Summary Report

Addison Dog Park

Evaluation and Recommendation

Committee

April 2014

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Acknowledgements

Several years ago, it became apparent to me that new dog parks were opening in the metroplex at the rate of three to four each year. Dallas and Addison had led the way. All of the new parks were larger, more attractive, and had many more amenities than Redding Trail, which had severe restrictions due to its location on Oncor right of way.

As time passed, I became convinced there must be a way Addison could build a dog park commensurate with the way things are done in Addison. It became increasingly apparent that if this seed of an idea was going to germinate, I would need help and assistance. A lot of help and assistance. What I needed was "The Addison Way."

My heartfelt thanks to Mayor Todd Meier for taking the time to listen to my dog park committee proposal in August 2013, determining the idea had merit and placing it on the Council Agenda for consideration in December, 2013. Just as important, the council was unanimous in supporting the formation of a dog park committee to study the feasibility of an additional dog park. Absent of council agreement, there would be no committee. The mayor also suggested that there be a council liaison to provide background guidance and information. Margie Gunther and Janelle Moore immediately volunteered and have been invaluable in their insight and knowledge. Addison Arbor Foundation also offered Judye Murray as a liaison and she was helpful in numerous ways. Slade Strickland was also generous of his time and assistance, and Michael Kashuba ably demonstrated why he is such a valuable addition to our Parks department and the town of Addison.

Unquestionably, the committee members bore the brunt of the actual work which was time consuming and done at no expense to the town of Addison. They are all passionate about their dogs, dog parks, and Addison. All made substantial investments in time and energy. Depending on size and distance, each individual dog park evaluation took from 2 to 4 hours, and members averaged seven park evaluation on the whole. Eight separate meetings consumed another 14 hours, and site evaluations added an additional 5 to 6 hours.

Most notably, Jackie, Marc, and Melinda evaluated 7 parks each, and Barbara and Ilene evaluated 13 and 12 parks respectively. Donna assisted Barbara on the minutes of several meetings. Barbara Papas was everywhere. She recapped meetings beautifully, was often the keel of the ship, and remained energized the entire journey. Her highly detailed evaluations were simply the best.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure chairing this committee and I thank you all.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

December 18, 2013

Dog Park History

Redding Trail Dog Park was opened in 2006. At that time, it appears that the only other dog park in the entire Metroplex was White Rock Lake Dog Park, constructed in 2001. Costs for construction of the park were greatly minimized by several factors. The park was constructed on Oncor easement, avoiding land cost which is always the largest cost in construction of a dog park. The unseen cost of the easement restrictions is the inability to include many amenities that are considered a given today, such as a rolling terrain, trees, landscaping, shade structures, and water features. Actual costs were also greatly minimized by the generosity of Addison residents such as Tom Braun.

From the outset, the park was a huge success. So much so, in fact, the six designated parking spaces at the end of LeGrande proved to be woefully inadequate at peak times, namely evenings and weekends. On street parking proved to be an irritant to a small but vocal group of residents at the southernmost end of Midway Meadows, also known as The Timbers. The issue was finally resolved with an agreement for parking spaces and the installation of a gate in the fence of the adjacent office park in exchange for concrete parking lot repair which was sorely needed. Newer, bigger, and better maintained dog parks with many needed amenities soon followed in Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Dallas again, and Carrollton, and this year new dog parks were approved and/or constructed in Lewisville and Coppell.

Maintenance on Redding Trail has been limited primarily to contract mowing and edging. Little effort or money was expended on maintenance such as weeding of dallis grass and other invasive weeds, grading, or raising and leveling the concrete seating pads or the concrete dog fountain pads. Currently, the turf is in the best shape it has been in several years. Plans call for some improvements in the current 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The Les Lac Dog Park, adjacent to the Loos Field Natatorium and Addison Town Park is rarely used, and the entry gate configuration at its north end makes it extremely difficult to access. Additionally, shade is nonexistent with the exception of the early morning hours. The long, thin rectangle shape of this park is also less than ideal.

Mission Statement

On or before March 15, 2014, the Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee will submit a document to Addison City Council, City Manager and Parks Department. A thorough analysis and comparison of all dog parks within an eight mile radius of Addison will be included. The Committee will also study possible locations for additional or replacement parks within Addison. Actual or estimated cost figures will be included when known, but will not be a major component of the report. The Committee will conclude the report with recommendations and suggestions. The goal is to provide City Council with factual research information that will allow it to proceed with confidence and without delay on sorely needed upgrades or additions to Addison dog park(s).

Committee Members

There will be a total of eight to twelve committee volunteers. The ideal candidate is an Addison resident and dog owner, frequently uses the Addison dog park(s), and occasionally visits other nearby dog parks.

Billy Dreis will serve as Committee Chairperson. Currently, Melinda Cappaert and Barbara Papas have volunteered to serve as Committee Members. It is expected that the five to eight remaining volunteer Committee Members seats will be readily filled.

Addison council members Margie Gunther and Janelle Moore have volunteered to serve as liaisons to Addison City Council.

Judye Murray will serve as Addison Arbor Foundation liaison.

The first meeting will be scheduled for the first full week in January 2014. The history of Addison dog parks, the mission statement, and the goals and process of the committee will be explained and discussed. The remaining Committee Members will volunteer at that time.

The Process & Meeting Schedule, Dates, and Minutes

The process to achieve the desired goal was simple and straightforward. The results of each meeting would lead to the next logical step and clarify the primary purpose of each subsequent meeting. For example, evaluating Addison dog parks or grading potential sites for additional dog parks prior to evaluating all other dog parks would have seriously compromised and degraded the results. Evaluating all outside dog parks first allowed each committee member to develop their own personal sense of what makes a truly superior dog park. It followed that the more parks each member evaluated, and the more time spent on analysis of each park, the more knowledge each member gained.

Meeting 1. Dec. 18, 2013 – Dog Park History, Mission Statement, and Committee Formation.

Meeting 2. Jan. 7, 2014 – Description of Goals and Call for Volunteers.

Meeting 3. Jan. 11, 2014 – Current Planned and Suggested Upgrades to Redding Trail & Les Lacs w/ Slade. Initial look at Addison Town Park.

Meeting 4. Jan 15, 2014 - Summarization of Committee Goals and Objectives; Potential Site Overview w/ Slade Strickland.

Meeting 5. Jan 22, 2014 – Discussion of suggested and specific upgrades to Redding Trail and Les Lacs parks with Slade Strickland and Michael Kashuba.

Meeting 6. Jan. 25, 2014 – Introduction of dog park and potential site evaluation forms. Weekly pickup and tabulation of results reported via email.

