



# Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space

## Quarterly Review of Off-Leash Dog Area Pilot Program





# Washoe County Parks Pilot Program Overview

- **Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space is testing a one-year pilot program**
- **Three Washoe County Parks with soccer fields have off-leash hours of 8am-sunset everyday during the soccer off-season, November through February**
- **The same three parks have 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 is consistent at 15-20 people per day from May 2022 to present. A regular group meets every morning. Due to no soccer on this field, there has been weekend use.

- 2. Dog waste left on field**

Nothing reported and only 2 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**

Zero



# Pilot Program Parks Review

## 4. Number of refilled dog waste bags

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

## 5. Damage reports filed

None

## 6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Park users continue to be thankful for the off-leash option. There have been less dogs off-leash on the baseball fields.



# 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 30 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:** 5 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 40 people per day.

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

2. **Dog waste left on field:** 5 dog piles/waste have been picked up (down 14 from the last quarter!)

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

4. **Number of refilled dog waste boxes:** 26 (200 bags per box)



# Review of Pilot Program

**5. Damage reports filed: Zero**

**6. Comments and suggestions from the public**

Emails: Suggestion of more dedicated dog parks in South Reno.

Complaint that off-leash fields have too limited hours during soccer season.

Complaint of an aggressive German Shepard and an abrasive owner on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Park Ranger suggested owners reach out to Animal Control to file a report and follow up.

Two regular Volunteers are on “poop patrol” at South Valleys Regional Park. Regular Volunteer says the “program is working well. They go almost every morning and the people along with their dogs are super nice.”





# 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.

During 5 separate park patrols, staff have observed 11 people and 12 dogs on the field. 11 dog waste piles have been picked up by staff. 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.



# Summary

- **Total average users per day May-present: 90 people plus dogs**
- **Busiest off-leash field: South Valleys Regional Park**
- **Total dog bag boxes replaced May–present: 41 boxes**
- **Total dog waste picked up by staff May-present: 7 piles**
- **Total Number of damage reports: Zero**
- **Total calls to Animal Services: Zero**
- **Comments from the public: Personal interactions have been 90% positive. Only emails received were suggestions and regarding an aggressive dog and owner.**
- **Sport Leagues have not complained about dogs or waste on fields**
- **Final quarterly update in November**