



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: September 5, 2019

Subject

Jollyman Park Unfenced Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) Trial survey results

Recommended Action

Receive a report on Survey results and provide staff a recommendation on whether to move forward with the Dog Off-Leash Trial at Jollyman Park from October 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

Background

On October 4, 2018, the Commission received the results of an initial survey completed in July. The survey was completed to determine if Cupertino residents that live in the immediate area of Jollyman Park would support a three to six-month trial of an off-leash dog area within the park. The DOLA would only be available during the last two hours that the park is open.

The Commission recommended approval of the trial to City Council with the following recommendations:

- Having clear and well-defined signage and more communication to park users about the trial, affected areas and times
- Extending the trial period, starting as soon as possible, and running it through the summer months
- To look at the actual physical area where the trial would occur
- Consult the Leadership 95014 presentation of the pop-up dog parks project
- Set a self-monitoring standard for keeping the area clean
- Focus on the community building benefit

On March 5, 2019, City Council received a presentation from trial project supporters. Council was asked to provide staff with direction on whether to include the development of a six-month trial of a Dog Off-Leash Area at Jollyman Park on the City Council draft work program for 2019-2020. City Council directed staff to include it in the work plan and review the use of fields as dog off-leash areas, as part of the Athletic Field Use Study. City Council members made the following recommendations:

- Complete another survey and outreach to ensure all community members had opportunity to voice opinions.
- Larger temporary signage than what Mountain View used
- Proper enforcement

On April 2, 2019, the City Council Work Plan was approved for FY 2019-20, including direction to complete an update to the athletic fields use policy and the use of park space for use as a Dog Off-Leash Area.

A more comprehensive survey was opened to the public from July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019. Postcards with survey information, a list of public input opportunities, and a map of the park and DOLA were mailed to all residents who reside within a ¼ mile of Jollyman Park. Postcards were also available to the public at city facilities and special events. Lawn signs with the same information were posted at Jollyman Park. Information was posted on various forms of social media, including the City's website. A web page was created for DOLA information. Two community input opportunities were also held on August 7 and August 24 at Jollyman Park to gather feedback, as well as increase awareness of the survey to local park users.

Discussion

Currently there are over 600 survey responses. However, there are certain limitations to the survey, which includes self-selection, the inability to not answer specific questions, and others that will be discussed as part of the presentation. Since the conclusion date of the survey occurs after the required noticing and posting period for the agenda, the results (Attachment A) will be posted under a separate cover on Tuesday, September 3, for both the Commission and public to view. Copies will also be available at the dais on the night of the Commission meeting.

Staff requests the Commission review the survey results, consider any additional public comments received during the meeting, and provide a recommendation on whether to move forward with the trial. If the Commission affirms the trial, staff will begin work on the creation and placement of the DOLA signage, along with the other required items (dog bag dispenser, garbage cans, etc.) After the start of the trial in October, staff will update the Commission in March and again in July near the conclusion of the trial to discuss lessons learned and opportunities. The Commission will be asked to review all info and data gathered during the trial and make a recommendation to City Council on the continuation of the program.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

Preparations for the DOLA would require staff to create temporary signage on approximately 7 barricades or A-frames with rules and designated hours of operation. A

dog bag dispenser and garbage cans would need to be put in place. Proposed fiscal impact including materials and staff time, would be approximately \$2,200, which would cover the cost of signs, poles, trash receptacles, and potential turf renovation.

Prepared by: Jenny Koverman, Recreation Supervisor

Reviewed by: Jeff Milkes, Director Parks and Recreation Department

Attachments:

A – Jollyman Park: Unfenced Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) Survey Results