



Off-leash Management Plan for Hidden Valley Regional Park



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Introduction

In April of 2014, Eric Crump, Division Director-Operations, Washoe County Community Services Department, was approached by the Hidden Valley Homeowners Association (HOA). They wanted to discuss dogs off-leash at Hidden Valley Regional Park and invited Eric to their HOA meeting in April of 2014. At the meeting, Eric heard from many concerned citizens regarding Park Rangers requesting that their dogs remain leashed, in areas they were certain off-leash dogs were allowed. They wanted to express their concerns and desire for additional off-leash options at Hidden Valley Regional Park. Park staff considered the Hidden Valley HOA's proposal and formulated a plan for addressing the off-leash dog issue in an effort to meet the needs of the community.

Washoe County Chapter 95 states that all dogs must be leashed in Washoe County parks and open space, unless there is an enclosed dog park, or designated off-leash area. The area the citizens believed was off-leash actually required leashes. Hidden Valley Regional Park currently has two off-leash dog facilities contained in the Link Piazza Dog Park. Leashes are required everywhere else. Many of the citizens from the HOA do not use the dog park and would prefer to use the open spaces within the park.

Public Meetings and Staff Input

Washoe County Community Services Department (staff present: Eric Crump, Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent, and Colleen Wallace Barnum, District Park Manager), held a public meeting on August 28th, 2014, with 27 citizens in attendance. At the meeting, there was discussion about the proposed need for additional off-leash areas and potential locations for those areas. In addition to the meeting, a Survey Monkey poll was created (see appendix A) to allow those who could not attend the meeting the opportunity to voice their concerns. 72 people responded to the poll before it closed on September 15, 2014 some of whom were in attendance at the public meeting.

A park staff working group was created to assess the four areas (see appendix B) that were proposed at the August 28th meeting. This group consisted of District Park Managers and Park Rangers, who are the field staff that take care of off-leash compliance throughout Washoe County's park system. In considering all options, natural resource damage, citizen health and safety, and potential repercussions on other regional parks were noted as significant concerns. Since natural resource damage may increase with off-leash activity, a small fenced area could be installed where there would be no access for dogs and their owners. Monitoring of the fenced and off-leash sites would occur to measure resource damage with off-leash activity, versus an area receiving protection from all activity.

Park staff also collected information on best management practices (BMP) regarding techniques for management of dog parks and off-leash dog areas throughout the nation. Staff was able to make contact with 12 of the 15 different agencies listed, all of whom have off-leash dog areas and/or dog parks. There are varying practices throughout the nation (see appendix C).

Park Commission Report and Commission Recommendations

A report was compiled for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission and was presented by Colleen Wallace Barnum on January 6, 2015 (see appendix D). The Commission recommended the creation of a stakeholder group to move forward with an Off-Leash Management Plan for Hidden Valley Regional Park.

Stakeholder Group

The stakeholder group consisted of all potentially affected groups that use the area (dog walkers, non-dog walkers, mountain bikers, and equestrians). In addition and unique to Nevada, wild horses roam on the eastern portions of the park so a wild horse advocate was desired as part of the team.* Field experts such as dog trainers, veterinarians*, natural resource protection specialists, and park staff were also included in the group.

The stakeholder group is as follows:

Hidden Valley HOA representative and dog walker – Susie Kapahee

Dog Trainer – Malaika Heinbaugh

Mountain Bike Advocate – Kevin Joell

Natural Resource Specialist – Kym Kelley

Non-dog walker – Judy Luce

Equestrian trail rider – Meg Miller/Sherry Campbell

Washoe County Natural Resource/Park Planner – Cheryl Surface

Washoe County Office Support Specialist – Karen Vigil

Washoe County Animal Services Supervisor – Bobby Smith

Washoe County Animal Services Director – Shyanne Schull

Washoe County District Park Manager – Colleen Wallace Barnum

*Several attempts were made to have a veterinarian and wild horse advocate on the stakeholder group but they could not commit their time to the process.

Some basic goals were set out for the stakeholder group. The main goal is: **to create an Off-Leash Management Plan for Hidden Valley Regional Park with implementation components.**

The group meeting goals were as follows:

- Start/end meetings on time
- Read materials, minutes etc. and be prepared to discuss
- Accept the fact that there will be differences of opinion
- Show mutual respect in order to encourage good conversation
- Honor brainstorming without being attached to our own viewpoint
- You are here representing a group or are a field expert, please use that as your basis for discussion, regardless of your personal opinion
- Make decisions based on clear information

Current Management Practices

Washoe County Parks follows Chapter 95 of the Washoe County Code for parks rules, regulations, and enforcement. The specific code for leashes and animal control is as follows:

95.140 Leash law; animal control.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may:
 - (a) Bring an animal into, permit an animal to enter or remain in, or possess an animal in any county park unless the animal is on a leash of no more than 6 feet in length and under the immediate control of that person or is confined in a vehicle.
 - (b) Bring a dog into, permit a dog to enter or remain in, or possess a dog on any beach adjacent to any body of water within any county park except in areas designated for dogs. Animals are prohibited in the water in any bathing or swimming area.
 - (c) Keep any noisy, vicious or dangerous animal, or one which is disturbing to other persons, in any county park, or remain therein with the animal after he has been asked to remove the animal by a park ranger or other county parks department officer or employee.
 - (d) Lead or possess any animal, with or without a leash, while he is attending a conducted tour of an historic area or grounds within any county park.
2. The director may, upon proper posting, prohibit animals in certain areas of county parks which are extensively used by the public.
3. The provisions of this section do not apply to any visually handicapped person who uses a guide dog specially trained by a guide dog school to assist him as an aid to his mobility.

In Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks, also known as the Truckee Meadows, there are four areas designated as dog parks. Dog parks are typically fenced and provide amenities such as water for dogs and people, waste stations that provide bags and trash receptacles, benches, and open areas for the dogs to run and play. There are often rules and regulations posted at the entrance of each dog park so owners are aware of the specific rules. Off-leash areas are not as formal, but typically have signage for rules and regulations and waste stations. (see appendix E).



Multi-use pasture and off leash area at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park

It is recognized that Washoe County and in fact, the entire region including the Cities of Reno and Sparks do not have an adequate amount of off-leash areas for the size and need of the community. Washoe County has two areas where dogs are allowed off-leash: the Link Piazza Dog Park at Hidden Valley Regional Park and the multi-use pasture at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The City of Reno has two dog parks – Virginia Lake and Whittaker Park. The City of Sparks has one dog park at the Sparks Marina. Public lands are accessible throughout the Truckee Meadows. U.S. Forest Service property extends to the west and south of the Truckee Meadows and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property to the north and east. The Forest Service has recently changed their forest policy to require dogs to be leashed in the first mile of trail from Forest Service trailheads in the Truckee Meadows, due to off-leash dog problems and safety concerns for the general public.

The demand for off-leash activity is high, and compliance with dogs on leash is low. The desire would be to increase the number of dog parks and/or off-leash areas in the region, and gain better compliance in the areas where dogs are required to be leashed.

Stakeholder Group Recommendations

The stakeholder group made many recommendations throughout the course of the meetings. The following is a list of recommendations from each meeting:

Meeting #1 – Open Discussion

- Align Chapter 95 and Chapter 55 (Appendix G) of the Washoe County Code to address the congested areas where dogs are required to be leashed. The maps of park lands and congested areas need to match to reduce public confusion
- Chapter 95 should include citation authority for Park Ranger staff so they can issue citations for off leash issues, much like an animal control officer.
- Clear and concise signage regarding rules, regulations, and responsibilities should be posted.
- Dog waste bag dispensers and garbage cans should be placed throughout the off-leash area. While it would be difficult for park staff to take on additional trash removal, it was recommended that trash cans could be sponsored by local organizations who would volunteer to remove the waste bags to the dumpster in the park.

Meeting #2 – Site visit to Hidden Valley Regional Park

- The east portion of the park is too steep, with uneven terrain for casual walkers, limiting accessibility. The recommendation is that there should be a combination of areas (from maps #1 and #4) that allow for off-leash to accommodate all types of trail users and all abilities.

- The inner loop area was discussed as a good potential off-leash area, but recommended the need for fencing to the west (at minimum) so the private property owners would not be responsible for having fencing that keeps dogs out of their private property.
- In discussing the dog park plans from other communities, the stakeholder group recommended no fee for use of the off-leash area.
- Although there is a model in Portland for different hours of use, for different user groups, it was recommended to keep it simple and stay away from complex rules and regulations that could be confusing or difficult to manage.

Meeting #3 – Management plan sub-sections

There were 3 specific sub-sections of the plan that the stakeholder group addressed. The stakeholder group split into 3 smaller groups to discuss design, enforcement/regulation, and community volunteers.

The first group discussed the **DESIGN** of the off-leash area and what they recommend it should include. The design discussed was tailored to the “Inner Loop”, if another area is chosen some of the things discussed would not be applicable depending on the terrain and area itself.

SIGNAGE:

1. Type of sign
 - Rules (easily understood, contact information for emergency)
 - Boundaries
 - Informational
 - Education
 - Warnings
 - Legal to include owner liability, not Washoe County
 - Clear signage indicating entrances
 - Multi-lingual/universal
2. Sign Material
 - Metal or vinyl
 - Post type
 - Carsonite flexible
 - Graffiti proof

FENCING: *currently there is no boundary fencing on the east or west boundaries of the park.