Meeting 7. March 1, 2014 – Best features of top dog parks; Analysis of evaluation results; Grading.

Meeting 8. April 26, 2014 – Comment, clarification or corrections and approval of completed report by committee members prior to submission.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Committee Formation Meeting Summary - December 18, 2013

Location: Dunn Bros Coffee

Attendees: Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Melinda Cappaert, Margie Gunther, Janelle Moore and Judye Murray.

Billy Dreis reviewed the Committee charter and objectives with the group. Billy, Barbara and Melinda are volunteer members. Judye Murray is serving as Addison Arbor Foundation liaison. Margie Gunther and Janelle Moore are serving as Addison City Council liaisons.

The next team meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00PM at the Addison Athletic Club. The purpose of that meeting was to review the objectives and charter of the Committee with Addison residents that have interest in Addison dog parks and also to identify additional Addison residents interested in serving as Committee volunteers.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Organization and Call for Volunteers

Meeting 2 Summary - January 7, 2014

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Committee Attendees: Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Melinda Cappaert, Donna Mitchell, Margie Gunther, Janelle Moore and Judye Murray.

This session was open to people interested in Addison dog parks. Invitations were made via flyers placed in the Redding Trail Dog Park as well as word of mouth. In total, 24 people were in attendance.

Billy made introductory comments regarding the purpose of the Committee. Mayor Todd Meier was in attendance and made general comments to the group about his support of the Committee. Billy provided an overview of the scope, proposed timeline and next steps. There were several questions from the audience.

Attendees with interest in becoming members of the Committee were requested to indicate such interest on the sign-up sheet. As a result, six new members were added to the Committee: Ilene Cohen, Marc Bart, Jackie Bart, Katie Nelson, Mary Sullivan and Janine Brand. In addition, Donna Mitchell had already indicated interest in becoming a member prior to the meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 11.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Meeting 3 Minutes – January 11, 2014

Location: Redding Trail Dog Park, Addison Town Park and Les Lacs Dog Park

Attendees: Billy Dreis, Melinda Cappaert, Barbara Papas, Jackie Bart, Marc Bart, Donna Mitchell, Juli Branson, Janine Brand, Cheryl Richardson, Katie Nelson , Mary Sullivan, Greg Southerlin, Judye Murray. Margie Gunther

Billy initiated the discussion regarding potential improvements to the Redding Trail Dog Park. He noted that the current city plans already include lifting of the concrete pads under the benches and water fountains. He also noted that the water fountain in the small dog park had been tilted. The other potential improvements and questions discussed were:

- Grading, filling and re-sodding of both the small and large dog areas - There was general agreement that this is a high priority. (A comment was made that mulch was being considered as an option but the group consensus is that this is not a good idea.)
- Additional seating and shade over the benches
- Sprinkler systems – there was a question whether sprinkler systems are in place or not in both the large and small dog parks
- Constant fill water bowls – there also was discussion regarding the theft of water bowls in the park.
- Concrete pads around fountains
- Extended hours to accommodate people that work and be more consistent with hours of other Addison parks
- Landscaping (trees), water features, hills, agility equipment were mentioned as desirable but limitations were noted due to Oncor easement. Will continue to explore, particularly any landscaping options.
- Lighting – desirable but again options need to be explored in light of Oncor limitations.
- Security (cameras?) – this was mentioned after the general discussion especially with numerous car break-ins experienced last year.
- Hoses – added after the general discussion.

There was a brief discussion of Redding Trail vs. other dog parks in the area. It was noted that the Wagging Tails Dog Park on Keller Springs was initially very nice but currently has some issues such as mud and parking. Also both Wagging Tails and North Bark Park on Gramercy are often closed for maintenance/other issues which results in additional people visiting the Redding Trail Dog Park.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Addison Animal Control Department and Officer.

The group then convened to Addison Town Park which has been identified as a potential new dog park site. There was group consensus that this is an attractive site. There were only 2-3 people at the park at the time of our visit (about 2 PM on Saturday) and Billy noted that he has observed very little traffic during his visits to this park. Billy commented that the current Addison dog parks are on Oncor property and are being maintained at a very low cost to the city. Planned renovation projects in Dallas for White Rock ($1M) and cost of North Bark park ($1.5M) were noted.

Regarding the possibility that Addison Town Park could be subdivided to define a Dog Park within its current boundaries: Need to define the proposed Addison Town Park Dog Park area to be subdivided and potential improvements (construction of fences within the existing park area to define Dog Park, additional concrete, recirculating water element added, etc.)

A proposal was discussed that might suggest this subdivision of Addison Town Park would be for a "large" Dog Park only. Thus including an improvement plan to turn the Les Lac Dog Park across the street (Sidney) to be enhanced as a "small" dog Dog Park only. It was agreed that the smaller Les Lac Dog Park needs a proposal to at least have added amenities such as extra seating, etc. A strong suggestion was made to open the existing South Gate to the Les Lac Dog Park (currently padlocked) for the public/Dog Owners to have easier access to that Park. Reasons for previous objections to opening that gate were discussed.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

January 15, 2014 Minutes – Meeting 4

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Attendees: Slade Strickland (Addison Parks Director), Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Judye Murray, Donna Mitchell, Juli Branson, Janine Brand.

Billy summarized the objectives and goals of the Committee.

Slade said he was very supportive of working with the Committee on this project. He reviewed current plans for the Redding Trail Dog Park as well as some of the restrictions we have since it is located on an Oncor easement.

- ONCOR Restrictions: Nothing vertical to be added, unless outside of their property. There may be some things that could be negotiable with ONCOR.
- Currently in budget (for the large dog park only): replace concrete pads under current benches and also add benches and pads; also to make changes for ADA-Compliance (i.e., facilitate handicap access). Also plan to re-grade turf and re-plant grass. The resurfacing and resodding will be executed during the Summer of 2014. The park will be closed during this time; this may be as long as one month.

The Committee members discussed suggestions for improvements for the Redding dog park:

- All agreed that we need more benches for seating, possibly shaded canopy structures if allowed by ONCOR. Slade indicated that the cost of installing new benches (no canopy) with pad cost = $1200 each.
- Need for better water fountain systems - possibility of "constant watering systems" suggested.
- Suggestion to approach Marriott Corp for permission about adding shade vegetation such as Crepe Myrtles on South side of Redding dog park. Slade commented that this proposal might be acceptable to Marriott. Committee

member suggested that volunteers could do the planting work, with Addison/Marriott supplying the plants.

- Committee Member asked Slade about adding lighting and extended hours to Redding Dog Park - Slade suggested that lighting would probably be easier if it was placed on the Office in The Park side of the Park, with lights facing South to cover the Dog Park areas. ONCOR would not allow lighting to be added within the easement areas that they control. Slade commented that the city of Addison has ongoing agreements with the Office in the Park management.

