



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: May 11, 2022

REPORT NO. 101

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of May 19, 2022

SUBJECT: NORTH PARK COMMUNITY PARK TEMPORARY OFF-LEASH DOG
PARK GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

SUMMARY

Issue: Recommend approval of General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for the North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park in the North Park Community to the Parks and Recreation Director.

Recommendation: Recommend approval of the proposed General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for the North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park.

Other Recommendations: The Community Recreation Group has reviewed and considered the proposed project as detailed below:

On February 28, 2022, the North Park Community Recreation Group voted (4-0-0) to recommend approval of the General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for the North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park.

Fiscal Impact:

Capital Funding: The General Development Plan (GDP) and design and construction of the temporary off-leash dog park, is funded by the Parks and Recreation Department General Fund approved by City Council.

Operations and Maintenance: The cost to operate and maintain this project on an annual basis is approximately \$12,000 per year. This includes all labor, materials, equipment and supplies, as well as the cost to hire a security company to lock the gates at dusk.

Water and Energy Conservation Status: The proposed project complies with all water and energy conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14.

Environmental: Existing turf area on North Park Community Park (Planning Department to provide determination)

BACKGROUND

This project provides for the design and construction of a temporary off-leash dog park at North Park Community Park which is located at 4044 Idaho Street, where Idaho Street and Howard Avenue intersect within the North Park Community, within Council District 3. The approval of this dog park will provide an additional approximately 0.28 acres and 18 Recreation Value Points of population-based recreational opportunities in a park deficient community per current City park standards.

DISCUSSION

A temporary off-leash dog park at the North Park Community Park is proposed to alleviate off-leash dog activity currently occurring at Garfield Elementary Joint Use Facility and Alba North Park Joint Use Facility.

Demolition of the existing shuffleboard structure and clubhouse/SDPD Storefront building is on the Department's Unfunded Park Improvements list and will be completed when funding is identified. A future GDP Amendment will be needed to re-envision the North end of the park. The department is pursuing a temporary dog park in the adjacent areas.

The proposed off-leash dog park location will be a temporary facility until the site is re-envisioned. A future GDP Amendment will likely include a permanent off-leash dog park.

The proposed facility will be open to the public every day from 6am-dusk and will be locked at dusk by a security company hired by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The General Development Plan (Attachment 1) will provide the following:

- Separated Large and Small Dog Off-leash dog park (approximately 0.28 acres)
- Access walkway
- Blue painted curb street parking space

The City conducted two public workshops with the community. The primary issues raised during the community input meetings were size and configuration of the proposed off-leash dog park and Garfield Elementary Joint Use Facility operations. A detailed response is included in the paragraphs below.

Size and configuration of the proposed off-leash dog park

The community requested that the proposed off-leash dog park area be enlarged which was achieved by utilizing the majority of the turf area identified for large dog use along Idaho Street.

Two options for the off-leash dog park were considered by the Community Recreation Group (CRG). They selected the separated pens for large and small dogs pen over one large pen for all dogs.

Off-leash dog activity at Garfield Joint Use Facility

During the community workshops, there was significant attendance from members of the community as well as the school who wished to discuss the issues at Garfield Elementary Joint Use Field.

The school staff and parents shared several concerns. Due to COVID protocols, the school utilizes the joint use field for lunch on a daily basis and students routinely encounter dog feces on the joint use field that has required significant staff resources to address the health hazards. In addition, Garfield Elementary has been dealing with significant staff vacancies and staff shortages.

In response, the District and City agreed to temporarily close the joint use field at Garfield Elementary before and after school on school days. The joint use field will be open to the public Friday after school until Monday morning. P&R staff will perform a sanitation sweep Sunday afternoon and Monday morning prior to students use of the field. The joint use field will also be open to the public on school breaks and holidays.

The District and City have agreed to re-evaluate returning public access to the field during the week once the temporary dog park at North Park Community Park comes online.

