



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Feedback on exploring the feasibility of a Dog Park

1. Motion to provide feedback on exploring the feasibility of a Dog Park at Pelanconi Park or other parks.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for October 26, 2021 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Council asked staff to explore the possibility of providing a dog park in one of the existing City parks or city owned open space areas. Staff looked at three options; 1) newly renovated Brand Park picnic area, 2) undeveloped Camino San Rafael open space site and 3) Pelanconi Park.

The Brand Park picnic area is well used in its present configuration, and is forested with many dedicated Coast Live Oaks planted under the Arbor Day program. A dog park at this location will limit Arbor Day donors because dog parks typically restrict access to dog owners.

Camino San Rafael is in North Glendale and has dramatic topography that limits the useable area, will require providing utilities to the site, new restrooms, parking and will be costly to develop.

Pelanconi Park is bordered on three sides by commercial uses, and single family residential properties on the east.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Community Services & Facilities: A dog park will support the Council priority of providing access to well-maintained parks and community facilities tailored to the City's diverse needs.

RECOMMENDATION

Community Services & Parks recommends that the City Council provide feedback on exploring the feasibility of a Dog Park at Pelanconi Park or other parks.

BACKGROUND

Council directed staff to research possible locations for the development of a dog park in the City. Glendale dog owners currently use the Crescenta Valley Dog Park, a Los Angeles County facility in Montrose, and the Griffith Park Dog Park in Los Angeles.

Staff researched sizes, design requirements and feasibility for development of a dog park in Glendale. Publications by The Trust for Public Land, The American Kennel Club, public agencies and private advocacy groups were reviewed in an effort to determine what makes a successful dog park. The general consensus is that a dog park should be at least one acre in size, but local dog parks range in size from the Grand Park Dog Park in downtown Los Angeles at approximately 2,000 square feet, to Silver Lake Dog Park at an acre and a half, and Alice's Dog Park in Pasadena which is almost two acres in size.

Dog parks have certain required elements that should be incorporated in order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of their users. Chain link or tubular steel fencing should be at least six feet high and incorporate double gated entries to allow owners time to release their dog's leashes and allow dogs and their owners to adjust to the new environment. The park should have at least two separate areas for large and small dogs, and if space allows, one for medium sized dogs.

There are several surfacing options, including engineered wood fiber mulch, gravel, turf and decomposed granite. Engineered wood fiber mulch can require frequent replacement. Gravel or crushed rock works well, but can get caught in dog's paws, and can be dusty. Turf is soft, but requires a lot of care and is recommended when the dog park is large enough to accommodate several fenced areas that can allow for periodic closures or rotation of use, to allow the turf to be renewed and recover from user traffic and burning caused by dog urine. Decomposed granite and turf grass appear to be the predominant surfaces for local dog parks based on informal web searches of dog advocacy sites.

Successful dog parks also incorporate activities and design elements that encourage movement, like agility courses and other activities that incorporate socialization. Some dog parks are even beginning to incorporate water features as an added incentive for dogs to be active. Finally, dog parks need to incorporate elements common to other parks, like shade from trees or structures, waste disposal accommodations, seating,

parking, including accessible parking, and regulatory signage. They should also be visually attractive to users and neighbors alike, which can be achieved with a combination of design and ongoing maintenance.

ANALYSIS

Staff identified three possible locations for a dog park in the City; the newly renovated Brand Park picnic area, the undeveloped Camino San Rafael open space site and the lower third of Pelanconi Park.

The Brand Park picnic area is approximately one half acre in size and is located northeast of the Brand Library and Art Center Building. It is surrounded by steep, undeveloped parkland that may increase the possibility of unintended encounters with snakes and other wild animals that make the canyon home. The picnic area is well used in its present configuration, and is forested with many dedicated Coast Live Oaks planted under the Arbor Day program. This area is also used by various hiking groups for small gatherings before and after their hikes. A dog park at this location will limit Arbor Day donors access to their loved ones' trees because the recommended use of dog parks typically limits access to dog owners. On the positive side, the location is in an established park with existing infrastructure, reducing the potential cost of developing the site for a dog park.

The Camino San Rafael site is a large developable parcel with a somewhat flat two-acre pad. The site is owned by the city and maintained by Community Services & Parks as open space. The site is situated approximately one mile northwest of the Glendale Freeway SR 2, and is bounded by Camino San Rafael on the west, and open space on the remaining three sides. Camino San Rafael has steep topography and will require new utilities, new restrooms, parking, that will make it costlier to develop than the other sites considered. Its location, surrounded by open space, makes encounters with wild animals more likely, much like the Brand Park site.

Pelanconi Park is currently the most viable of the locations identified, because the site is leveled, easily accessed, has existing electric and water utilities, as well as park infrastructure like restrooms and parking. The triangular site is bordered on the north and west by commercial development and single family residential properties on the east side.

Upon Council direction, staff will proceed with a neighboring community meeting and return to Council to further discuss feasibility options and costs for the project.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

If City Council gives direction to further explore developing a dog park within the City, staff will schedule a neighborhood community meeting in January 2022 to seek neighborhood input.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The required environmental review will be determined and completed upon selection of the location and design of the project and prior to any approval of the project by City Council.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Select a potential dog park site and direct staff to host a community meeting to get feedback, engage the services of a design consultant to prepare design and cost alternatives for subsequent Council consideration.

Alternative 2: Direct staff not to seek further study of dog park design and cost alternatives at this time.

Alternative 3: Any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

Onnig Bulanikian, Director of Community Services & Parks

Prepared by:

Peter Vierheilig, Project Manager

Koko Panossian, Deputy Director of Community Services & Parks

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS / ATTACHMENTS

1. Brand Park Site
2. Camino San Rafael Site
3. Pelanconi Park Site