

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

November 7, 2019

Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

Written Communications

Whitney Zeller

From: Sameer Raheja [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 11:47 PM
To: Neesha Tambe; Gopal Kumarappan; Helene Davis; Xiangchen Xu; Carol Stanek
Cc: Randy Schwartz; Christine Hanel; Kim Calame; Karen Levy; Deepa Mahendraker; Whitney Zeller
Subject: DOLA Update agenda item Nov 7, 2019

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners,

Thanks for putting the DOLA update on the agenda for the commission meeting this week. I want to provide some points prior to the meeting so you know what we are asking and why.

With the end of daylight savings, the open hours of 5-7pm make the dog off leash area in Jollyman park difficult to use for the next three months. Sunset is currently at 5:04pm, and will be as early as 4:50pm in December. If DOLA hours are 5-7 we are in the dark for two hours after sunset. It is difficult to see people, dogs and balls.

We are requesting an adjustment of DOLA hours to be earlier during the winter months. I understand staff raised concerns about park usage at 4pm, potential conflicts with youth sports, and the cost of changing the signs (\$300). There was also a question about whether people know what an hour before or after sunset means.

In our experience there are even fewer users of the park in the winter than in the summer. We have taken pictures for the last five days at ~4pm in the park to show almost no usage at that hour. There are no permitted youth activities taking place in the back part of Jollyman in the winter. And our group is happy to contribute to the cost of changing signage if required.

The posted park rules indicate the park closes an hour after sunset. If the city has that as a regulation, then I think it is implicit that they expect people to know when an hour after sunset happens. Frankly no one in our group wants to be in the park an hour after sunset because it is too dark.

This is a trial, the rules are not set in stone, and we hope the city can be flexible. Allowing us to be out during times that work for dog owners and other park users motivated our original request of an hour before and an hour after sunset. We still believe that ask is reasonable.

I look forward to the discussion at the Commission meeting.

Regards,
Sameer

DOLA Update

- Going well, the mayor stopped by and was pleased
- We have not heard any complaints
- With the end of daylight savings, request to move the time from 5-7 to 4-6pm

Saturday 4:00pm (Daylight Savings Time)



Saturday 6:20pm (Daylight Savings Time)

Dogs!



Sunday 4:00pm (Standard Time)

Volleyball game at edge of field (with dog)



Just past the volleyball game,
and well away from the DOLA



Sunday 6:00pm (Standard Time)



Mid-way through open hours
and almost too dark to see
(this photo taken with a flash)

Monday 4:00pm (Standard Time)