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North Park Community Park Off-leash Dog Park General Development Plan
Amendment
May 19, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Field
Director, Parks and Recreation



Prepared by Frank Hunt
Park Designer, Parks and Recreation

(FH/fh)

Attachments:

1. North Park Community Park General Development Plan
2. Notice of Right to Appeal Environmental Determination – North Park Community Park Off-leash Dog Park
3. Feb 1, 2022 SDUSD letter to Garfield Elementary Families, Staff and Stakeholders
4. Recreational Value Scoring – North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park



Date of Notice: March 29, 2022

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PROJECT NAME: North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park

COMMUNITY PLAN AREA: North Park

COUNCIL DISTRICT: District 3

LOCATION: 4044 Idaho Street, San Diego, CA 92103

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project provides for the design and construction of an approximately 0.28 acre temporary off-leash dog park at North Park Community Park. The proposed General Development Plan (GDP) amendment for the North Park Community Park will provide a separated large and small dog off-leash dog park (approximately 0.28 acres), an access walkway, and a blue painted curb street parking space. The large dog off-leash dog park will be located in the turf area along Idaho Street, and the small dog off-leash dog park will be located adjacent to the shuffleboard courts. The temporary off-leash dog park at the North Park Community Park is proposed to alleviate off-leash dog activity currently occurring at Garfield Elementary Joint Use Facility and Alba North Park Joint Use Facility. The proposed off-leash dog park location will be a temporary facility until the site is re-envisioned under a future GDP Amendment.

ENTITY CONSIDERING PROJECT APPROVAL: City of San Diego

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: This activity is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

ENTITY MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: City of San Diego Mayor-Appointed Designee.

STATEMENT SUPPORTING REASON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of San Diego conducted an environmental review that determined the project would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) which consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15311 (Accessory Structures) which consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant

to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. The exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would not apply in that no cumulative impacts were identified; no significant effects on the environment were identified; the project is not adjacent to a scenic highway; no historical resources would be affected by the action; and the project was not identified on a list of hazardous waste sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

CITY CONTACT: Frank E. Hunt, Park Designer, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department

MAILING ADDRESS: 2150 Pan American Road West, MS 35, San Diego CA 92101

PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL: (619) 235-5250 / FHunt@sandiego.gov

On March 29, 2022, the City of San Diego made the above-referenced environmental determination pursuant to CEQA. This determination is appealable to the City Council. If you have any questions about this determination, contact the City Contact listed above.

Applications to appeal the CEQA determination to the City Council must be filed with the Office of the Clerk within 5 business days from the date of the posting of this Notice (**April 6, 2022**). Per the revised Public Notice issued by the Office of the City Clerk on September 28, 2021, appeals to the City Clerk must be filed via e-mail or in-person as follows:

1. Appeals filed via Email: Send the appeal by email to Hearings1@sandiego.gov; your email appeal will be acknowledged within 24 hours. You must separately mail the required appeal fee by check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Sureena Basra, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92123**. The appeal filing fee must be postmarked within five (5) business days of the date the appeal is filed.
2. Appeals filed In-Person: The appeal application can be obtained in the Lobby of the City Administration Building located at 202 'C' Street, San Diego, CA 92101. The completed appeal package must include the required appeal fee in the form of a check payable to the City Treasurer to: **City of San Diego Planning Department, Attn: Sureena Basra, 9485 Aero Drive, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92123**.

If you have any questions regarding the procedures to file the appeal, please contact **Sureena Basra** at sbasra@sandiego.gov. The revised Public Notice can be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/office_of_the_city_clerk_public_notice_rev09252020_v2.pdf.

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

POSTED ON THE CITY'S CEQA WEBSITE

POSTED: 3/29/2022

REMOVED: 4/6/2022

POSTED: S. Basra



San Diego Unified SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Garfield Elementary Families, Staff and Stakeholders,

San Diego Unified School District has a strong partnership with the City of San Diego that converts school play areas into neighborhood parks when schools are not in session. The intent of the Play All Day joint-use program is to create local, walkable playspaces for kids and families to access when schools are closed. In most cases, the district constructs the joint-use facilities on district land while the city provides maintenance. This effort has been a resounding success. Hundreds of acres of play space have been made available for families all over San Diego after school hours, on the weekends and during holidays.

As many of you already know, the Garfield Elementary playfield is a joint-use facility shared with the City of San Diego. The grass playfield is secured during the school day for exclusive student access, but is opened for public use 30 minutes after the school day ends, and closes again the following morning 30 minutes before the start of school.

