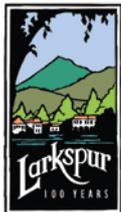


Canine Commons Dog Park



Workshop #2
Sept 11, 2013



Larkspur Park & Rec Department
& Public Works Department

Purpose of Workshop

To provide the public an opportunity
in an informal setting to:

- Gather information
- Generate ideas
- Provide input
- Be a part of the process



Environmental Concerns

- This location is a sensitive wetlands area. Environmental regulatory agencies, including RWQCB, Army Corps of Engineers and California Fish & Wildlife have advised the City that restoration to natural habitat is necessary
- The area is habitat for both the Clapper Rail and the Marsh Mouse
- Both the Bon Air Bridge Project and the maintenance of the City storm drainage system (outfalls and drainage ditches) require mitigation, the restoration the dog park to wetlands area will meet a portion of the mitigation requirement and retain the habitat enhancement in Larkspur



Community Concerns

The existing dog park does not adequately meet the needs of many dog owners, thus is underutilized. Responses to surveys from the Master Plan outreach indicates the park is:

- Too small, particularly for large dog users
- Lacks desirable amenities, such as dog run and training areas
- Does not provide enough shade
- Needing improved surfacing
- Fence is too short (min height should be 5-feet)

We Have an opportunity!

By restoring the existing dog park location back to its natural habitat, the City has an opportunity to:

- move and expand the dog park
- create a beautiful passive-use site
- provide Interpretive signage to increase understanding of wetlands importance
- Approximately 90% of the costs will be funded through a federal grant for the Bon Air Bridge Replacement Project

Why Move
the
Existing
Dog Park?



Genesis of the Cainie Commons Dog Park

1970's

Awareness of the need for dog parks in communities
Discussions for building a dog park in Larkspur

1990

Original dog park built at Piper Park

2006

Refurbishment of original dog park

2011

Piper Park Master Plan identifies continued interest
for dog park and desire for improvements &
expansion



The City of Larkspur hired RHAA Architects to prepare a master plan for the purpose of the serving as a general guide for long-range vision and blueprint for park updates and programming.

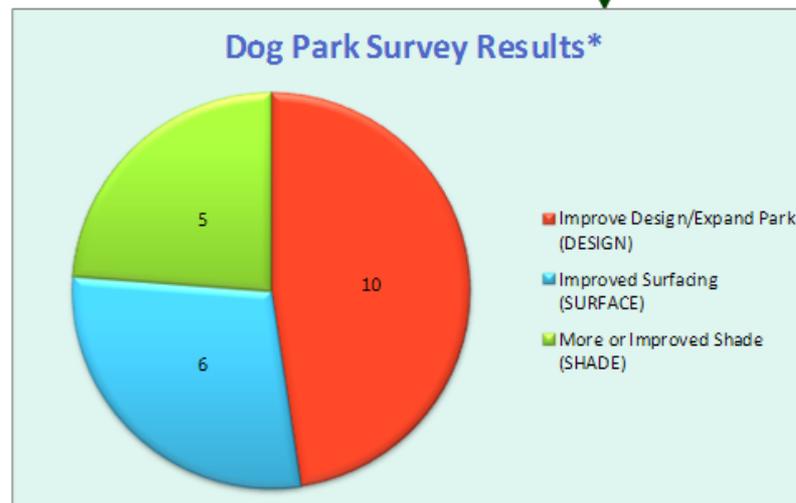
Throughout the Fall 2010 and Spring of 2011, RHAA gathered site data and user information to prepare what is now the Piper Park Master Plan.

Dog Park Users -- Survey Results from Master Plan

| Master Plan Survey Results | # of Responses | Area of Concern |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| • more shade / shade structure | 5 | SHADE |
| • dirty surface / replace w/turf | 5 | SURFACE |
| • more benches & picnic tables | 3 | DESIGN |
| • separate, non-fenced, off leash dog area | 2 | DESIGN |
| • better surface maintenance | 1 | SURFACE |
| • entrance area needs redesign | 1 | DESIGN |
| • expand dog park | 1 | DESIGN |
| • dog training or separate dog run area | 1 | DESIGN |
| • path around dog park | 1 | DESIGN |
| • take advantage of space surrounding dog park | 1 | DESIGN |
| Total Responses | 21 | |

"Survey Says"
(responses from users of the existing dog park)

Aggregated Survey Results



Public Input to Date



- Staff has received many emails
- Staff has spoken directly with residents both in person and on the phone
- Staff has visited the existing dog park and queried users
- A public workshop was held and well attended
- A webpage was developed to provide information



The results of all this information have encouraged Staff to discontinue efforts investigating Niven Park as an alternative and to further review Piper Park for alternatives.