1. Vinyl coated colored
2. Chain link
3. No climb vs smooth wire
4. Where/private homes vs open space
5. Maintenance of fences

WASTE RECEPTACLES:

1. Dog waste vs garbage (need for both and quantity)
2. Poop bag stations

OTHER AMENITIES:

1. Benches
2. Map of off-leash area
3. Water stations
4. Kiosks/information boards

GENERAL CONCERNS:

1. A formal agreement is important with a citizen group or volunteers
2. Do Hidden Valley residents fully understand the impact of opening a new off leash area to the public? If you build it, they will come.
3. Impact on adjacent neighbors
4. Smoking/alcohol/fire safety
5. Age of children
6. Maintenance and vandalism
7. Cost to Washoe County

The second group discussed the **ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION** of the off-leash area.

Most of the regulations and enforcement are regulated by Washoe County Code Chapter 55 & Chapter 95 and if not followed fines/citations can occur. Some rules and regulations are common sense. Those not following the regulations may be asked to leave the park. Washoe County Park Rangers do not currently have citation authority. Enforcement, Design and Community all go hand in hand and tie in with each other. Proper signage, education and safety are all important if the off-leash area is to work. A few areas where education of the community group will be important are vaccinations, aggression and control.

RULES OF OFF-LEASH AREA

1. Dog owners are required to remove all waste and place in waste receptacle
2. Dog owners are required to have voice and sight control
3. Supervision of children at all times (should there be an age limit?)
4. Aggressive dogs or dogs “showing signs” of aggression must leave immediately
5. Chase/worry/kill (wild horses/wildlife)
6. Dogs must be leashed to and from off-leash area
7. Enter at your own risk
8. 1 leash per dog
9. 3 dogs per handler, maximum
10. No FIS (female dogs in season) allowed
11. Must be current on vaccinations
12. Dog should be licensed (maybe have a place or means to license on site)

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

1. Equestrians have right of way at all times
2. Hikers and dog walkers yield to bikers
3. Leash dogs if excited by horses or bikes
4. Respect each type of user of the park



The third group discussed the need for a **COMMUNITY GROUP AND VOLUNTEERS** to assist with the success of the off-leash area.

It was decided the main goal of the community group should be education and advocacy. There are many components that will make the off-leash area work but it will take continuing education with the public who will be using the off leash area. Also, being advocates of the park and believing that it will work is important for its success.

Involve those who may have a vested interest such as dog trainers, local residents, businesses and sponsors to help make the off-leash area a success.

There should be a grand opening event to make the public aware the off leash area is open. The grand opening should include flyers, newsletter, contact veterinarians/pet related business in the area and word of mouth. GIS Targeting is an excellent source for communication.

Meeting #4 – location of future off-leash areas

The group discussed the best locations, based on the 4 maps, for a future off-leash area. It was decided that both map #1 “inner loop” and map #2 “east of fence” areas were not only the most popular, but had the best potential for future off-leash use.

The group agreed that the “inner loop” would be the best place to begin the off-leash area with the potential to add the “east of fence” area if the inner loop proved to be successful. The inner loop provides flat terrain for off-leash use. There is still flat terrain on the perimeter loop trail for those that prefer to walk without dogs.

The group also felt that a pilot program of one full year would provide enough time to monitor the success of the off-leash area. A monitoring schedule would be created to keep track of the following: dog waste removal, voice and sight control of dogs by owners, natural resource damage, and complaints to Park Rangers and Animal Control in regards to aggressive dogs and/or dog attacks.

There was consensus within the group that fencing is critical. The initial cost of chain link fencing is excessive, but an alternative four feet high no-climb fence would work at a fraction of the cost. While it was discussed at a previous meeting to just fence the western portion of the “inner loop”, there are adjacent trails to the inner loop that should be open to walkers without dogs. Without enclosed fencing, off-leash dogs within the “inner loop” could potentially stray outside. A fence would deter that behavior and keep a dog from jumping up on someone. It was discussed that there should be four access gates for the area (see appendix F). Each access would have dog waste bag dispensers and garbage cans. Signage with maps, boundaries, and rules would be posted at each entrance point. There should also be signs on the trails, within the park, that refer to which trail is off-leash and which trail is leashed. The fence should resolve the problem, but advanced warning is always a good practice. Water would not be accessible as that feature would be cost prohibitive. Owners will need to bring water.

Implementation Procedures

Pilot Program

The stakeholder group confirmed the importance of a pilot program in just one area of the park. The area of map #1 “inner loop” was chosen. Monitoring the smaller area will allow gathering of accurate data to determine success. This area is 29.2 acres allowing plenty of room for all off-leash users to spread out.

It is important to provide enough time to monitor and gather data to determine the success of the off-leash area. The group decided that one full-year should be sufficient. It is critical that we communicate to all who enter the off-leash area the fact that it is a pilot program. If the off-leash area is successful, additional areas within Hidden Valley Regional Park and other parks within Washoe County may be considered. Signage will be placed along the perimeter of the trail, where it is adjacent to the off-leash area.

Operations and Maintenance

There will be additional operations and maintenance responsibilities associated with the off-leash area by Washoe County Park staff. It will be imperative to have a community group agreement in place

before the proposed off-leash area opens to the public. Park staff and volunteers can work together on duties such as:

- fence monitoring & repairs
- replacing dog waste bags
- removing trash & hauling to dumpster
- foot patrols of the area
- remove debris along the fence from wind-blown material (i.e. weeds, trash)

Compliance checks by Park Rangers will also be necessary on a regular basis. The success of the off-leash area will be dependent upon users following all posted rules and regulations. Park Rangers need to obtain citation authority to handle issues appropriately, or call in Animal Services, if necessary depending on the issue.

Best Management Practices

Portland has an off-leash advisory committee. They have an extensive off-leash dog park system with 35 areas throughout the city of Portland. Many of their off-leash areas have specific times of use for off-leash based on multiple uses and the best way to provide access to all desired user groups. The City of Seattle has an agreement with Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) that has been in existence since 2000. It began as a pilot program for a few parks and has transitioned to an implemented program for many Seattle parks. The City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks has a Voice and Sight Control Program that was established back in 2006. They have heavily monitored the success of the program and have recently established some new practices in 2015 due to non-compliance with voice and sight control of dogs by owners. A Best Practices survey was conducted for Salt Lake County's Off-Leash Dog Park Master Plan in 2008. They had eight communities throughout the nation participate, and obtained information in the following areas:

- Background of the community's off-leash dog park system
- Public involvement in their dog park development process
- Location criteria utilized in planning off-leash dog parks
- Design criteria and standards
- Operation and maintenance issues
- Policies, procedures, regulations, and enforcement practices

The best management practices nationwide illustrated the need for fencing (87.5% said fencing was important), signage, and waste stations. Perimeter fencing is essential and the least expensive, but most effective method of keeping dogs within the off-leash area is preferred. As discussed previously, a four-foot high no-climb fence would be appropriate and effective. There would be four entrances to the off-leash area, with signs and maps at each entrance. In addition, dog waste bag dispensers and trash cans will be at each entrance. Entrance #1 & #2 would provide parking. Entrance #4 provides parking at the south entrance of Hidden Valley Park. Finally, entrance #3 will provide access for neighbors specifically via a social trail from the west (see appendix F).

Community Group Agreement

Best Management Practices advocate for the success of the off-leash area. While it will be dependent upon many factors, one of the most important is support from the community. As mentioned in the sub-section on community groups and volunteers, involving citizens who have a vested interest in the success will help tremendously. Citizens of Off-Leash Areas (COLA) in Seattle, Washington, have a formal agreement with the City of Seattle to provide site stewards for all off-leash areas, and solicit volunteers on a regular basis. Site stewards assist with general maintenance and clean-up of off-leash sites. Site stewards also monitor and report damage or necessary repairs of the off-leash area to the parks department. The COLA group, with approval, provides regular education and training classes for dogs and their owners. Some of these include the following topics: responsible dog ownership, compliance with dog-related ordinances, dog obedience and behavior classes, pet licensing, pet health care and other issues related to off-leash dog areas or dogs and their owners.

Budget – no funding exists currently – the budget items would need to be donated, sponsored, fundraised or grant funded.

Amenity	Cost
Fence*	\$42,240
signs	\$4,000
map	\$1,000
dog waste dispensers	\$400
dog waste bag refills (yearly)	\$5,520
trash cans	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$54,160

* The fence is a 4 foot no-climb fence for approximately 1 mile; 5280 feet @\$8/lineal foot – the original budget was for a 4' chain link fence @ \$13/lineal foot. This price includes purchase and installation of materials.

Monitoring protocols

In order to determine the success of the off-leash area and take it from a pilot program to a permanent feature of the park, it will be necessary to monitor the off-leash area for the specific items that have the potential to cause problems:

- dog waste not being removed (this includes bagged waste on the side of the trail)
- excessive complaints about aggressive dogs or dog attacks
- trash not being removed
- dogs escaping fenced area
- neighbor complaints about noise and smell
- voice and sight control not taking place
- dogs not being leashed to and from off-leash area

- natural resource damage to existing flora (install 10'x10' fenced area with cross section of park flora with before and after photos at pre-determined locations)
- issues with wild horses to the east

Monitoring will take place on a regular schedule by volunteers, park staff, or both. We would also like to include a survey of the residents of Hidden Valley to see if the area is meeting their expectations of what they originally desired.

