



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 20 people per day from March 2022 to present. No users on weekends with soccer.

- 2. Dog waste left on field**

6 piles of dog waste have been found on the field 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

One complaint about a dog pile found on the field by a sports team.

View of the field showed
it had just been aerated.

Response has been 99%

Positive.





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 22 users per day
- 2. Dog waste left on field:** 3 dog waste piles
- 3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** Zero



Review of Pilot Program

- 4. Number of refilled dog waste bags:** 7 boxes of bags (200 bags per box)
- 5. Damage reports filed:** Zero
- 6. Comments and suggestions from the public**

One suggestion that a fence or barrier be constructed between the field and playground. Based on concerns, not an occurrence.



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 37 people per day

- 2. Dog waste left on field:** 19 dog piles/waste have been picked up
- 3. Number of calls to Washoe County Animal Services:** Zero
- 4. Number of refilled dog waste boxes:** 11 (200 bags per box)



Review of Pilot Program

5. Damage reports filed: Zero

6. Comments and suggestions from the public

Emails: “Thank you so much for your kindness and foresight in creating access for dogs and owners in South Reno.” “There are regulars in the morning, and everyone gets along wonderfully.” “Terrible idea to lift the long-standing ban on dogs on the sports turf.”

- Two regular Volunteers are on “poop patrol” at South Valleys Regional Park



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.

We continue to receive emails in support of White's Creek Park as an off-leash field. Three separate emails have complained that there are constantly dogs off leash on this field, even when kids are playing soccer. Animal Control has again been called to patrol this park.



Summary

- **Total average users per day March-present: 79 people plus dogs**
- **Busiest off-leash field: South Valleys Regional Park**
- **Total dog bag boxes replaced March–present: 28 boxes**
- **Total dog waste picked up by staff November-present: 28 piles**
- **Total Number of damage reports: Zero**
- **Total calls to Animal Services: Zero**
- **Comments from the public: Personal interactions have been 100% positive. Social media and email comments have been 70% positive, 30% negative.**
- **Sport Leagues have not complained about dogs or waste on fields**
- **Next quarterly update in August**