

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: DAREN ANDERSON DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2017
SUBJECT: UPDATE TO DOG PARK RULES

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) discuss updates to the City's dog park rules.

BACKGROUND

The existing rules relating to the dog exercise areas are found in the Parks and Open Space Regulations (R1-32):

R1-32. DOG EXERCISE AREA

- Dogs may be allowed off leash in the dog exercise areas, designated as such, in Hoover Park, Greer Park and Mitchell Park.
- No person, with or without a dog, shall be in a dog exercise area before sunrise or after 10:30 PM, consistent with normal park hours.
- City employees performing their assigned duties are exempt from this restriction. No dog is to be left unattended in any dog exercise area.
- A muzzle shall be securely attached over the mouth of all aggressive dogs.
- Any person with a dog in the dog exercise area shall properly dispose of any dog fecal matter by placing it in the provided receptacles.
- All dogs shall be placed on a leash upon leaving any dog exercise area.
- Violations of these regulations may result in a citation and /or limiting the use of the dog exercise area.

DISCUSSION

On October 10, 2017, the Commission Ad Hoc Committee working on dog parks met with staff and a few dog park stakeholders to discuss possible updates to the City's dog park rules. The group recommends completely replacing the existing rules with the following revised rules:

- Dogs may be allowed off leash in the dog exercise areas, designated as such, in Hoover Park, Greer Park, Mitchell Park, and Peers Park.
- Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and wearing a collar with ID.
- Dogs must be leashed until safely inside the dog park and returned to a leash prior to exiting.
- Dog owners must remain in the fenced area and monitor and manage their dogs at all times.
- Dogs behaving aggressively must be removed from the dog park immediately.
- Dog waste must be picked up.
- Children accompanying dog owners must be closely supervised.
- No more than three dogs per person.
- No food or alcohol.
- The small dog section is for dogs 35lb and less. The mixed size dog section is for both large and small dogs. (Applicable at dog parks with this option)
- Dog Park Hours are 7am to 9pm.
- All dog bites must be reported to the City of Palo Alto Animal Services [\(650\) 329-2413](tel:6503292413)
- The City of Palo Alto assumes no liability for the users of this area. Use these facilities at your own risk.

The Parks' website has a link to the Parks and Open Space Regulations. Signs with these regulations will be added to each of the City's dog parks. Staff will also add welcome signs asking visitors to be considerate of neighbors and help keep the dog park quiet and clean.