Conclusion

The stakeholder group spent a total of 10 hours collectively working on the Off-Leash Management Plan for Hidden Valley Regional Park. The group was a cross section of Washoe County staff, community members, field experts, and user group representatives. Many volunteered their time and were committed to finding the best location, management practices, and implementation procedures possible. Thank you to everyone for all of your time and effort. The importance of collaborative efforts cannot be understated.

The stakeholder group concluded that an additional off-leash area at Hidden Valley Park could be possible, but needs to be set up for success. Many concerns over the course of the meetings were discussed, namely how busy it will become due to the small number of off-leash areas in the region. To best set the area up for success, the group felt that fencing was critical to keep dogs within the set boundaries of the off-leash area. Clear, concise signage at each entry point is also important. The concern for dog waste being left behind is currently a problem at all of our parks so the addition of dog waste bag dispensers, dog waste bags, and trash cans at each entry point will assist users in keeping the area clean and free of dog waste. A robust monitoring schedule will be necessary to gather data on compliance with rules, waste removal, aggressive dog issues, and natural resource protection. Finally, the need for an agreement with a community group that helps maintain and monitor the new off-leash area will set the area up for success.

If the community supports this plan and should funding become available to create the off-leash area, we look forward to making it successful. If it is deemed successful, similar efforts will likely be used for additional off-leash areas throughout Washoe County's park system and perhaps in Reno and Sparks as well.

If the off-leash area is created and after a year it is considered unsuccessful, we will remove the fencing, signage, and other amenities, restore the damaged areas hoping it will return back to its original state.

Appendix A

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

1. What activities do you participate in at Hidden Valley Regional Park?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking/Hiking (without dog)	33.8%	24
Walking/Hiking (with dog)	83.1%	59
Mountain Biking	18.3%	13
Equestrian Trail Use	4.2%	3
Link Piazza Dog Park	47.9%	34
Pickle Ball	1.4%	1
Horse Arena	1.4%	1
Playground	14.1%	10
Picnic Areas	25.4%	18
Other (please specify)	9.9%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	71
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

2. Would you like to see a designated off leash dog area in Hidden Valley Regional Park (in addition to the existing Link Piazza Dog Park)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	83.3%	60
NO	16.7%	12
	<i>answered question</i>	72
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

3. If you answered yes to question #2, please explain why you would like to see an additional designated off leash dog area in Hidden

Answer Options	Response Count
	61
<i>answered question</i>	61
<i>skipped question</i>	11

4. If you answered no to question #2, please explain why you wouldn't like to see an additional designated off leash dog area in Hidden

Answer Options	Response Count
	13
<i>answered question</i>	13
<i>skipped question</i>	59

5. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

Answer Options	Response Count
	39
<i>answered question</i>	39
<i>skipped question</i>	33

6. Would you like to receive more information about this project and upcoming public participation opportunities? If yes, please share your contact information below:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Name:	95.0%	38
Address:	85.0%	34
City/Town:	92.5%	37
State:	90.0%	36
ZIP:	87.5%	35
Email Address:	85.0%	34
Phone Number:	77.5%	31
	<i>answered question</i>	40
	<i>skipped question</i>	32

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

Q3 If you answered yes to question #2, please explain why you would like to see an additional designated off leash dog area in Hidden Valley Regional Park. If you answered no to question #3, please skip to question #4.

Answered: 61 Skipped: 11

#	Responses	Date
1	I believe that all the non-developed part of the park should be designated as off leash. Dogs need large areas to enjoy, and very little of the Washoe County park system is designated for this purpose. Being so close to open areas is one of the great things about living here.	9/8/2014 2:58 PM
2	Dogs have been walking here forever off leash, just leave it be! You must have better things to do with our taxpayer monies??	9/8/2014 1:33 PM
3	Beautiful area with enough trails for some to be dog-friendly, low risk of negative interactions	9/3/2014 5:12 PM
4	There are not many off-leash areas in Reno within the parks system that are large and not included as a dog park. We would very much enjoy hiking with our dog off-leash in the Hidden Valley Park.	9/3/2014 5:08 PM
5	I have enjoyed walking/hiking in the area for over 35 years.	9/3/2014 9:43 AM
6	With the current amount of off leash dogs in the park I have stopped walking there. Also the amount of dog waste is awfull.	9/2/2014 4:31 PM
7	Dogs get more exercise off leash in open area	9/2/2014 10:11 AM
8	My 2 dogs get far more exercise by running free in a large open area. They love going up and down the areas surrounding the park - the dirt road on the south side of the park.	9/2/2014 9:53 AM
9	It would be nice to let the dog run off the leash in a designated area	9/2/2014 9:48 AM
10	Natural trails to hike with dog off leash including some mountains	9/2/2014 9:40 AM
11	I walk 1 or 2 miles everyday with my dog	9/2/2014 9:38 AM
12	So we can both get our exercise	9/2/2014 9:38 AM
13	I walk everyday with friendly large dog and want off leash	9/2/2014 9:31 AM
14	To allow my dogs to run	9/2/2014 9:29 AM
15	There are many places dogs can walk on leash but few without leash	9/2/2014 9:28 AM
16	Trails are narrow as you go up and on leash is not reasonable. Often you walk your dog and you are the only one here.	9/2/2014 9:26 AM
17	Continued freedom to walk dogs east of perimeter loop	9/2/2014 9:23 AM
18	Sometimes the dog park is closed or it gets crowded and it's nice to be able to leave and go for a walk in the open area. It's silly to have to put your dog on a leash out there.	9/1/2014 8:05 AM
19	Most dog owners enjoy the combination of having a relatively easy area to stretch their own legs, but not being forced to climb up into the hills, and letting their dogs run so they can get their exercise as well.	8/31/2014 3:22 PM
20	Walking my dog for 2+ miles gives me exercise that I would not do without the dog. It is more enjoyable when the dog can get additional exercise off leash. They get 2X as much exercise as I do. The mountain trails are difficult to walk with a dog on leash because fo the difficult terrain, narrow paths.	8/30/2014 8:20 PM
21	This is a trick Question. I wish to see modification of an existing area or OPEN SPACE, to include not only biking, hiking, multiple use area to include animals OFF LEASH	8/30/2014 7:21 PM

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

22	I think people should be able to walk with their animals, without a leash, on the surrounding trails that are there.	8/28/2014 9:49 PM
23	I think it is important for dogs to have some freedom. But I think the places they should be allowed off leash would be up high beyond the fences	8/28/2014 8:45 PM
24	It would give the dogs additional places to run around in, especially if the park is busy.	8/28/2014 6:46 PM
25	.	8/28/2014 5:16 PM
26	On the trails and hills between the 2 playgrounds	8/27/2014 11:46 AM
27	I like to hike up the hills with the dogs but they are encumbered being on a leash.	8/27/2014 10:57 AM
28	The trails in the hills provide awesome exercise for my dogs and I enjoy being able to hike way up to get a great city/mountain view without worrying about my dogs on a leash. There is more room for them to run and we all get better exercise outside of the Link Piazza park.	8/26/2014 12:07 PM
29	More room for dogs to run.	8/26/2014 8:53 AM
30	Area used for off leash allowing dogs to really stretch out. Also allows for more usage by public	8/26/2014 8:07 AM
31	Most of the people who use the area have dogs, myself included. Never have had a problem.	8/25/2014 10:36 AM
32	It is a convenient area for me and my dog to exercise. In my opinion, there are not enough off leash dog areas in the Reno-Sparks area.	8/24/2014 9:44 PM
33	BECAUSE DOGS NEED AND DESERVE A NATURAL PLACE TO RUN FREE IN SIGHT OF THEIR OWNER.	8/24/2014 3:29 PM
34	Because dogs need a natural place to run in the open in order to experience the freedom of open space.	8/24/2014 3:19 PM
35	Have walked dog in park off leash for 10 yrs - happy dogs, happy people - it has been great. Would hate to see it change.	8/23/2014 8:34 AM
36	The Reno/Sparks area has lots of dog owners and amazing weather for being out an about with your dog most of the year. Unfortunately, there are very few places to legally take your dog off leash. Even though my dog is very small, he loves being able to run off leash and I can imagine even more so for large dogs. Also, several of the (few) designated "dog parks" are little more than dirt pits and not desirable places to go. As a result, I've noticed a lot of people let their dogs off leash anywhere- despite signs stating that leashes are required. My hope is that would be reduced if there were more options.	8/22/2014 3:10 PM
37	It would be nice to walk/hike with my dog, without his having to be on a leash.	8/22/2014 11:23 AM
38	This is the perfect location for an off-leash dog area since the hills east of the horse arena are far from busy streets and traffic and really, pretty far from most residences too.	8/22/2014 11:10 AM
39	Because me & my dog would like the freedom to roam the hills without pulling at one another - freedom!	8/22/2014 9:34 AM
40	Keeping a dog on a leash in a small park with a lot of other pedestrians, wildlife, and other dogs, and in close proximity to the street with the risk of being hit by cars, makes sense. At Hidden Valley, however, there is a ton of open space and limited other people or animals. Leashes get tangled in sagebrush and sometimes the trails are too narrow or hilly for my dogs to be limited by leashes. There is plenty of time to see another dog coming and call my dogs to heel, if needed, but generally people only bring their well-behaved, friendly dogs. City regulations require dogs to be on the leash. But does a remote park in the remote suburb of Hidden Valley really meet the same criteria as a city park? Please allow the dogs to enjoy the wild park as they would the hiking trails in the national parks further out in the mountains.	8/22/2014 8:55 AM
41	Many elderly men are not able to walk a dog as much as needed on a leash. Space to let them run is	8/22/2014 6:19 AM
42	Keeping your dog on a leash in that entire park is unnecessary.	8/22/2014 6:10 AM
43	A dog park designated for small dogs only would be great.	8/21/2014 6:21 PM
44	Enjoy walking my dog off leash.	8/21/2014 5:54 PM
45	Most people who walk their dogs on the trails have them off leash, and I've never had any problems with the dogs or the people walking them. It's a good area for the dogs to be off leash so they can sniff and do their thing and not have to drag their owner with them.	8/21/2014 5:42 PM
46	Because the current park is too small and results in dog fights and owner problems. I walk my dogs along the loop inside the park and avoid the conflict in the dog park.	8/21/2014 4:54 PM
47	Great for walking the dogs which need more exercise then they can get on leash	8/21/2014 1:35 PM

