

Subject: DPR- Dog Park Update

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/13/2017

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. John Vihstadt at the work session on 3/28/2017, requesting the Public Spaces Master Plan guidelines for Dog Parks and information on how the County could encourage the private sector to create Dog Parks and Dog Runs.

The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) includes Community Canine Area Guidelines, "Appendix G" (attached), which incorporates standards that were initially created in 1999, through a County Manager-appointed task force. These standards include guidelines for the location, size, standard amenities, fencing, type of surface, parking, and accessibility. In addition, the PSMP provides additional guidelines related to whether a siting process was followed or the original site was used.

Dog runs or dog parks, which are not explicitly listed in the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance use tables, have been permitted in Arlington County only as accessory uses to public parks. The Metropolitan Park VI site plan contains a public access easement for a proposed dog exercise area that is part of a central public open space.

Current private property developers must comply with the County Code section that most closely addresses dog parks/runs, Chapter 2. *Animals and Fowl* §2-6. *Leashing Dogs*. DPR is currently exploring the option for a temporary dog park on privately owned land, per the short term use provisions for pop-up parks found in ACZO 12.10.6, in coordination with property owner JBG/Vornado, the County's Community Planning, Housing and Development Department and the County Attorney's Office. This concept is still under review. A zoning ordinance text amendment would be necessary to create specific provisions for dog parks and dog runs outside of publicly accessible park facilities.

APPENDIX G – COMMUNITY CANINE AREA GUIDELINES

Community Canine Areas

Since the late 1980's, Arlington has recognized the needs and desires of a significant portion of the community for dog exercise areas or “dog parks”. In Arlington these are called Community Canine Areas (CCAs). It is important to note that dog parks are not just parks for dogs, but parks for people who have dogs. According to a recent article from the National Recreation and Parks Association, “...dog parks have emerged as a leading way for parks and recreation departments to reach out

to the community. Whether they are extravagant or just a fenced-in plot of dirt, dog parks are increasingly seen not as luxuries, but necessities.” January 2004.

The first off leash CCAs in Arlington County were established in 1986 and Arlington's first fenced CCA was established in Utah Park in 1997. This area was a pilot program and made use of the first partnership with a sponsor group, FAIRDogs. Since that time, five other CCAs (Benjamin Banneker, Ethan Allen, Fort Barnard, Shirlington and Towers Parks) have been fenced. The CCA at Glencarlyn is not fenced.

The success of Arlington's CCAs is based on a partnership with sponsoring groups, from cleanliness to funding to complaints, and the ability of users to self-monitor them. The agreement includes monitoring use, handling neighborhood complaints, and coordinating maintenance and management. The prescribed rules for the CCAs provide a reasonable code of conduct for CCA users to correct the infractions through information, education and appropriate remedial action.

Community Canine Areas	Benjamin Banneker Park	Fort Barnard Park	Fort Ethan Allen Park	Glencarlyn Park	Shirlington Park	Towers Park	Utah Park
Size	22,600 sf	22,800	22,000 sf	14,000 sf	109,500 sf	25,500 sf	12,500 sf
Capacity 450 sf/dog	50	51	50	31	243	57	28
Sponsorship	Banneker Dogs	Douglas Dogs	Madison Dogs	Glen Dogs	Shirlington Dogs	Towers Park Community	FAIRDogs
Siting Process	Original site	Yes 2000	Yes 2004	Original site	Original site	Original site	Yes 1997
Standard Amenities	Yes	Yes	Yes	All except shed & dinking ftn.	Yes	All except shed	Yes
Fencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ground Cover	Mulch & engineered wood fiber	Mulch	Engineered wood fiber	Natural sand and pebbles	Mulch and grass	Mulch and grass	Stone dust
Parking	Off street	On street	Off street	Off street	Off street	Off street	Off street
Accessibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recommend	Continue	Continue	Continue	Continue	Continue	Continue	Continue

Standards for CCAs were created through a County Manager appointed task force in 1999. These standards are listed below:

Standards for Community Canine Areas

Size: Minimum 10,000 sf. Optimal is 30,000 sf or greater.

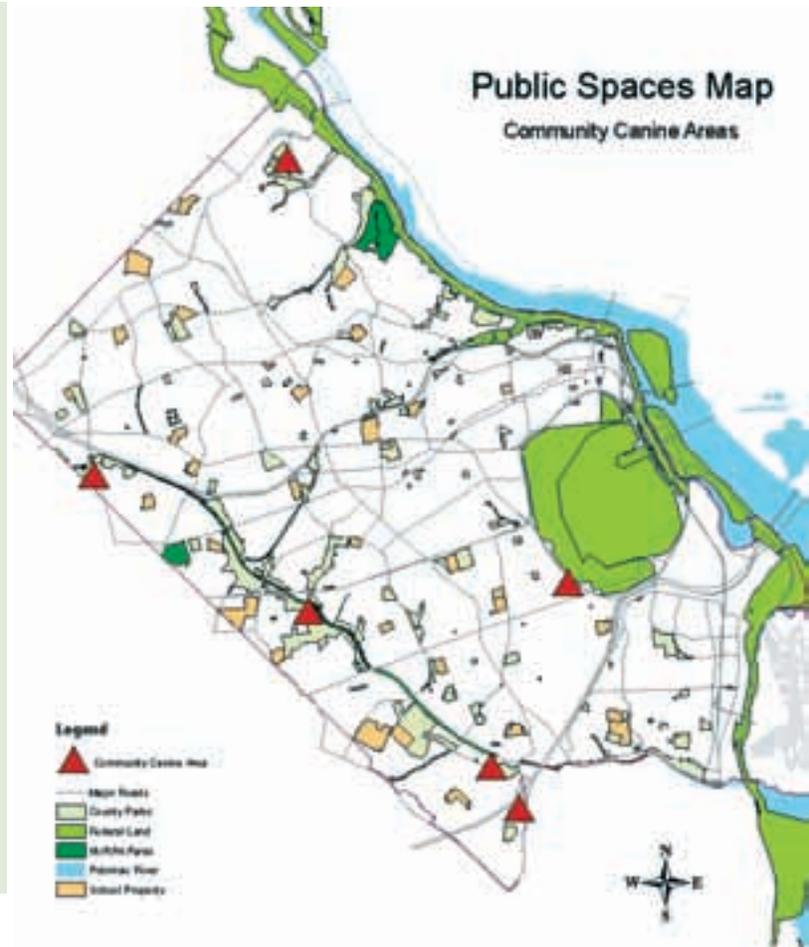
Use: 7 days per week. The hours of operation vary and are posted at each location. Standard hours for unlighted facilities are sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. As there is strong community desire for people to have access to CCA's after normal working hours, it is important to have facilities lighted after sunset from in the fall through spring until at least 9:00 pm.

Sponsorship: Required

Evaluation: One year after a CCA is established or change in sponsorship; every three years thereafter

Std. Fencing, double

Amenities: gates, water source, shade, information board, benches, picnic table, signage, trash receptacles, shed, lights



The CCAs are located predominantly in the southern part of the County with 5 locations south of Arlington Boulevard. The other two are located north of Arlington Boulevard with only one north of Lee Highway. There are several locations in the County where there aren't any CCA presently. These areas are the central part of the County along the Rosslyn Ballston Corridor, in the central northern part of the County and in the Crystal City area.