

# New Dog Park Design Guidelines

- ♣ **Fencing Height and Type:** A minimum of a 4 foot high chain link fence, either galvanized or vinyl coated, be installed around the perimeter of the site.
- ♣ **Perimeter Plantings/Buffers:** If the budget and site permit, and if it is necessary to buffer the dog run area, vegetation should be planted on the outside of the fence to aid in the aesthetic quality of the site and to assist in mitigating noise associated with the dog park.
- ♣ **Entrance Design:** An entry corral, consisting of at least an 8 foot x 8 foot fenced area with two gates, should be provided to allow for pet owners to safely unleash their dog prior to letting them in the dog run area.
- ♣ **Visual Character and Aesthetics:** Dog parks should be located so as not to detract from the aesthetic quality of a park or open space. Ideally, the dog park should be designed to integrate well into the existing site.
- ♣ **Surfacing:** A variety of surfaces may be used within a site. Crushed fines at the entry are recommended as this area has a concentration of use. In smaller dog run areas, a larger crushed fines area is recommended as the concentration of dogs may not allow grass to grow. All surfaces should be easy to maintain. If possible, lawn areas should be rested periodically to allow the turf to recover.
- ♣ **Signage:** Rules shall be clearly posted, including codes of behavior, hours, and requirements for entry.
- ♣ **Trash Containers:** Trash containers and waste removal bag holders shall be provided in the dog run area, making sure that they are located with easy access for maintenance vehicles.
- ♣ **Site Furniture:** Ideally, several benches should be provided in convenient locations to allow for gathering and resting throughout the dog park area.
- ♣ **Pathways:** Walking trails around the perimeter would encourage owners to interact with and monitor their dogs more closely, as well as to provide additional ease of access to the entire site.
- ♣ **Shade:** Trees and/or small shade structures should be provided if the site has insufficient shade to allow humans and dogs to retreat from the sun.
- ♣ **Water:** Drinking fountains should be provided if water is readily available and should include a dog drinker/bowl.
- ♣ **Ease of Maintenance:** Service gates and trash barrels should be located such that maintenance vehicles may easily enter from an existing park road, parking lot, or street frontage.