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

48	It seems only logical that if there is a leash free area at Rancho San Rafel park there should be a leash free area at Hidden Valley Park. I believe the area outside the fenced area above the horse arena should be leash free.	8/21/2014 12:24 PM
49	The current dog park is great! But it would be nice to have an additional one that is large with natural sagebrush - many dogs like to explore the "wilderness" rather than play with others.	8/21/2014 11:00 AM
50	dogs need more places to go	8/21/2014 10:27 AM
51	Our dog is great off leash, but the enclosed dog park is not the ideal setting for her	8/21/2014 10:13 AM
52	Hiking trails are away from the majority of the public, are not frequently used by non-dog walkers, and dogs should be allowed off-leash for better exercise.	8/21/2014 9:55 AM
53	South Reno has many large parks and is in desperate need of more open dog spaces. Adding a second off leash area to Hidden Valley Park is a good first step, and I feel the community would benefit from additional off-leash areas at Bartley Ranch park and Manzanita park, both of which also have the space.	8/21/2014 9:47 AM
54	VARIETY.....I'd like to be able to walk with my dog off leash around the park in areas other than the existing area	8/21/2014 9:35 AM
55	So my dog has more places to run and explore	8/21/2014 9:21 AM
56	I live in Hidden Valley and abide by the Washoe county leash laws 100% of the time. Over the past 2 years there has been an influx of dog owners who allow their dogs off-leash outside of the Dog Park. As a result, I stopped walking/hiking my dog in the Hidden Valley Regional Park area because of too many encounters with dogs off-leash. Another dog park may potentially reduce the number of these incidents for those who respect the leash laws.	8/21/2014 9:19 AM
57	Dog park is used by lots of people and is full most of the time. It would be great to be able to walk and hike with my dogs, they are trained and socialized and do not bother others.	8/21/2014 9:15 AM
58	take pressure off of existing area	8/21/2014 9:03 AM
59	Sometimes the dog park gets really full and it would be nice to hike with my dog off leash - as long as all dogs respond to voice command.	8/21/2014 8:57 AM
60	Not enough room for running.	8/21/2014 8:56 AM
61	It is a safe area to exercise our dog, meet neighbors and most importantly get our exercise!	8/21/2014 8:44 AM

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

Q4 If you answered no to question #2, please explain why you wouldn't like to see an additional designated off leash dog area in Hidden Valley Regional Park.

Answered: 13 Skipped: 59

#	Responses	Date
1	Dog pop is already found all over the park and trails. I feel that if another areas are opened to dogs that the mess will become worse	9/12/2014 3:21 PM
2	Lack of control of dogs	9/2/2014 9:33 AM
3	Hikers,joggers, and bikers do not mix with dogs off leash.	8/29/2014 8:55 PM
4	I was actually bitten by dogs when riding my bike. So I am really torn on this issue. If people would be responsible and keep their dogs on leash when around other dogs or people then they could be off leash when alone. But given the fact that they don't seem to be responsible I guess we should have a rule that they be on leash, at least in the lower part of the park	8/28/2014 8:45 PM
5	Although I have had a dog in the past and always enjoyed walking him in the area south of the dog park and in the hills, I always put him on leash when approaching people and other dogs, as a courtesy. I know how passionate dog owners are (some of them being my neighbors), about having the ability to let their dogs run off leash. However, not all dogs are friendly with other people or other dogs, but yet the owners refuse to recognize that. A number of owners also refuse to recognize that their breed of dog can make people uncomfortable, ie, pit bull, german shepherd, rottweiler, dobermans, etc. If they would only have the courtesy to put their dog on a leash while in contact with another person or dog, that would help. There is also the problem of a number of people who have more than 2 dogs when walking. They certainly don't have control and that makes the situation a pack of dogs against one, which never works out well.	8/28/2014 5:16 PM
6	I feel like the dog park allows enough area for off leash dogs. The two sections seem to be efficient. In my opinion attention should be kept on improving what we have before starting new projects, as listed in section five...	8/27/2014 11:14 PM
7	there is a dog park that is already an off leash area	8/27/2014 3:54 PM
8	It seems like there is already one.	8/22/2014 9:03 PM
9	The undeveloped area of the Hidden Valley Regional Park should be available to all folks regardless of their recreational needs. Dog walkers should have as much freedom as bike riders and hikers....all should take reasonable precautions so as not to harm others who are recreating.	8/22/2014 1:34 PM
10	ONE IS ENOUGH	8/21/2014 10:55 AM
11	I used to bring my two small boys to the park in the afternoon or evening for walks on the trails, and occasionally we would play on the playground. We tried bringing our dog to the park with us, but often we would encounter other people, sometimes with more than one dog, that would let their dog run up to our dog, who was always on a leash. My dog would sometimes become aggressive, and more than once I have had to break up a fight between my leashed dog and someone else's unleashed dog. That is extremely difficult to do while trying to keep two small children out of harms way. The owners of the other dogs do not seem to care that thier dog would run loose and cause problems with other people or dogs. I would point out to them that there is a prefectly good dog park where they can let thier dogs run loose, and that there is a leash law in the park, but often I am ignored or told to mind my own business. I have complained to animal control, but I have not seen them do anything to stop the problem, which seems to be getting worse. I do not visit the park as often, even though it is close to my home, and when I do, I leave my dog at home and keep my boys on the playground. I do not think that allowing people to let thier dogs run freely will solve the problem. I have seen the same thing happen to others who would like to enjoy the park's trails without having to worry about someone else's dog bothering them. How many dog parks they need?	8/21/2014 10:21 AM
12	They already have a designated area that they use.	8/21/2014 9:09 AM
13	Off leash dogs harass hikers and wildlife. Dog waste is rarely picked up by owners when dogs run free. That waste is harmful to people, wildlife and the environment. It is a common carrier of heartworms, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvovirus, giardia, salmonella & e.coli.	8/20/2014 11:38 AM

PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

Q5 Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

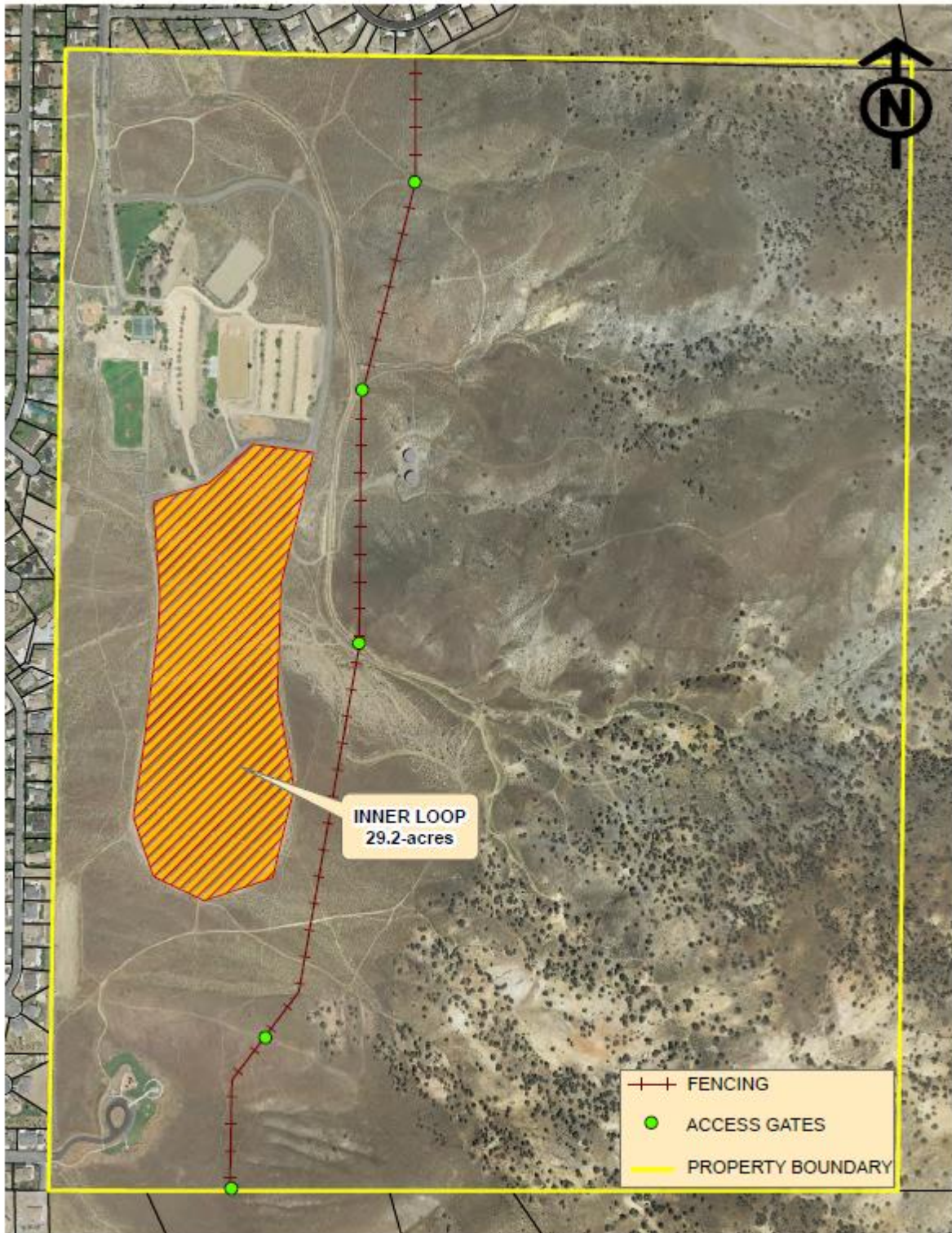
Answered: 39 Skipped: 33

#	Responses	Date
1	It is already to a point that people do not follow the rules giving them more to mess up and destroy will only create a MUCH BIGGER problem	9/12/2014 3:21 PM
2	I believe that dogs should at least be able to roam wherever the wild horses roam at a minimum. Otherwise, any limitations on dogs would be just silly. I understand that some people have problems with dogs (on or off leash), and they should be aware that there are many other places for them to enjoy being outdoors, but there is very little area for dogs to be off leash. Warning signs could be posted so that no one is surprised by an off-leash dog. Also, park boundaries should be clearly marked which they are not now. People can not hike outside the park if they do not know where the park boundary is.	9/8/2014 2:58 PM
3	You can't let a small group of complainers, bikers, runners, equestrians to control and subdivide the open space. You already brought Spanish springs pickle ball people here to ruin the tennis courts. Be careful of unintended consequences!!8	9/8/2014 1:33 PM
4	The real issue with Hidden Valley dog walkers arose with an over zealous Park Ranger who started harassing dog walkers who have used the park for years! Ninety nine percent of dog walkers are courteous, there will always be the one percent who are not. Hope you will weigh the complaints received at just Hidden Valley Park (not including the Link Piazza dog area) to what will more than likely double if the park is designated off leash and advertised as such. More people, more problems! This park has benefited considerably from dog walkers who go out of their way to help maintain and watch over the park!	9/3/2014 9:43 AM
5	The problem with dogs off leash is when they approach and the owner is not in control of the dog you never can be sure of the dogs disposition.	9/2/2014 4:31 PM
6	I have walked my dogs in the areas south of the fenced Link Piazza Park for almost 12 years now and have never had any negative incidents with other dogs, other people, bikers, hikers and so on. Everyone has always been friendly and considerate, even bikers and joggers. I always keep my dogs away from bikers and joggers and so do other dog walkers. I feel certain everyone can coexist in a wide open off-leash area (and I also get more exercise by walking the dogs for a mile to a mile and a half).	9/2/2014 9:53 AM
7	It's hard for me to walk on steep areas. I would prefer the (?) loop!	9/2/2014 9:48 AM
8	I have walked the area with my dog for 30+ years	9/2/2014 9:38 AM
9	Lack of respect - not picking up dog waste	9/2/2014 9:33 AM
10	I appreciate your consideration in this matter and also your efforts	9/2/2014 9:31 AM
11	Please allow the far east hill area for off lead	9/2/2014 9:29 AM
12	Concern about increased use of park	9/2/2014 9:23 AM
13	Not having the dogs on the leash in this area is a custom that has been going for years without any major problems. Most dog owners live in the neighborhood and know each other and so do the dogs. There is still no answer as to why this is becoming an issue other than rumors that a/one person complaint. Please consider the earlier proposal to have a vote among all HV residents and see what the majority prefers.	8/31/2014 3:22 PM
14	I would like to see an organized poop patrol to clean the trails. Off trail poop is not a big deal in my opinion.	8/30/2014 8:20 PM
15	The terminology "designated off leash dog area" should not be used in this survey as this is a multiple use park and is for all to share. When the term designated is used, That would be indicative of keeping other users out of a proposed area. A better solution would be to modify chapter 95 ruling for individual parks. To advertise and to place in your web site that the park is open for dogs to roam at large is to open a can of worms and create a larger problem for both users and the park dept.	8/30/2014 7:21 PM
16	How will one keep a dog off leash inside the proposed imaginary blue line. A fence would be prohibitively expensive. East of the existing fence would solve this problem.	8/29/2014 8:55 PM

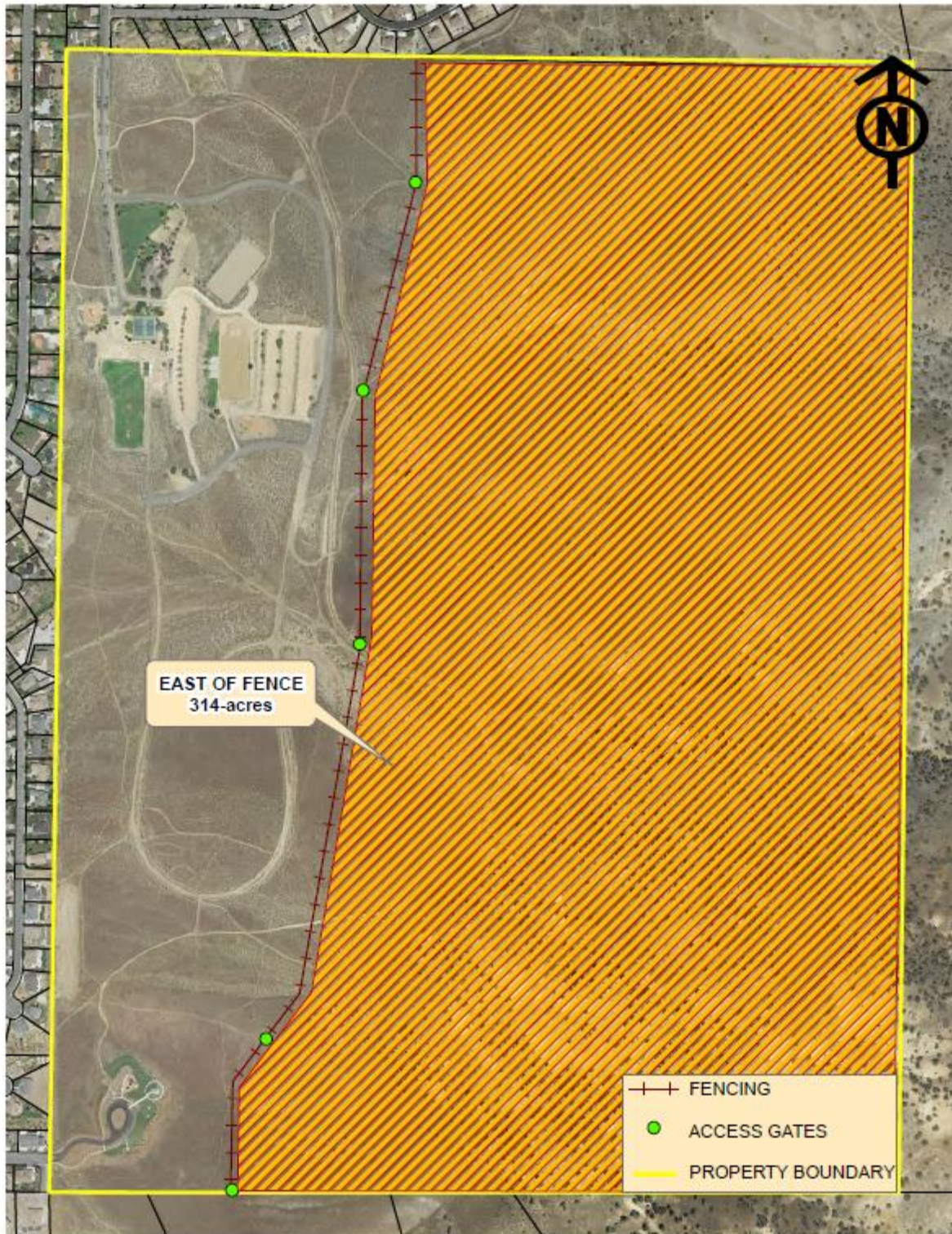
PROPOSED HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

