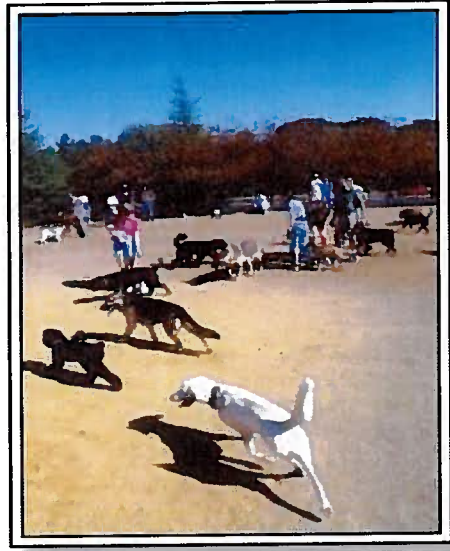


# HIDDEN SPRINGS OFF-LEASH DOG PARK PROPOSAL



## SCOPE

Earlier this year, the Hidden Springs Town Council commissioned a Dog Park Committee charged with the task of preparing and presenting a feasibility proposal for the construction of an off-leash dog area within the Hidden Springs community.

The scope of the proposal that the Dog Park Committee was asked to compile encompasses location, initial capital cost, ongoing maintenance/management issues and regulations governing use.

## LOCATION

When assessing a feasible location for the park, the three primary criteria taken into consideration were a) impact on residents , b) land preparation expense and c) ease of accessibility. In the opinion of the committee, only two viable sites existed:

1. The southwest corner of the Orchard just West of Seamans Gulch Road accessed via the sewer facility maintenance road.
2. The approximately two acre Cougar Park sod/irrigated site South of Cartwright Road and the “rear” entrance to Hidden Springs.

Due to its flat terrain, ease of access, central location, existing off-street parking and minimal visual/noise impact to residential properties the Committee unanimously agreed that the Cougar Field site is an ideal location for a dog park. It is our observation that the field is essentially already utilized as an unofficial dog park, and that construction of an

“official” dog park will therefore result in little to no disruption/displacement of alternative users.

### **CAPITAL COST**

When evaluating fencing options for the park, our underlying assumption was that the only viable alternatives were those that complied with Hidden Springs Design Review Guidelines and/or closely matched the rustic split rail fencing utilized on the perimeter of the community. Bids (Attachment A) of identical configurations were obtained for three styles of fencing product. Included in the cost estimates are an unleashing area, two owner/pet ingress/egress gates and one eight foot mower/maintenance access gate. Bid prices are assumed to be approximate and actual costs could vary slightly upon final completion.

4 foot 2 rail iron - \$17,600

5 foot 2 rail iron - \$18,700

4 foot wood split rail wrapped with 2”x 4” wire mesh - \$9,900

While admittedly an attractive cost option, the Committee believes that over time a split rail fencing product may present long term maintenance issues that could offset its initial cost savings. Therefore, it is our recommendation that a five foot high iron rail product be utilized.

The three fencing options listed above as well as additional anticipated capital expenditures totaling approximately \$2,600 are detailed and compared on Attachment B.

Note – all three cost options presented are significantly less than the \$30,000 set aside by the Town Council in the 2010 Hidden Springs budgeted line item which contemplated an off-leash dog park project.

### **ONGOING MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT**

We are optimistic that dog owners in our community will embrace the off-leash park, and will act accordingly in taking ownership for the responsibilities required to keep the park well maintained. Should “poop scooping” challengers present themselves, an informal bid (Attachment C) was obtained which indicated that bi-monthly feces removal could be contracted at a cost of \$120 per month.

From a management perspective, we are hopeful that the dog park will essentially be self governed, and that simple rules and basic etiquette will serve to sufficiently manage the facility. We do not anticipate the dog park having a noticeable impact on the time requirements on Town staff or our professional management company.

### **GUIDELINES FOR USE**

Gleaned from examples of various existing dog park regulations, the Committee suggests the following rules be initially adopted....with the understanding that they be subject to change and altered as needed over time by the Town Manager.

## **OFF-LEASH DOG PARK RULES**

The off-leash dog area is for dogs, their handlers and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed.

Hours of use are from sunrise to sunset.

All dogs must be current on vaccinations, and shall wear a visible identification tag.

Dogs under 4 months of age, female dogs in heat and un-neutered male dogs are prohibited.

Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the off-leash dog area.

Dogs must be under the control of their handler and in view of their handler at all times.

Spiked collars are prohibited.

Children 8 years and under are not allowed in the off-leash dog area; children ages 9 - 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Handlers must be 16 years of age or older.

Handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times.

Handler is limited to a maximum of two dogs at one time in the off-leash park.

Handlers must "scoop the poop" and fill any holes dug by dogs under their control.

Food and drinks in glass containers are prohibited; training treats are allowed.

Dogs must be removed from the off-leash dog area at the first sign of aggression.

Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control.

### **CONCLUSION**

In summary, the Committee is confident that an off-leash dog park will be a well received, highly used and "value added" Hidden Springs for Hidden Springs should the Town Council decide to move forward with construction of the project. We appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal.

#### **Hidden Springs Dog Park Committee:**

Tim Dublin (Chairman)

Kim Frame

John Rigby

Colten Tippetts (Town Manager)