



Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space

Quarterly & Year End Review of Off-Leash Dog Area Pilot Program





Washoe County Parks Pilot Program Overview

- **Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space has tested a one-year pilot program**
- **Three Washoe County Parks with soccer fields have had off-leash hours of 8am-sunset everyday during the soccer off-season, November through February**
- **The same three parks have had off-leash hours of 8am-1pm Monday-Friday during non-team use March through November**



Pilot Program Parks Review

- **North Valleys Regional Park (80 x 80 soccer field)**

8085 Silver Lake Rd., Reno 89506

Fully fenced 80 x 80 soccer field



- 1. Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year**

On average, weekday and weekend use has been consistent at 20 people per day from August 2022 to present. A regular group meets every morning. Due to no soccer on this field, there has been weekend use on Sundays.

- 2. Dog waste left on field**

Two reports from soccer leagues of waste left on field. 7 piles found by staff. Garbage cans at each entrance have been full of mostly dog waste bags.

- 3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services**

One- Aggressive dog and owner



Pilot Program Parks Review

4. Number of refilled dog waste bags

11 boxes of dog waste bags (200 bags each) have been refilled

5. Damage reports filed

None

6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Users continue to be thankful. One comment from a soccer coach: "This field is cleaner than most other fields that don't allow dogs."



Review of Pilot Program

■ Lazy 5 Regional Park (lower soccer field)



7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks 89436

Unfenced soccer field far away from main road and surrounded by sagebrush on three sides. Playground and pavilion are at a distance from fields.

- 1. Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year:**
Average of 15 users per day
- 2. Dog waste left on field:** Zero picked up by staff
- 3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** Zero



Review of Pilot Program

4. Number of refilled dog waste bags: 3 boxes of bags (200 bags per box) –Most people bring their own bags.

5. Damage reports filed: Zero

6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Regular users everyday, coming with their dogs.

Many people are still unaware- more publicity if it becomes a permanent feature.



Review of Pilot Program

- **South Valleys Regional Park** 15650 Wedge Pkwy., Reno 89511



Lower soccer field between Library and playground. Chain link fence on two sides, split rail and retaining wall on the other sides.

1. **Number of users during off-leash hours by day/month/year:**

Average users per day is about 30 people per day.

33 warnings/interactions by staff during non-off-leash times

2. **Dog waste left on field:** 9 dog piles/waste have been picked up by staff

3. **Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** One

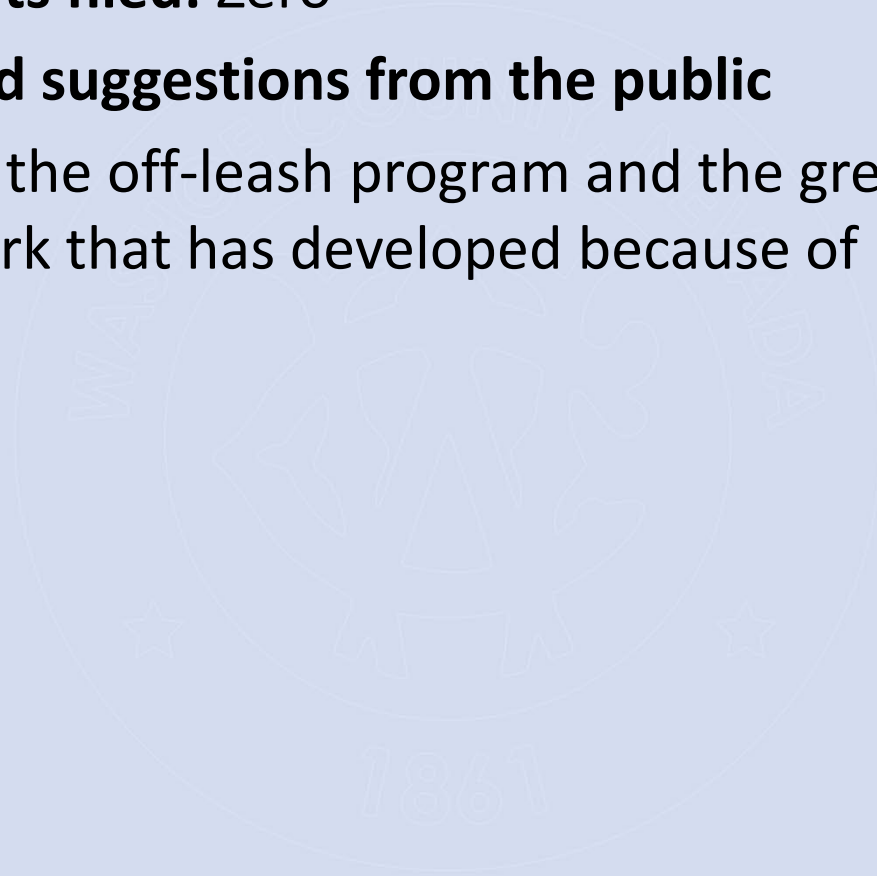
4. **Number of refilled dog waste boxes:** 23 (200 bags per box)