17	I would be concerned about the enforcement of picking after your animal. Sometimes the dog park gets overwhelmed with dog feces. I would hate to see the same thing happening on the trails.	8/28/2014 9:49 PM
18	I also think it would be hard to enforce this rule....especially up high in the park. Not sure there is really anything that can be done	8/28/2014 8:45 PM
19	I love the dog park, but there is time when you dogs and puppies are not necessarily welcome in the small dog side due to their energy level. Additional park could help with that problem.	8/28/2014 6:46 PM
20	I feel I have the right to walk and feel safe. If people were more considerate and responsible, we wouldn't have to have this conversation. Thank you for attempting to solve this difficult situation.	8/28/2014 5:16 PM
21	Horse arena area needs some work. Updates can be made in sport areas. Bathrooms at smaller park off Mia Vista Dr. More trees in dog park.	8/27/2014 11:14 PM
22	I have been walking dogs out in the brush for years, without them being on leash with NO problems. ALL the regular walkers are good friends and greet each other, and the dogs.	8/27/2014 11:46 AM
23	Most dog owners keep their dogs controlled even when they are not on a leash. I have lived and walked dogs in this neighborhood for over 15 years and have had very very few instances with aggressive dogs. Having dogs off leash is not a problem. The rangers should be more concerned with keeping the trees along the road cut back.	8/27/2014 10:57 AM
24	It has been this way for 20 years there is no reason it should change, many HV residence have dogs and this is an important part of HV.	8/24/2014 3:29 PM
25	People and dogs can co-habitate in the area under question without a problem, this space has been used as an off-leash area for many years.	8/24/2014 3:19 PM
26	Probably 98% of people in undeveloped area of park are walking dogs off leash. Many of us pick up trash and take care of the park.	8/23/2014 8:34 AM
27	no	8/22/2014 9:03 PM
28	Please make sure that water is available at the park. We had a few months with no water, and although we bring our own, we have run out after long hikes.	8/22/2014 11:23 AM
29	I love exploring this are and it's vistas! Wild horses are a bonus	8/22/2014 9:34 AM
30	My thanks to those who decided to bring this question up for discussion instead of continuing to fine offenders.	8/22/2014 8:55 AM
31	You need to read state law concerning private property a joining open range	8/22/2014 6:19 AM
32	Thank you for allowing the people to vote on this issue.	8/22/2014 6:10 AM
33	The large majority of dog owners are extremely responsible at Hidden Valley with their pets. Those who are not are quickly reprimanded by the others. We are responsible enough to police ourselves.	8/21/2014 9:55 AM
34	I feel the community would benefit from additional off-leash areas at Bartley Ranch park and Manzanita park, both of which also have the space.	8/21/2014 9:47 AM
35	although an additional off leash area would be fun, it isn't a high priority.....the current dog park is working adequately.	8/21/2014 9:35 AM
36	Whether or not another off-leash dog park is opened in the Hidden Valley area the leash laws of Washoe county should be enforced. It is a concern for the dog walkers in that area and has gone unchecked for some time.	8/21/2014 9:19 AM
37	need more dog parks - there are not enough for the number of dogs in the area.	8/21/2014 9:15 AM
38	The Ling Piao Dog Park is wonderful. I am very grateful for this park..and so are my 2 doggies :)	8/21/2014 8:57 AM
39	WC doesn't have enough dog areas where dogs can be off leash...	8/21/2014 8:56 AM

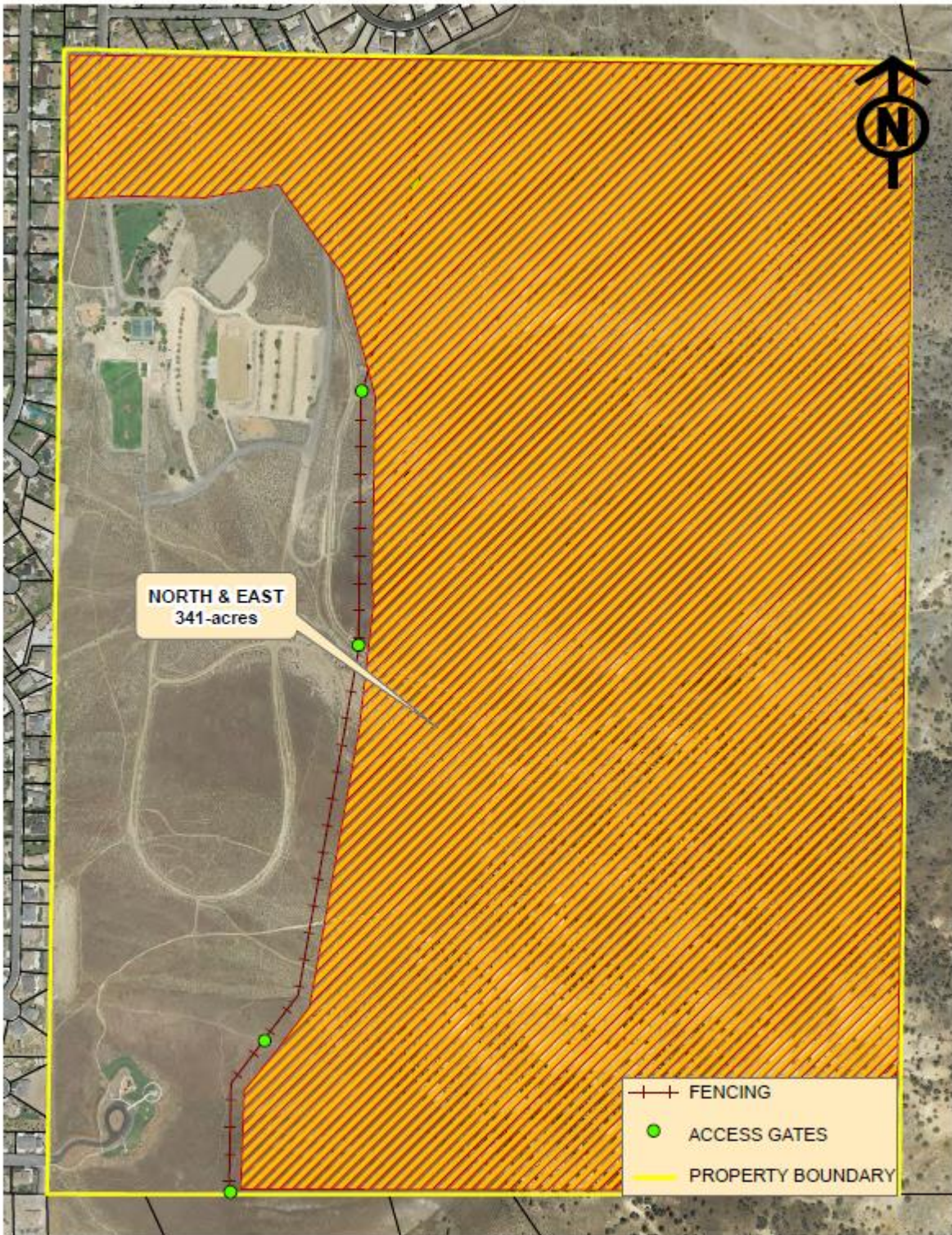
Appendix B



**HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
INNER LOOP (MAP #1)**



**HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
EAST OF FENCE (MAP #2)**



**HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
NORTH & EAST (MAP #3)**



**HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
ALL UNDEVELOPED AREAS (MAP #4)**

Appendix C

City/State - Agency	Management Plan	Management Responsibility	Comments
Oakland, CA East Bay Regional Parks	yes	Park Rangers	more public asking for leashed areas
Farmington, New Mexico Farmington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs	no	Park Rangers	issues with wildlife, particularly birds
Ft. Worth, TX City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services		Citizen group	
Rockford, Illinois Forest Preserves of Winnebago County	yes		forest preserves with off leash- user conflicts
Charlotte, North Carolina Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation	no		loose boundaries are difficult to manage
Ossining, New York			Park Rangers need citation authority
Alberta, CANADA City of Edmonton Parks & Recreation	in process	Animal Control & Park Rangers	user conflicts required a master plan
Portland, OR City of Portland Parks & Recreation	yes, advisory council	Park Rangers	control, education, and enforcement
Seattle, WA Seattle Parks & Recreation	yes, pilot program	COLA (Citizens for Off Leash Areas)	
Denver, CO Denver Parks & Recreation	yes	Park Rangers	
Boulder, CO City of Boulder - Open Space and Mountain Parks	yes	Park Rangers	Voice & Sight control tag program
Austin, TX Austin Parks & Recreation		Park Police	Scoop the Poop campaign
Kansas City, MO Kansas City Parks & Recreation	yes		
Salt Lake City, UT Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation	yes	Animal Control & Law Enforcement Officers	
San Diego, CA San Diego Park and Recreation Department	no	Citizen group	citizen groups are responsible for all

Hidden Valley Park off-leash pet area proposal



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Re-cap of previous Staff Report (9.2.2014)

- HVHA meeting in April 2014 – citizens expressed desire for an additional off leash area.
- Public meeting in August 2014 – public input & comment on the proposal.
 - 4 different areas were identified as potential off leash areas according to the 27 attendees & staff.
- Public survey created in August 2014. The survey was open until September 15th.
 - 72 respondents (83.3% said yes, 16.7% said no)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

- Working Group of District Park Managers and Park Rangers was formed.
 - four areas were reviewed



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Comments on all four areas:

Resource damage may increase

Impacts all other user groups in the undeveloped portions of the park (hikers without dogs, bikers, equestrians, etc.)

It could have an effect on wildlife in the park.

There may be repercussions on all other regional parks with open space areas and desire for off-leash in those parks.



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #1 – Inner Loop – comments:

Difficult to confine dogs within the area without boundary fencing

With current infrastructure and no budget for a fence, it would be the most difficult to manage.

It is flat and has ease of access for parking and entering from the north.

If there was fencing, it could work well.



