficult to travel to our favorite hiking trails. I also have met many great neighbors and friends through regular run-ins at the dog park after work.

I think this task force is doing a great job finding solutions for the high demand for off-leash dog areas. Some of my favorite recommendations include:

1. Sharing the golf course – what a great way to maximize an open space venue and diversify the user groups.
2. Early and late hour park use – many of the off-leash demand comes from working professionals and families that have dogs at home during the day. Allowing time during the slow times in parks for off-leash activity seems like a win-win. It brings more positive activity to the parks and lets dogs get a work out.
3. Expanded nature trails for dogs (even and odd days like Millcreek) – this is a great way for people to move with their pets, versus standing around while their pups do all the running. Healthy living is something SLC is known for, and off-leash trails facilitate that.

Regulation, enforcement and education seem to be a critical component of this process. Once new opportunities are created and dog owners have more options for off leash activities, SLC needs t to make sure they are being followed appropriately. I am pro-dog, but I also appreciate the importance of providing space for people apprehensive about dogs to recreate without fearing for their safety or overall discomfort. Just as dog owners will know when and where they can let pups run free, other users will know when to avoid the area if they do not want to experience dogs off leash. We have a great system for giving people parking tickets, why can't we have the same oversight in leash laws. Once we get a good program going, it would be more feasible to consider other options like off-leash permits for approved dogs, etc.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 30, 2014, 2:20 PM

I object to the Wasatch Hollow proposal that would allow pedestrians in some areas but not their leashed dogs. A leashed dog walking on a trail will do no more harm than a person. For safety reasons, I would not walk alone in a wooded area at dawn and dusk (my only chances before and after work) without my dog. Walking keeps me and my dog healthy, and we are both contributing members of the community. We have spent many volunteer hours as a therapy dog team visiting schools, hospitals, and retirement homes. It doesn't make sense that we are welcomed by doctors and patients to the children's hospital ICU but not allowed (dog on leash) at a public park. Please reconsider this proposed limitation.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 20, 2014, 3:02 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I love dogs. But every park in SLC has become a de facto off-leash dog park because there is no enforcement of the existing leash laws. For example, leash laws are disobeyed by the *majority* of dog owners who come to Miller Bird Refuge. Off-leash dogs running up and down the banks erode the trails, destroy plants, and scare away any ground-dwelling birds or wildlife that might otherwise live in this fragile natural area. Even among the owners who bother to clean up after their dogs, what their dogs "do" out of sight when they trot into the bushes or ahead on the trail remains there. No one ever cleans up feces they didn't directly witness their dogs drop, and of course no one ever cleans up the urine. Many use the park as their dog's bathroom every day and the stench of the accumulated urine and feces that wafts up on hot days is gagging. But asking dog owners politely to leash their dogs, even when those dogs snarl, bark, lunge, snap at or try to jump on or bite runners/walkers only gets one an earful of vitriol! The solution would seem simple: Enforce the leash laws in leash-only and no-dog areas--the revenue from the tickets that would be given in Miller Bird Refuge alone would more than pay for the enforcement, and might even provide funds for the creation and maintenance of other off-leash parks away from this sensitive natural area.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 20, 2014, 12:38 PM

Part of a healthy, safe community is educating dog owners to use leashes in neighborhoods. Rarely a day goes by when walking my dogs that an off leash dog doesn't run up and create havoc with my on-leash dogs. Please make educating residents about leash laws part of the plan.

Name not shown inside Council District 4 (registered)

July 16, 2014, 7:01 PM

Open spaces are a blessing for dog owners and non-dog owners alike. Indeed there is a need to provide dedicated parks for those who want to walk their dogs off-leash and there is also a need for those who want to walk in a park without encountering dogs. No matter the dedicated use, the quality of experience from visiting a park or trail depends on the balance between the number of users and management. In Parley's Historic Nature Park, for example, the number of users is far in excess of the current level of management the park receives and hence the park is being degraded. Clearly there is a need to create dedicated off-leash parks throughout the valley perhaps with user-group funds. The parks and trails of Salt Lake (City and County) could benefit by looking externally to others managing large numbers of users in parks and on trails. The "Voice and Sight" tag program used in Boulder, Colorado (<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/tag-program>) sounds like an excellent system to implement in all parks and trails along the urban fringe and especially in off-leash parks.

