



News from  
Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Mid-City Communities Get New Dog Park**

*Councilmember Gloria Cuts Ribbon for Interim Dog Park One Year after Rally*

SAN DIEGO, CA (February 13, 2016) – Councilmember Todd Gloria cut the ribbon for a new off-leash dog facility located in Normal Heights' Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park today. Councilmember Gloria spoke to a crowd of Mid-City residents and dog lovers along with City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department Director Herman Parker and Ron Ferrero-Pham, president of the Normal Heights Community Association.

The temporary facility is measured at 20,500 square feet and includes dog friendly ground covering, benches, shade structures, and pet waste dispensers. There are separated fenced facilities for large and small dogs.

In 2015, Councilmember Gloria acted to include \$100,000 in the City budget for construction of an interim dog park following a large rally held by community members highlighting the need for such a facility in their neighborhood. Members of the community collected over 1,200 signatures asking for an off-leash space for Mid-City residents to walk their pets. Now, one year later, that space is open and available for pet owners to use.

The City's Park and Recreation Board approved an amendment to the General Development Plan to expand Ward Canyon Park in 2013, but funding to construct the project has not been identified. The cost of the total improvement is estimated at nearly \$8 million, though the first phase costs are \$3.9 million. The project includes 1.54 acres of new park land as well as a permanent off-leash dog park, a community garden, and a full length basketball court.

**"I can't remember the last time a park amenity this impactful was built so quickly,"** Councilmember Gloria said. **"Today's ribbon cutting should serve as a sign to the residents of Mid-City that the City is serious about investing in Ward Canyon Park and I will continue to advocate for funding the permanent expansion."**

Councilmember Gloria has maintained that this interim solution does not lessen the need to identify funding for the permanent expansion and has called for phase one of the expansion to be included in the Mayor's fiscal year 2017 budget.

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