



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2019

Subject

Dog Off Leash Area Update

Recommended Action

Receive Report

Background

After completing community outreach, the City of Cupertino began a DOLA trial on October 1st which is scheduled to end July 31, 2020. While determining the hours for the trial, we took many factors into account including the wishes of the pro-DOLA group, as well as the concerns of neighbors and park users. We wanted the trial to span the spring and summer months, so we decided on a 10-month trial instead of a more typical 3-month trial. The hours were set at 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm for October-February and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm for March – July.

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. Keeping the hours in the evening allows us to accommodate interested dog owners who may not get home from work until 6:00 or later.

Having set hours was also important for addressing safety concerns about the DOLA. Park users who are afraid of off-leash dogs would know to avoid that area of the park during published times. Starting at 5 p.m. also gives kids a chance to use that area of the park after school without fear of encountering off-leash dogs. We also felt these hours would decrease conflicts with field times permitted to youth sports groups.

Making changes at this time could create confusion and will result in additional expenses. Staff will continue to record and respond to complaints and concerns regarding the DOLA. If the trial is successful, all input will be considered before determining permanent hours.

Fiscal Impact

Any proposed program changes may result in new signage, which would be approximately \$300. Any additional expenses would be the result of added staff time.

Prepared by: Karen Levy, Recreation Coordinator

Reviewed by: Kim Calame, Recreation Supervisor

Approved for Submission by: Christine Hanel, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation