



City of Burlington
Department of Parks & Recreation
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APPENDIX B: PROPOSED OFF-LEASH POLICY

Date: June 6, 2013

To: City Council

From: The Off-Leash Work Group (OLWG)

Community Representatives: Ed Pais, Chair, Betsy Allen-Pennebaker, Lynne Lieb, Becky Poitras, and Louise Stoll; Staff: Deryk Roach, Dan Cahill and Jen Francis

Re: Off-Leash Work Group Findings

Off-Leash Work Group proposed policy regarding:

- A. *Designation of Areas and Times of Operations*
- B. *Rules for Commercial Use of Off-Leash Dog Areas*
- C. *Signage*
- D. *Operations*
- E. *Public Outreach & Enforcement*

(A) Designation of Areas and Times of Operations.

The following areas, including those identified in the ordinance, are opportunities for off-leash areas:

(1) Fenced Dog Runs-Parks

(a) Starr Farm Park (year-round). That portion of Starr Farm Park that is bounded on the east by the Burlington Bikeway and bounded on the west by that part of Starr Farm Park which is set aside for community gardens.

(i) *Times*. The designated area may be used year round during the operating hours of the park from 8:00 a.m. to sunset or 8:00 p.m. whichever comes earlier.

(b) Urban Reserve (year-round). That portion of the area designated as the Waterfront Urban Reserve Dog ~~Run~~-Park - bounded on the east by the Burlington Bikeway, the north by the land known as the Texaco Jetty – including so much land to the south of the Jetty as to allow for access to the beach directly adjacent to the dog run, and 280 yards north of the southern boundary of the Urban Reserve.

(i) *Times*. The designated area may be used for off-leash use during operating hours.

(2) Mixed Opportunities (water, open field, trails)

(a) Leddy Park (year-round). Leddy Park in its entirety excluding programmed areas including parking lots, athletic fields, public beaches, buildings, roads and walks, courts, playgrounds, etc.

(i) *Times*. The designated area may be used park operating hours.

(b) Oakledge Park 1 (seasonal). Oakledge Park in its entirety excluding programmed areas including athletic fields, playgrounds, courts, parking lots, roads and walks, buildings, public beaches, parking lots, etc.

(i) *Times.* The designated area may be used November 16 to May 14.

(3) *Water & Trail Opportunity*

(a) *Oakledge Park 2 (year-round).* That portion of Oakledge Park that is bounded on the west by the lake, bounded on the east by the bike path, on the south by the path to the cove, and bounded on the north by the field to the north of the tennis courts. Access to Lake Champlain shall be available for dogs and people in this area.

(i) *Times.* The designated area may be used during park operating hours.

(4) *Field*

(a) *Calahan Park (seasonal).* That portion of Calahan Park that is bounded on the east by Shelburne Road, north by Locust Street, west by Pine Street, and south by the park/neighborhood boundary excluding programmed areas such as courts, buildings, baseball fields, roads/walks, playgrounds, etc.

(i) *Times.* Summer: the designated area may be used at any time of the year from dawn to 10:00 a.m.

(ii) *Times.* Winter: the designated area may be used at from October 1 to April 1 from dawn to 10 am and 3:00 p.m. to dusk.

(b) *Schmanska Park (seasonal).* The multipurpose field portion of Schmanska Park extending from the basketball court to the tennis court.

(i) *Times.* Summer: the designated area may be used from April 16 to October 14 from 8:00 p.m. to ~~8:00 a.m.~~ dusk and dawn to 8:00 a.m.

(ii) *Times:* Fall: the designated area may be used from October 15 to April 15 from 4:00 p.m. to dusk and dawn to 9:00 a.m. for off-leash activities permitted by these rules.

(c) *Waterfront Park (seasonal).* That portion of the park bounded on the north by Lake Street, bounded on the west by the bike path, bounded on the south by the path that crosses the railroad tracks and connects to Lake Street, and bounded on the east by the railroad tracks.

(i) *Times.* Winter: the designated area may be used at any time of the day from November 15 to March 31 for off-leash activities permitted by these rules.

(ii) Access to this area may be limited from November 15 to March 31, if any events permitted by the Parks and Recreation department need this designated area.

(d) *Roosevelt Park (seasonal).* That portion of the park bounded on the north by Oak Street, bounded on the west by Walnut Street, bounded on the south by Willow Street, and on the east by the walking path bisecting the park. Dogs are not allowed on the baseball infield.

(i) *Times.* The designated area may be used at any time of the year from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from October 1 to April 1 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(B) Rules for Commercial Use of Off-Leash Dog Areas.

(1) Commercial users will be responsible for creating any boundaries or temporary fencing that is required for their needs.

(2) Commercial users may use the off-leash dog areas a maximum of twelve days per year.

- (3) No more than one commercial user may use a single dog park concurrently.
- (4) Off-leash dogs will be able to utilize any areas of the off-leash area that are not separated by temporary or permanent fencing.
- (5) With the exception of extraordinary circumstances, no more than 33% of an off-leash dog area shall be permitted to be bounded off for commercial usage.
- (6) Commercial usage shall not interfere with standard entrances and exits from the off-leash dog area.
- (7) If any parks and recreation staff time is required for the event, the commercial users of the park will be responsible for covering all costs related to the staff time. Further, staff will only be made available with approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation approval.
- (8) Commercial users will be responsible for all costs related to set-up, operations, security, and cleanup for all events.
- (9) Standard Parks and Recreation Department requirements for reserving parks will apply.

(C) Signage.

- (1) Signs may be placed at the perimeter of non-fenced off-leash dog areas to indicate the limits of off-leash dog activity.
- (2) Signage shall be placed at entrances to off-leash dog areas indicating the essential rules.
 - (a) Essential rules will be defined for each opportunity by Park Department staff.

(D) Operations.

- (1) Parks & Recreation shall develop and keep current an operations plan that defines services and responsibilities to be delivered to areas identified in the policy.

(E) Public Outreach & Enforcement.

- (1) The Parks Department and the Police Department shall collaborate to educate and enforce the rules and regulations as outlined by the policy in off-leash areas.

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