The discussion then focused on potential sites for other dog park areas. Slade provided a hand-out with a map of current park areas and he commented on the most likely sites that might be possible for a dog park. Some of the sites discussed were:

- Subdivide Addison Town Park
- ONCOR-owned property (2.5 ac) off Addison Rd & Westgrove – this site is currently owned by ONCOR and it is unlikely they would relinquish ownership; thus the possibility that that they may want to reclaim the site for future use was noted.
- Park off Sojourn and Westgrove in North Addison (Map reference #1) – This is a residential area and problems such as parking and entrance access were noted.
- Quorum north of Keller Springs (map reference #4) – not developed; seemed unlikely.
- Addison Circle at Quorum north of Lindbergh (Map Ref #13) - might have to be a temporary dog park. City may have future development plans for this site. Value of land and future plans will be obstacles to approval/plans. Pros and cons discussed about temporary status of this site.
- Vitruvian/Brookhaven College - Parking issues, cooperation with Brookhaven College could be obstacle. Availability of their land unknown at this time.
- Belt Line Road at Winwood (west of Addison Finance building) – this is a very nice area with lake and gazebo but parking would be a problem.

There was also some discussion regarding potential joint ventures with companies or wealthy individuals who might be willing to provide funding for dog park improvements or a new site. This was noted as an option for consideration but not the current focus of the Committee efforts.

Billy summarized by stating that the Committee will look at 4 or 5 of the sites as part of the team's evaluation. Slade also agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting which has been confirmed for January 22 at 11 AM.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Meeting 5 minutes - January 22, 2014

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Attendees: Slade Strickland (Addison Parks Director), Michael Kashuba (Addison's landscape architect), Jay Ihrig (Addison Arbor Foundation), Judye Murray, Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Donna Mitchell, Janine Brand, Ilene Cohen, Jackie Bart.

I. Redding Trail Dog Park

Michael provided information regarding the estimated dimensions of the dog parks and projected an aerial overview of the area to facilitate team discussion. Billy will confirm dimensions on Saturday.

Park Dimensions:
Small dog park: 78.5' x 67'
Large dog park: 156' x 86'

Slade stated that the following are already approved in 2014 Budget (have until September 30 to complete):

- For large dog park: light regrading, re-sodding, enlarge 1 Concrete Pad on South side, Extend Entrance Concrete Pad to make ADA compliant, add a bench or two.
- For small dog park: add a bench or two.

There was discussion regarding placement of benches in both parks and a specific request to avoid placing new benches next to disposal cans. It was noted that one of the benches in the large dog park area needs repair.

Slade and Michael reviewed the issue of the restrictions imposed by Oncor and the resulting limitation on potential improvements. The Committee discussed with Slade and Michael the possibility of additional improvements in light of the Oncor restrictions such as:

- Canopy structures over some of the benches
- More benches and pads in both parks
- Shade plants on South side with Marriott cooperation

- Additional lighting on Office in the Park side with their cooperation
- Improvements to the fountains in both parks; Jackie is sending photos of Klyde Warren Dog Park with a special water feature. The team will explore other ideas.
- More social friendly areas; there was discussion regarding limitations given park space and pros and cons of adding tables.

Slade noted that it might be possible to fund some additional improvements this year if additional savings are realized in the current budget.

There was a request to consider extending the hours for the Redding Trail Dog Park. Slade responded that it was possible to make hours consistent with other Addison parks and that the town is in the process of changing the signs for the dog park area. Slade also noted that the signs would contain contact numbers to irrigation technicians to expedite repairs. Slade commented that it may be possible to finish work on the Redding Trail Dog Park by May or June 2014. The large dog park could be closed for as long as 4-6 weeks, with possible partial access during some phases of construction.

II. Les Lac Dog Park

The discussion then moved to the possibility to use the Les Lacs dog park during the construction period. Billy initiated the discussion regarding the possibility to add a South dog park entrance gate. The cost of opening the South gate entrance was discussed. It was noted that the entrance would have to be ADA-compliant. The potential cost to open the gate, including ADA compliance, could be $5-10K.

Slade noted previous strong objections by Les Lac subdivision residents to opening of the South entrance years ago. He is not aware of current residents' stance on opening that gate. Billy presented Crime Reports from Addison Police Department indicating low crime in that area. A suggestion was made to consider a gate to subdivide the dog park in order to address the possible concerns by local residents about the opening of the South gate. Slade suggested that the Committee address the request to open the South side entrance in the Committee report.

Billy suggested that in the future the Les Lacs dog park could be used for training purposes, including the addition of agility equipment.

Billy noted that the objective of the next meeting would be to start the process to compare various dog parks in the area.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Meeting 6 minutes - January 25, 2014

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Attendees: Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Donna Mitchell, Melinda Cappaert, Janine Brand, Ilene Cohen, Cheryl Richardson, Juli Branson.

Billy initiated the meeting by stating the purpose of the meeting was to start the process of a) evaluating area dog parks and b) reviewing potential sites for an additional dog park in Addison.

There was discussion regarding the weekly newsletter from the mayor and other improvements being pursued in Addison. Billy mentioned that the Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee has the support of the mayor and all the city council members. There was discussion regarding the current budget ($40K) for improvements to the Redding Trail dog park (more information on the plans is in the January 22 minutes) as well as the possibility of opening the south gate entrance to Les Lacs so that it can be used when the Redding Trail Dog Park areas are closed. Billy noted past support from the bond committee members (39 of 43) to provide such south gate access.

In preparation for the report which is to be provided to the mayor and city council, each team member should prepare separately the evaluation of local area dog parks and review the potential additional dog park sites in Addison. The purpose is to get each team member's individual input; the results will be compiled and summarized after the evaluation process is completed. Billy provided the forms to be used for the process. While specific instructions were not given as to which dog parks to visit, team members were encouraged to visit as many different sites as possible. Billy stressed the importance of accuracy in information to be provided as each member fills out the forms.

In terms of size, it was noted that the small dog park at Redding Trail is only .16 acres and the large dog park is about .34 acres in size.

There was some discussion about additional notes that could be included on the forms such as specifying the number of benches and fountains in each dog park as well as the weather conditions and time/date of each visit.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Meeting 7 Minutes - March 1, 2014

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Attendees: Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Donna Mitchell, Ilene Cohen, Juli Branson, Jackie Bart, Marc Bart, Greg Southerlin.

