

APPROVED  
JAN 17 2007

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 07-23

DATE January 17, 2007

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: OFF-LEASH DOG PARK RULES

*J. Combs	<u>          </u>	J. Kolb	<u>          </u>
H. Fujita	<u>          </u>	F. Mok	<u>          </u>
S. Huntley	<u>          </u>	K. Regan	<u>          </u>
B. Jensen	<u>          </u>	M. Shull	<u>          </u>

Robert Jensen (GM)  
General Manager

Approved            Disapproved            Withdrawn           

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Adopt the Off-Leash Dog Park Rules and Regulations attached to this report;
2. Direct staff to post signage for Off-Leash Dog Park Rules and Regulations;
3. Request the City Attorney to draft and submit to the City Council an ordinance to amend LAMC 63.44G to provide for the adherence to the Off Leash Dog Park Rules and Regulations; and,
4. Request the City Attorney to draft and submit to the City Council an ordinance to amend LAMC 63.44 to establish designated dog exercise and training areas at the Griffith Park Dog Park and Whitnall Off-Leash Dog Park.

SUMMARY:

The Department currently has nine off-leash dog parks. Each was established separately at different times, and each adopted its own set of rules and regulations with some similarities and some inconsistencies. This has caused confusion to the public and difficulty for enforcement.

The new rules and regulations will be the Department standard to be enforced at all off-leash dog parks. One standard sign will be created posting the new rules and regulations at all off-leash dog parks. The new rules will make it clear and consistent for patrons and will provide the means for enforcement by the Park Rangers, Office of Public Safety, and Department of Animal Services.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 07-23

Staff contacted several members from the off-leash dog parks' advisory boards to incorporate their concerns and ideas into the rules and regulations. They also met with staff from the Department of Animal Services to solicit their input, solicited input from the Office of Public Safety, and reviewed the rules and regulations of similar parks in other jurisdictions for comparison.

Staff recommends LAMC 63.44G be amended from:

“Every person shall comply with rules promulgated by the Board for the use of golf courses and tennis courts, which rules shall be conspicuously posted in or at the clubhouse of such golf courses or on a bulletin board adjacent to any tennis court.”

to:

“Every person shall comply with rules promulgated by the Board for the use of golf courses, tennis courts, **and dog parks** which rules shall be conspicuously posted in or at the clubhouse of such golf courses or on a bulletin board adjacent to any tennis court **or on the regulation sign at any dog park.**”

The cost of the new signs will be minimal, with the necessary metal boards already on hand in anticipation of the approval of this report.

A separate set of “Courtesy Rules” may also be posted at off-leash dog parks as needed, subject to the approval of each region Superintendent.

In addition, the adoption of an ordinance to legally recognize the existing Griffith Park and Whitnall Park off-leash dog exercise areas is needed for enforcement. Both dog parks were previously evaluated for environmental significance and processed according to the City's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. A Notice of Determination was filed in March 1990 for the Griffith Park dog exercise area, and a Notice of Exemption was filed in February 1999 for the Whitnall Park dog area. Therefore, the proposed ordinance is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article II, Section 2(i) of the City CEQA Guidelines for previous CEQA clearances, and Section 2(m) because adoption of the ordinance in and of itself will not result in any impacts on the physical environment.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The new rules and regulations will provide the Department with much needed standardization and a tool for enforcement without having a detrimental effect on the Department's General Fund.

Prepared by West Region Superintendent Debby Rolland and Park Ranger Nadim Eskander

ATTACHMENT

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Dog defecation is to be removed by the owner (LAMC 53.49).
2. Aggressive dogs are not allowed in the Park. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior are to be removed from the Park at once (LAMC 53.34).
3. All dogs using the facility shall be licensed and vaccinated (LAMC 53.15.3, 53.51).
4. No dogs under the age of four months are allowed to use the Park.
5. A license tag is to be on the dog collar, and proof of vaccination should be available during the visit (LAMC 53.21).
6. Dogs with communicable diseases are not allowed in the Park at any time (LAMC 53.30).
7. Female dogs in heat are not permitted in the Park (LAMC 53.29).
8. Dogs are not to be left unattended. Unattended dogs are considered abandoned (PC 597b) and will be taken to the nearest animal shelter. (For Animal Shelter locations, phone (888) 452-7381.)
9. No more than three dogs are allowed per person.
10. Dogs are to be leashed at all times when not in the designated off-leash area (LAMC 53.06.2).
11. The small dog area is for small and timid dogs only.