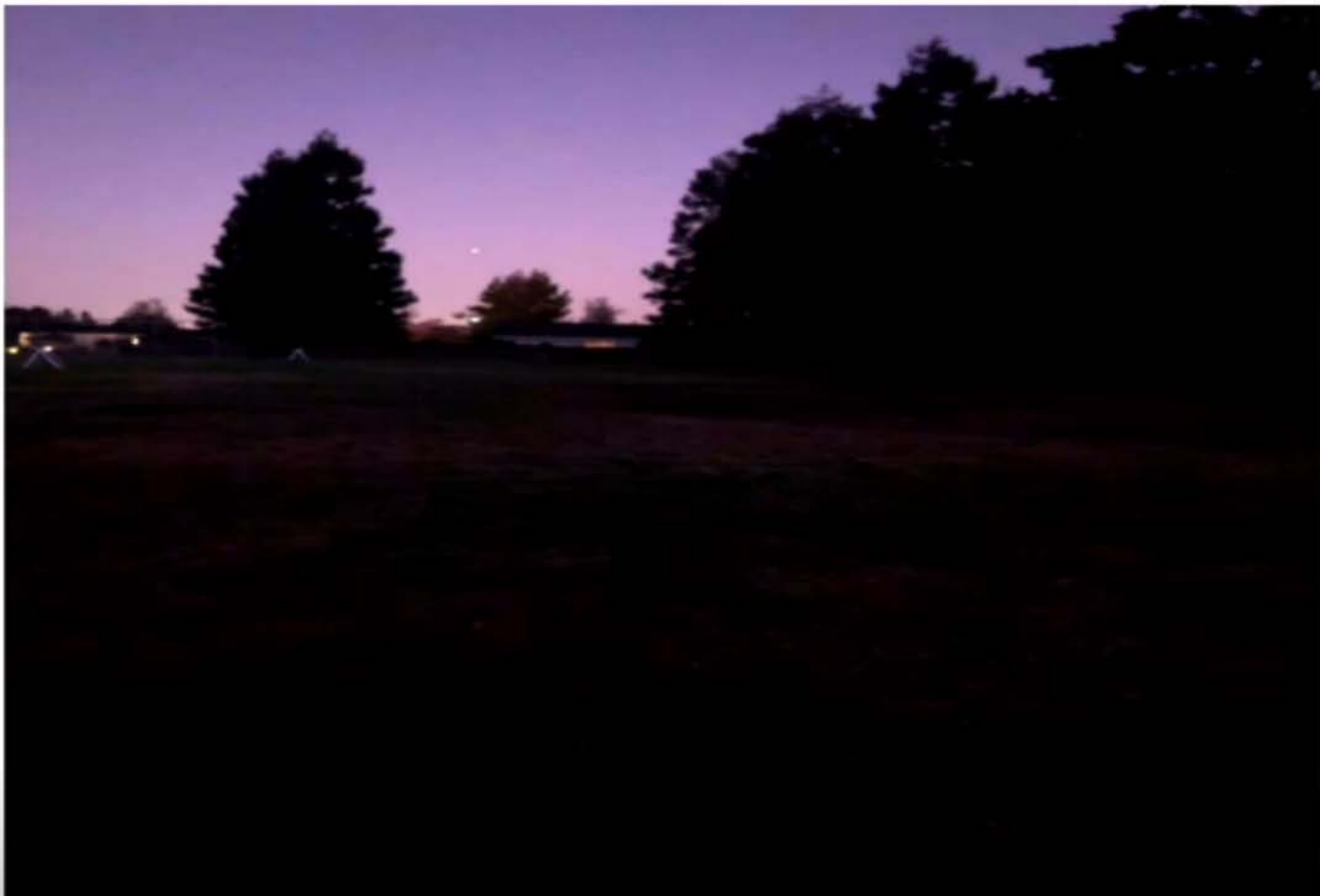
No activity in the field

Monday 4:00pm (Standard Time)



No activity in the play area

Monday 5:45pm (Standard Time)



Too dark to see

Tuesday 4:00pm (Standard Time)



No activity in the field

Wednesday 4:20pm (Standard Time)



No activity in the field

5-7pm does not work in the winter

- It is too dark to see after 6pm
- The earliest sunset will be 4:50pm¹
- The park closes one hour after sunset.

1. (Cupertino, California, USA — Sunrise, Sunset, and Daylength, December 2019.
<<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/cupertino?month=12&year=2019>>, [as of Nov 5, 2019])

Park closes one hour after sunset

Today (Nov 7) sunset
is 5:04 pm

Park Hours: Daylight to
One Hour After Sunset



Our original request was one hour before and one hour after sunset.

5-7pm does not work in the winter

- It is too dark to see after 6pm
- The park closes one hour after sunset.
- The earliest sunset will be 4:50pm

- In the dark, people, dogs, balls, and dog poop(!) are hard to find
- We are out of compliance with park rules
- There is no other activity in the park near the DOLA at 4pm

Concerns from Staff

1. Clarity of Timing

“Because the exact time for dusk changes almost every single day, we chose not to use an hour before and after dusk as we felt that was too vague. We wanted to give specific hours so that people wanting to use the DOLA would know exactly when they could use the off-leash area.”¹

[Footnote 1](#)

Park rules allow people in the park 1 hour after sunset - this is not vague

Concerns from Staff

2. Conflicts with youth sports

“We also felt these hours would decrease conflicts with field times permitted to youth sports groups.”¹

There are no sports groups using the field in the winter

Concerns from Staff

3. Confusion and additional expense

“Making changes at this time could create confusion and will result in additional expenses. ... Any proposed program changes may result in new signage, which would be approximately \$300.”¹

There is no one out on the field except our group.