Over the past 5 ½ weeks, team members have visited various dog parks in the DFW area and also potential new dog park sites in Addison. Evaluation forms have been collected from the team members for these site visits during this time. This meeting was a working session to review the results of the team members' visits.

Billy initiated the meeting by asking team members to identify key features of dog parks considered most important based on their visits to various dog parks. A list of these key features was collected and will be included in the final report. Billy then showed a summary of the surveys completed by the team members. In total, 16 different dog parks were visited in the DFW area (not including Redding Trail and Les Lacs dog parks). As expected, most members visited nearby North Bark and Wagging Tail dog parks as well as well as the dog parks in Lewisville and McKinney. There was discussion about the evaluation process and also the ratings of Addison's Redding Trail and Les Lacs dog parks relative to the other parks.

The discussion then turned to the evaluations of the potential sites. The five site locations were reviewed to ensure team members understood the available size of a new potential dog park at each site. There was discussion of pros and cons of the various sites, including size, existing shade and proximity to road traffic.

Billy stated that he would be preparing a draft of the final report and would review this with the team at the last team meeting. Barbara is preparing a summary spreadsheet of the results of the dog park and potential site surveys that will be included in the final report. The goal is still to have the report completed by March 14th so the last team meeting will be scheduled before then.

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Meeting 8 Minutes – April 26, 2014

Location: Addison Athletic Club

Attendees: Billy Dreis, Barbara Papas, Donna Mitchell, Juli Branson, Jackie Bart, Marc Bart.

Over the past few weeks, Billy Dreis completed a draft of the final report for submission to the Addison Mayor and City Council. This meeting was a working session to allow team members to review the report and provide additional input. The report was comprehensive and included: the team mission, the minutes from the team meetings, the survey forms and results from the team's visits to area dog parks and potential locations for a new dog park in Addison, summary of the most desirable features of a dog park based on the team discussion in the last meeting, summary of the team's top 5 rated area dog parks, evaluation of potential new sites and a summary of recommendations.

The first part of the meeting was allotted for review of the report by the team members. A general discussion followed during which each team member could provide their comments. In general the team consensus was the report was well done and there were no areas of significant disagreement noted. The discussion focused for the most part on prioritizing the key features of a desirable dog park and the written summary of recommendations. Billy raised some additional points for consideration by the team following the general discussion. Billy then showed the team a layout of the top rated potential dog park location, Addison Town Park. He noted that the location would accommodate both large and small dog parks that could be much larger than the Redding Trail dog park, while leaving the existing outer walking path and the playground in place.

Billy stated he will revise the report based on the input from the team and then submit the final report to the Mayor and City Council for consideration. Billy adjourned the meeting and stated he will then make available a final version of the report to the team and will notify the team members when the topic will be discussed at the City Council meeting.

Evaluation Forms

Separate forms were developed for dog parks throughout the metroplex as well as potential additional Addison dog park sites. Examples are on pages 20 and 21. The format was a checklist that produced a large amount of detail in a quick and concise manner. More importantly, it was stressed to committee members that the best evaluations would derive from those that took the time to write detailed comments or notes on what differentiated this particular park to make it unique or special. The result would be an evaluation that would enable a person to get a reasonably clear picture of the attributes singular to that particular site.

Ratings

Dog park evaluations were graded on a three step scale. **Below Average – 1 through 3; Average – 4 through 6;** and **Above Average – 7 through 10.**The higher the number, the better the park. The top 5 parks scored from 6.4 to 7.8. A brief description of these "best" parks begins on page 22 followed by scores on both Addison dog parks beginning on page 23.

Potential site evaluations were graded in five steps since five sites was the amount ultimately deemed worthy of consideration. In this case**, a score of 1 became the best site, a score of 2 was second best, etc.** Scores and a brief description of each begins on page 26.

Results

What began as a plan to evaluate 6 to 8 area dog parks (8 to 10 with the addition of both Addison dog parks) within a 8 to 10 mile radius of Addison quickly expanded to a total of 17 (19 with Addison) dog parks evaluated. The 8 to 10 mile radius plan quickly expanded to 35 to 40 miles, one way. When complete, eight committee members had completed an impressive total of 68 individual dog park evaluations.

Potential sites were winnowed to a total of five. Eight members did a total of 34 site evaluations, another impressive total.

Dog Park Evaluation Form

Prepared By_____ **Date**_____

Dog Park Name_____ **Address**_____

Hours of Operation_____ **Days of Operation**_____

Parking (ex. Limited, Sufficient, Plentiful)_____

Parking Proximity – Less than 100 yds._____ **100 to 300 yds.**_____ **More than 300 yds.**____

Separate Small and Large dog parks? **Yes**_____ **No**_____

Dog Park Rule Signs Prominently Posted? **Yes**_____ **No**_____

Lighting? Good_____ **Fair**_____ **Poor**_____ **Yes**_____ **No**_____

Perceived Security (do you feel safe?) **Yes**_____ **No**_____

Separate Leashing / Unleashing Area? **Yes**_____ **No**____

Size of Small Dog Pk.- SM. (< .25 ac.)___ **MD. (.33 to .45 ac.)**____ **LG. (more than .5 ac.)**___

Size of Large Dog Pk. - SM. (< .75ac.)____ **MD. (1.0 - 1.25 ac.)**___ **LG. (1.33 ac. +)** ____

Sufficient Watering Stations? Yes____ **No**____ **Constant Fill? Yes**____ **No**____

Water Features? (i.e., pond for large dogs) Yes____ **No**____ **Rinse Area? Yes**____ **No**____

Variety of Landscape Materials? Yes___ **No**___ **Surface – Grass?**__ **Mulch?**___ **Other?**___

Mature or Immature (underline one) Shade Trees? **Yes**____ **No**____

Varied Terrain or Topography? Yes___ **No**___ **Shade Structures? Yes**____ **No**____

Man Made Play Structures (such as ramps, tunnels, jumps) ? **Yes**____ **No**____

Ample Seating? Yes____ **No**____ **Benches?**____ **and / or Picnic Style?** ____

Restrooms (within 150 yards)? Yes____ **No**____ **Separate training area? Yes**____ **No**____

Your grade on this park _____ **1 -3 (below average); 4 -6 (average); 7 -10 (above average).**
Additional Comments:

Addison Potential Dog Park Site Evaluation Form

Prepared By_____ **Date**_____

Site Location_____

Parking Availability (ex. Limited, Sufficient, Plentiful)_____

Parking – Less than 100 yds.____ **100-300 yds.**____ **More than 300 yds.** _____

Does It Appear that Lighting (Yes___ No__) and Water (Yes___ NO___) Are Currently Available?