Review of Pilot Program

- 5. Damage reports filed: Zero**
- 6. Comments and suggestions from the public**

Emails: Support of the off-leash program and the great social (human and canine) network that has developed because of it.





Review of Pilot Program

- **Whites Creek Park Update:**

White's Creek Park was originally on the Pilot Program for off-leash dog use during non-team use. Due to residents resisting the proposal due to suggested reasons such as an increase of traffic and concerns of dog waste left on field, the park was taken off the list.

Staff continue to inform the public that dog's must be on leash in this park, and South Valleys lower soccer field is available certain days and times. Due to staffing shortages, Animal Services has been unable to perform park patrols recently. Complaints have been received for speeding vehicles and dogs off-leash during soccer practice.



Quarterly Summary

- **Total average users per day August-present: 65 people plus dogs**
- **Busiest off-leash field: South Valleys Regional Park**
- **Total dog bag boxes replaced August–present: 37 boxes**
- **Total dog waste picked up by staff August-present: 16 piles**
- **Total Number of damage reports: Zero**
- **Total calls to Animal Services: Two**
- **Comments from the public: Personal interactions have been 100% positive. Sport Leagues have complained twice at North Valleys about dog waste on fields**



Year End Summary

North Valleys Regional Park Year End Statistics

	Total # or users per day/year	Total # of dog waste piles on field	Total calls to WCRAS	Boxes of refilled dog waste bags	Damage reports	Interaction during league-hours
Quarter 1	20	3	0	7	0	0
Quarter 2	20	6	1	10	0	0
Quarter 3	20	2	0	10	0	0
Quarter 4	20	2	0	11	0	6
Year End Totals	20 users per day/ 5,440 per year	18 total dog waste piles picked up by staff	2 calls to WCRAS, 1 off leash in June, 1 aggressive dog & owner in September	38 total dog waste boxes refilled. Total of 7600 dog waste bags	0 reports from Maintenance or Ranger Staff	6 interactions with users during league use times



Year End Summary

▪ Lazy 5 Regional Park Year End Statistics

	Total # or users per day/year	Total # of dog waste piles on field	Total calls to WCRAS	Boxes of refilled dog waste bags	Damage reports	Interaction during league-hours
Quarter 1	16	0	0	2	0	0
Quarter 2	22	3	0	7	0	0
Quarter 3	30	0	1	5	0	0
Quarter 4	15	0	0	3	0	10
Year End Totals	21 users per day/5,712 per year	3 total dog waste piles picked up by staff	1 call to WCRAS in June for off leash dog	35 total dog waste boxes refilled. Total of 7,000 dog waste bags	0 reports from Maintenance or Ranger Staff	10 interactions total with users on playground



Year End Summary

South Valleys Regional Park Year End Statistics

	Total # or users per day/year	Total # of dog waste piles on field	Total calls to WCRAS	Boxes of refilled dog waste bags	Damage reports	Interaction during league-hours
Quarter 1	53	25	0	15	0	0
Quarter 2	37	19	1	11	0	0
Quarter 3	40	5	1	26	0	31
Quarter 4	30	9	1	23	0	33
Year End Totals	40 users per day/ 10,880 per year	58 total dog waste piles picked up by staff	3 calls to WCRAS, 1 aggressive dog, 2 off leash calls	55 total dog waste boxes refilled. 11,000 dog waste bags	0 reports from Maintenance or Ranger Staff	Total of 64 interactions with users during league use times



Year End Summary

- Overall, the program has been very well received by the public. An overwhelming majority of dog owners are thankful to have an off-leash option for their dogs that is closer to where they live. Most users have been respectful, follow the posted rules, and clean up after their pet. We now have regular groups that meet everyday at these fields, which has contributed to a sense of community and is a positive addition to the parks.