Management and science should both be integral components of any plan to help identify problems, minimize impacts and mitigate problems rapidly as they arise. When creating off-leash parks biologically sensitive areas (such as riparian corridors) should be avoided as much as possible. The committees to plan the off-leash parks should have committee members from a broad range of user types (range of ages, long-term residents, recently arrived residents, dog owners, non-dog owners, members of the community in which the park is planned, economists, biologists, and resource managers) to identify issues and interests. It is deeply wired in our DNA to benefit from open spaces and it will be a huge service to the community spirit to provide well-thought and well-managed outdoor opportunities for multiple users of our parks and trails.

Ellie Goldberg inside Council District 5 (registered)

July 16, 2014, 11:45 AM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

Open space for citizens and their dogs is critical in building a healthy and happy community in Salt Lake. Opportunities for citizens and their dogs to exercise simultaneously are vital in keeping people and pets healthy. The current availability of off leash spaces (regardless of capacity for both humans and dogs to exercise) is not adequate (none are walkable from my home), and the few spaces there are, are not ideal. It would be great to see the amenities in those parks (such as Herman Franks and Tanner Park) improved, i.e. more shade, better ground/landscaping materials, and more water availability. Regarding additional and expanded spaces, I would really like to see the opportunity for simultaneous human/dog exercise. I would happily pay a yearly fee for entrance into improved dog parks. I appreciate the opportunity to share my opinion as a long-time, tax paying, and civically engaged Salt Lake City citizen.

Name not shown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

July 15, 2014, 10:08 PM

I use the Tanner dog park every morning to walk my dog off leash and I see it as a great amenity to our neighborhood. I can walk to the park with my dog. I wish every dog owner could walk their dog to a place where they could be off leash--it makes a huge difference in my dog's behavior if she's been properly walked. I am surprised at how many people come to the park with their dogs and can certainly see a need for expanding areas for dogs to be off-leash. I like the model that New York City has--they allow dogs off leash in designated areas from the time the parks open until 9am and then from 9pm until the parks close. Only dogs with proper licensing and vaccinations allowed to go off-leash. It helps keep the parks safe from vandals. The dogs are never allowed off leash near playgrounds or on courts. They also provide some fenced in dog areas that can be used anytime during the day. The trails are my favorite for walking my dog, and I also like the Millcreek Canyon model. I understand that not everyone likes dogs. I do wish that dog owners would just follow the regulations that are in place, but even I can see how tempting it is to let a dog run on an empty field. If there were more options for off leash dog exercise, I do think people would be more likely to stick to the rules.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 9:10 PM

tonight my 5 year old was attacked by 4 dogs at Wasatch Hollow- I picked her up & told the owner to read the leash only sign and he told me to go to another park. I do not want to pay taxes for parks my children can't use.

Mark Schmitz inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 6:15 PM

We go to the City Creek off leash trail nearly daily. The rudest people are the runners on the OFF-LEASH DOG TRAIL. It's narrow in places and their attitude seems to be 'get out of my way, I'm a runner'. I have seen many dogs startled by these people, including my own dogs. The runners have the road, why do they need to run with that attitude on an off-leash dog trail?

Out of what, 9-10 miles of paved road up to Rotary Park, and Memory Grove Park we get a measly 1/4 of mile if that, and it's only on the right side of the creek going uphill?. The dog owners for the most part, are responsible people who clean up after their animals. I have never seen a dog fight yet. We need more off leash areas. I would guess that 90% of the people I see in Memory Grove/City Creek area are walking dogs. My dogs don't

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

fetch, but there is no where in Memory Grove for the other dogs that do.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 15, 2014, 6:14 PM

So is Parleys Trail/Tanner Park county or city? I get shuffled between the two every time I try to get answers. There needs to be a fence between the trail and 59. [...].2

8. [...].21|...

.6. [...].9. [...]

---+---+---

17. [...].3. [...].6

..3|...|2..

2. [...].6. [...].97

---+---+---

...|.1|.6.

Is Parleys/Tanner Park city or county? I get bounced between the two offices whenever I try to resolve an issue. There should be a fence between the trail and the off-leash area. There is nothing to protect bicyclists on the trail from the dogs in the field.

Kathy Adams inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 5:24 PM

It won't matter what decisions are made about leash laws without enforcement. The ordinance is posted on Parleys Trail as an on-leash only trail. It doesn't matter because there is no one there to enforce it. I have photos on my phone and a scar on my shoulder to prove that many dog owners ignore the ordinance. This is a photo of one nice dog owner with three off-leash dogs on the trail.