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
INNER LOOP (MAP #1)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #1 Inner Loop – comments:

- Cost estimates for improvements:
 - Fence - \$68,640 (\$13/lineal foot – WC public works spec)
 - Signs - \$1000
 - Dog waste station - \$200



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
INNER LOOP (MAP #1)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #2 – comments:

There is no eastern boundary line – we may want to provide signage regarding private property to the east.

It will protect the developed areas better.

There is less flat terrain access for the users that desired it.



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
EAST OF FENCE (MAP #2)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #2 – comments:

This area would provide no conflict with vehicles.

It will be easier to manage based on the visual fence and 5 access gates.

Could prove difficult to manage dog walkers getting from their vehicles to the off-leash area east of the fence.



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
EAST OF FENCE (MAP #2)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #3 – comments:

It would be extremely difficult to manage any on-leash requirements in the developed areas.

It could be very unsafe for dogs and motorists as the main road is adjacent to the north and east undeveloped areas of the park.



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
NORTH & EAST (MAP #3)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #3 – comments:

It would provide some flat terrain that some of the users desired.

It would provide ease of access from the adjoining neighborhoods (Sleepy Hollow and Parkway).



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
NORTH & EAST (MAP #3)



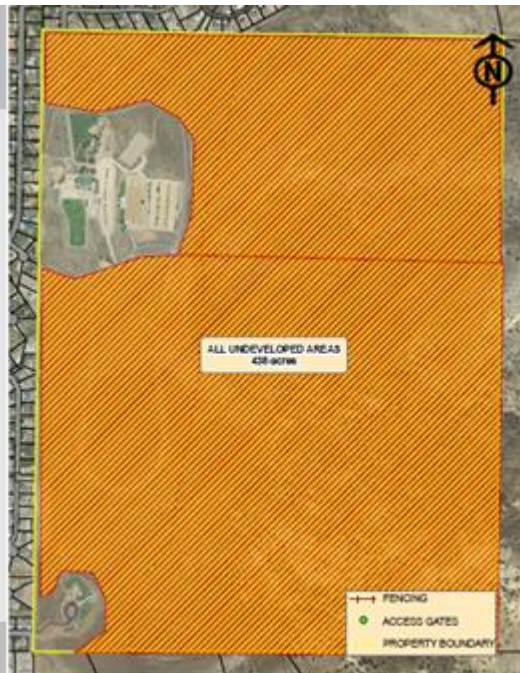
Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Map #4 – comments:

It would be extremely difficult to manage any on-leash requirements in the developed areas.

It could be very unsafe for dogs and motorists as the main road is adjacent to the undeveloped areas of the park.



HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
ALL UNDEVELOPED AREAS (MAP #4)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

National Research conducted

- Contact by phone or email with 12 different agencies throughout the US – one in Canada



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Key points:

- Boulder, CO - Voice & Sight Tag Program
- Portland, OR – Off Leash Advisory Council
- Seattle, WA & San Diego, CA – community groups manage the off-leash areas themselves
- SLC, UT - Master Plan with best practices research (over 50% difficulty with compliance)



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

Key Points:

- **Ossining, NY - Park Rangers need citation authority (in all agencies contacted Park Rangers had citation authority)**
- **All agencies work closely with Animal Control**



Hidden Valley Park

off-leash pet area proposal

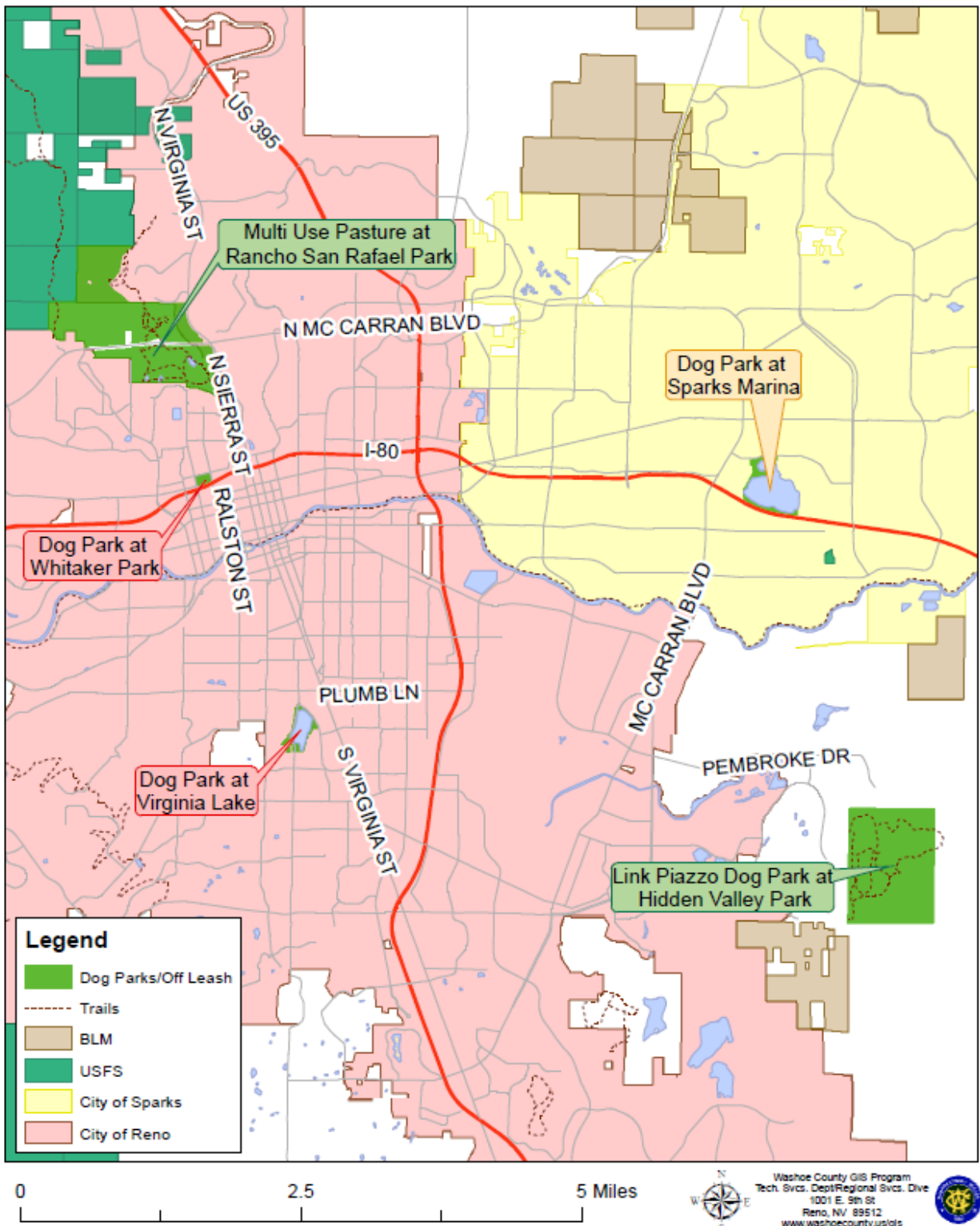
Staff Recommendations:

- Move forward in creating a stakeholder group to develop an off-leash management plan in Hidden Valley Regional Park
 - interested community members, park staff, Open Space and Regional Park Commissioner, representative from Regional Animal Services, and field experts (natural resource, dog trainers, etc.)
- A broader regional off-leash management plan for all Washoe County Parks and Open Spaces – possibly even with Cities of Reno and Sparks.