Is There Shade? Non existent____ **Limited**____ **Plentiful**____

How large a dog park will this site accommodate?
For Small Dogs SM___ MD___ LG___; For Large Dogs SM___ MD___LG___

Describe any additional topography or landscaping that make this site attractive._____

_____

Restrooms (within 150 yards)? Yes____ **No**____

Does this area feel secure? Yes____ **No**____

Do you think any adjacent residences or businesses would be disturbed by a dog park on this site? Yes____ **No**____ **Please explain**_____

_____

_____

How would you personally rank this site as a potential dog park? 1st choice____

2nd choice___ **3rd choice**____ **4th choice**____ **5th choice**____ **last choice**____

Additional comments_____

_____

_____

_____

Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee

Team members were asked to rate dog parks in the DFW area as well as rank the potential new sites for a dog park in Addison. The results are summarized below:

DOG PARK EVALUATION SURVEY

Dog Park	Location	Barbara Papas	Billy Dreis	Donna Mitchell	Ilene Cohen	Jackie Bart	Marc Bart	Melinda Cappaert	Greg Southerlin	Ave rating	Total visits
North Bark	Far North Dallas	7	9	10	10	5	7	7	7	7.8	8
Wagging Tails	Far North Dallas	6	8	6	8	6	6	7	4	6.4	8
Railroad Park	Lewisville	7	5		9	10	8	8		7.8	6
Central	North Dallas	5			3	4	5	5	6	4.7	6
Bonnie Wenk	McKinney	6	7	8	8			7		7.2	5
Ruff Range	Frisco	8	7		8			8		7.8	4
Man's Best Friend	Dallas (Klyde Warren)	4				9	5			6.0	3
Bark Park Central	Dallas (Deep Ellum)	4	4		8					5.3	3
Jack Carter	Plano	4	6		4					4.7	3
City of Irving	Irving	6	6							6.0	2
Ft. Woof	Ft. Worth				9					9.0	1
Canine Commons	Allen	6								6.0	1
Coppell	Coppell		6							6.0	1
Meadows Foundation	Dallas				6					6.0	1
Westchester Community	North Dallas								6	6.0	1
Central Bark	Grand Prairie		5							5.0	1
White Rock	Dallas			3						3.0	1
Redding Trail	Addison	4	3	4	4	7	5	4		4.4	7
Les Lacs	Addison	3	2		2	7	4	3		3.5	6
Total visits		13	12	5	12	7	7	8	4	68	68

POTENTIAL SITE SURVEY

Sites	Barbara Papas	Billy Dreis	Ilene Cohen	Jackie Bart	Juli Branson	Marc Bart	Melinda Cappaert	Greg Southerlin	Average
Addison Town Park	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1.3
Quorum Park	2	4	4	2	1	2	2	4	2.6
Arapaho/Quorum	3	2	3		2		3		2.6
Sojourn Park	4	3	2	5	4	4	4		3.7
Oncor Westgrove	5	5			5	5	5	5	5.0

The Five Best Dog Parks In The Metroplex

Scoring 1-3 Below Avg.; 4-6 Avg.; 7-10 Above Average

North Bark Score – 7.8 4899 Gramercy Oaks Dr., Dallas

This park tied with two others as the best park. At $1.9 million, it reflects how Dallas has committed to stepping up their best effort in each successive park. At 140+ parking spaces, it easily outstrips every other park. Steel 4 ½ foot fencing gives it an open and inviting feel. Flagstone paved walkways and large limestone blocks for seating are beautiful and unique. There is a large separate pond for water loving dogs. Best water stations and disposal bags of any park. A shady grove of immature trees gives some shade relief in the large park, though none exists in the small dog park. This is easily one of the top 2 or 3 parks from a design standpoint. No lighting, not enough shade, and not enough watering stations degraded the score. A shaded pavilion with a park type barbeque grill sits between the parks. The park is closed Tuesdays.

Lewisville Railroad Park Score – 7.8 1301 Railroad St., Lewisville

Toyota of Lewisville Railroad park is the official name of this new park. It is the only municipal dog park with corporate sponsorship. The total park is huge, encompassing several soccer fields, baseball diamonds and a large skateboard park. Some members that own large dogs scored this park high based primarily on the five acre size of the large dog park. At five acres, it far exceeds all other dog parks in size. Restrooms (not port-a-potty's) and a large covered vending area are also features not normally found. Both large and small parks had only a single watering station located near the entrance and they were turned off for three months in winter. It was strange to see numerous users bringing in gallon containers of water that they were happy to share. Shade in the parks was essentially nonexistent, but several 2"-2 ½' trees have been planted. There is a shade pavilion between the parks but none actually inside the park. There is a total lack of planting in the parks, but the fairly extreme changes in topography add considerable interest. Cyclone fencing was likely the only feasible choice for a park of this size. Even on weekdays, this is a very popular park. The park has lighting and is open daily.

Ruff Range Dog Park Score – 7.8 4th Army Memorial Rd., Frisco

Like Addison, Frisco almost always gets it right the first time. And this is a great example. The entry is well designed, with a steel " Ruff Range" cutout mounted on a rail fence. Another Top 5 Park with that attractive, airy steel fence. Winding flagstone bench style seating. This park is loaded with the aesthetics you would expect of Frisco. Steel dog breed cutouts welded on the steel fence is attractive from both sides. Mature and immature trees are plentiful. Old fire hydrants (2) are set in open turf areas and are well used by male dogs. A sense of fun and humor permeates the park. Everybody loves this park and that is part of the problem. 150 dogs, or more, and their owners is common on weekends. Parking, which looks to be more than ample on weekdays, is woefully short on weekends. Like North Bark, it lacks lighting. The park is closed on Thursdays, but the park is busy due to the dysfunctional magnetic locks.

Bonnie Wenk Dog Park Score – 7.2 2996 Virginia Pkwy., McKinney

This is another new park and it has several unique features. A shoe brush to clean your shoes on departure is a first, and likely a good idea since the entire park is covered in mulch, much disliked by the users. A spray feature is also unique in design and can be user operated (turned on and off) but appears to be seldom used. Variety in topography is due to being situated on a creek bank. 2" x 6" mesh is unique. The lighting is antique style and very attractive. Seating is more plentiful than most parks and is of the mounted table and chairs style. Nice. Once again, this is a

dog park with single watering stations near the entrance, a design that creates congestion and excess wear. The water station is constant fill which is definitely an upgrade. It is obvious that this park had a stringent budget in mind, but residents of the area are thrilled to have it. Parking, ample on weekdays, is very crowded on weekends. This park is close to the size of North Bark.