1 Attachment

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12hocma6uro0.378/Dog_Owner_on_Parleys.JPG (73 KB)

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 15, 2014, 4:48 PM

More off leash parks are definitely needed. In Orem, we only have to travel 1/4 mile to use our off-leash park. We take our dogs there all the time. Most people have been great about making sure their dog is "safe" to be off leash (VERY IMPORTANT)..

Owners need to : Make sure their dog is socialized, or keep them on leash while their dog becomes socialized and

Owners need to: Clean up after their dogs.

Dogs are children magnets. Make sure the dogs are OK with kids before they are allowed to be off leash. This is the responsibility of the OWNER

Jan Jenkins

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 4:26 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

If a dog bites my toddler's face, he will be scared for life. Many dog owners can not afford to pay damages. Keep dogs and kids apart or make sure owners are insured.

Erwin McPherson inside Council District 5 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 1:42 PM

I believe there is a real need for more places in the city where people are authorized to let their dogs be off-leash. As things now stand, there are "dog parks" around, but the number doesn't meet the need.

Most people who haven't owned a dog don't understand how necessary it is for a healthy dog to be able to run free and play with other dogs, for at least an hour or so every day. This puts a lot of pressure on responsible dog owners to find places where such running and playing is possible. Current city laws make it illegal to let a dog run off-leash in most city parks. I believe this is an unnecessarily restricted use of the parks. Allowing dog owners a window of time in city parks when they could meet with other dog owners, and let their dogs play together, would be very useful. The off-leash time window could usefully be set at times when the park wasn't seeing much other use, dog owners would happily adjust to the schedule. A two hour interval would be great, because it would encourage dogs and owners to congregate in the parks at the given time, which is good for the dogs.

Please consider allowing dogs to be off-leash in appropriate places (dogs don't need to be off-leash around playground equipment) in our parks, at least for a couple hours every day.

Dillan Finger outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

July 15, 2014, 1:37 PM

I went out to Morgan Valley on New Years Day this year and I got my first 6-week old labradoodle. Prior to this I did not have a dog of my own but already had a misdemeanor charge for having a dog off-leash. I used to care for my old landlord's dogs as apart of my rent deal by taking them running on leash everyday. During the winter the snow and ice made it nearly impossible to run the dogs so I decided I would take them to the park down the road (Tanner Park). I parked on the side of the road and let the dogs out to play fetch with their ball. There was a cop parked across the street who angrily made his way over the moment I let my landlords dogs out. I calmly cooperated with the officer by getting the dogs back in the car and explained that these were my landlords dogs and I was taking the dogs out as apart of my rent deal. I told him it was my first time at the park and wasn't aware of the leash policy. Despite this the officer without any hesitation or a warning wrote my cousin and I up for an off-leash citation. My cousin was visiting from Vegas and had nothing to do with the dogs other then accompanying me to the park, despite the officer knowing this had no problem writing him up for the same ticket. This is a matter that is taken way to aggressively. No one's life or belongings were in danger that day at the empty snow covered corner of the park I was in and the cop was intent on writing out tickets, not serving justice. Flash forward a year later, my labradoodle is now 7 months old. I take her out twice a day either up a canyon or to a park where she usually is off leash. I have had zero complaints about her being off leash from anyone. She is the sweetest dog, extremely socialized and would never harm another dog or human being. I've been taking her to north side of Big Cottonwood Regional Park in Holladay ever since she was 2 months old as there is a giant dog owning community that gets together there everyday. Last month I was walking my dog here when animal control demanded that my dog be put on leash. I had never even seen a sign at the park in the 5 months I've been going there so my leash was in the car. I decided to walk across the field to the church

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

owned baseball fields connecting to the park where dogs are allowed off leash. When I was walking back across the field 30 minutes later to get to my car, the animal control agent decided he needed to write me for an off leash ticket and a rabies vaccination ticket even though she's been vaccinated and has always been up to date with her shots, I just didn't have the paper work from the humane society to appease animal control. He never returned my driver's license and I scheduled a court date to fight the ticket and see what there can be done to leave at least the big open field part of Big Cottonwood Regional to be left open to pet owner's. I believe this park would be extremely beneficial to the community to be designated as a dog park. I already went around interviewing several other members of the community who all take their pets to this park daily to let their dog's play off leash. Everyone I interviewed didn't even know the park was an on-leash site in the first place. The park is tucked away just west of the Lion's rec center and just east of the frisbee park part of Big Cottonwood Regional where dog's must remain on leash. There's already plenty of space and open field for people who don't want to deal with off leash pets and if this spot were to be labeled as an off leash site, a large part of the Holladay community would avoid having to deal with animal control.