Piper Park North Feedback

From Workshop #1 on Aug 22nd

| Pros | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I love the idea of Piper Park new and improved area. Thank you so much for all this. I know people would help pay to maintain these areas. Maybe handicap could be allowed closer access in park field areas. | Short of finding another space, I like Piper Park because there is shade and parking. Yes, it is a longer walk, but I am out there <u>for</u> the walk. |
| Move a tennis court or playground the north end of the park. | I prefer Piper Park. |
| Please consider moving something else to Niven to free up space in Piper Park for a dog park. | I vote to locate the dog park in Piper BUT create parking spots nearby for handicap accessible. |
| Take a strip of land along the park instead of moving the dog park. | Piper Park is much more a part of the community...feels less commercial. |
| We need a dog park in Larkspur. Piper Park is a good place. Let's work out the bugs. Money is available...awesome. | Piper Park will work for us based on the cones that were laid out. Do not need the cages. |
| I prefer Piper Park location because: (1) it is already used as dog park; (2) fencing it off alleviates interference with cricket and soccer games; (3) easy access with parking; (4) less expensive option...just needing to add fencing to the relocated dog park fencing, water line to be shared by other park users and a few signs. The shade, benches & grass already exist. | I support relocating the dog park to the north end of Piper. Piper Park has multiple uses, with some of it dedicated to dogs with their humans who enjoy catching up with each other while exercising dogs. I'm not aware of other suitable spaces in the city. I'm also in support of restoring the existing dog park to wetlands, since the dog park is not well-used anyway. I often walk the entire park with my dog and enjoy the backspace even better than the existing dog park. |

- 12 citizens supportive of relocating the dog park within Piper Park

| Neutral | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| at Niven Park as a very good example great dog park. Path, Water, small & area for the dogs to run. I love Niven Park. | Straw polls are inappropriate. More options! |
| Park is not handicap accessible. ADA lawsuit. | I think they need more options in either Piper Park or another location. |
| Consider restoring the proposed dog park site at Niven to marsh. | North end of Piper too far from parking lot. |
| We need more options - Piper location is too far from parking. | Piper Park is too far from parking. |

- 9 comments voicing concerns about accessibility to north end of Piper or wanting to explore other location options at Piper Park



- 7 opponents to using the north end as a dog park or having a dog park at all

| Cons | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ...accessible...it needs to have space. | North end of Piper is a horrible option...more choices. |
| Even if it takes longer, please identify another option. Restoring the dog park to marsh is GREAT!!! | Save the free area! |
| Great concern about placing an active dog park so close to breeding areas of shorebirds. Also destroys precious passive use area. | Fill in the dog park, restore the marsh and <u>do not</u> create another dog park. |
| North end is an unacceptable site. Piper needs its passive space. | |



Location
within
Piper Park



Two Alternate
Locations
at Piper Park



Proposed Site 1

North End of Piper Park

Small Dog Area
(@ 4,000 sf)



