

HIDDEN VALLEY OFF-LEASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Participants: *Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Cheryl Surface, Karen Vigil, Shyanne Schull, Judy Luce, Malaika Heinbaugh, 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 and we discussed the best location/area within the park for off-leash use.

Discussion and Input:

We talked about the four proposed areas from the public meeting that was held in August of 2014. There was agreement that the “inner loop” and the “east of fence” areas were the most popular and would make the most sense of future off-leash. The general consensus is that the inner loop would be best to start with and that it would be a pilot program for one year (incorporating four full seasons of use). The inner loop was chosen for a few reasons:

1. It is flat and easiest for people who do not want to hike to the steep sections to the east.
2. There is still a flat trail (the perimeter loop) for people to walk that do not have dogs or prefer their dogs be leashed.

After a year it will be decided if the program is successful and if additional off-leash areas should be expanded to a bigger portion of Hidden Valley Park (East of fence) and/or possibly looked at to have an off-leash option at other areas in Washoe County parks and open space. There would be a monitoring schedule during the course of the year to determine the success of things such as; dog waste removal, voice and sight control of owners, complaints to Animal Control in regards to aggressive dogs, and the like.

It needs to be made clear to all using the off-leash area, this is a pilot program, it will only work if rules are followed such as picking up dog waste, leaving aggressive dogs home, constant monitoring of your dog/dogs and where and what they are doing. On leash areas must be abided by and keeping the park clean of garbage and debris.

Fencing is critical. There needs to be fencing that will keep dogs in the area designated and to keep dogs out of backyards of the neighboring properties to the west of the park. No climb 4' fencing at the very least, which will be significantly less expensive than the original estimate for chain link fencing. It was determined there will be four access gates into the park and that there is plenty of parking by the upper tiers of the horse arena parking lot. Each access gate will ideally have rolling garbage containers with a large dumpster at the main entrance.

There will be plenty of signs indicating rules and maps with boundaries.

There will not be water for the dogs, bring your own water as well as "poop" bags.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 2015 10 am to 12 pm at Bartley Ranch Parks Brick House.

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