Marjie Brown outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

July 15, 2014, 1:20 PM

Please take a serious look at the highly evolved "Voice and Sight" tag program now in place in Boulder, Colorado. It should be at the TOP of the list of existing models you investigate for trail use: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/tag-program> . I discovered it last month while hiking the Boulder trail system adjacent to the city. Although it's still experiencing some growing pains, it's big, it's bold, and it's working. Boulder County (in partnership with the city) is successfully investing in the improvement of dog owner responsibility and dog behavior while expanding off-leash fitness opportunities. Boulder sees this as an integral component in their overall public health and safety strategy, and an essential element of providing for the public good in the 21st century. Imagine that! They recognize that companion dogs have been deeply integrated into human life and culture for millennia, long before all of our modern urban dog battles and turf wars. Rather than denying this reality, they've stepped up with an innovative, adaptive solution that's informed by stakeholder input and SCIENCE! While I'm very appreciative that you've not given up and have formed yet another working group that seeks solutions, I respectfully beg you to clearly, unflinchingly consider this paradigm-shifting model. Without serious examination of this model as a possibility, the burden will be on you to explain to your community why something like this should be categorically excluded as a solution for Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County.

1 Attachment

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12fv44zx0hhc.3wg/undefined> (78.4 KB)

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 15, 2014, 11:39 AM

xx

Alyssa Bray inside Council District 4 (registered)

July 15, 2014, 9:29 AM

I very much support our offleash areas, but find them severely lacking in convenience, accessibility, and space.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

I very much support expanding the areas where I can exercise with my dog and and have access to trail use.

I very much support increasing the availability of off leash spaces within neighborhoods. As it stands, I have no legal offleash area within walking distance from my home. To support sustainability, walkable communities are essential.

I thank you for time you are spending on this issue. Please consider expanding offleash opportunities to continue to foster healthy people as well as their animals.

Thank you,
Alyssa Bray

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 15, 2014, 8:06 AM

I commend you for establishing a community group to discuss these issues. I understand that golfers pay fees for the maintenance of golf courses. Have you considered asking dog owners who want to use the dog parks to contribute to an Enterprise Fund for Dog Parks? Sylvia Gray

Phaedra Kilbourn inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 10:05 PM

I think sharing parks for multiple activities is very important. The way I would like to use my city parks is having my dog play off leash. I am a runner and exercise my dog every day but nothing takes the place of play for dogs. I don't think you can have a happy healthy dog and not have off leash play. I never see children at the playground a my park when I am there early in the morning. It seems allowing off leash hours during the day is an option that should be tried. Enforcing the current policy which doesn't make sense to a large portion of the population start to feel like harassment and enforcing for enforcement's sake. The presence of dog owners early in the morning and late at night discourages vandalism and vagrancy.

Because there are so few off leash areas it puts too much stress on those places and creates an unhealthy environment. I don't feel safe at any of the official off leash parks. Fenced in areas with dozens of dogs is a stressful environment for many dogs and dog fights are more common in these places. If the off leash play can be distributed among the many small city parks it would be a better place for play than the ugly grassless overused dog parks. I want to use the parks close to my home in the familiar surroundings of my neighborhood which are easy to walk to. Time spent with my dog at the park lets me get to know my neighbors and that strengthens our community.

Dog waste in the park is often associate of off leash use. There is NO connection between off leash use and waste. Just because a dog is on leash is no assurance that the owner will pick up after the dog and typically those on leash dogs with irresponsible owners are leaving messes in higher traffic areas. I have to trudge off into the weeds and brush to pick up after my dog on the edges of the park.

Please give dog owners the ability to use their city parks for off leash play.

2 Attachments

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12ft61dh7bfk.6vm/dog_park_2.jpg (163 KB)

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12f61nf15eo.7od/dog_park_1.jpg (163 KB)

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 4:50 PM

In my opinion what this boils down to is citizens have pets and citizens with pets should have the same rights as everybody else when it comes to open spaces. Pet owners and their pets should not be kept out of public areas. Secondly we must find a way for everybody to enjoy the benefits of an area where the great outdoors are a big attraction.

I am in favor of the Millcreek canyon odd days are for dogs model, and that model seems to work very well. Citizens know exactly what to expect, and can adjust accordingly. This allows each citizen to enjoy our parks and trails equally. With so many parks and trails in our city I do not feel we are limiting the space that can be utilized, by limiting the time frame to every other day.