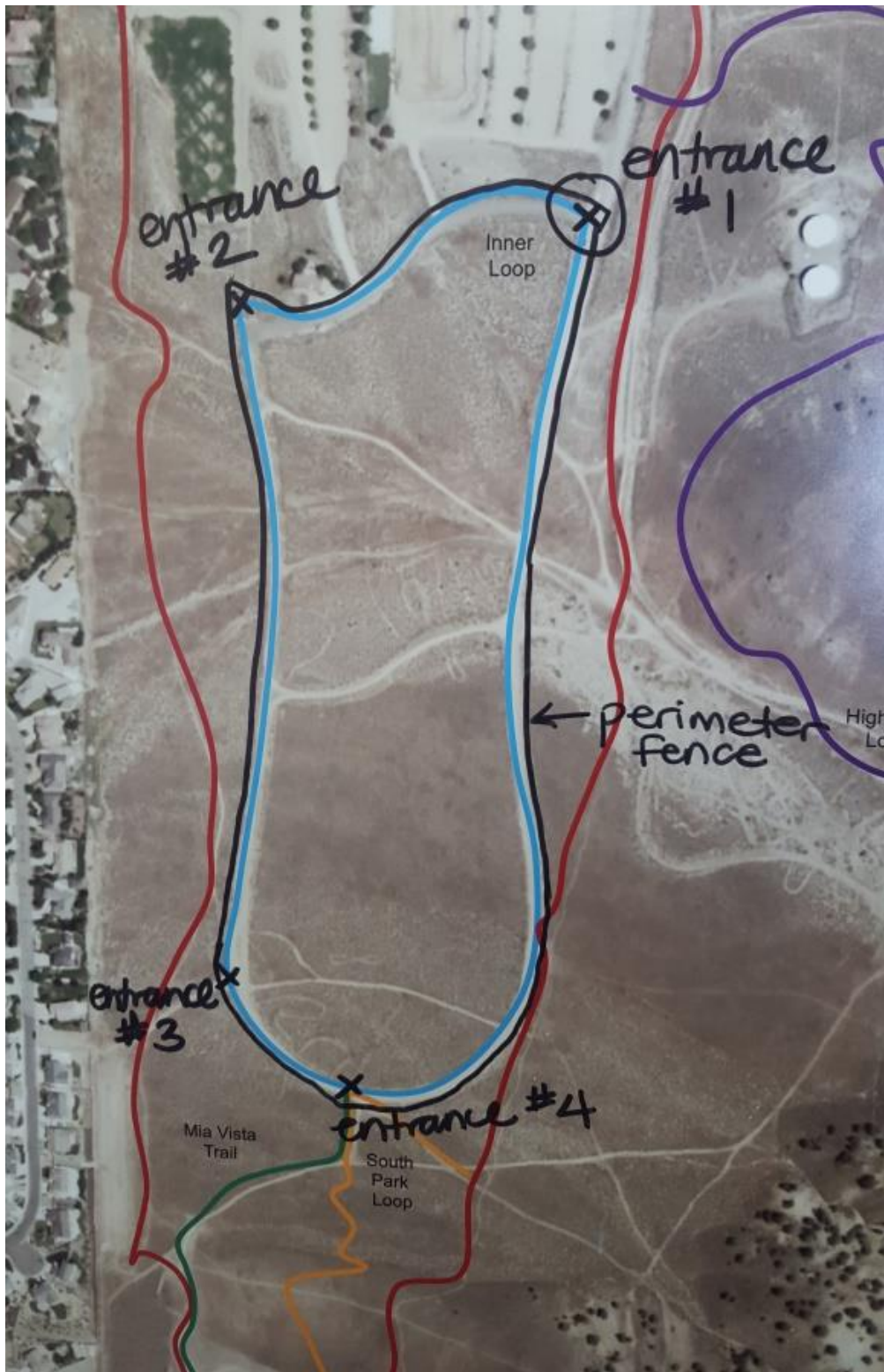


Appendix E

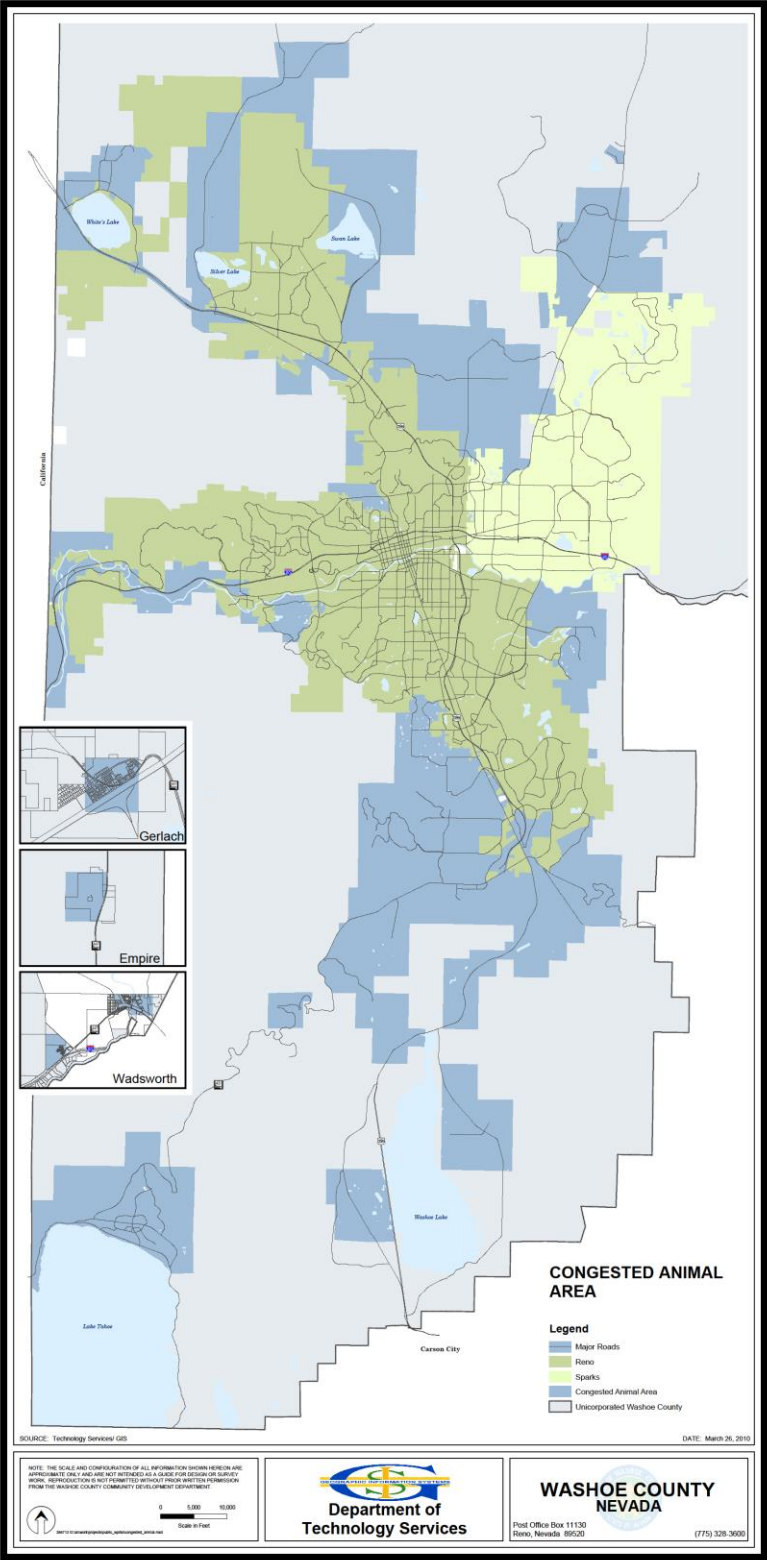
Dog Park/Off Leash locations in the Truckee Meadows



Appendix F



Appendix G



Appendix H

Chapter 55 – Animal Services, pertinent sections

55.100 Restraining animals.

1. In the congested areas, each person who has the care, custody or control of any livestock, domestic animal or exotic animal, must keep the animal restrained by a fence, cage, coop, chain, tether, leash or other adequate means so that the animal shall not leave the premises upon which it is kept.
2. In the congested areas, it is unlawful for the owner of any dog to allow the dog to be in a public area unless the dog is on a leash. This provision does not apply to special areas that may be designated for training programs, dog shows or dog parks.

55.130 Animal waste disposal.

1. Except as provided in subsection 3, within the congested areas designated in sections 55.240 and 55.245 it is unlawful for any person owning or having control or custody of any animal to permit the animal to defecate upon the public property of the county or upon the private property of another unless the person immediately removes the feces and properly disposes of it; provided however, that nothing herein contained authorizes such person to enter upon the private property of another without permission.
2. Except as provided in subsection 3, within the congested areas designated in sections 55.240 and 55.245 it is unlawful for any person to walk a dog on public property of the county or upon the private property of another without carrying at all times a suitable container or other suitable instrument for the removal and disposal of dog feces.
3. Handicapped persons who use guide dogs, helping dogs or hearing dogs are exempt from this section. Persons whose dogs are participating in dog shows or direct command obedience classes are exempt from this section while their animal is actually participating in such shows or classes, but all feces must be removed and disposed of immediately upon the conclusion of the show or class.
[§16, Ord. No. 1207; A Ord. No. 1269]

55.175 Permitting dog to chase, worry, injure or kill domestic animals on open range or private property unlawful.

1. It is unlawful for any person to permit a dog to chase, worry, injure or kill cattle, sheep or other domestic animals on the open range or on private property.
2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the use of a dog to herd domestic animals at the direction or with the permission of the owner of those animals.
[§21, Ord. No. 1207]

55.460 Unlawful for domestic animals, except cats, to be at large in congested areas; damage by animals; capture and impoundment by individuals.

1. It is unlawful for any domestic animal, except a cat, to be at large within the congested areas.
2. It is unlawful for any domestic animal to endanger property, public safety or any other animal.
3. A violation of subsection 1 or 2 is committed by the owner or person having custody, control or possession of the animal.
4. A member of regional animal services' staff or any other person may take up and impound at the animal services center:
 - (a) Any domestic animal, except a cat, which is found at large within a congested area;
 - (b) Any domestic animal which is trespassing on that person's property; and
 - (c) Any domestic animal, which is endangering property, public safety or any other animal.

Chapter 95 – Parks and Open Space, Leash Law

95.140 Leash law; animal control.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person may:
 - (a) Bring an animal into, permit an animal to enter or remain in, or possess an animal in any county park unless the animal is on a leash of no more than 6 feet in length and under the immediate control of that person or is confined in a vehicle.
 - (b) Bring a dog into, permit a dog to enter or remain in, or possess a dog on any beach adjacent to any body of water within any county park except in areas designated for dogs. Animals are prohibited in the water in any bathing or swimming area.
 - (c) Keep any noisy, vicious or dangerous animal, or one which is disturbing to other persons, in any county park, or remain therein with the animal after he has been asked to remove the animal by a park ranger or other county parks department officer or employee.
 - (d) Lead or possess any animal, with or without a leash, while he is attending a conducted tour of an historic area or grounds within any county park.
2. The director may, upon proper posting, prohibit animals in certain areas of county parks which are extensively used by the public.
3. The provisions of this section do not apply to any visually handicapped person who uses a guide dog specially trained by a guide dog school to assist him as an aid to his mobility.