Our group is ready to pick up the \$300 cost to change signage.

Change the time to 4-6pm from Nov - Mar 8, 2020

- We are asking for something close to the timing we originally requested
- The hours of 4-6 from the start of November to early March will make the field usable for four of the ten months of the trial.
- Move the time back to 6-8 on March 9, when daylight savings begins again^{1,2}

1. Sunset on March 8, 2020 is 6:08pm, Sunset on March 9, 2020 is 7:09pm

2. (Sunrise and Sunset Times in Cupertino, March 2020,
<<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/cupertino?month=3&year=2020>>, [as of Nov 7, 2019])

Or simplify and make the DOLA timing 1 hour before and 1 hour after sunset!

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

March 5, 2020

Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

Written Communications

Date	Time	DOLA usage	Other usage by the DOLA area	Comments
DATA IN THIS SHEET IS FOR INSTANTS IN TIME - IT IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TOTAL USAGE OF THE DOLA DURING OPEN HOURS				
Sunday, November 24, 2019	5:00 PM	10 dogs.	Father and son playing by the field near the dog area	
Monday, November 25, 2019	4:30 PM	8 dogs		
Thursday, November 28, 2019		Field closed	Field closed	
Sunday, December 1, 2019		Field closed	Field closed	
Monday, December 2, 2019		Field closed	Field closed	
Saturday, December 14, 2019		Field closed	Vollebyall by the walking track	Volleyball players using the field even though it is closed
Sunday, January 5, 2020	5:15 PM	10 dogs, 14 people	Rest of the field is empty	
Tuesday, January 7, 2020	5:00 PM	3 dogs	Rest of the field is empty	
Wednesday, January 8, 2020	5:00 PM	4 dogs		
Friday, January 10, 2020	5:00 PM	8 dogs		
Sunday, January 12, 2020	4:40 PM	9 dogs, 11 people		
Friday, January 17, 2020	5:10 PM	6 dogs, 9 people		
Sunday, January 19, 2020	5:10 PM	6 dogs, 7 people	Rest of the field is empty	
Monday, January 20, 2020	5:20 PM	MLK Holiday. 8 people, 5 dogs	Rest of the field is empty	MLK holiday
Wednesday, January 22, 2020	5:00 PM	10 dogs.		Good weather.
Thursday, January 23, 2020	5:00 PM	7 dogs, 5 humans		
Monday, January 27, 2020	5:30 PM	3 dogs, 3 people.	2 people outside the DOLA playing badminton, one other person walking on the field and through the DOLA area	
Saturday, February 1, 2020	5:00 PM	8 dogs, 9 people.	Vollebyall by the walking track	
Sunday, February 2, 2020	4:45 PM	5 dogs, 8 people	8 people playing volleyball by the sidewalk. 1 person walking around the field.	Superbowl Sunday
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	5:10 PM	5 dogs, 5 people		Cold weather
Wednesday, February 5, 2020	4:55 PM	8 dogs, 8 people		
Saturday, February 8, 2020	5:00 PM	10 dogs		
Sunday, February 9, 2020	5:00 PM	7 dogs		Soccer game going on
Sunday, February 9, 2020	5:30 PM	7 dogs	Vollebyall by the walking track	Full parking lot
Monday, February 10, 2020	5:25 PM	10 dogs, 10 humans	Father and son playing soccer	
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	5:20 PM	12 dogs, 13 people		
Saturday, February 15, 2020	5:45 PM	8 dogs, 10 people	Rest of the field is empty	
Sunday, February 16, 2020	5:00 PM	12 dogs, 16 people	Vollebyall by the walking track	
Monday, February 17, 2020	4:45 PM	5 dogs, 6 people	Vollebyall by the walking track 2 people playing soccer 2 people playing badminton No one on the baseball field	President's Day Holiday