On the other hand, I used to live very close to the park kitty corner (south east) of liberty park. I watched the fenced in dog park there develop and completely change the face of the park. I do not believe it was a change for the better; in respect to "dogs and their two legged friends" and managing a social concern. I feel it is now an eye sore and because so many people frequent the same spot it also leads to undesirable behavior.

Citizens should respect leash laws when walking on sidewalks, and also have the benefit of enjoying the open areas in our city parks and trails without fences.

margaret holloway inside Council District 1 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 3:24 PM

There are a few of us that use Rosewood park early in the morning. We respect each other and distance ourselves from other dogs and people. Not everyone does this however in other places. But you can not regulate everyone. You can not have people there at all times pointing fingers when someone doesn't clean up after there dog. I see more trash on the grounds than ever and right next to the garbage cans. It is called responsibility. Both dog owners and non dog owners. I have seen more problems with kids and their parents than I have seen between dogs and people. I used dogparks since Atherton was created the very first dog park. it was a fenced non manicured place. The dogs could dig all they wanted. They didn't have water for the first few years. Then all they had was a spigot. We provided the bowls and a kiddie pool in the summer and water. it was a mud hole in the rain and winter. But the dog owners and dogs loved it. We took care of it and helped others understand the rules. If there was altercations then the police were called. This did not happen very often. It was 3 acres of brush and natural weeds. If it needed fixed up we would buy straw in the spring to help with the mud. But it didn't cost the city of Taylorville much of anything. But since then Millrace was built and a few others and people started expecting manicured dogparks. Which cost money and non dog owners resent that. WHY the dogs could careless they would rather dig for voles and other ground creatures than walk on grass or mulch(which hurts their feet) But just as the city is repainting the streets for bicyclists that don't exist. The dogs are here and other pieces of land could be used as dog parks while the city is waiting for it to be sold or developed. . That is what happened to Atherton it was sold and developed. The small manicured parks in Pioneer part are not utilized because it is not going to make a dog happy. If the school yards could be used during the summer they are fenced off and that would help with the exercise of the dogs.

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

But the simpler the better, you get too many people insisting they have to have sod when it won't grow with out using culinary water. Gravel is too hot for their feet. Mulch also hurts their feet. If you make it simple put a fence up. maybe a spigot and a trash can for pickup. Volunteers will take care of it. It doesn't have to cost a lot and hours of operation need to be 24/7. Or at least dawn to dusk. You will never make everyone happy. But the school yards are not used in the summer and why not there.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 14, 2014, 2:01 PM

In my opinion what this boils down to is citizens have dogs and citizens with dogs have the same rights as everybody else. They should not be kept out of public areas. Secondly we must find a way for everybody to enjoy a city where the great outdoors are a big attraction.

I am in favor of the Millcreek canyon odd day are for dogs model, and that model seems to work very well. Citizens know exactly what to expect, and can adjust accordingly. This allows each citizen to enjoy our parks and trails equally.

I used to live very close to the park kitty corner (south east) of liberty park. I watched the fenced in dog park there develop and completely change the face of the park. I do not believe it was a change for the better in respect to "dogs and their two legged friends" in respect to managing a social concern - and it is an eye sore. Citizens should respect leash laws when walking on sidewalks, and also have the benefit of enjoying the open areas in our city parks and trails without fences.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 14, 2014, 1:59 PM

In my opinion what this boils down to is citizens have dogs and citizens with dogs have the same rights as everybody else. They should not be kept out of public areas. Secondly we must find a way for everybody to enjoy a city where the great outdoors are a big attraction.

I am in favor of the Millcreek canyon odd day are for dogs model, and that model seems to work very well. Citizens know exactly what to expect, and can adjust accordingly. This allows each citizen to enjoy our parks and trails equally.

I used to live very close to the park kitty corner (south east) of liberty park. I watched the fenced in dog park there develop and completely change the face of the park. I do not believe it was a change for the better in respect to "dogs and their two legged friends" in respect to managing a social concern - and it is an eye sore. Citizens should respect leash laws when walking on sidewalks, and also have the benefit of enjoying the open areas in our city parks and trails without fences.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 14, 2014, 1:58 PM

In my opinion what this boils down to is citizens have dogs and citizens with dogs have the same rights as

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

everybody else. They should not be kept out of public areas. Secondly we must find a way for everybody to enjoy a city where the great outdoors are a big attraction.