Wagging Tails Dog Park Score – 6.4 5841 Keller Springs Rd., Dallas

Built after Redding Trail in 2006, and after Jack Carter Park in Plano in 2010, but three years before North Bark, this park has been very popular from its opening. Many Addison residents use this park on a regular basis. It is very attractive with great aesthetics and varied topography, even in the parking lot. It is the third of the Top 5 parks with the iron rod fencing, which gives a open and inviting feel to the park. Parking is only sufficient on weekdays; nice weekends are almost impossible, but parking is allowed on the north side of Keller Springs. There is no lighting in the park. The park is closed on Mondays, which often makes for a busy day at Redding Trail. Wagging Tails was Dallas second dog park and the improvements are huge when compared to their first effort at White Rock Lake in 2001. Conversely, North Bark, built just three years after Wagging Tails, is a much bigger and better park. Dallas has learned their lessons well. Steel dog breed cutouts, the fire hydrants and a creek side / trail setting make this a popular and enjoyable park that is being loved to death as shown by the over worn turf.

Addison Dog Parks

Redding Trail Dog Park Score 4.4

As just the second dog park in the metroplex when built in 2006, Redding Trail speaks volumes about the "I'm on it!" attitude of Addison employees, council and residents. Who could have possibly foreseen the explosive growth of dog parks locally, statewide and nationally in just the eight ensuing years? Our area now has over 25 dog parks, possibly 30, and more are being built at the rate of 3 to 5 per year. And park departments are learning that "bigger" and "more" is better. As an example, White Rock Lake Dog Park was built in 2001 for under $400,000. The current expansion / upgrade / renovation, due to be complete in May, was budgeted at $1,456,000. North Bark, the newest Dallas dog park, was budgeted at $1,950,000 and included almost 150 concrete parking spaces. On weekends, it is not unusual to see almost all spaces filled.

Our residents love Redding Trail, but the restrictions in place by Oncor will never allow this dog park to achieve high average or above average status. No trees or covered seating inside the dog park are limitations. Its size is less than half of any other municipal dog park. Lighting could and should be added with via an agreement with Office in the Park. Additionally, nominal shade could be added with a similar agreement Marriot Courtyard to allow planting of yaupons or small trees between the parking area and South fence. To many users of the park, it appears that this park does not attract as many residents as it did in prior years. Without question, some percentage of residents use nearby parks, at least occasionally. June through October sees this park get the bulk of its traffic after 5:00PM, even on weekends.

The upgrades budgeted for this fiscal year should be complete around the first of June, but the underlying limitations remain.

One additional note: Redding Trail is the only dog park that located the watering stations in the middle of the park, which is a definite plus. The majority of dog parks locate them near the entrance, creating congestion, mud, and beat down turf very near the leashing / unleashing area.

Addison Dog Parks (cont.)

Les Lacs Dog Park Score 3.5

This park is readily available to very few residents, and is used by fewer still. There is precious little shade, none with seating. The park is extremely narrow, and opens only on the North end. Unfortunately, this is several hundred yards from any available parking. It is largely a dog park in name only.

Twelve months of the year, this park has the best turf of any dog park in the area, simply because it is seldom used. Requests to put a gate at the South end, first touted by the Parks sub-committee of the Bond Activity Committee, have had no effect.

This park needs a purpose, a reason for being. Dog park Committee members have developed two solutions that we think have merit.

First, the park could be cut in half, with fencing across its width. The south end of the park could be a training park for beginner, intermediate, and advanced obedience training. People that experience this with their dog enjoy it immensely, and a well behaved dog is a pleasure to be around. Training would be by licensed professional trainers. For training purposes this park is close to a perfect size. Residents could pay a nominal amount, say $80, for a 6 week course with 75% going to the instructor and 25% going to the city for maintenance.

Another idea was to set the park up for agility training with a teeter board, hurdles, ramp and table. Agility training is a sport engaged in by all breeds and sizes. There are many dog training games as well, such as fly ball, which a undersize park such as Les Lacs could easily accommodate.

Conversely, Les Lacs could be used as a back up to any temporary closure of Redding Trail or potential new dog park.

The real point is that there is enough brain power in Addison to turn this "almost a dog park" into an asset.

To Me, A Great Dog Park Has .....

We engaged in a unique exercise after all dog park evaluations and potential site evaluations had been completed. Before posting the tabulated results, this question was posed. "After all you have learned in studying such a variety of dog parks, what is the single most important thing that makes a great dog park to you?" Each member went in turn. You were not allowed to repeat an answer that was previously given. Thirty different responses were consolidated where possible. The first eight items were listed as "must haves" to be considered as an above average park. Rank was different for each member, but is roughly in general order of importance.

1. Size – In this case, size does matter. Anything less than .25 acres for small dogs and 1.25 acres for large dogs created excessive turf wear and congestion at peak times.
2. Parking (Close and Plentiful) This is common on all the best parks.
3. Plentiful Shade – Large mature trees and / or pavilions. This is the most common fail of even the best dog parks.
4. Security (Safety) and Lighting – Cameras w/ warning signage. All of the park should be visible. 4 of the 5 best parks had lighting.
5. Plentiful Seating – Picnic style, benches, rock landscape walls, & fixed tables and chairs. This is the second most common failure.
6. Aesthetics - Lush landscaping, bone shaped benches, steel dog breed cutouts on steel fences, flagstone paved walkways, etc. contribute to a cohesive whole. North Bark, Wagging Tails, and Ruff Range are prime examples.
7. Steel Fencing - Four the five top ranked parks had steel fencing ranging from 4 to 4 ½ feet tall. Extremely attractive, it gives an open and airy feeling.
8. Watering Stations That Work – all the time, such as at North Bark. Constant fill was also a preference. They should be centrally located in the park and away from the entrance, where even the best parks place them, leading to congestion and badly worn turf.

Worth mentioning were these additional features...
9. Clearly Posted Rules.
10. Restrooms and Vending Machines – Cost is the primary obstacle here but is becoming available at a few of the newer parks.
11. Rinse Station; Spray Area – A majority of the best parks have some version of these.
12. Large Dog Pool – Very popular with the large breed water loving dogs such as Labradors and Retrievers, the two most popular dog breeds in America.

Potential Site Evaluations

On January 15, 2014, the Committee met with Slade Strickland to review possible sites for a new Addison dog park. Slade provided the committee with packets of Addison Real Estate Inventory. Seven sites were selected with guidance, advice, and suggestions from Slade. Following the meeting, two sites quickly fell off the list. Those sites were deemed too valuable in either current or future use to be considered. The remaining sites were to be evaluated after all dog park evaluations were complete. The reasoning was that doing the dog park evaluations first would build our base of knowledge on what makes for an exceptional dog park. The process worked well; the more dog parks each member evaluated, the better each was able to fairly judge the sites in question.