San Diego Unified has been made aware of ongoing misuse of the school playfield by a small group of irresponsible dog owners that use the playfield as an off-leash dog park. This has resulted in a serious public safety issue and a public health hazard that is untenable for Garfield Elementary students and staff.

To be clear, San Diego Unified joint-use facilities are not off-leash dog parks, and allowing pets to run off-leash at a joint-use facility is a violation of school district policy and City of San Diego municipal code. It results in serious damage to the fields where dogs dig, is a health hazard as a significant amount of pet waste is left behind where kids play, and families are no longer comfortable using the field with their kids while dogs run around off-leash.

In partnership with the district, the City of San Diego and the San Diego Humane Society have increased enforcement sweeps at Garfield Elementary. The city has also proposed a temporary dog park in the neighborhood, for which planning is now underway. San Diego Unified is grateful for these steps.

Unfortunately, these steps have not been enough to deter abuse of the school facility by some dog owners. Therefore, due to repeated violations by a small group of dog owners and to alleviate staffing issues related to the Omicron surge, the Garfield Elementary joint-use facility will now be temporarily closed to the public during the week to allow exclusive, safe and sanitary use by students. The field will open to the public 30 minutes after school on Fridays, and will close 30 minutes before school on Monday. To ensure the field is safe and sanitary for Garfield Elementary students, the district has requested a sanitation sweep by the City of San Diego prior to the start of the school day on Mondays.

San Diego Unified will re-evaluate returning public access to the field during the week once the temporary dog park comes online, and the dog owners in the neighborhood stop damaging the playfield at Garfield Elementary. In the meantime, please report off-leash dogs or misuse of the facility by calling the San Diego Humane Society at 619-299-7012.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please send an email to SDUSDFacilitiesInfo@sandi.net.

Thank you,
San Diego Unified Facilities Team

Recreational Value Scoring - North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park

Park Size Category	Points	Improvements	Notes
Scoring : Based on overall park acreage (population-serving only)			
Park Acreage: Points are awarded to parks based on their overall acreage.	7 point per acre	0	
Parks under an acre will receive 0.875 points for each 1/8 acre.	0.875 points for each 1/8 acre	0.875	Proposed 0.28 acre facility
Does not apply to MHPA or MSCP lands			
AMENITIES/RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES			
Health/Fitness/Sports Category	Points	Proposed Improvements/ expansion	Notes
Play Area	7 pt. per 750 sf of play area ¹	0	
Nature Exploration Playground ¹¹	7 pt. per 1/2-acre	0	
Multi-Purpose Turf Area - point per each 1/2 acre	7 pt. per 1/2 acre	0	
Active Recreation Fields	56 points for an active recreation field module (1 soccer field and 2 softball fields) or 28 points for a single softball or soccer field ⁶	0	
Basketball/Tennis/Pickleball/Sand Volley Ball	7 pt. per each full court (3.5 point for half-court) ⁶	0	
Small Hardcourt Areas: with pavement-coating mark-outs	3.5 pt. per hardcourt area; 7 pts. maximum ⁵	0	
Sports Lighting - pickleball, volleyball, basketball full-court - or equivalent to basketball full-court	3.5 pt. per court ¹²	0	
Sports Lighting - single softball field, full-size	7 pt. for ea. full size field ¹²	0	
Sports Lighting - each pair of softball fields or full-size soccer field	14 pts. ¹²	0	
Splash Pad (water playground)	14; 14 pts. maximum	0	
Multi-use Pathways: (Route Type 6, per SD Pedestrian Master Plan)	7 pt. per 1/2 mile	0	
Decomposed Granite or Dirt Trails: 4 ft. min. width, (Route Type 7, SD Pedestrian Master Plan)	7 pt. per 1 mile	0	
Fitness Circuit	7 pt. for ea. 3 pieces of equip. w/ signage; 21 pts. maximum per 5 acres	0	
Specialty Recreation (hard-surface) pump tracks, skate plaza or similar	7 pt. per 5,000 sf each	0	
Specialty Recreation (soft-surface)	3.5 pt. each; 7 pts. Maximum	0	
Specialty Recreation: disc golf or similar (min. 1/2 acre) ²	7 pt. each; 14 pts. maximum	0	