I am in favor of the Millcreek canyon odd day are for dogs model, and that model seems to work very well. Citizens know exactly what to expect, and can adjust accordingly. This allows each citizen to enjoy our parks and trails equally.

I used to live very close to the park kitty corner (south east) of liberty park. I watched the fenced in dog park there develop and completely change the face of the park. I do not believe it was a change for the better in respect to "dogs and their two legged friends" in respect to managing a social concern - and it is an eye sore. Citizens should respect leash laws when walking on sidewalks, and also have the benefit of enjoying the open areas in our city parks and trails without fences.

Chris Eaves inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 12:18 PM

As a frequent user of the off-leash portion of Lindsay Gardens, I have seen all sides of dog and dog owner behavior. I think it is important to point out that given how often the park is used, there are very few issues. The only times I've seen dogs interacting with non-dog-owning park users are during the very infrequent times of peak use -- occasional weekend afternoons on a nice day. I've never seen a serious problem between a person and a dog at the park, but I'm sure they've happened.

A few comments here have advocated for a general, no off leash at any times policy, or a very restricted venue (along the lines of what they have at Pioneer Park). The problem I see with this is that you are increasing the use in that one small area to a much higher level than it otherwise would be, which in my experience is exactly when you have the least desirable behavior from both dogs and owners.

With regards to the defecation issue -- I can tell you that in this park at least I walk care free without scanning the ground below my feet. The small waste bags provided are a great solution, and very heavily used. They generally do a very good job of keeping these stocked, and when they are stocked the park is generally do-do free.

My final comment would be in support of the suggestion by Ann -- a certification process (paid by the owner) which would allow greater freedom to owners willing to invest the time in appropriate training seems a great incentive towards more responsible dog ownership overall.

Thank you.

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 10:14 AM

This is not a right's issue. SLC citizens might pay taxes, but dogs don't. Nobody, dog owners or otherwise, should have the right to do whatever they want on public land in a context where land resources are under considerable social, cultural, and ecological constraints. Let's not pretend that trails, open spaces, parks, etc. are "natural" and can sustain the growing demand for off-leash use. These psuedo-urban environments -

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

frequented daily by hundreds of users - are supposed to provide room for both humans and dogs to run amok as well as habitat and other necessary ecologic functions which protect the city and the lives of its residents? Get real. The options presented here, as cliché as they are, attempt to pacify the public with the cheapest solutions. The outcry from dog owners is a sign that tighter regulations and creative thinking be applied to this problem rather than inhumanely throwing dogs into already fragmented and stressed areas to cause more costs to the city and taxpayers. If the city is going to offer this amenity to the public, it should consider taxing dog ownership or generating some revenue from off-leash users. The city should not be responsible for the health and well-being of an animal held in private ownership. Let dogs run off-leash in their owners' homes and yards; let owners be responsible for their pets. All trails, natural lands, etc. should be off limits to dogs. Parks should be on-leash at all times. Off-leash areas should be restricted to designated areas on the most developed grounds. If open spaces are ultimately used, these should be enclosed areas, preferably in parks and off-season golf courses.

John Griswold outside Salt Lake City Council Districts (registered)

July 14, 2014, 9:11 AM

The City Council deserves much credit for their efforts to meet the needs of this growing recreational group. As we become more urban our needs for contact with the natural, both the outdoors and our dogs are central to our quality of life. Thanks also to the City's Parks and Recreation folks and the riparian experts from BioWest for their honest outreach to the pedestrian recreation community. Few activities are as good for the heart and soul as walking with, training your dog. From aging empty nesters to young families with strollers and slow walkers, a diverse and growing group enjoys these benefits and appreciates the City's efforts to promote pedestrian exercise.

Name not shown inside Council District 7 (registered)

July 14, 2014, 8:16 AM

It seems to me that there are plenty of places people without dogs can go for recreation and exercise, but there are only a few spots where dog-owners can allow their dogs to be off-leash while they are hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, etc. I do like the Millcreek model for shared use--odd days for off-leash dogs and even days for on-leash dogs--and it seems like this system would work well for Shoreline. My dog and I use the Shoreline trails frequently and rarely experience problems with other dogs, though I have had problems with mountain bikers flying by with seeming disregard for others on the trail.

