

# Agenda Report

DATE: MAY 17, 1999

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION - CONCEPT APPROVAL, OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council conceptually approve the development of an off-leash exercise area in Eaton Wash Park, and direct the City Manager to:

1. Work with interested community groups and organizations to develop a comprehensive list of rules and regulations for use of off-leash area including the identification of available funding for the construction and ongoing maintenance.
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare amendments to the City Ordinance that will provide for dogs to run off-leash in a secured area in a city park not involved in a city sponsored training program and/or city permitted exhibition or bench show.
3. Return to City Council in 90 days or less with amended Eaton Wash Park Master Plan including all appropriate environmental approvals for construction, maintenance, and use of an off-leash dog exercise area, and related parking.

## BACKGROUND:

In the fall of 1998, City Council requested the Recreation and Parks Commission to work with city staff to review potential park sites and other areas that could be developed into an off-leash dog exercise area. This request was the result of interested community members submitting requests to City Council and the Recreation and Parks Commission to identify a site that could accommodate

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an off-leash dog exercise area. The Commission developed an ad hoc committee to review all current park areas as well as looking at other potential sites such as abandoned right-of-ways. In reviewing these sites city staff and the Commission took into consideration the current and proposed uses of the park, potential area for parking and costs to develop off-leash area. Attached is a summary of parks that were considered with comments.

The committee conducted various meetings to develop parameters that would enable the full Commission to determine potential sites for an off-leash area. The parameters that were developed include: (1) the rejection of “small sized parks” based on the premise that an off-leash area should be in a size range of one-two acres to be successful. The potential off-leash area would take over an inordinate amount of the small park’s area, (2) there is a shortage of area for organized soccer, baseball and football leagues (play fields) and that those areas should not be converted to new use, (3) open space areas used for informal recreation and leisure activities should not be converted as there is a shortage of open space areas, (4) an off-leash area seemed at odds with the current use and identification of some parks.

Memorial and Central Parks receive heavy use for festivals, concerts, etc. Hahamongna Watershed Park is a mixed use of recreation, habitat restoration and water storage areas. The Lower Arroyo is a designated wildlife and natural area. Based on the parameters presented, the undeveloped area of **Eaton Wash Park** remains the most logical location for this recommended use.

In January 1995, city staff with concurrence of the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended to City Council that one of the elements of the proposed Eaton Wash Park Master Plan include an off-leash dog exercise area. The City Council did not approve a number of staff and Commission recommended elements for the park’s master plan including an off-leash exercise area. Since 1995 there has been an increased interest for the development of an off-leash area including presentations to City Council and the Recreation and Parks Commission. The Commission has conducted various meetings to receive input and comments on the potential development of an off-leash dog exercise area in Eaton Wash Park. City Council has also received information reports (copy attached) from city staff at previous Council meetings outlining the various areas and conditions that need to be addressed in the development of an off-leash exercise area for dogs. At the February 16, 1999 Special Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission the Commission voted to recommend to the City Council amending Eaton Wash Park Master Plan to include an off-leash area for dogs.

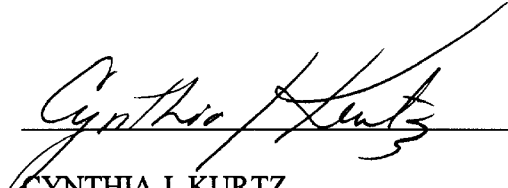
The Recreation and Parks Commission and city staff also supported the development of an on-site parking area to accommodate park users. This element was presented as part of the Eaton Wash Park Master Plan to City Council in 1995, however, City Council did not approve the on-site parking as part of the current Master Plan. This on-site parking recommendation would provide additional parking for park users and would reduce the number of vehicles that would park on city streets.

Organizations such as the Pasadena Humane Society, Pasadenans Organizing Off-Leash Canine Habitats (P.O.O.C.H.), Pasadena Kennel Club, AA Dog Training would assist in the development of a list of rules and regulations governing the off-leash area.


**FISCAL IMPACT:**

It is anticipated that the cost of the study to develop the various elements of this proposed off-leash area will be approximately \$900.00. There are sufficient funds in the Eaton Wash Park Capital Improvement Program account 78289 to conduct this study. Costs for completion and continual upkeep of this project are anticipated to be obtained from private sources.

Respectfully submitted;

  
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CYNTHIA J. KURTZ,  
City Manager

Prepared and Approved by:

  
FOR ROBERT C. BADERIAN, Director  
Parks and Natural Resources

Attachment