

What? Why?

An "Off leash" dog park has many benefits not only to your pet, but to the owner, and a large part of a community and a large part of our community. Historically dogs have been "man's best friend." They are recognized daily as hard workers, as well as good protectors, both in and outside of the home. Our dogs work in the field of science, as nursing companions, for guidance, and for many day-to-day tasks of their owners. Some dogs have even gained employment within the lab. Dogs work within the fire department, the police department, as home alert and home protection systems. Dogs are employed as mascots, entertainers, and even known to be great babysitters.

Dogs have changed the way humans react, how we interact. They have changed the way in which we relate to one another and the way in which we respond to our ever-changing world around us. Dogs have become our faithful, loving, and honest companions. They are our guides, our friends and for many of us our saviors.

The time to give a little something back to our furry friends is now. Now, while we have the time. We regard and rely on our dogs so much, and yet they ask for very little in return. Often only asking for an occasional meal, maybe a treat, a cuddle, and if he is lucky a belly rub!

However, an intuitive and compassionate dog owner knows, that as good as your dog may be, the only thing your pup really wants, is your love, your undivided attention, and a chance to be the dog he was born to be. He wants a chance to get out from under that collar and that leash, and a chance to just run free.

Scientific evidence indicates that dogs, of all ages, of all breeds, and of both genders, who are allowed to socialize off their leash, regularly, have been found to be less destructive both within the home environment and less destructive on the community in which they live. Evidence has proven time and time again, that our dogs are far more likely to protect the household, family, friends and to even protect neighbors, if they are integrated into the social constructs of the environment for which he serves.

Over 63.4% of US households own a dog whereas only 41% of households have children at home under the age of 18. So, doesn't it only seem fit, that our children and our grandchildren, scoot themselves over a swing or two, and share the playground with Fido?

Where and How?

With over 7 miles of roads, and 70 acres of streams, ponds and wildlife in every direction you turn, where could we possibly have room for a dog park? Where could our dogs have enough room to not only be off leash, but to socialize, to be able to run after a ball? What if I have a big dog? What if I have a big ball? Where, can we go without getting in the way of a car? Maybe somewhere he can make some noise and not upset the neighbors? Where my dog can still be within my control but free enough to run up ahead, to meet a friend, or chase a squirrel, or even to pee on a bush? Maybe he just wants to be free to just look around.

- 1.) Behind the pond, next to the famous Peacock/Goat Farm. (exhibit A)
- 2.) The Roads will all remain intact, and in place as they are right now. You will still be able to utilize Redwood, Blueberry, Larch and Ivy Lane with your vehicles.
- 3.) We block off the small areas which are noted and numbered 1-4. (exhibit B) These are small, but accessible foot/golf cart pathways within this private and almost fully encompassed wooded section of the greenbelt. We do this with natural tone timber fencing, as individualized 6-foot sections, and secured in place. (exhibit C)
Note: only the small section noted on exhibit C is fenced off.
- 4.) The Roads will all remain intact, and in place as they are right now. You will still be able to utilize Redwood, Blueberry, Larch and Ivy Lane with your vehicles.
- 5.) We now clearly mark and utilize the 2 larger and existing pathways as Trailheads (exhibit B) These are marked as Trailhead A and as Trailhead B as indicated on the map of exhibit B.
- 6.) The Department of Ecology can provide large dog waste stations and bags (like the others around the park) **FREE**. We are part of the Henderson Water Shed with a mission statement protecting our natural resources. As such, DOE will provide these for us as needed and dependent upon the size of our club and of our dog park.
- 7.) Examples of "A Pet Waste Station" further information, photos of the 2 large trash receptacles for the Trailhead entrances and several possibilities for dog park signage for each Trailhead and within the trail, has also been provided at the end of this packet.
- 8.) Dog Wash Station is noted as two different possibilities on the map of (exhibit B) There is only to be one Dog Wash Station. The map is showing two visibly noted and previously mapped areas for which was previously piped areas of running water, if PFCC was ever able to develop the area in order to increase the number of its memberships. As this is no longer a possibility now, and will not be, in its immediate future. The exposed

plumbing that is the closest to the cell tower (noted as possibility 1) was the most recently used and appears to be the most accessible. Whether this remains usable, only time will tell.

Please note: there are still several other options, within the proposed Dog Park area if neither of these are viable.

What's the benefits? What's there to lose? The Pros and Cons of this location

Pro's-

*The current roads surrounding this site remain intact with minimal disruption to the natural environment, and no impact to our current roads, or infrastructure.

*This site is on the backside of the park, and has not, nor has ever been used by anyone other than an occasional squealy golf cart, or an ATV. The impact to any PFCC member, or to our fellow bordering neighbors, and to our employed staff is miniscule. This area is used daily by members and their pets to sneak in and off leash adventure, and an occasional golf cart gone rogue. Why not, make this a useful, productive, enjoyable environment with little to no impact. This proposal will further promote a natural park like setting, for all members to enjoy, while remaining responsible, while promoting situational awareness, and remaining empathetic and understanding for the concerns of our non-pet members.

*This proposed area already has a mostly complete and natural "fence like" green belt surrounding the entire proposed area. This will serve to cut down on pet escapes, cut back on the defiant or reckless pet/owner activity, and will decrease the amount of disgruntled pet owners throughout our membership. While allowing our dogs to be free within the boundaries, noise overall minimalizes. The gatherings in the street will cut down to a low roar and better yet, our pets learn their surroundings, their environment and more importantly social interaction promoting less aggression within the community.

* Members now, and still will be required to pick up after themselves and their pet. But let's face it, an occasional upset stomach does occur. This proposed area decreases that unexpecting member from sitting in, standing in, or walking through an unwanted debree field.

* The cost is minimal for setup and maintenance.

* Several volunteers are already talking, and in place to happily provide the labor, some donated supplies, and help to coordinate what is needed to make this plan a reality.

*Let's face it, less puppy aggression, pet escapes, and unwanted packages throughout the park is a blessing in disguise.

Con's-

*PFCC will lose the golf cart trail in which we have taught many a youth to safely maneuver and manage their golf carts/ATV's in unexpecting and unwarranted conditions. PFCC loses its famous Poker Run trail of chaos during its 3-time yearly rally events, or we find a way to incorporate this.

* I got nothing else, I'm biased!

This idea is tangible. Its unused space and a means of activity for years to come. This "Off Leash Dog Park" will promote health & wellness, for owner and pet.

The money from last year's activities budget was denied. However, PFCC will donate \$500. Towards the cost of the complete perimeter fencing, and I will donate another \$500. For a total of \$1000. With aprox. \$2500. More to go.

I implore every one of you, review the maps, re-read this proposal, and then grab your neighbor and your pet, and head out today and walk through this site. Heck let your pet loose within this site. You will see that our furry friends are not only capable, but very willing to stay within confines. They will be better socialists, less aggressive, have a better night's sleep, and "YOU" as a pet owner will be thrilled about the

PFCC "Off Leash" Dog Park