Recreational Value Scoring - North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park

Social Spaces Category		Proposed Improvements/ expansion	Notes
Off-Leash Dog Area - 1/8 acre minimum fenced area	10.5 pts. for ea. area less than 3 acres	10.5	0.28 acres
Off-Leash Dog Area - 3 acres minimum fenced area	21 pts. for ea. area 3 acres and larger; 42 pts. Maximum	0	
Food Area/Concessions or Clubhouse Building (if separate from Rec Center), 250 s.f. minimum size	7 pt, 7 pt. maximum	0	
Community Garden ³	7 pt for ea. 10 plots; 14 pts. maximum	0	
Interactive/Technology Element	7 pt. maximum	0	
Performance/Event Space: 5,000 s.f. minimum size paved area with seating, lighting and utilities (power, data, sound) ⁸	21; 21 pts. maximum	0	
Site Amenities Category		Proposed Improvements/ expansion	Notes
All-weather shade cover/pavilion with tables/seating	7 pt. for ea. 400 sq. ft roof area (min. size)	0	
Restroom building	21 pt. per building	0	
Ranger Station Facilities: with public educational/interpretive display areas(s)	7 pt. per 1,000 sf	0	
Amphitheater: with hardscape seating and universal access ⁸	7 pt. per 40-person capacity; 14 pts. maximum	0	
Wayfinding Signage System ⁹	3.5 pt per system; 7 pts. maximum	0	
Public Art/Placemaking Elements (only 1 element per space)	3.5 pt. for each element; 7 pts. maximum	0	
Creation of wetlands area(s) or native planting restoration area(s) ⁷	10.5 pt per acre	0	
ACCESS/CONNECTIVITY		Proposed Improvements/ expansion	Notes
Definition: Measures ability of park to increase overall connectivity in the Citywide parks network or improve access to an existing recreational asset			
Scoring: 0 (no component present) or 7-21 (component present)			
	Points		
Linkages: connection to a CI 1 Bike or Cycle Track	21; 21 pts maximum	0	
Linkages: connection to a trail system in open space	14; 14 pts maximum	0	
Integrated with transit: within 500 ft. walking distance to a transit stop or closer	14; 14 pts maximum	0	
Integrated with transit: within 1/4-mile walking distance to a transit stop	7; 7 pt. maximum	7	
Connection to Active Public Realm (less than 50 feet to café, restaurants, gym/fitness, retail)	7; 7 pt. maximum	0	
Connection to Public/Civic Use (co-location with school, library, non-profit)	7; 7 pts maximum	0	
Connection to Natural Area/Scenic View Corridor (must have physical structure to connect or provide view access)	7; 7 pts maximum	0	

Recreational Value Scoring - North Park Community Park Temporary Off-leash Dog Park

ACTIVATION & ENGAGEMENT		Proposed Improvements/ expansion	Notes
Definition : Measures ability of space or facility to spark social interaction and learning-based recreation and bring diverse users together			
Scoring : 0 (no component present) or 7-21 (component present)			
	Points		
Interpretive/Education/Cultural Elements, such as Tribal cultural elements: minimum of 10 square feet of sign art/copy display area	7; 7 pt. maximum	0	
Space dedicated to programmed activities, weekly minimum occurrences: 7 pt. for 5,000-10,000 s.f.; 14 pts. for 10,000 or more s.f.	14; 14 pts maximum	0	
Recreational Features for the Disabled ⁴	21; 21 pts maximum	0	
Trails or Multi-use Pathways contiguous with wetland area(s), or significant water body, or native planting restoration area(s) ⁷	7 pt per 1/2 mile	0	
Urban Forestry: at 5-year growth 50% of all site hardscape (roads, sidewalks, parking lots) have greater than 60% tree canopy ¹⁰	14; 14 pts maximum	0	
TOTAL VALUE POINTS :		18.375	

Recreation Value Points Tabulation Summary:	
Total Proposed Facility Value Points	18.375
Population Served	183.75 Residents

* See PMP Appendix D for Notes