

Fact Sheet



Off-Leash Dog Areas Pilot Project

Work Plan

Summer & Fall 2007

OLDA Study Group conducts research, develops criteria and identifies pool of sites.

Winter 2008

Study Group evaluates 38 sites.

Spring 2008

Study Group screens from 14 possible sites to the 6 most promising sites.

Summer 2008

Study Group gathers public comment on process and sites, hosts public meeting and gives briefings to organizations.

Fall 2008

Study Group reviews public comment, makes final recommendations to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (PRCS) Board and hosts public meeting. PRCS Board makes final recommendation to the Shoreline City Council.

Winter 2009

SEPA Review and design ensue for recommended pilot sites.

2009

Pilot off-leash dog areas are constructed and put into use. Site monitoring begins.

2010

Report on pilot off-leash dog areas pilot program prepared.

The City of Shoreline supports the development of an Off-Leash Dog Area Program that establishes a system of off-leash areas that provide a safe place for community members to recreate with their dogs as they exercise, play and socialize off-leash. A volunteer committee of Shoreline residents, the Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) Study Group, has been working since the summer of 2007 to identify promising pilot sites in the City. Locations have been identified that are broadly distributed throughout the city to serve Shoreline neighborhoods with nearby off-leash dog areas.

The Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) Study Group

The OLDA Study Group was formed from a group of citizens who responded to the May 2007 *Currents* article requesting volunteers to participate in a work group. They began by reviewing past research done in preparation for the bond issue, then proceeded with additional investigation into facilities across the county and review trips to regional sites. Their review included physical attributes of the sites as well as the rules and management practices that kept them safe and viable. Through additional research from many cities throughout the region and country, they developed a set of criteria to use in evaluating potential sites and a list of 38 open space sites in Shoreline. Each site was visited by members and subsequent meetings were focused on evaluation of the sites in relation to the established criteria. (See sidebar other side.)

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Site Evaluation Criteria

Is the site under consideration:

- *Less used by others?*
- *Enclosed, when necessary, by either natural or man-made boundaries?*
- *Absent of obvious hazards?*

Does the site under consideration:

- *Provide reasonable proximity to available on street and/or off-street parking?*
- *Provide a flat area that can be used by those citizens with limited mobility near the proposed off-leash dog area's entry points?*
- *Have the potential to control and treat storm water run-off on-site?*
- *Contain any active recreational uses? If so, is there a barrier between uses and potential off-leash dog area?*
- *Provide adequate distance from residences to ensure that activity levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than existing conditions?*
- *Provide a buffer zone, topographic or man-made, between the proposed off-leash dog area and existing active recreation uses such as children play areas and scheduled play fields?*
- *Avoid impacts to City of Shoreline designated environmental Critical Areas and to the extent possible their associated buffers?*
- *Contain both shade and sun areas?*
- *Contain a number of existing desired amenities?*

After rigorous review of all 38 available sites by the OLDA Study Group, fourteen sites met or exceeded the criteria. Over the summer public comment was gathered on the six most promising sites. In October, the Parks Board recommended that portions of Saltwater Park and Shoreview Park be amended as "first step" pilot sites for public use and evaluation. Current information about the sites is available at www.cityofshoreline.com.

Project Funding

Thanks to the Open Space, Parks & Trails Bond passed by voters in May 2006, the City has \$150,000 for development of off-leash dog areas in Shoreline. Interest in providing off-leash dog areas was initiated by a 2005 request from an interested group of dog owners to the Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRCS) Board. A citizen committee was asked to investigate possible locations and a community survey addressed the question of need to the larger community. With strong expressed interest, the city included funding for development of an off-leash dog area in the bond issue.

Future Site Management

Regular maintenance will be provided by the Shoreline Parks Department. In addition, ShoreDOG, the Shoreline resident organization that began the initiative to designate off-leash areas, will take responsibility for the ongoing education of owners and their pets, enforcing rules and providing some site care-taking.



For more info and to submit comments, visit www.cityofshoreline.com

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To schedule a briefing for your community organization, contact

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