



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

DATE: August 31, 2022

TITLE: **Receive an Update and Provide Direction on Potential Off-Leash Dog Park Sites.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council receive a brief presentation on potential off-leash dog park locations and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

INTRODUCTION:

In the 2010 Arcata Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan (APRFP), off-leash dog areas were identified as one of the top facility needs. Since then, the Environmental Services Department has looked at opportunities to site and create a dog park/leash-free area within the City with assistance from the Arcata Dog Park Working Group (ADPWG).

BACKGROUND:

During the August 18, 2021, Council meeting, the Environmental Services Department provided an update regarding potential City-owned sites for an off-leash dog park. At that time the Council provided direction on three preferred locations to further explore for an off-leash dog park – a portion of the Little Lakes property on South I Street, the southern portion of the D Street Linear Park and a portion of Stewart Park.

Environmental Services' presentation will provide a review of these potential locations, key criteria for siting a dog park, a summary of prior community input, which includes the ADPWG input, and further analysis of a potential location between 7th Street, Highway 101 and the Uniontown Shopping Center.

Since the last update to Council on dog park siting in August 2021, the Environmental Services Department has had further conversations in the community around this topic but have not yet advanced plans or recommendations to the Council for siting an off-leash dog park.

This past year the department has been moving forward many park projects prioritized by the Council for this fiscal year, including securing two state grants for improvements at Carlson Park, constructing Phase 2 of the Shay Park Improvement Project, planning equipment replacement at Bloomfield Park, continuing development of the Arcata Annie & Mary Trail, and advancing improvements to Redwood Park.

Environmental Services staff welcome direction on park development and improvement priorities, including an off-leash dog park location, and suggest Council provide guidance ahead of fiscal year 2023-24 during the goal setting and budgeting process.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

While the fiscal impacts cannot be known at this time, it is estimated that establishment of an off-leash park could range between \$25,000 for minimal improvements or up to \$100,000 per acre. There is currently no funding allocated towards a dog park in the fiscal year 2022-23 budget as other park improvements were highlighted as City Council Priority Projects.