Date	Time	DOLA usage	Other usage by the DOLA area	Comments
Saturday, February 22, 2020	5:30 PM	11 dogs, 15 people		
Sunday, February 23, 2020	5:30 PM	9 dogs, 11 people	Volleyball by the walking track 2 adults and two children playing badminton	
Monday, February 24, 2020	5:50 PM	10 dogs	Baseball game next to the DOLA	
Friday, February 28, 2020	5:00 PM	7 dogs, 9 people		People count includes two children who came to see the dogs

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

May 14, 2020

Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

Written Communications

From: [Raj Avasarala](#)
To: [Neesha Tambe](#); [Gopal Kumarappan](#); [Xiangchen Xu](#); [Helene Davis](#); [Carol Stanek](#); [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Cc: [Cupertino Recreation and Community Services](#); [Raj Avasarala](#)
Subject: Jollyman DOLA: Feedback and Requests
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020 5:58:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the fantastic and ground breaking work you have done, to enable the Cupertino community and their dogs the opportunity to use our local resources equitably, by approving a 10 month trial for the Dogs off-leash Area two hours a day in Jollyman Park. I and my dog(s) are an avid user of this facility and we love it.

I have 6 year old lab retriever. She looks forward to meeting her friends every day during this time. During the social interaction between the dogs in the 2 hour off leash time, she releases all her pent-up energy. This keeps her physically and mentally healthy.

It would also be great if a dog water fountain could be installed in the off-leash area.

Finally, I am sorry I could not attend the March Parks and Recreation meeting where an update on this project was discussed. I would like to request you to please make this trial a permanent feature of the park. In fact, I would highly encourage that this should be expanded to other Cupertino parks, as well. That way the population of 11,600+ dogs in Cupertino will all have "time based" access to our wonderful parks.

I plan to attend the June meeting for the final trial readout.

Thank you,
Raj Avasarala

From: [Sayuri Nishimura](#)
To: [Neesha Tambe](#); [Gopal Kumarappan](#); [Xiangchen Xu](#); [Helene Davis](#); [Carol Stanek](#); [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Cc: [Cupertino Recreation and Community Services](#); [Kiran Kavoori](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Jollyman DOLA: Feedback and Requests
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020 5:43:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I am sorry I could not attend the March Parks and Recreation meeting where an update on this project was discussed. I had an occasional cough which had started several days before. Given the recent coronavirus situation, I decided not to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion on the issue.

I am one of many happy dog owners that visit Jollyman DOLA regularly. Before becoming an avid user of Jollyman DOLA, I had visited many nearby dog parks or dog-friendly parks including those in neighboring cities like Sunnyvale, and San Jose.

Jollyman park is not the nearest park from my home. Mary Avenue Dog Park is closer. Still I go to Jollyman, not Mary Avenue Dog Park. The reason is because my dog is happier at Jollyman. The keyword here is "happy". If my dog is not happy, there is no point for me to go there.

Let me address two points that people may have concerns against DOLA with.

1. Risk of dog being off-leash

If people think that off-leash dog means risk, then I think that having a well-marked area/hours would make the risk more manageable.

If you ask any dog owner if he/she has ever let the dog play off-leash in places other than the backyard or dog runs, the majority would answer yes. It may imply that dog owners find facilities that would make their dogs happy are not readily available. Given the reality, if we have DOLA, more dog owners may choose to come to DOLA instead of letting their dogs off-leash elsewhere. It might even help reducing dog incidents rather than increasing.

2. Conflict to other activities

I did not see many other activities in the fields near DOLA at DOLA hours.

