



DATE: June 21, 2016

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Services

TITLE: **Off-Leash Area Program Update –
Bubb Park and Rengstorff Park**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify operational times at Bubb Park Off-Leash Area to Monday through Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to sunset for a one-year trial period.
2. Install additional fencing at the entry area to the Rengstorff Park Off-Leash Area.

BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2016, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) was provided an update on the Off-Leash Area (OLA) Program (Attachment 1). One year after being formally adopted, the program is working well. Staff noted there has been a significant reduction in concerns logged (11) compared to during the pilot (59).

During the pilot period, Bubb and Cuesta Park OLAs received the most complaints. Staff increased enforcement at Bubb and Cuesta Park OLAs from May through October. These areas are patrolled by the Cuesta Park Ranger and this has helped with OLA compliance. Improved signage and program information on the website assist users in understanding the rules, areas, and hours where off-leash activities are permitted.

ANALYSIS

Residents of Bubb Park area requested the PRC consider their request for expanded hours and days for a six-month trial period. The current hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The residents noted that many of them work and are not able to utilize the morning hours.

All organized youth sports activities and practices are scheduled on the fields at Bubb School. The turf area at Bubb Park is not programmed and is shared by the public and

dog owners. The group told the PRC that they monitor new dogs and their owners and encourage them to abide by the off-leash rules. They remind them the dogs must be under control and are not permitted in the playground area.

The residents' request was for morning hours (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) and 5:00 p.m. to sunset Monday through Sunday for a six-month trial period. The PRC felt a one-year trial period would permit staff to better evaluate the hours and days.

Rengstorff OLA

A resident at the meeting discussed a negative experience she had being charged by a large dog as she walked by the Rengstorff OLA. The dog snarled at her and impeded her movement twice, until the owner reluctantly came over and took the dog away. She was concerned because she and others walk young children through this area regularly.

The Rengstorff OLA (Attachment 3) is located along the east side of the tennis courts and is fenced on three sides. The area is only used for off-leash dog activity and it would be simple to fence the front entry. The PRC passed a motion to strongly recommend the Council approve additional fencing for this OLA. The Council considered fencing "dog parks" as part of the OLA Pilot Program, but declined to do so. Based on community input, staff supports fencing in this particular area.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$3,000 to \$4,000 for fencing at the Rengstorff OLA. There are sufficient funds in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget for the Parks Division to cover this expense.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not expand the operational hours and days at the Bubb Park OLA.
2. Propose an alternate schedule for the Bubb Park OLA.
3. Do not add fencing to the Rengstorff OLA.
4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting, notice placed on the Parks webpage, and public posting at all Off-Leash Areas.

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BH-JPdIM/CV/7/CAM
216-06-21-16CR-E

- Attachments: 1. June 8, 2016 Off-Leash Area Update Report
2. Bubb Park Map and Off-Leash Area
3. Rengstorff Park Map and Off-Leash Area