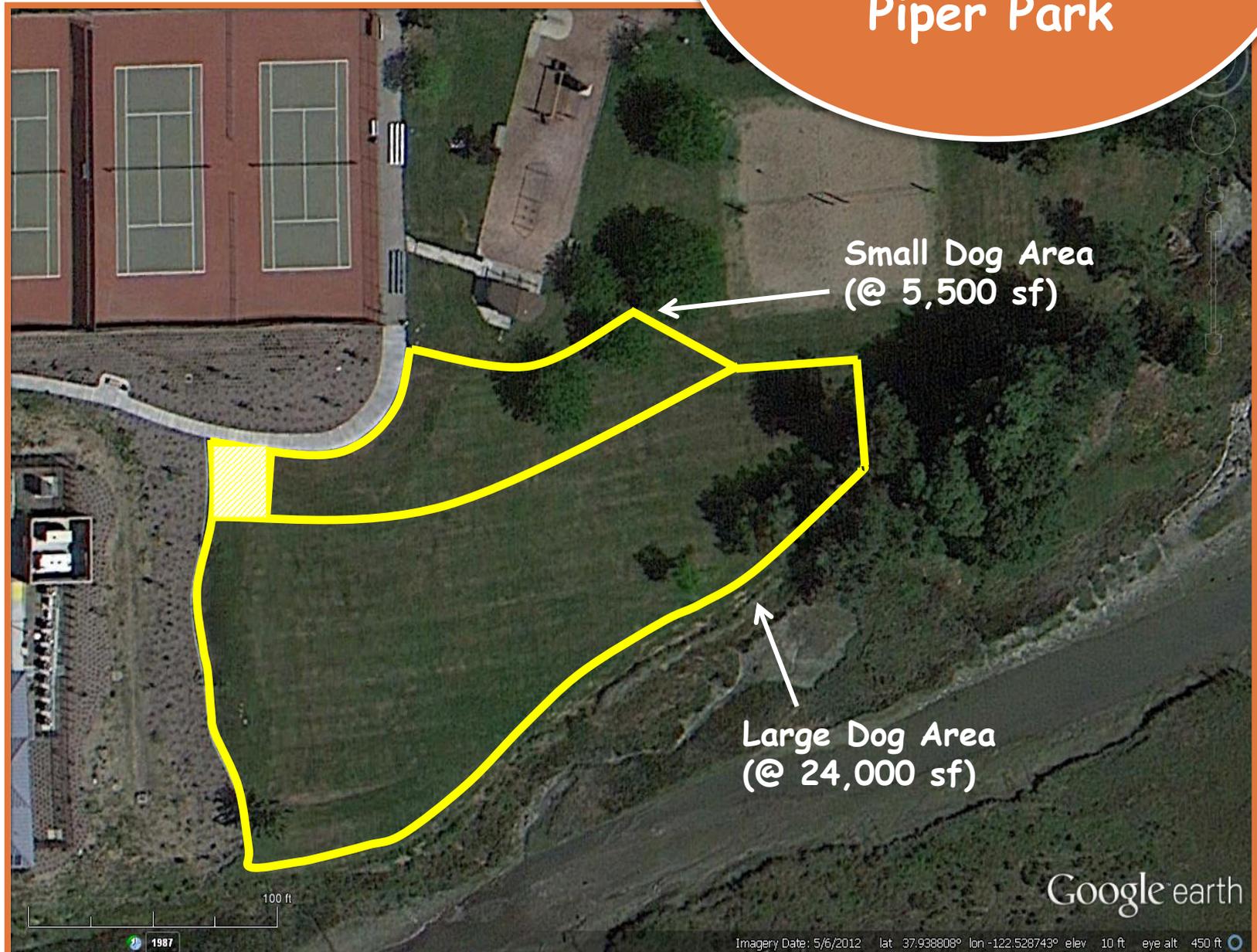
Large Dog Area
(@ 18,000 sf)





Proposed Site 2

South End of Piper Park



Benefits of a
Dog Park
to the
Community



Benefits for Community & People

Provides seniors and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions.

Provides residents with small or no yard, condos and apartment dwellers with a place to exercise their dogs.

Presence of dog owners and dogs can be a deterrent to crime elsewhere in the park.

Fosters a sense of community. Dogs serve as a social lubricant, facilitating conversations among strangers and opportunity for sharing information about responsible pet ownership.

A dog park will keep dogs within its confines and away from children, joggers and people who prefer not to be around dogs.



Benefits for Dogs

- Give dogs a place to exercise safely, thus reducing undesirable behavior that can affect non-dog owners, such as barking and escaping.
- Dogs get exposure to other dogs and people at a dog park, thus promoting better socialization behavior in other environments.
- Helps enforcement of dog-control laws by providing a place where dogs can be off-leash. Regular parks and open space areas, if they allow dogs at all, require them to be on-leash.

DOG PARKS - BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS



Why off-Leash?

off-Leash Time = Healthier Dogs

Many dogs spend all day in crates, indoors or small yards. Dogs with off-leash time:

- can run freely and get better exercised
- are less territorial off-leash, which improves their sociability with other dogs and people
- are more mentally stimulated and tend to bark less, bite less and are less aggressive



"Do Fence Me In!"

- People already bring their dogs to play off-leash at Niven and Piper Parks. Creating a fenced dog park will help separate dogs and people.
- Some children and adults are afraid of dogs **even when they are leashed**. Having a dog park reduces their likelihood of encountering dogs at the park, resulting in a safer, more pleasant experience for **all** park users.

Dog owners are park users too!

- Recreating with one's dog — throwing a ball, frisbee, running, walking—**benefits dog owners** as much as their dogs
- Inside a dog park, owners have less worry about their dogs bothering the general public
- A dog park is a legitimate park feature as much as sports fields, playgrounds and gardens



What Makes
a Great
Dog Park?



Questions

&

Answers