We could add the wording on the DOLA signs and say that anybody who want to have an activity near DOLA at DOLA hours, you could contact the following number to discuss and resolve any issue or conflict.

I intend to attend the June meeting where the final trial readout will be.

I would like to request that you could arrange the order of the agenda so that issues that would likely take longer be discussed after the issues that would take less.

Thank you and with kind regards,

Sayuri Nishimura

From: [Uparkar Bhushan](#)
To: [Neesha Tambe](#); [Gopal Kumarappan](#); [Xiangchen Xu](#); [Helene Davis](#); [Carol Stanek](#); [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Cc: [Cupertino Recreation and Community Services](#); [REDACTED]; [Prerana Uparkar](#)
Subject: Jollyman DOLA: Feedback and Requests
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:31:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commissioners

First of all, I would like to thank you for the fantastic and ground breaking work you have done, to enable the Cupertino community and their dogs the opportunity to use our local resources equitably, by approving a 10 month trial for the Dogs off-leash Area two hours a day in Jollyman Park. I and my dog(s) are an avid user of this facility and we absolutely love it.

I like this place as its close from my house and surrounded by lush green grass. I use the park almost 6 days a week and my dog, Roman has lot of friends in this park. It would be great. if we could get water fountain near DOLA.

Finally, I am sorry I could not attend the March Parks and Recreation meeting where an update on this project was discussed (or I attended but did not stay as it was very late). I would like to request you to please make this trial a permanent feature of the park. In fact, I would highly encourage that this should be expanded to other Cupertino parks, as well. That way the population of 11,600+ dogs in Cupertino will all have "time based" access to our wonderful parks.

I intend to attend the June meeting where the final trial readout will be, but I request that you discuss our agenda first, so we can speak earlier and not have to stay till midnight.

Thank you and with kind regards,

Bhushan Uparkar
Prerana Uparkar

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Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark.

From: [Deepa Mahendraker](#)
To: [Neesha Tambe](#); [Gopal Kumarappan](#); [Xiangchen Xu](#); [Helene Davis](#); [Carol Stanek](#); [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Cc: [Cupertino Recreation and Community Services](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Jollyman DOLA: Feedback and Requests
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 11:04:19 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commissioners

First of all, I would like to thank you for the fantastic and ground breaking work you have done, to enable the Cupertino community and their dogs the opportunity to use our local resources equitably, by approving a 10 month trial for the Dogs off-leash Area two hours a day in Jollyman Park. I and my dog(s) are an avid user of this facility and we love it.

Myself, my husband and my 7 year old Golden Baby (named ACE), love to go there DAILY. ***EVERY* *SINGLE* *DAY***, rain or shine. We carry a communal water bowl and a big bottle of water for all our thirsty four legged friends, and settle down for 45 minutes to an hour of unparalleled fun. We catch up with our neighbors, complain about bosses, talk about family lives, exchange notes on the politics and COVID19. A thriving, growing family of dog lovers community making instant bonds and connections! Needless to say, it is the highlight of our day and our dogs' day.

Finally, I am sorry I could not attend the March Parks and Recreation meeting where an update on this project was discussed. I would like to request you to please make this trial a permanent feature of the park. In fact, I would highly encourage that this should be expanded to other Cupertino parks, as well. That way the population of 11,600+ dogs in Cupertino will all have "time based" access to our wonderful parks. I DO NOT WANT DOLA TO STOP AFTER JULY 31. Please find an interim solution, while you work towards a permanent plan so there is no break in our routine. It is hard to tell a Dog why we can't go to the park any more (or worse: to go and be out of compliance with the park rules).

I intend to attend the June meeting where the final trial readout will be, but I request that you discuss our agenda first, so we can speak earlier and not have to stay till midnight.

Thank you and with kind regards
Deepa Mahendraker (I VOTED!)

BCC: Jollyman-dog-group alias as FYI.