

HIDDEN VALLEY OFF-LEASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

THURSDAY MAY 28, 2015

Participants: *Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Karen Vigil, Shyanne Schull, Bobby Smith, Cheryl Surface, Susie Kapahee, Judy Luce, Malaika Heinbaugh and Meg Miller.*

Project Goal:

Create an off-leash management plan for Hidden Valley Regional Park.

This meeting was held at Washoe County Regional Animal Services. The participants were split into groups of three to discuss strategy for each plan.

1. Design (features, signage, fencing, etc.)
2. Enforcement/Regulation
3. Community volunteer group

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER:

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 work but it will take continuing education with the public who will be using the park. 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 park a success.

There should be a grand opening planned to make the public aware the park is open. We will need flyers, newsletter, contact veterinarians/pet related business in the area and word of mouth. GIS Targeting is an excellent source for communication.

DESIGN:

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, fencing, waste receptacles and kiosks were the main components.

SIGNAGE:

1. Type of sign
 - Rules (easily understood, contact information for emergency)
 - Boundaries

- Informational
- Education
- Warnings
- Legal to include county not liable
- Clear signage indicating entrances

2. Sign Material

- Metal or vinyl
- Post type
- Carsonite flexible
- Graffiti proof

FENCING:

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

WASTE RECEPTACLES:

1. Dump stations
2. Waste vs garbage or both and how many
3. Poop bag stations

KIOSKS:

1. Benches
2. Map of off leash area
3. Water stations
4. How many kiosks if any
5. Information booth/board

Concerns:

1. A formal agreement is important with HOA and volunteers
2. Do Hidden Valley Residence fully understand the impact of open to Public Off-Leash
3. Impact on adjacent neighbors
4. Smoking/alcohol and fire safety
5. Age of children
6. Maintenance and vandalism
7. Cost to county

ENFORCEMENT/REGULATIONS:

Most of the regulations and enforcement are regulated by NRS Statutes and code enforcements and if not followed fines/citations can occur. Some rules and regulations are common sense and while no fine will occur asking to leave the park can occur. 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 is to work.

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 kill worry (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
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 ETTIQUETTE

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