Rather than scoring, as with the dog park evaluations, the sites would be graded from 1 to 5. A 1 would be your first choice, 2 would be your second choice, etc. In this case, we will start from the bottom, the fifth choice, and work to the first choice. The scores are the average of all scores for each site.

5. Oncor property on Addison Rd. Score – 5

The only unanimous choice in the group, this property is unattractive in so many ways it is not worth detailing. Additionally, there is no reason to believe that Oncor has any desire to sell or even lease the property.

4. Sojourn Park Score – 3.7

This is a very attractive park and it is easy to envision a dog park there. However, it has at least two major deal breakers. First , parking is iffy and is approximately 600 – 800 yards away. Second, patio homes are very close by on the South and apartments are almost as close on the North. It is very doubtful that either entity would be pleased with a dog park.

2. (Tie) Arapaho / Quorum / Spectrum Score - 2.6

This parcel is large, accessible, and is a blank canvas. Given enough money, this could made into an exceptional dog park. And there's the rub. At three million dollars in land value, it costs more than twice the land value of Addison Town Park. It would take a wealthy and generous town indeed, to turn this parcel into a dog park.

2. (Tie) Quorum Park Score – 2.6

This another gem of a park. It is doubtful that most Addison residents are even aware of this park or know of its attractive water feature. Many members really liked this park, but none of us could envision how a large and small dog park could possibly fit in the small space in the southern end of the park that Slade referenced. And parking is near nonexistent, with about eight slots for the entire park.

One member said "Why not a park just for small dogs?". Donna Mitchell then added the info that she was the property manager for many years of the apartments immediately adjacent to Quorum Park on the west side and dogs were allowed only up to 25 to 30 pounds. Juli Brunson added that Addison Circle is less than a ten minute walk away and many residents in the area have small dogs. A small dpg park about the size of Redding Trail would easily fit in Quorum Park. Relatively small costs, plentiful shade, a very attractive park, and a "walk to" neighborhood dog park all add up to a feasible and economical solution for small dog owners in the Addison Circle area..

Potential Site Evaluations (Cont.)

1. Addison Town Park Score 1.3

Town Park was the unanimous first choice of all but one member. No other park was close to this level of agreement. Within the steel fenced perimeter, the park measures 390 feet along the North to South axis and 290 feet along the East to West axis. This is a total of 113,100 square feet which equates to slightly over two and a half acres.

Considering the dimensions of Redding Trail Dog Park (see pages 11-13), Town Park could easily accommodate a small dog park that is 60 to 80 percent larger than Redding Trail and a large dog park twice the size of Redding Trail. The larger sizes at Town Park would place both parks in the "Medium" range. Both parks at Redding Trail are "Small" size category.

There is a 12 foot wide outside perimeter walking path on the Northwest, West, and Southwest sides which reduces to a 6 foot wide path around the balance of the perimeter. The dog park can easily fit 10 to 15 feet within this outer perimeter.

Best of all, the playground area and all entry points can remain as they are today.

Infrastructure, almost always second in cost only to the land cost, is largely in place. The total park is fully irrigated and interior existing 6' wide walkways can be incorporated into the design. Town Park is already lighted; electrical connectivity is not a concern.

Parking, often a large expense and real stumbling block, is both close and plentiful. Though there are only about 14 to 16 designated parking spaces, legal parking is available on Woodway (east side of the park) and an agreement with Loos Field adds acres of additional parking.

Landscaping and shade, normally a large percentage of the total dog park cost, often gets short shrift in many dog parks. Trees often are incorporated only where they previously existed. Usually they are few in number, sparse, and offer little shade. Worse, they often are in the wrong place. This is not the case at Town Park. Large mature trees are in abundance. Red oaks, live oaks, cedars, cedar oaks and a few hackberries shade the majority of this park. This is a huge plus for six moths of the year. Some heavy pruning by Parks last year has allowed turf to thrive where it had been nonexistent previously. The high costs of man made shade structures are unnecessary in this park.

Terrain and topography are additional pluses. There is enough elevation change to make things a bit more interesting. A flat and empty turf area creates little eye interest.

Security has not been a valid issue at this park although it is understood that a few residents perceive it to be. The facts are that the opposite is true. Addison Town Park has statistically proved to be one of the safest in Addison.

Crime stats (see page 29) provided by Capt. Paul Spencer of Addison PD show only 10 total incidents in the three year period of 2010 through 2012 (most currently available figures). Of the three most serious, (evading, assault, and public intoxication) all originated from the adjoining apartments but the actual arrests were made in the park. "Not even a blip on the radar" was the response from Capt. Spencer when asked to compare crime in Town Park to our other parks.

It is likely a safe bet to state that most residents have no idea of the location of Addison Town Park. Upon seeing Town Park for the first time, many residents believe it to be one of Addison's most beautiful parks. Additionally, a Town Park Dog Park would be very attractive to the burgeoning Vitruvian neighborhood. It is unquestionably one of our most underutilized parks. Rarely are more than two or three people in the park at any time. It is a waste to see such a beautiful asset not brought to its potential.

Summary

As previously noted, the explosive growth of dog parks of the previous five to ten years continues unabated. Pet food companies and pet stores nationally have experienced annual growth in excess of twenty percent each of the last five years. Two thirds of that business is due to dogs. People that once were enamored of only a single registered breed have discovered the joy of animal rescue. What could possibly be better than saving a life? Rare is the dog owner that doesn't say "He's (she's) family."

According to Kevin Kimbrell, almost one third of Addison residents own at least one dog, some five to seven percent higher than the national average.

The Addison Dog Park Committee recommends the City Manager, Addison Town Council, and Addison Parks Department consider the following points in all current and future budget discussions.

1 .Prioritize adding a dog park to one of our most underutilized parks, Addison Town Park.

2. Consider placing a small dog park in the southernmost end of Quorum Park for the benefit of nearby residents such as Addison Circle and Bent Tree Trails Apartments.

3. Continue to address the issues of the absence of lighting or shade at Redding Trail Dog Park.

4. Create a plan to make better use of Les Lacs Dog Park.

The Addison Dog Park Evaluation and Recommendation Committee are willing to offer any assistance as may be required in the implementation of these goals.

