Park Authority Overview & Introductions
Judy Pedersen, FCPA Public Information Officer

Dog Park Study Draft Report Presentation
Adam Wynn, PLA, FCPA Project Manager
Melissa Cameron, AICP, FCPA Park Planner

Facilitated Public Comment Session – Q&A
Fairfax County Park Authority at a Glance

- **PARKS**: 429
- **TRAILS**: 330+ miles
- **LAND**: 23,600+ acres
- **TOTAL VISITATION**: 17,754,788+
Park Authority Mission

To enrich quality of life for all members of the community through an enduring park system that provides a healthy environment, preserves natural and cultural heritage, offers inspiring recreational experiences, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

Primary Guiding Principles

- Inspire a Passion for Parks
- Be Great Stewards
- Strengthen and Foster Partnerships
- Meet Changing Recreation Needs
- Promote Healthy Lifestyles
- Be Equitable and Inclusive
- Advance Park System Excellence
Park Authority Board

The Park Authority Board is:

- The Park Authority’s governing body
- Comprised of 12 members appointed by Board of Supervisors; one representative of the 9 Supervisory Districts and 3 At-large Members
Meeting Logistics

Type your questions in the box on the meeting page.

Call in by phone at the end of the presentation to ask questions or provide comment.

A phone number will be provided at the end of the presentation.

This presentation will be recorded and made available after tonight’s meeting.
FCPA Draft Dog Park Study Report

Presented by
Adam Wynn, PLA, FCPA Project Manager
Melissa Cameron, AICP, FCPA Park Planner
Dogs in Fairfax County

- 81,007 dogs were registered in Fairfax County in 2018
- Approximately 19.3% of county households own a dog
- Fairfax County’s growing population means more dogs
Why did the Park Authority conduct a dog park study?
How did the Park Authority conduct the study?

- Cross-Agency Approach
- Research and Analysis
- Public Engagement
Draft Report Overview
What we heard - Survey & Comments

- Over 4,600 participated in the online survey
- 90% of survey respondents shared that they own a dog
- 2,000+ in-depth comments on dog parks
Space, trash receptacles, shade, water, and parking are the **most important features** in a dog park.

A 20-minute drive and a 10-minute walk were the top choices for travel to a dog park.

700+ respondents indicated **interest** in learning about volunteering in FCPA dog parks.

Surface conditions, inattentive owners, and lack of water were the **top concerns** in FCPA’s dog parks.
What’s in the dog park study report?

The report is organized around six themes with analysis, findings, and recommendations provided for each section:

- Planning
- Design
- Operations and Maintenance
- Volunteering
- Funding Sources, Partnerships and Donation Opportunities
- Rules and Enforcement
Planning

- FCPA conducted a variety of planning analyses
  - Examination of the agency Needs Assessment
  - Benchmarking analysis
  - Spatial analyses

- Key recommendations include:
  - Plan for 20-minute driving access to dog parks in the county, and consider 10-minute walk in urban areas
  - Consider geographic distribution, location of licensed dogs, and planned dog parks
  - Conduct an inventory of all privately owned, publicly accessible dog parks in the county
Design

• Recommendations for Dog Park Size and Siting

• Design Guidelines & Best Practices
  • Surfacing & Accessibility
  • Fencing
  • Designated Separate Dog Areas
  • Site Furniture & Amenities
  • Shade
  • Drinking Fountains
  • Signage
Operations & Maintenance

- Maintenance Standards & Frequency
- Increases in maintenance will require additional resources
- Volunteers help with oversight and reporting
- Trash Receptacles and Dog Waste Bag Stations
- Prominent Signage is important
Volunteering

• Support formation of park volunteer teams
• Volunteering options in dog parks
• Duties appropriate for volunteers to perform
• Dog park checklist and incident reports developed
Funding Sources, Partnerships & Donations

• Park bond funding is one option for dog park construction
• Membership and User Fees are not recommended
• Leveraging voluntary contributions through dog registrations could help offset maintenance costs
• Partnerships with communities are encouraged
• Donation opportunities through Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF)
Rules & Enforcement

- Safety is of utmost importance
- No changes to existing rules & hours
- Need for additional enforcement
- Clear signage is needed
- Dog park webpage and brochures should emphasize rules, reporting procedures, and dog park etiquette
Key Takeaways Summary
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Through the dog park study, the Park Authority:

• Heard from the public about dog park preferences, suggestions, and ideas, which informed many recommendations throughout the study
• Evaluated countywide dog park need, provided recommendations for future dog park planning, and updated site placement guidelines
• Created dog park design guidelines and other tools
• Identified operations and maintenance best practices
Key Takeaways Summary

Through the dog park study, the Park Authority *(continued)*:

- Recommended potential design and operational improvements to existing FCPA dog parks
- Evaluated dog park volunteering options and identified appropriate volunteer responsibilities
- Examined and recommended funding sources, partnerships, and donation opportunities through FCPF
- Analyzed rules, enforcement, and etiquette
What’s Next?

Comments on the report accepted until April 23, 2021

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/dog-park-study
or Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Continue to check the study webpage for project updates:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/dog-park-study

Still have questions? Send an email...

Adam Wynn, PLA, Project Manager
e-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
We want your feedback!

SHARE YOUR IDEAS, COMMENTS, AND QUESTIONS
about the draft report

By Computer Via the Public Input Chat Portal

Or By Phone:
Phone: (1) 855-925-2801
Meeting Code: 8035

When calling in, please ensure the following:
• Turn down your computer’s volume
• Listen carefully for when your turn is identified
• State your name before making your comments