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 13, 2014, 2:43 PM

My wife and I are frequent bike users of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail between City Creek and the Zoo. One observation we have made over the years is that despite all the signage posted at the various trailheads indicating the requirement for dog owners to have their dogs on a leash, we have not once encountered a dog on a leash. In some instances, the dog will remain close to their owners, or at least return to the owner when they are called. However, the majority of the dogs we have encountered are not close to the owners or the owners don't call their dogs back to them. Most of the comments we get are "don't worry, they're friendly". As a child, my wife was attacked by a dog and has never gotten over her fear of dogs. So when a dog runs

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

towards her, friendly as it may be, panic sets in. Other times, I've come around a corner and a dog comes running out of the bushes, no owner in sight, and I have to come to a sudden stop. These are the times when it starts to pose a safety issue.

We understand the need for dogs to be able to run around off leash, but it shouldn't be on a single track multi-use trail.

The problem is that there is no enforcement of the leash laws on the trails. On one or two occasions, we've pointed out that the dog needs to be on a leash, and the owners become almost belligerent.

Yes, we are all tax payers and yes, we all have the right to enjoy parks and trails. But we all need to abide by the rules that are posted so that everyone can continue to enjoy these open areas.

Lynn Schwarz inside Council District 7 (registered)

July 13, 2014, 2:03 PM

As a dog owner who has had more than one dog attacked in off-leash areas by "friendly" dogs, I can safely say that no dog, however well trained, is completely predictable. Therefore, fenced off-leash areas are a must. Timed off-leash uses are a recipe for conflict between dog owners and other park users. A daily use fee doesn't make any sense as it would require personnel at all times to collect fees and enforce fee collection. I am also unsure how volunteers would deal with uncooperative dog owners—waiting for law enforcement personnel to show up sounds like a really bad idea. Lastly, the worst idea of all is privatizing of a park, or parks. We need more public recreation land, not less.

Laurie Bryant inside Council District 5 (registered)

July 13, 2014, 12:16 PM

I pay property taxes, and I have a dog. She's my companion, sort of a family member, and like many of my friends, she likes to run around with her friends. She's a domestic animal, gentle and polite, not some dangerous wild creature that has to be confined in a fenced enclosure like a lion in a zoo. Instead of building fences, can't we just share the parks? Set some early morning/evening hours for off-leash time. Post signs with the times and rules that welcome dog owners and everyone else. Set up some consequences for irresponsible behavior and enforce them. Parks are for everyone.

Scott Morham inside Council District 5 (registered)

July 13, 2014, 7:29 AM

This one is easy, merely designate a given area off-leash (could even be odd or even days) then people who have adverse reactions to being around dogs can avoid going there. Parleys was a perfect example till the current administration screwed it up. It was a designated off-leash place and if you didn't like dogs you could just avoid going there.

Some people are comfortable around dogs and some are not, by stating that a given area will have unleashed dogs around, those who do not want to interact with canines can do so, no need to mix the two populations.

Personally, I have little use for fenced-in areas packed with dogs and prefer trails where you can hike or trail run with your hound. Use of the odd-even day guide like up in millcreek might be a good compromise for certain

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

areas. Use some semi-remote areas up in the foothills where dogs and owners can roam while having the most reduced impact on populated areas more likely to have people who don't want canine interaction.

Ann Cude inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 13, 2014, 1:09 AM

I sympathize completely with people who do not want others' dogs approaching them; even though the owners are hollering, "Don't worry, he's friendly," as they run after the animal, the dog is obviously not under control. However, as a dog lover/owner, I suggest that dogs/owners who complete obedience classes and pass a test be allowed an exception. A dog who has been trained to reliably come when called and demonstrated that ability under stress is generally safe in a public setting. More importantly, perhaps this would encourage more people to take their dogs to obedience classes. (Perhaps the AKA Canine Good Citizen test, a national program, and the class/test is available locally.) When you've gone through a lot of training with your dog, it's a wonderful pleasure to walk with him at liberty. It would be great to preserve this right for dogs that demonstrate they are under their owner's control. (Regarding enforcement, if any is around: Our dogs wear license tags and rabies tags; adding a tag with the number of their obedience Certificate of Completion or whatever would not be a big problem.)

Chris Biltoft inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 12, 2014, 6:11 PM

Most dog owners are responsible citizens and control their dogs. Unfortunately, there are those who are not, and everyone suffers because of them. The controls needed are like speed bumps in the road, which affect all regardless of driving habits. Hence, the default position should be "no off-leash dogs" unless there is enforcement in place to counter those who cannot/will not control their dogs. Although not often mentioned, defecation is also a major issue. Again, enforcement to counter those who will not pick up after their animals is key.