Subject: RE: Town Park Stats

From: Paul Spencer (pspencer@addisontx.gov)

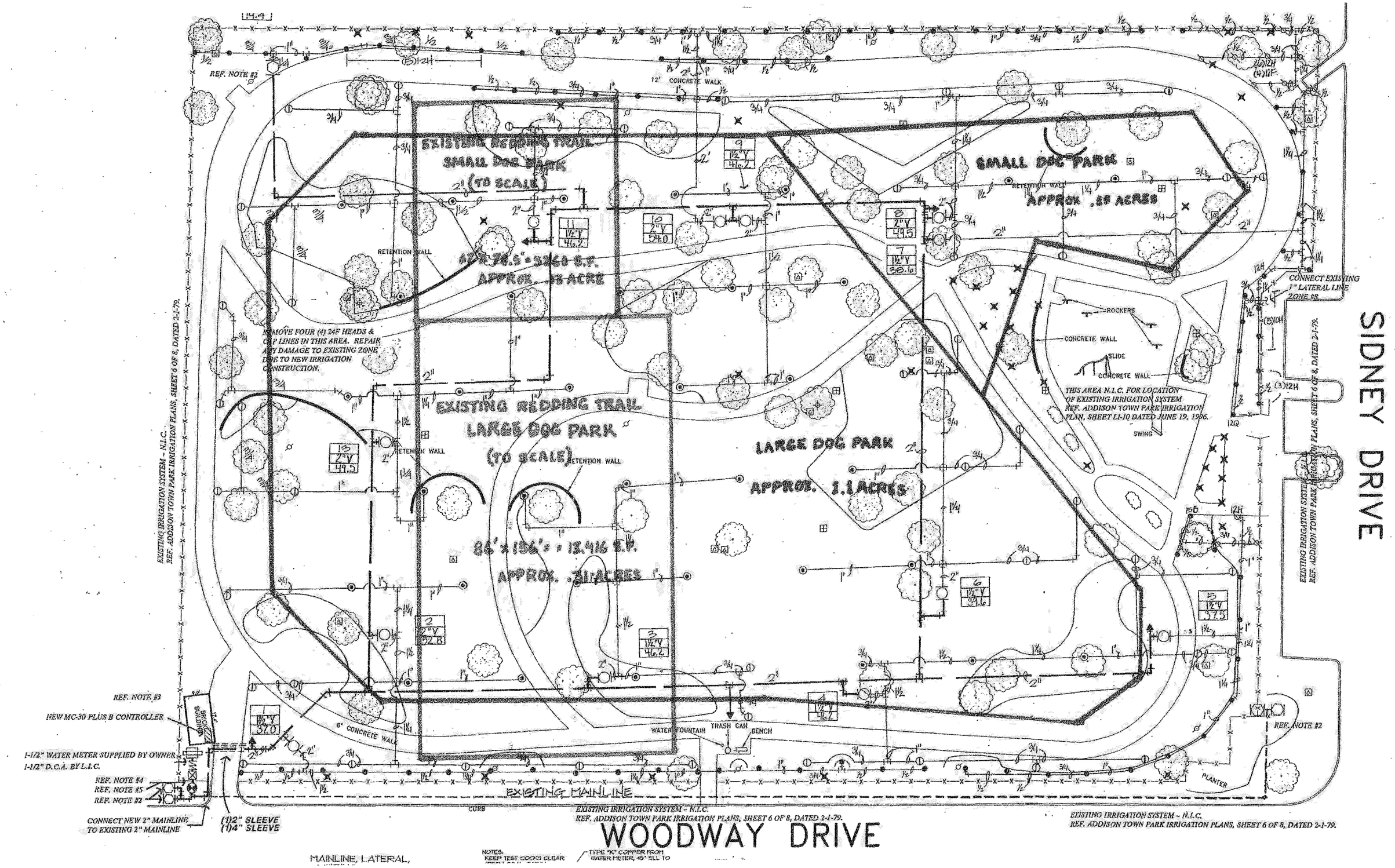
To: billydreis@att.net;

Date: Monday, December 16, 2013 3:37 PM

Town Park
3799 Sidney
Dr
1/1/2010 - 12/16/2013

DATE	CASE NUMBER	STATUS	NATURE	Beat	Location
1010					
1/28/2010	100000423	RTF	GRAFFITI	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
8/19/2010	100004207	RTF	CRIM MISCH	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
9/13/2010	100004687	RTF	INFO	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
3/26/2011	110001551	RTF	EVADING	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
4/9/2011	110001848	RTF	INFO	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
10/16/2011	110005654	RTF	INFO	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
10/19/2011	110005710	RTF	ASSAULT	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
10/24/2011	110005804	RTF	GRAFFITI	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
4/29/2012	120002232	RTF	PI	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
5/9/2012	120002420	RTF	GRAFFITI	1010	3799 SIDNEY DR
				10	
	TOTAL	10			

	Total
ASSAULT	1
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1
EVADING ARREST	1
GRAFFITI	3
INFORMATION	3
PUBLIC INTOXICATION	1
Total	**10**


SIDNEY DRIVE
WOODWAY DRIVE
EXISTING REDDING TRAIL
SMALL DOG PARK
(TO SCALE)
APPROX. .28 ACRES
EXISTING REDDING TRAIL
LARGE DOG PARK
(TO SCALE)
84' x 156' = 13,416 S.F.
APPROX. .31 ACRES
LARGE DOG PARK
APPROX. 1.1 ACRES
SMALL DOG PARK
APPROX. .25 ACRES
RETENTION WALL
12' CONCRETE WALK
6' CONCRETE WALK
CONCRETE WALL
ROCKERS
SLIDE
SWING
PLANTER
WATER FOUNTAIN
TRASH CAN
BENCH
CURB
EXISTING MAINLINE
REF. NOTE #2
REF. NOTE #3
REF. NOTE #4
REF. NOTE #5
NEW MC-30 PLUS B CONTROLLER
BRICK BUILDING
1-1/2" WATER METER SUPPLIED BY OWNER
1-1/2" D.C.A. BY L.I.C.
CONNECT NEW 2" MAINLINE TO EXISTING 2" MAINLINE
(1)2" SLEEVE
(1)4" SLEEVE
REMOVE FOUR (4) 24F HEADS & CAP LINES IN THIS AREA. REPAIR ANY DAMAGE TO EXISTING ZONE DUE TO NEW IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION.
THIS AREA N.I.C. FOR LOCATION OF EXISTING IRRIGATION SYSTEM REF. ADDISON TOWN PARK IRRIGATION PLAN, SHEET LI-10 DATED JUNE 19, 1906.
CONNECT EXISTING 1" LATERAL LINE ZONE #8
EXISTING IRRIGATION SYSTEM – N.I.C.
REF. ADDISON TOWN PARK IRRIGATION PLANS, SHEET 6 OF 8, DATED 2-1-79.
MAINLINE, LATERAL,
NOTES:
KEEP TEST COCKS CLEAR
TYPE "K" COPPER FROM WATER METER, 45' ELL TO