Name not shown inside Council District 6 (registered)

July 12, 2014, 2:34 PM

I've read the suggestions. One idea is glaringly bad--privatizing a park. It makes it even worse that the park would be privatized in order to pay costs associated with turning other park land over to dogs. Otherwise, the main problem isn't with the ideas. The main problem is there isn't any enforcement of leash laws now and there very probably won't be any enforcement in the future. "Education" isn't the answer. Many dog owners are highly educated and otherwise good citizens. But they think their dog is special. I like dogs, but I don't want them under my feet, jumping up on me or, especially, biting me. It's risky business saying something to dog owners about their dog's behavior--some react very badly. That's why we need some official enforcement.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 12, 2014, 12:03 PM

I think SLC should open all parks to off leash all the time so that they can all be compromised as Canyon Rim Park has been. I love the smell of urine and feces in the Spring, being growled at when dog handlers are

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

escorting six or eight dogs each, and the destruction of habitat and a decrease in diversity of wildlife.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 11, 2014, 10:40 PM

1. help all park users to build a *community* which cares for the actual needs of one another.
 2. educate owners and socialize dogs and encourage good stewardship of the properties.
 3. permit off leash access at times before and after work in selected parks. This should include golf courses in winter!
 4. provide funds for planning and maintenance of the properties
-

Name not shown inside Council District 3 (registered)

July 11, 2014, 5:32 PM

NOW ORGANIZING: a retreat for veterans in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest--specifically the Cardiff Canyon in Big Cottonwood. ALL veterans nationally suffering from PTSD are invited to accompany their service dogs to join me in hosting them on 86 acres of *private* historical and patented mining claims under the protection of the ADA.

1 Attachment

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/12fjehnt2ou8.19/x-alta2.png> (54.8 KB)

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 11, 2014, 4:09 PM

I am not in complete favor of an Urban Dog Park Tag fee as I do not find this equitable with other types of park users, but if implemented, the following question comes to mind: What happens when a resident is dog-sitting for a non-resident's dog? The proposal includes quite a difference in the amount of the fee for visitors to the City. Could the resident purchase a second tag at the resident price?

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 11, 2014, 3:59 PM

I really would love a few trails here and there designated as off-leash areas. Many of us love to run or bike with our dogs and it would be so nice to have an area where it is possible to do that legally. I think it works very well to have trails designated for specific uses. I understand not everyone likes dogs, but for those of us who do, it would be very nice to have a place where we can exercise with them. I take my dogs to dog parks regularly, but it's not a place where I can get any significant amount of exercise. I would love to have just a few more trails where I could run or bike with my dogs off leash.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 11, 2014, 3:37 PM

SLC & off-leash dogs

The Salt Lake City Council wants your suggestions for how to balance off-leash dogs with other park and trail uses

There are many, many dogs in our neighborhood and most every dog gets along. I have had mostly good and very few bad experiences with dogs. I think owners need to teach their dogs to be socialized. Sometimes it's a challenge because they have a rescue dog who was abused and the dog is not socialized. Many dogs are great without their leash...some are bad even while wearing their leash. We need to work together and think outside the box on more off-leash times, areas, etc. Also, I would also like to see Animal Control officers comply with laws too. Several times, I have seen the Animal Control trucks idle for 45 minutes and have seen the Animal Control Officer smoke and throw his cigarette into our neighborhood park. They should set an example, and also be nicer to people.

Name not shown inside Council District 5 (registered)

July 11, 2014, 10:30 AM

When I was little a neighbors dog attacked me. It has been over 50 years and I still don't like it when dogs approach me. I understand that dog owners want places for their dogs to play but in places where leashes are required they need to obey the law. I have had people say that their dog is friendly, but I don't want to play with or touch their dog. If I wanted to play with a dog I would get my own.

Pam Bergeron inside Council District 7 (registered)

July 10, 2014, 5:51 PM

It was mentioned that Fairmont Park is an option for an off leash dog park. I think this is a wonderful idea. There are already lots of dog owners using this park and with the influx of new pet friendly apartment complexes, owners will need places to exercise their dogs. Well-exercised dogs are less likely to bark in the evenings - a necessity for apartment dwellers! And if there were a fenced off leash area for dogs in that park, the dogs would be less likely to chase and harass the ducks and geese. I think the benefit to the community is immeasurable. Thank you. Pam Bergeron, Practice Manager, Sugar House Veterinary Hospital (located across from Fairmont Park)
